Heavy Metal
Elements come to life in northern Minnesota

Hot Potato
BSU professor digs in

Fueling Up
BSU Alums at forefront of ethanol growth
Summer may have a laid-back reputation, but the Bemidji State campus is typically bustling with classes, special events, and activities. In addition to regular classes, workshops and short courses scheduled over two academic sessions, a sampling of activities include (clockwise, starting at lower left): a participant in the Visions of Sport Camp for the visually impaired; canoeists who participated in a Youth Recreation Camp through the Gillett Recreation-Fitness Center; the annual BSU MusiCamp for vocalists and instrumentalists; youngsters at Soccer Camp; sailors on Lake Bemidji who rented a sailboat from the Outdoor Program Center; Sharon Olds, visiting distinguished writer at the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference; and a registrant at the Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts Forum for sharing Native American wisdom and perspectives. The background photograph shows golfers at the Wells Fargo/Gordy Skaar Memorial Golf Tournament, one of three summer links events held to raise funds for Beaver athletics.

Al Nohner ('70, '93)
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2006 Outstanding Alumni

Seven individuals have been chosen as the 2006 Outstanding Alumni at BSU. Those being recognized during the Alumni Honors Banquet at Homecoming will be:

- Kermit Bensen ’60
  Bemidji, MN
- Lorraine Cecil ’68
  Bemidji, MN
- David Czarnecki ’69
  Dubuque, IA
- Bruce Falk ’71
  Solol, MN
- Paul Godlewski ’70
  Ramsey, MN
- Debra Kellerman ’72
  Oak Island, MN
- Carol Russell ’74
  Brainerd, MN

For more information about the Alumni Honors Banquet, see Homecoming information on page 29.

Master’s in Special Education Available Online

Individuals interested in pursuing a master of science degree in special education may now enroll in a 37-credit graduate program offered online by Bemidji State.

The master's includes the courses that provide a broad background in special education as well as the classes required for individuals to obtain a licensure to teach kindergarten through grade 12 students with emotional behavioral disorders (EBD) and learning disabilities (SLD). Individuals would need to successfully complete the state licensing exam.

There is a high need in the state for teachers trained in this field. In a study that led up to 2005, the Minnesota Department of Education reported that EBD would experience the most critical shortage of teachers in the state while teaching students with learning disabilities would be the fifth most critical.

Grant Supports Nursing Program Development

Bemidji State University has been awarded $175,000 to continue its program development of a four-year, generic baccalaureate nursing program.

The support came from Legislative Initiative Funds dedicated for expanding nursing programs and allocated to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU).

The BSU proposal was one of only two funded statewide, and the money is earmarked for hiring a program director and purchasing learning materials needed to meet the requirements of the Board of Nursing approval process.

If all goes as hoped, the program is expected to begin in the fall of 2007 and graduate the first new registered nurses in spring of 2011.

Kathleen Blatz Named Distinguished Minnesotan

Former Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz received the 2006 Distinguished Minnesotan Award during commencement ceremonies this spring at Bemidji State.

First presented in 1981, the Distinguished Minnesotan Award recognizes the contributions of a current or former resident of the state who has performed exemplary service to the people of Minnesota or the United States.

Blatz was appointed an associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1996 by Gov. Arne Carlson, who appointed her chief justice in 1998. In that role, Blatz championed many efforts to improve the court’s handling of abused and neglected children. She stepped down as chief justice in January.

Among her many honors, Blatz was named the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association Judge of the Year in 2005. In 2004 she received the Minnesota Council of Child Care Agencies Distinguished Service Award and, that same year, was named among the University of Minnesota School of Social Work Alumni of the Year.

Criminal Justice Offered in Brainerd

The Bemidji State University bachelor’s degree in criminal justice is now available in Brainerd through a special arrangement with Central Lakes College (CLC).
For the convenience of working adults, the entire program can be completed during evening hours and through online instruction. CLC will provide 67 of the 128 credits in the program, including general education courses and some electives.

The expansion to Brainerd is in response to projected job growth. Demand for criminal justice graduates in Minnesota is expected to grow by 15 percent through 2010. Nationally, the demand for criminal justice graduates is expected to grow rapidly through the remainder of the decade, adding over 134,000 jobs.

The bachelor of science degree in criminal justice is a generalist degree, which prepares students for careers in law enforcement, corrections, and other public and private agencies concerned with the prevention and investigation of crime. Completion of the degree satisfies Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board academic requirements.

Initial courses required for the degree will be offered fall semester 2006.

Alumni Involvement Gives BSU Head Start

Nothing about reaching the highest ranks within an actuary society is easy, but help from alumni at Federated Insurance made it possible for Bemidji State students to get there with a little less hassle.

In 2005, BSU became one of the first institutions in Minnesota to submit courses for approval through the Validation by Educational Experience (VEE) administration committee, which represents the Society of Actuaries, the Casualty Actuarial Society and the Canadian Institute of Actuaries.

Two courses in business and two in economics have received VEE approval, so students who take those courses receive credit toward the intensive exams and can advance more quickly in their profession.

Dr. Eric Lund, associate professor of mathematics, led the effort to get BSU courses validated after Erik Livingston, an actuary with Federated Insurance in Owatonna and a 1992 BSU graduate, told him about recent changes in the actuary exam process that created VEE credit. Federated Insurance recruits BSU graduates and Livingston believes VEE validation at BSU will provide the company with stronger potential employees.

VEE also helps ease the process of earning associate or fellow rank in an actuary society. Livingston became a fellow in the Casualty Actuarial Society in 2005, an elite achievement that includes a series of competitive exams.

BSU may also receive partial VEE accreditation in the area of applied statistics. Adam Gerdes, an actuarial analyst at Federated Insurance and 2005 BSU grad, completed the paperwork for the VEE process in statistics and hopes that credit can be given, which will help him as he continues through the VEE exam process.
Endowed Scholarship Memorializes William Kirtland

Through the continued gifts of family, friends and professional colleagues, the William F. Kirtland Memorial Scholarship has been fully funded as an endowed award through the BSU Foundation.

A 1953 graduate with a degree in education, Kirtland died in 2004. The scholarship was established to benefit a BSU student majoring in elementary education.

He had a long career in education, earning a doctorate in reading education and retiring as a professor at Boise State University. He authored a college reading skills text and numerous teaching guides; made more than 500 presentations to parent, adult study, and high school student groups; and delivered over 50 programs to public and private schools in Minnesota.

A longtime contributing member of the Alumni Association, he received the 1986 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Kirtland spent his early years in Bemidji, and wrote two books, Billy and Billy Remembers, that encompassed his childhood experiences.

Athletic Hall of Fame

The 2006 Athletic Hall of Fame will induct new members during events planned February 16-17, 2007.

Bob Peters, former men’s hockey coach will be inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame.

The athletes to be inducted include:

Ken Christianson ’50
basketball/football
Bemidji, MN

Lori (Ehrhardt) Clark ’76
swimming – Ellensburg, WA

Scott Currie ’79
hockey – San Diego, CA

Mike Gibbons ’82
hockey – St. Paul, MN

Jeanne (Larson) Glassmann ’76
track and field/field hockey
Bemidji, MN

Rod Heisler ’80
hockey/baseball –
Moose Jaw, Sask., Canada

Pam (Gildersleeve) Porter ’85
field hockey – Bemidji, MN

Sue (Almleaf) Samuelson ’73
field hockey/tennis
North St. Paul, MN

Bill Wagner ’60
basketball/track and field/cross country – Roseau, MN

Also being recognized in a new category created in 2004 are four women’s field hockey teams who will go into the Team Hall of Fame. The teams from 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1979 all made it to the national tournament.

Ivy Knoshaug Receives Service Award

Ivy Knoshaug, professor of mathematics, was among six U.S. mathematicians who received a national meritorious service award from the Mathematical Association of America.

With 27,000 members and 29 regional sections, the association is the world’s largest professional society that focuses on math at the undergraduate level. Knoshaug was nominated by the North Central Section, which covers Minnesota and parts of North Dakota, South Dakota and Canada.

Knoshaug has organized summer seminars and section meetings, and served as newsletter editor, president and member of the executive committee. In 2005, she received the regional Distinguished Teaching Award and in 2001, the Certificate of Meritorious Service.

Gilman Presented Keller Award

Dr. Muriel Gilman, professor and chair of the Department of Physical Education, Health and Sport, received the 2005 Lou Keller Award from the Minnesota Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The award, presented annually since 1961, recognizes the outstanding services and contributions given by a college or university professor in the field of health, physical education, recreation or dance.

In recognition of Gilman’s contributions and service to the association, it also presented her with its Presidential Award in 2004.

Gilman began her career 31 years ago at BSU as its first women’s athletic trainer. In 1992 she began teaching full-time and in 1999 was elected chair of the department.

Certificate Offered in Online Teaching

Bemidji State University is now offering its first for-credit certificate program online to help prepare educators for teaching in online and hybrid environments.

The nine-credit, four-course graduate Certificate in Online Teaching Program was developed in response to the increasing demand for online access to education and accompanying expectation that educators become skilled in designing and delivering online courses.

The certificate in online teaching may be used as part of a cognate in a master of science or master of education degree program at Bemidji State University.
“What they call ‘waste’ is a resource. As a scientist, I know that everything on the planet has some type of use.”

Dr. Drago Bilanovic

It’s like putting garbage under your living room rug and then asking, ‘Why is my living room stinky?’”

That’s how Dr. Drago Bilanovic, Bemidji State University professor of environmental science, sees environmental neglect – something he considers a universal concern. “Not taking care of the environment is pretty stupid,” he says. “We are stupid as a humanity when we avoid our responsibilities.”

Bilanovic is doing his part by working with garbage of another sort, and it’s not small potatoes. As the principal investigator of some cutting-edge research at Bemidji State, the Bosnian native is leading a research project that converts potato waste into an environmentally friendly and useful product.

That product is xanthan gum, a thin, sticky gel that is used as a stabilizer and thickener in paint and chemical industries, as well as a “squeegee” of sorts in oil wells. Xanthan gum is also used as a thickening agent in various sauces, dressings and dairy products. As a fat substitute, it adds the texture of fat without the calories. (And for you pet food patrons, it adds “cling” to Fido’s giblets.)

You’ve probably also seen xanthan gum in its most basic form: that slime covering the “black-rot” bacterium on broccoli and cauliflower.

Xanthan gum is currently produced industrially by bacterial fermentation, but the method is expensive. That’s where Minnesota’s 400,000-or-so tons of potato waste comes in – waste that is now often dumped in fields to rot.

“What they call ‘waste’ is a resource,” Bilanovic says. “As a scientist, I know that everything on the planet has some type of use. Then comes the question of how. Can we convert it into something more useful?”

If so, Bilanovic is onto one hot potato – and not the kind you want to pass off. That’s because xanthan gum currently sells for between $4-8 a pound and, as one of the nation’s biggest potato-producing states, Minnesota has a lot to gain from these spud scraps.

In fact, the annual global market for xanthan gum is estimated at $500 million and growing.

But can potatoes really hash out this high-value product? While he’s not at liberty to discuss the study’s findings so far, Bilanovic’s experience leads him to believe so.

“We are very pleased with what we are getting,” he says. “Things are rolling in the right direction.”
And the “right direction” is familiar territory. “I did my Ph.D. in Israel converting citrus waste to xanthan,” he explains. In fact, he was the first to do so, and he expects similar results with potatoes. “Sometimes when you work you have that feeling – that gut feeling.”

With state funding, the project will likely continue to chip away at potato possibilities. The $350,000 grant, given to BSU’s Center for Environmental, Earth and Space Studies by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, funds Bilanovic’s research, as well as another potato-related study at BSU producing polylactic acid (used to produce biodegradable, non-petroleum based plastics) headed by Dr. Fu-Hsian Chang, an environmental studies professor who directs the BSU Center.

The grant was put to work last July and will cover two years of research. “This grant is really helpful. We are not a very large university and funds are pretty limited,” Bilanovic says.

What’s not limited is Bilanovic’s enjoyment of his work at Bemidji State. “I like it here and I like working with my colleagues at the Center for Environmental, Earth and Space Studies,” Bilanovic says. “They are nice fellows and enjoyable to work with, and that makes life more enjoyable.”

He is equally satisfied with Bemidji’s students. “I am really pleased with the kids here at BSU,” he says. “And I am pleased that as a student-centered university, students (whether or not interested in science) are being exposed to the things we’re doing.

“Exposure to research work benefits undergraduates, graduates, science and non-science majors, and is a key component of the teaching practice at Bemidji State. You know, more knowledge is always better for society.”

As for Bilanovic’s research, he hopes the future will hold continued work with potatoes, as well as other projects that will benefit students, northern Minnesota and beyond. And he hopes global trends will support additional environmentally friendly research and initiatives.

“It’s about time we change ourselves a little bit,” Bilanovic explains. “If we don’t take care of our house, nobody will.”

And no one wants a house whose carpet smells like garbage.
Andrew Browers is often recognized by some around town as Ellard, a slow-witted character he played two years ago in the Bemidji State University production of *The Foreigner*. But that’s not surprising.

Browers has a gift for getting inside of characters and being fully attentive to their idiosyncrasies, strengths and foibles, which is exactly what makes him so memorable with audiences.

“It would have been easy to turn Ellard into a foolish, dull, dolt,” says Dr. Kay Robinson, BSU professor of theatre and communications arts, who particularly enjoyed watching Browers develop the character. “Instead, Andy recognized him as a real person, slower, but with other gifts and strengths that some may have just overlooked. With Andy, you never have to explain a lot, he picks it up quickly and says – ‘Got it.’”

Browers, of Cloquet, graduated from BSU this spring with a degree in creative and professional writing, which is what attracted him to BSU in the first place, and a minor in theater, which he quickly found he could not resist.

“I think theater is one of the most important art forms because it is so intimate,” Browers says.

Having participated in theater in high school, Browers anticipated that the small program might be limited. Instead, the smallness turned out to be a big advantage. He landed his first role as a freshman and found that small programs deliver big opportunities.

Over the last five years, Browers has had a role in almost every major BSU production, playing everything from the mostly silent Irish bartender in *The Weir* to the leading roles as Macbeth in Shakespeare’s tragedy and the conman Tartuffe in Molière’s French comedy.

He also has taken on roles in the student-managed Theatre Unlimited, which encourages students to write and produce their own material. Last year, one of his short pieces was produced; this fall, he directed *Greater Tuna*, a work produced by two friends; and he twice wrote scripts for the BSU Madrigal Dinners.

In addition, he has assisted with property design, which he said gave him a great appreciation for all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a production. And his lesser role as the Irish bartender also turned out to be a pivotal experience for him.

“As the bartender, I observed what other actors were doing and I learned it’s OK just to be there on stage, not always being the one going for the laughs or the tears.”

As he leaves Bemidji State, Browers hopes to concentrate on his writing.

“I have to thank theater a lot for teaching me about language. Theater is 100 percent dialog and that’s an important part of writing.”

“Up to that point, I was just sort of out there being a ham, stealing attention wherever I could take it,” he remembers. “As the bartender, I observed what other actors were doing and I learned it’s OK just to be there on stage, not always being the one going for the laughs or the tears.”

Robinson, who has had Browers in her script writing classes, believes he will go far in his writing career, but that theater will always figure into the picture.

“I have to thank theater a lot for teaching me about language. Theater is 100 percent dialog and that’s an important part of writing.”

“He may not know this, but I know he won’t be able to stay away from theater,” predicts Robinson. “It’s in his blood.”

Andrew Browers
Cody Charwood spent much of her childhood in the tiny, close-knit community of Squaw Lake, Minnesota, population 99, where she hung out with her cousins on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, fishing, hunting and playing in the woods.

When she arrived at Bemidji State University, those childhood experiences became a dominant influence in choosing her major. Whatever she studied, she wanted a career that would get her back outdoors, not behind a desk.

That worked out for the 2006 BSU graduate, but the job will have to wait.

Charwood has received a fellowship to pursue a graduate degree in biological and environmental engineering at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, one of the nation's most prestigious environmental engineering programs, where she also has been accepted into the doctoral program.

“We are very proud of her,” says Dr. Fu-Hsian Chang, director of the BSU Center for Environmental, Earth and Space studies, and Charwood's adviser. “She's one of the top graduates from our program. Every school where she applied offered her a full graduate scholarship.”

At BSU, Charwood completed a degree in environmental studies with an emphasis in environmental chemistry and minors in chemistry and mathematics. She chose the latter two because she loves mathematics and all things analytical. She chose the first because an environmental studies degree seemed to offer the most outdoor job opportunities.

Charwood, an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and a graduate of Spring Lake Park High School, is also a first-generation college graduate. Her mother, Maxine, plans to finish a BSU accounting degree in 2007.

Charwood hopes her positive experience at BSU will influence others in her family to consider a college education, too.

“I try to talk with my cousins and start them thinking about what they want to do,” she explains. “I never did think about what I wanted to do. I chose one school to apply to and here I am, but I think I made a good choice. I feel a sense of community here. It's small enough where I was able to learn about myself and not feel so lost in the masses.”

Her academic success earned her the Environmental Spry Scholarship for three years and this spring, the Center's Outstanding Senior Award. While at BSU, she was also named the American Indian Resource Center Outstanding Student of the Year.

“Just learning how to have confidence in myself has been an achievement,” Charwood says of her BSU experience. “College has been a really good thing for me. I've learned a lot about myself, what I'm capable of and what others are capable of.”

Dr. Drago Bilanovic has no doubts about her capabilities after having her in class and supervising her as a lab assistant in environmental studies.

“She's a keen observer and she has the ability to explain complex procedures to others,” says Bilanovic. “She knows how to listen, learn and show what she's doing. I'm confident she'll make an excellent scientist. She's a very hard worker.”

However her career unfolds, Charwood hopes her studies at Cornell will lead her home again.

“I'm just seeing where the road will take me, but I hope to come back to the area,” she says. “I can't imagine being away from my family that long.”

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“I'm just seeing where the road will take me, but I hope to come back to the area,” she says. “I can't imagine being away from my family that long.”
If Julie Gronquist had taken the path of least resistance, she would have missed the hugs of at least one St. Paul second grader who bounced between a homeless shelter and his grandmother’s place before his mom got back on her feet.

“He was really a good kid and he grew so much in confidence in the 12 weeks I was there,” says Gronquist, who recently completed her first inner-city teaching experience. “He could really read me, especially when I was tired or frustrated and he’d come up and ask if he could give me a hug.”

It’s kids like that who galvanized this Bemidji State University graduate into action.

Gronquist double majored at BSU, earning a political science degree last year and completing an early childhood education degree this spring after a year of student teaching.

While at BSU, she spent nearly four years honing her leadership skills on the Student Senate, two of them as president.

Her goal is to become an urban educator and eventually a policymaker focused on closing the education gap between the rich and the poor, and the ethnic divide.

She’ll be facing that challenge head on before summer ends. AmeriCorps has accepted her into its Teach for America program, which is committed to bridging the education gap by training leaders to focus on education issues. In September, she’ll be a special education teacher with her own classroom, most likely in Brooklyn or the Bronx. She’ll spend most of her summer training at St. John’s University in Queens before beginning her work.

Gronquist knows it will be a far cry from Alma, Kansas, population 800, where she grew up and graduated in a class of 31. But Kathleen Sonsteng, assistant professor of professional education and her BSU adviser, expects that she’ll be up to the task.

“The first time I met her she said, ‘I want to teach inner-city kids,’ and she’s never been put off by the challenge,” Sonsteng remembers. “She’s so passionate about her degree and working with kids. I expect to see her really make a difference in education.”

Only two percent of Teach for America participants are educators. Instead, AmeriCorps recruits leaders who commit one to two years to teaching and then go onto a variety of jobs where they can influence education policy. Gronquist plans to do just that, but not before she spends more time in the classroom or perhaps as a school principal.

“I still think it’s important to spend time in schools so that you understand the teachers, the administrators and the challenges,” she says.

Her 24 St. Paul second-graders, some whose parents spoke no English provided eye-opening experiences for Gronquist. She contrasted her St. Paul children with those she taught in Bemidji, most of whom had involved parents and stable relationships with other adults.

“On the third or fourth day [in St. Paul], I called my mom crying that I just couldn’t do it,” Gronquist says. “In the end, I was glad I did. The low socioeconomic school is where I want to be. Those are the kids, if they don’t have good teachers, who won’t have the same opportunities that I had when I grew up.”

Besides, Gronquist figures she’d get restless in a school that didn’t give her a challenge and a chance to test the skills she developed at Bemidji State.
"Horizons has evolved and grown and changed, and it reinforces the work the university does in preparing students and making a difference in a student’s life. That is Bemidji State’s mission, and the magazine connects traditions with the present and the future."
Over two decades ago, a discussion took place on campus about the name of the new alumni publication. A quarterly newspaper had replaced a periodic mailing called *Alumnews* that was reproduced without illustrations or photographs. The University wanted a new name for the piece that would be the primary communication link with alumni.

“We had a list of possibilities, and everyone had a favorite,” says Al Nohner, Bemidji State University director of communications and marketing. “Dr. Ted Gillett was the BSU president at that time and said something like, ‘When students leave, their future is on the horizon. Alumni will always have horizons to pursue because of their education here.’ It cemented the choice of *Horizons* as the name.”

Over the years, *Horizons* has kept its meaningful name as well as its three-fold commitment to keep graduates better informed of what their classmates were doing; provide interesting, timely and compelling stories on alumni accomplishments; and update the readers on campus activities.

“Those goals have stayed the same,” says Nohner, a 1970 BSL alumnus whose career in writing brought him back to campus in 1974. Nohner has served as editor of the publication ever since it was first published in 1986. What has changed is the format.

It began as a theme-based tabloid, focusing on issues relevant to alumni, higher education and Bemidji State. Ranging in size from eight to 12 pages, it evolved into a broader publication, offering more variety with the eventual addition of four-color photography on higher quality paper.

“The most obvious and significant change was this past year when the university switched to the magazine format,” Nohner says. “The tabloid limited the length of the stories, and generally didn’t have space for visual support with more exciting pictures and graphics.

“The 32-page magazine enables us to expand the breadth and treatment of the stories. We have a lot of good stories. Our alumni do interesting things, and that makes for interesting reading.”

The new *Horizons* is a collaboration between the BSU Foundation, Alumni Association, and the Office of Communications and Marketing. It is distributed to almost 32,000 alumni and other friends of the university. The Admissions Office is also using it as part of its communication plan by mailing it to accepted students so they can become more familiar with the campus and its people.

“We’ve come to realize good stories that speak about alumni, friends of Bemidji State, and the campus will resonate with foundation members, alumni, current students, individuals in the community, faculty, staff and prospective students,” Nohner explains. “*Horizons* has evolved and grown and changed, and it reinforces the work the university does in preparing students and making a difference in a student’s life. That is Bemidji State’s mission, and the magazine connects traditions with the present and the future.”

Alumni have certainly embraced how the new format accomplishes this. Nohner purposely placed his office’s toll-free number in the first issue, encouraging alumni to call. And they did. Responses came from across the country, all echoing excitement about the magazine.

For Nohner, who is phasing into retirement this summer and stepping down as editor, working with the *Horizons* creative staff at BSL, including designer Kathy Berglund and photographer John Swartz, has always been enjoyable. But writing about alumni is the most rewarding part of his job.

“The stories alumni tell are relevant, heart-warming, fun, emotionally charged, and interesting,” he says. “They speak to the essence of what Bemidji State means.

“Once I interviewed a 100-year-old alumna who was a former teacher. While we were sitting in her front room, she reached into a drawer and pulled out a textbook from her studies at Bemidji State Teachers College in 1922. It was a bird guide, and she talked about how it was used in the nature study class 80 years earlier as well as how she, her children and grandchildren still referred to it to identify birds in the yard.

“There just isn’t a better way to show the value Bemidji State brings to life than stories like this.”

**COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT WORKERS**

The Communications and Marketing Office is planning a student worker reunion in the summer of 2007. The reunion would be for student workers in any of the offices associated with Information Services, the News Bureau, News and Publications, Photographic Services, or Sports Information. If you are interested in the reunion or want to receive information, contact the Communications and Marketing Office at 1-888-234-7794 or email news@bemidjistate.edu.
BSU Alumna Uses Permanent Elements to Craft Northern Life, History, Art

Metal for the Soul

Wanda Reise Odegard knows what it’s like to lose a piece of her soul. Make that 27 pieces. The Bemidji-based artist, who graduated from Bemidji State University in 1963 with a degree in education and in 1988 with a degree in fine art, lost 27 paintings when a fire engulfed the restaurant where they were on display. “It was like my paintings cried,” she says. But from the ashes rose Odegard’s discovery of metals, the medium in which she loves to work today. “After the fire, I found metals were fine,” she explains. “I wanted something more permanent.”
With this enduring medium, Odegard has made a meaningful mark around northern Minnesota. Odegard Studios, established in 1984, includes monumental sculptures, such as the 12-foot Niimii, an Ojibwe pow wow dancer which stands at the edge of Lake Bemidji in downtown Bemidji; the 9-foot Mr. Hockey, who makes a striking pose in Bemidji State’s John Glas Fieldhouse; and the 7-foot bronze globe that greets visitors at the Mississippi’s headwaters in Itasca State Park.

The Studio also features furniture, railings, sculptures, and paintings.

“I hope that my work expresses what is happening in our community,” Odegard explains. “I’d like it to give some knowledge in years to come of what went on here, because times will change.”

Odegard’s fond regard for northern Minnesota stems from her Bemidji childhood. The self-described hometown girl loved the woods and never wanted to leave. “It never entered my mind,” she says.

With encouragement from her parents to attend college, Odegard went to Bemidji State, then taught in area schools before becoming a mother and freelance painter.

When her daughter Kristi graduated high school and went to BSU, Odegard decided to tag along, intending to finish the two classes she had left in completing an art degree. “I got so enthused, I ended up doing 83 more quarter hours in the art field,” she says.

Part of that education involved a nine-month internship with Bemidji blacksmith Keith Johnson, who helped Odegard cut her teeth on various metals. But Johnson wasn’t Odegard’s only influence. “I had some teachers that understood me very well and encouraged me to create my own style of work – be my own artist,” Odegard says. “That’s so important. That’s the thing you get from teachers – all that background experience, so when it’s time for your own career you take from that. I definitely got that from my college classes.”

She also got something else, “I think college gives you the confidence that your ideas are good ones. My college education gave me the confidence to create,” she says. “I think you also learn not to be afraid of a challenge or the work that’s ahead of you.”

The work that’s ahead of Odegard includes finishing a bronze eagle with a 16-foot wingspan that she’s spent three
“I hope that my work expresses what is happening in our community. I'd like it to give some knowledge in years to come of what went on here, because times will change.”

Wanda Reise Odegard

summers creating. The eagle will be posed catching a fish, and Odegard is considering incorporating running water into the design.

“There’s a lot of research,” Odegard says when explaining her process. “There’s a lot more than just welding when you do these pieces. A lot of work is also in the design. You might work as long on that as you do making it.”

Of course, “making it” is no small feat either, as one can imagine when gazing up at one of Odegard’s super-sized works.

“Working with metals takes a lot of time,” she explains. “With metals, usually weeks and months are involved. It’s about the most difficult way to create a sculpture. But I enjoy the problem solving. It’s a really different kind of thought process.”

Regardless of the sculpture, Odegard’s thought process always involves the viewer. “I like to have it be interactive with people – touchable, put your arms around it,” she explains. “The Itasca globe was made so a blind person could feel the continents, the latitude lines. When I create a piece it’s with the public in mind: what they’ll enjoy and what they’ll understand.”

One of the things Odegard hopes others will understand and appreciate about Bemidji, both the university and community, is the north woods way of life. “The pace is slower up here,” she says. “What that gives you is time to think, to enjoy what’s around you.”

For Odegard, the result is a nurtured soul and an abundance of creativity. “If you feed your soul good things, it definitely comes out in your artwork.”

Note: Additional photos of Wanda Reise Odegard’s work can be seen at www.odegardstudios.com.
For the American Indian Alumni Chapter, it has always been a concern that Bemidji State students might pass their entire campus career without first-hand experiences in the culture, traditions and concerns inherent in American Indian life today.

That would minimally constitute a missed learning opportunity for students at BSU, which is centrally located between three Native American reservations.

More ominously, this cultural divide could lead to a lifetime where different people find it acceptable to maintain narrow views and not benefit from understanding other traditions or backgrounds.

"Because BSU is located within the region of Minnesota’s three largest Indian tribes, our primary goal was for all students, Indian and non-Indian, to become informed of the key American Indian issues that affect our region, state and nation." - Roger Aitken

American Indian Alumni Chapter (AIAC) decided to act, organizing several activities during Indian Week last spring in conjunction with the American Indian Resource Center, the Council of Indian Students, and the Indian Studies Program. In addition to the annual pow wow and Indian Art Expo, individuals were scheduled to speak during classes and a forum of tribal leaders was held on campus.

"Because BSU is located within the region of Minnesota’s three largest Indian tribes, our primary goal was for all students, Indian and non-Indian, to become informed of the key American Indian issues that affect our region, state and nation,” says Roger Aitken, AIAC member. “The speakers presented on important issues in Indian Country, such as Indian education, Indian cultural history, at-risk children edu-
cation, the Indian Child Welfare Act, tribal government, tribal courts, legal and political issues of tribes, media and the Indian mascot subject.”

The forum, which was open to the public, featured a discussion on tribal sovereignty, trust lands, tribal enrollment, constitutional issues, and the impact of gaming. Panelists were Floyd “Buck” Jourdain, chairman of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians; Dr. Erma J. Vizenor, chairwoman of the White Earth Nation; and Kevin Leecy, chairman of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

“Listening and hearing first-hand from the local tribal leadership is an important and unique educational experience for students and the community,” Aitken notes. “Following the presentation, we had a very enthusiastic question and answer session that complemented the forum well.”

The activities fit nicely into the mission of the AIAC, which was formed in 1987 to maintain connections for American Indian graduates and Indian communities to Bemidji State as well as to create opportunities for access to resources and success at the University.

“We want to establish a positive, informative and credible Indian presence on campus that will attract, retain and graduate Indian students, provide the general student body a meaningful and unique educational experience, and the Indian mascot subject.”
gram development, and generally energizing the whole process,” says Dr. Jon Quistgaard, Bemidji State University president, of the effort leading to the fall 2003 opening of the building.

The AIRC, located in the heart of campus at the west end of the Chet Anderson Football Stadium, was built to create a space where American Indian students could gather for learning and socializing. It develops programming that advances the educational goals of Native Americans, enhances cultural understanding, cultivates leadership, and supports scholarly work.

“We want to establish a positive, informative and credible Indian presence on campus that will attract, retain and graduate Indian students, provide the general student body a meaningful and unique educational experience regarding tribal issues, and contribute toward a goal of making BSU the ‘hub of Indian education and tribal issues’ in the nation,” says Aitken of the AIAC.

One of the most tangible examples of American Indian alumni support over time is the American Indian Resource Center (AIRC). Chapter members played key roles in making that facility a reality.

“They played a vital role in opening doors that had been previously closed, creating plans, helping secure funding, providing insight in program development, and generally energizing the whole process,” says Dr. Jon Quistgaard, Bemidji State University president, of the effort leading to the fall 2003 opening of the building.

The AIRC, located in the heart of campus at the west end of the Chet Anderson Football Stadium, was built to create a space where American Indian students could gather for learning and socializing. It develops programming that advances the educational goals of Native Americans, enhances cultural understanding, cultivates leadership, and supports scholarly work.

“The American Indian Alumni Chapter helped the Center make great strides in addressing these needs during their organization and support of Indian Week activities,” Quistgaard says. “We are grateful for their dedication, and for creating opportunities where the Bemidji State community and general public can broaden their cultural experiences.”

Dr. Don Day (above) speaks at a professional education class as part of the AIAC’s involvement with Indian Week. At left, young students view works at the Ojibwe Art Expo. Floyd “Buck” Jourdain (photograph, top left) speaks at the forum on tribal issues with panelists Kevin Leecy and Dr. Erma J. Vizenor.
Fueling Futures
ALUMNI BROTHERS FORWARD ETHANOL INDUSTRY, CAREERS FOR FELLOW GRADUATES

For many college graduates, the opportunity to work in a cutting-edge industry with a family atmosphere in small-town Minnesota is nothing but a pipe dream.

But at Fagen, Incorporated, a Granite Falls-based heavy industrial design-build firm specializing in ethanol plant construction, they are building such a reality for a number of Bemidji State University graduates – thanks to fellow BSU alumni Aaron and Evan Fagen.

“We know that the program matches what we’re looking for,” says Aaron, the company’s chief operating officer, about the interest in BSU students. That program is Bemidji State’s industrial technology program, now known as the Department of Technological Studies. Aaron graduated in 1998 with a dual emphasis in construction and manufacturing management and Evan earned a degree in 2001 with an emphasis in construction management.

After considering other schools, the Fagen brothers both chose BSU due to the quality of the technology program. “It’s the well roundedness you get,” Aaron explains. “You do a little bit of CAD, machine, electrical, industrial safety. You get a well-rounded background.”

And when they’re looking for new employees, specifically project engineers, “We want the industrial technology graduate,” he says. Students also gain practical know-how from the program’s hands-on approach. “They have real-world knowledge that can be applied.”

In addition to these characteristics found in graduates of the program, the Fagen brothers cite drive and work ethic as two qualities typical of Bemidji State graduates. “Their desire is pretty high when they come out of school,” says Evan, who serves as executive vice president.

“They have a make-it-happen attitude,” Aaron adds when noting this brings value to Fagen’s 1,500-employee workforce. “They get the job done. And they do a good job.”

That kind of performance is more important than ever at Fagen, Inc., as the company is experiencing a boom in light of the nation’s growing interest in ethanol. Although Fagen, Inc. does a wide variety of projects – including working with power generation/utilities, wind turbines, pulp and paper, metals, and mining – its current focus is on ethanol plant construction.

“We have 23 design-build ethanol projects under construction and will max out at 36 this year,” Aaron says. Their calendar is full, and the firm has refused other business projects.

Needless to say, the family-owned company is keeping busy, plotting ethanol plants across the country and contributing significantly to the nation’s changing approach to fuels.

“I put a lot of time into studying because the classes are tough. I really applied myself. It taught me that if you’re going to do anything that’s worthwhile, give it 110 percent.” Aaron Fagen

Evan (left) and Aaron Fagen
“We’ve built 64 percent of the ethanol capacity in the last six years in the United States,” Aaron says. What’s more, the company is the largest merit shop contractor headquartered in the Midwest, and ranked in Engineering News-Record as number 118 among the top 400 contractors and number 16 in the top 20 industrial process/petro rankings.

That’s quite a change considering the company had “a few projects” when Aaron started and “some projects” when Evan began working full-time for their parents Ron and Diane. Both began right after college and worked their way up from “the field.”

Also impressive are the brothers’ responsibilities, which include equally managing the field operation and handling additional duties: Aaron dealing with the company’s policies and procedures, and Evan the company’s hiring and training.

Both brothers feel they were well equipped for their current responsibilities through their experiences at Bemidji State. “By going to BSU, my work ethic is very strong,” Evan says. “I put a lot of time into studying because the classes are tough.” Aaron agrees. “I really applied myself. It taught me that if you’re going to do anything that’s worthwhile, give it 100 percent.”

When it comes to creating satisfying careers for other BSU graduates, the Fagens take a similar devoted approach. By providing job security and a friendly, supportive work environment, Fagen, Inc. aims to give BSU graduates a strong sense of community.

“We tell them we’re looking at them long-term,” Aaron says. “They know their job is not going to last one project and then be gone. And another thing: We have a one-on-one family environment versus numbers. Here you’re not a number, you’re an individual.”

Being treated as an individual is something both Fagens have carried forward into their lives after appreciating that quality at Bemidji State. “BSU has a real homey feel – you aren’t in a big city,” Evan explains. “You walk across campus and recognize people.”

In fact, the Fagens say the sense of community and social elements gained at smaller institutions translate to better employees. They prefer to work with smaller schools because, as Evan says, “The graduates tend to have better people skills.”

Those skills pay off. In fact, the company strives to promote employees who’ve got what it takes. Of the 14 Bemidji State graduates it has hired as project engineers, nearly a third have been promoted to project managers.

“That’s a high-end position,” Aaron says. “A project manager is responsible for about 100 to 250 employees plus a multi-million dollar construction budget. That’s a big responsibility.”

And it’s a responsibility that’s rewarded with an impressive salary, again adding to the appeal of a Fagen, Inc. gig – which a good handful of recent BSU grads will soon enjoy as the company hired seven project engineers from the spring 2006 graduating class.

As for the Fagen brothers, the two young executives find themselves satisfied with their education and careers.

“I’m happy where I’m at,” Aaron says. “Our main goal is to maintain and have controlled growth of the company.” Evan mirrors his brother’s sentiment. “Overall, I like what I’m doing,” he says.

And if the company’s standing as the nation’s leader in ethanol plant construction is any indication, they’re doing it well, thanks in part to keen ambition and a commitment to excellence they say was instilled at Bemidji State.

“If someone gives us something to do, we give it our best,” Evan says. “After leaving BSU, if we have something to do, we do it right.”

Note: Additional information about Fagen, Inc. can be found at www.fageninc.com.
2006  Mark Nordell and Ross Roetman were among several graduates from BSU’s Technological Studies Department who volunteered to build a model of the Faith’s Lodge; a center planned for Webster, WI, providing services for families with ailing children.  Tyler Chambers and Samantha Foth (’05) were married in Bemidji.  Tyler is employed at the Green Mill restaurant and Samantha is employed as a sales and marketing associate by the Hampton Inn & Suites, Bemidji.

2005  Brad Jellis, Fresno Falcons athletic trainer in Fresno, CA, was selected by his peers to represent the Falcons at the 2006 Bud Light ECHL Star Game and Skills Competition.  Nicole Joy was chosen last fall to represent Beltrami County at the Minnesota Student Media Competition.  Stephanie Frisch was chosen last fall to represent Beltrami County in the Miss Minnesota International Pageant.  She is currently a long-term substitute teacher at the Ponemah Elementary School.  Jason Croth is employed as a sports editor with the Grand Rapids Herald Review newspaper.  Ashley Seado curts with the Gary Allen rink of Bemidji.  Her team won the title of the American Legion Mixed Bonspiel this spring.  Benjamin Caron is the new owner of Country Insurance and Financial Services, Bemidji.  Mike Gutz is employed with North Star Red Cross in Bemidji.  Rob Jarrett began working as an officer with the Fridley Police Department in January.  Tena Johnson and Preston Pettis were married in Nisswa and now live in St. Louis Park.  Tena is a manager at Ruby Tuesday and Preston is a personal trainer at Northern Fitness.  Samantha Lundenberg and Adam Paulson were married in Thief River Falls, where the couple now lives.  Shauna is employed as a registered nurse at the Northwest Medical Center.  Adam and Annamaria Roosevelt are married.  Adam is an English instructor at Northland Community College.  Amy Donarski and John Danielson were married in Thief River Falls.  Travis Haskell is manager of the new Hertz rental car business located inside the Bemidji Regional Airport.  Angie Mohn is a kindergarten teacher at Northern Elementary in Bemidji and is planning a summer wedding.  John Harghizer of Alexandria is teaching K-12 music, band and orchestra at Oklee and Plummer schools.  Lindsey Bromhenshenk was promoted at Federated Insurance, Owatonna, from associate programmer to programmer analyst.  Samantha Foth (’06) was married in Bemidji.  Samantha is employed as a sales and marketing associate by the Hampton Inn & Suites, Bemidji, and Tyler is employed at the Green Mill restaurant.  John Angeli was one of several graduates from BSU’s Technological Studies Department who volunteered to build a model of the Faith’s Lodge, a center planned for Webster, WI, providing services for families with ailing children.

2004  Jennifer Roth recently completed the certified public accountant examination and is employed with Kummel, Larson, Bluth & Co. in Brainerd.  Stephanie Frisch was recently hired by the American National Bank of Minnesota’s Alexandria office as a customer service representative.  Sara (McIntyre) Rogalla was hired to teach art at Marshall County Central.  April (Robb) Drietz is teaching K-6 music at Homecrest Elementary in St. Paul and lives in Burnsville.  Becky Littey lives in Mankato and recently accepted a second elementary music teaching position there.  Talia DeBenedict of Cass Lake teaches performing arts at Trek North High School, gives voice lessons at Headwaters School and conducts the adult choir at St. Philip’s Church, all located in Bemidji.  Jennifer Schickert and Derrick Moen (’02) announced the August 2005 birth of a son, Gavin.  Alicia Beech and Adam Bertram were married in Breckenridge and now live near Melrose.  She is employed with Agriprice Property Management.  St. Clotilde from Ankara, Turkey moved to Melrose Electric.  Katie Zeher and Joshua Bromley were married in Myrtle Beach, SC.  Katie teaches first grade in Charlotte, NC, and Joshua teaches middle school math in Lincolnton, NC, where the couple resides.  Amanda (Goligowski) Sherwood will be a coach with the summer swim program offered at Bemidji High School.  Andrea Tvet is currently on her second one-year tour of duty with U.S. Department of State.  She has provided disaster relief in areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina and is currently working in southern Mississippi for Coastal Plains Resource Conservation and Development.

2003  Amanda (Drummond) Spair is living in the Twin Valley.  Carol Cunningham, a graduate assistant at BSU, traveled to Ankara, Turkey last winter to work with faculty from Ankara University and Cankiri Technical College in developing distance learning delivery capacities.  Kari Kelly performed in a play entitled “Tallgrass Coyote” at the University of Minnesota.  She is employed by the University of Minnesota’s Electron Microscopy Laboratory.  Andrea Bronczek is employed as a guest experience manager with Target, Bemidji.  She was recently accepted as a member of the Manchester Who’s Who Executive and Professional Registry.  Jeff Sherwood will be a coach with the summer swim program being offered at Bemidji High School.  Michelle Ruckdaeschel is a reporter with the Bemidji Pioneer newspaper, which won the Minnesota Newspaper Association Sweepstakes Award and received First Place in continuing news coverage for its reporting of the 2005 Red Lake school shootings.

2001  Amber Richgels married Joshua Severson.  Amber is enrolled in a math education doctorate program at the University of Minnesota.  Joshua is a sergeant in the U.S. Army and is currently stationed in Iraq, serving his second tour of duty.  John Broda is employed by Carbon County School District at Elk Mountain, WY, as an elementary teacher and assistant principal/assistant coach.  He’s an Elk Mountain city councilor and recently returned from Japan, where he toured schools, businesses and spoke with government officials on the state of Japanese and American schools.  Kristopher Price lives in Alexandria and has three children, Jennifer, 21, Laura, 19, and Megan, 17.  Elise Souders and James Durbin were married.  The couple lives in Shakopee.  Abigail Catherman-Larson (’02) was married in the 11th annual First National Bank Bemidji Lumberjack Bonspiel this spring.  Jodi Glidden teaches fifth grade at Cass Lake-Bena Middle School.  Brad Folkens was named assistant BSU softball coach, was selected to assist with media relations at the NCAA Division I Midwest Regional Finals, working at the scorer’s table during the event and staffing post game interviews.  Alex Knutson, a programmer analyst with Federated Insurance, Owatonna, has earned his Associate in Insurance Services designation.

2000  Matthew Dahl recently completed the certified public accountant examination and is employed with Kummel, Larson, Bluth & Co. in Brainerd.  Kris Williams, industrial training coordinator at BSU’s Center for Research and Innovation, traveled to Ankara, Turkey last winter to work with faculty from Ankara University and Cankiri Technical College in developing distance learning delivery capacities.  Jim Wurduck teaches high school math in Menahga where he’s been employed as a teacher and coach for 12 years.  He’s married and has four sons.

1999  Stephanie (Charlton) and Mike Dailey (’98) live in Mahnomen and have three children, Owen, 4, Dawson, 1, and Jennifer, 9.  Anne Miller lives in Buffalo.  Susan McCabe, a senior programmer analyst with Federated Insurance, Owatonna, has earned her Associate in Insurance Services designation.
1998 Amy (Engler) and Ted Halbur ('95) live in Circle Pines and have a son, William, 4, and a set of one-year-old twins, Lucas and Maxwell. Ted is a senior art director for Target Corporation and Amy teaches fifth grade at the Centennial School District. Bill, Mark and Jenn (Schmidt) Ulven ('97) live in Big Lake where their family is building the Victory Sports Grille & Bar. Jenn is a middle school and church choir director. Mike (Chariton) Daley ('99) live in Mahnomen and have three children, Owen, 4, Dawson, 3, and Jenn, 9-months ... Jana (Cook) and Chris LeClaire live in Rockford. Janna teaches 6-8 grade choir at Vandenberg Middle School in Elk River ... Harriet (VanCampen) Evans lives in Deer River and serves as the licensor for adult foster care for Itasca County. Penny (Yone, Serdich) and Jason Koets recently moved to Maple Lake where Jason had accepted a high school teaching position. They have two children, Cole, 2, and Kiersten, 5-months ... John Thompson, a general accounting manager with Federated Insurance, Owatonna, has his Chartered Life Underwriter. Chartered Financial Consultant and Associate in Insurance Services designations ... Jeff Ostrom and Darla Hose were married in Clearbrook. Jeff is a teacher at Clearbrook-Gonvick School and Darla is employed with North Country Regional Hospital.

Karin Macki of Grand Forks, ND, completed a master’s degree at UND and works as a course practitioner in gastroenterology at Altru Clinic in Grand Forks. She and her husband, William, have a son, Nolan, 1.

1997 Dawn Rossbach teaches art in the Menahga School District ... Jenn (Schmidtke) and Mark Ulven ('98) live in Big Lake where their family is building the Victory Sports Grille & Bar. Jenn is a middle school and church choir director. Caari (Schmidt) Dieuert and her husband, Chris, live in Prior Lake and have two children, Ryan, 5, and Dashan, 3 ... Scott Kenney is the new Nevis High boys basketball coach. He’d previously coached the Nevis girls quintet for nine years, posting a 160-78 record.

1996 Kari (Bowman) Wood, associate professor of business administration at BSLU, presented at the Beyond Boundaries Conference in Grand Forks, ND, and also conducted a distance learning course on the ITEACH course at Brooklyn Park. Kerri Bilben and her husband, Andrew, have three children, Jacob, 5, Ryan, 3, and Nathan, 1 ... Tim Engrav is employed as an assistant ranger with the USDA Forest Service in Cook ... Carrie Collyard-Glines, a chiropractor who specializes in women’s and children’s care with her own practice in Elk River, recently teamed up with a Monticello chiropractor to see patients in that town ... Amy (Calhoun) Hand and her husband, Brett, live in Marshalltown with their children, Audan, 3, and Brenna, 18-months. She works as a webmaster of the Iowa Grandparents website and also sells gourmet candies.

Aaron Clusiau and his wife, Christy, live in Nashwaak and have two children, Jacie, 3, and Daniel, 14-months. He is vice president of AmerBank, Hibbing.

1995 Lisa (Falk) Moses is employed as a teacher in the New York City public schools. Her husband, Ted, lives in Park Rapids and have two sons, Keegan, 3, and Jack, 8-months ... Ted and Amy (Engler) Halbur ('98) live in Circle Pines and have a son, William, 4, and a set of one-year-old twins, Lucas and Maxwell. Ted is a senior art director for Target Corporation and Amy teaches fifth grade in the Centennial School District. Troy

Hanstead is the new women’s tennis coach at Concordia College in Moorhead. He and his wife, Jenny, have three children, Christian, Annika and Noah ... Jason Furuseth is co-owner of Wilderness View Landscape, serving clients in Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties. Scott Faddness was commissioned to paint a mural featuring twin wolves for the new rock climbing wall that was installed this spring at Northern Elementary School. Bemidji ... Renea Tenold and Richard Cipala were married in St Paul. Shannon Westrum is manager for retail and e-commerce at Concordia Language Villages, Bemidji.

1994 Jennifer (Bardal) and Ball Sanford ('80) live in Bemidji and have three children, Marcy, 20, Katie, 18, and Becca, 8. Bill is general manager of Lakeland Public Television and Jennifer works as an office assistant for the United Way. John (Khalid) and Scott Stish ('93) live in Solway and have two children, Samuel, 3, and Anna, 4-months. Scott has been working for Northern Minnesota for 18 years and Karen works in the admissions department at Oak Hills Christian College. Alisa Franklin and Todd Meijer were married in the Spring. Both are employed with NorthShore, Inc. ... Linda (Spors) Barber is a band instructor at the Bemidji Middle School ... Cory Chupka is the new boys hockey coach at East Grand Forks. Becky Dean serves as a leader for Cass Lake Girl Scout Troop 774, which made fleece blankets for the mothers and their babies at a local hospital. Audra (Ferdig) Allen and her husband, Tom, are the new owners of the Tutto Bene Italian restaurant in downtown Bemidji. Wendy Haavisto is a legislative assistant to Minnesota Sen Dennis Frederickson in St Paul. Jim Paulsen, a Becida artist, sculpted the bronze statue that forms the centerpiece of the new Freedom Defenders Veterans Memorial that was installed adjacent to the Beltrami County History Center in May. The statue is of Cpl. Chuck Lindberg, the last survivor of the Marines who hoisted the first flag over Iwo Jima ... John Loney, WHA girls softball coach, has been named the Upper Mississippi Conference Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season.

1993 Sue Flice, a special education teacher with the Bemidji School District, collaborated in presenting a workshop to the Kittson Central and Stephen-Argeley Central School Districts on understanding the key warning signs of early-onset mental illness in children.

Todd Dahl, a sergeant with the Crow Wing County Sheriff’s Department, has announced he will run for sheriff in November’s election. He worked for the sheriff’s department since 1987. He and his wife, Sue, have two children, Eryn, 10, and Peter, 9. Marlyce Rieck lives in Willmar ... Gretchen (Peterson) Halverson and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of twin daughters, Maren and Johanna. In June 2005, Gretchen was awarded the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Social Justice Award by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for the recognition of her work on the annual Social Work Lobby Day at the Capitol ... Tom and Melanie (Neil) Rietveld have been married for 13 years and live in Bemidji. Tom owns Northern Veterinary Service, providing services to cattle, horses and small animals. The Rietvelds have three children, Delaney, 9, Paul, 7, and Amy Kate, 4 ... Rochelle (Senogles) Johnson is the new elementary principal at Bag-O-Nose Elementary School in Aitkin. Bena Scott and Karen (Johnson) Stish ('94) live in Solway and have two children, Samuel, 3, and Anna, 4-months. Scott has been working for Northern Minnesota for four years. Karen is employed with Northhomes, and in the admissions department at Oak Hills Christian College. Marcia Schwanken has been a teacher and coach in Menahga schools since 1982.

1992 Jodi and Brad Schultz ('90) have two daughters and live in Park Rapids where she runs her own daycare, Imagination Station ... Dana McCabe and her husband, Larry, live in Sartell ... Deb Steinbauer and Bill Peterson hosted a gourmet meal as part of a fund-raiser for the Bemidji Boys & Girls Club. ... Pete and Roxi (Matson) Fenson ('91) were featured chefs at this year’s Going Gourmet for the Boys & Girls Club, a benefit event for the Bemidji area club ... Jolene (Leppl) Davidson and her husband, Amos, live in Park Rapids where they have two children, Hale, 19-months, and Elora, 2-months. Jolene has completed her masters of arts in education degree ... Erik Livingston, an actuary with Federated Insurance, Owatonna, has earned his Fellow of the Casualty Actuary Society designation ... Chad and LeAnne (Palmer) Schmidt ('90) live in South St Paul and have three children, Ian, 10, Patrick, 6, and Molly, 2. Chad was recently named a faculty member in the BSU Department of Professional Education, teaching and supervising student teachers in DL iTE and FasTrack programs based in the Twin Cities.

1991 Brad Schultz was selected as Menahga’s Teacher of the Year. He and his wife, Jodi ('92), have two daughters and live in Park Rapids where she runs her own daycare, Imagination Station ... Roxi (Matson) and Peter Fenson ('92) were featured chefs at this year’s Going Gourmet for the Boys & Girls Club, a benefit event for the Bemidji area club ... Renee (LeRue) Frethem was recently named branch manager of the Wadena City Library. She and her husband, Mark Frethem ('90), have three sons ... Carl Langner and his wife, Janet, live in Alexandria. Their children, Nate, 10, Katelyn, 7, and Nicholas, 4 ... Raymond Wattenerhofer Jr. exhibited his oil paintings and watercolors in May at Gallery
North, Bemidji. In addition to creating art at his studio near Dorset, he is a resident artist at Custer State Game Lodge near Custer, SD, each summer. He also participates in the Stony Creek Art Exhibit and Sale in Park Rapids each summer.

Debbee, have been married since 2005 … Debbee, have been married since 2005 … Debbee, have been married since 2005 … Debbee, have been married since 2005 …
1982 Debi and Mary (Owen) Moen, live in Wadena and have a daughter, Britta, 12. Deb and Paul Grovom (90) hosted a gourmet meal as part of a fund-raising event for the Bemidji Boys & Girls Club. Phil Muir has stepped down as boys hockey coach at Knottson Community College. Jim Scanlan was named as East Grand Forks’ boys hockey coach but continues in his position as athletic director. Roberta (Olson) Tucker and her husband, Terrance, live in Frazee and have one child, the 10. Roberta recently accepted a position as senior vice president with Compass Bank in Houston. Doug and Julie (Boettcher) Ryan of Mahnomen have three children, Jessica, 20, Nicole, 18, and Krysta, 16. Doug teaches industrial technology in Mahnomen and Julie teaches industrial technology in Waubun. Mike and Martha (Aber- son) Mason (81) live in Mound and have three children, John, 16, Becca, 14, and Elizabeth, 9. Martha works at Caribou Coffee and Mike owns his own company, RCRA Advantage.

1981 Rodney and Jane (Linde) Capistran (79) live in Fargo, ND, and have two children, Madeline, 9, and Stuart, 5. Tammy (Harju) Ryan was recently named Governor’s Hall of Excellence for the state of Montana. She has been the circulation and advertising manager of Montana The Magazine of Western History since 1988. Rick and Pam (Witkok) Peterson (83), live in Red Wing and have two children, Dan and Jacob, 3. Jon and Laurie (Anderson) Gelschus live in Hutchinson and have three children, Amy, 20, Brad, 19, and Tam, 17. Scott Berry lives in La Mina, and has two children, Dylan, 24, and Joel, 21. Jean (Fulton) Weyer and her husband, Gary, live in Menahga where she has taught second grade for the past seven years. They have two children, Brielle, 21, Seib, 19, and Delane, 12.

1980 Kent Bahr played on the winning team at the 11th annual First National Bank Bemidji Lumberjack Bonspiel this spring. Monte Draper is a photographer with the Bemidji Pioneer newspaper, which won the Minnesota Newspaper Association Sweepstakes Award and received First Place in continuing coverage for its reporting of the 2005 Red Lake school shootings. Bill and Jennifer (Bardal) Sanford (94) live in Bemidji and have two children, Mary, 7, and Becca, 5. Bill is general manager of Lakeland Public Television and Jennifer works as an officer administrator for the United Way. Susan (Nowlan) Sheflquist and her husband, Kyle, live in Bemidji and have two children, Ryan, 20, and Ian, 16. Nellie (Hendricks) Weigelsd and her husband, Jerry, live in Wadena and have four grown children, Tim, Vick, Sally and Scott. She taught elementary grades for 29 years and since her retirement in 1998 has run a quilting business. Marcella (Wingate) Hallan has retired from career with Itasca County Human Services. She and her husband, George, live in Kewaunee.

Karen Bradley has served as an artist-in-residence at Central Elementary in Bemidji and is the recipient of the Bemidji Community Arts Council’s 18th annual Friend of the Arts Award.

1979 Jane (Linde) and Rodney Capistran (81), live in Fargo, ND, and have two children, Madeline, 9, and Stuart, 5. Joan (Norr) McKinnon was recently initiated into the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society during a ceremony in Bemidji. Steven Bosen is an attorney with the Donlan & Bosen law offices in Litchfield. Colette (Graves) Dahlke is an admissions representative in the BSLU admissions office. Jim Orazem, a mathematics teacher and golf coach in the Mora school district for 27 years, was among three recipients of Leadership in Education Excellence Awards honored in St. Cloud. Carol, have been married for 26 years and have two children, Rachel, 19, and Logan, 15. Brian Miller, Bemidji native, guitarist and singer, performed at Bridge’s Cross Irish Pub in Bemidji. John Moon and his wife, Ruth, live in DeSoto, KS, and have two children, Sarah, 23, and Ben, 19. He is a human resources officer with the Veterans Administra-tion. Patty (Finn) and Gary Allman (78) live in Cottage Grove and have two children, Kellie, 21, and Kasey, 19. Patty teaches third grade in Washington County and Gary is in his 27th year of employment with UPS.

1978 Faith Rudnik was selected by her peers at Herman-Norcross Community School as its Teacher of the Year for the Goodridge school district. She is a counselor and also teaches college psychology via ITV to Herman-Norcross stu-dents and Underwood high school students. Tom Ritchie is a long-time high school wrestling coach in Fairbanks, AK. He has an adult son, Tom Jr, who is also a coach. Deb Allison (Shears) and Jeff Calle live in Warroad and have three children, J.J, 24, Kyle, 22, and Bryce, 19. Bill Brockberg lives in Sherwood, and has two children, Tommy and Shears and his wife, Sandy, live in Brooklyn Park and have a son, Dustin. Tim started TBS Consulting and has been teaching elementary classes in Goodridge via ITV to Herman-Norcross students and Underwood high school students. Sandy is a flight attendant with Northwest Airlines. Gary and Patty (Finn) Allman (79) live in Cottage Grove and have two children, Kellie, 21, and Kasey, 19. Patty teaches third grade in South Washington County and Gary is in his 27th year of employment with UPS. Sue (Mattson) Nelson is the new managing editor of the St. Cloud Times after serving the paper in a variety of capacities since 1984.

1977 Al Curf and his wife, Sue, hosted a gourmet meal as part of a fund-raising event for the Bemidji Boys & Girls Club. Dennis (Koontz) Dorsett has been named superintendent of schools in Edina beginning this summer.

1976 Carol (Johnson) Bruns has retired after teaching 31 years in the Wadena-Deer Creek schools.

Class Notes

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She and her husband, Edward (73), have two children, Jessica and Jason. Mary Ann Gesell hosted a gourmet meal as part of a fund-raising event for the Bemidji Boys & Girls Club. Deb Jacobson, athletic director for Northland Community and Technical College, was chosen by the Minnesota Coalition of Women in Athletic Lead-ership to receive a special merit award for her contributions to promoting sports for girls and women. She joined the faculty at Northland College in 1971 as the first women’s basket-ball coach and in 2000 was named athletic director for both men and women. Nancy Powell and her husband, Bob, live in San Diego, CA, and have a son, Robert, 10. Linda (Mohns-Livingston) Wiedewitsch has retired from her position as an investigator for the Detroit Lakes Police Department, concluding a law enforcement career that dates back to 1977. She has trained eight dogs for Leader Dogs for the Blind and intends to continue training and boarding dogs. She and her hus-band, Arche, also board horses at their rural Detroit Lakes table. Nancy (Hagen) Steiger and her husband, Doug, live in Moorhead and have three grown children, Greta, Marissa and Tony. She is working as a leasing agent for a property management company. Jeannette (Baumgartner) Renshon has been a teacher in the St. Cloud school district and has taught in Blackduck for the past 22 years. She has two children, Aaron and Alanna. Nancy and Mark Carlson (75) live in Minneapolis and have three grown children, Cory, Brit and Charles.

1975 Richard Anderson is employed with the Bemidji High School. Janice (Hoganson) Sar-gent is a teacher with the Cascade Lake School District. Mike Ellingsen and his wife, Sue, live in Blue Earth and have two children, Andrew, 24, and Kate, 20. Mark and Nan Carlson (76) live in Minneapolis and have three grown children, Cory, Brit and Charles. Thomas Beck is a program assessment and marketing coordinator in the TRIO office at Bemidji State University. Deb Allison is employed with the Beltrami County Veterans Services. Terry Bradley scored an ace at Maple Ridge Golf Course in Bemidji this year, using a 4-iron to hole out on the 152-yard seventh hole. Sue Bruns is the assistant principal at Bemidji High School.

1974 Mary (Orton) and William Robertson (68) live in British Columbia, Canada, and have a daughter, Jennifer, 26. Mary was named executive director of Goodridge school district. They have an umpire at the 2006 World Mens Curling Cham-pionships, an umpire for 2006 Olympic Curling and chief umpire at the 2005 World Mens Curling Championships. Joe Vene performed as an invited soloist for a recognition ceremony for master’s students at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. He also presented the keynote address at the dedication ceremonies for the Freedom Defenders Veterans Memorial installed adjacent to the Beltrami County History Center. Bob Gospeter and his wife, Cindy, live in Eagle Lake and have three children, Cassie, 25, Carrie, 24, and Callie, 22. Mike Johnson and his wife, Julie Ann, live in Walker and have three children, Brent, 20, Dan, 18, and Jill, 15. Deb (Kolp) Stanley was selected as Teacher of the Year for the Goodridge School district. She’s been teaching elementary classes in Goodridge for 18 years. She and her husband, Todd, moved to Caryga in 1974 and raised two children, Bill and Rachel. Dennis (Koontz) Dorsett is the coach of the Warroad Boys’ Hockey Program. He and his wife of 33 years, Susan, have three grown sons. He’s been a hockey coach for 32 consecutive years. Sharon (Wodell) Chapman of Bemidji writes that she received a successful kidney transplant in December and her health continues...
to improve ... Gregory and Kathleen (Jenkins) Nadeau (72) live in Lake Elmo and have two grown children ... Karen (Murphy) and Norman Hilleren live in Maiden Rock, WI, and have two daughters, Jennifer, 29, and Kristina, 26. Karen teaches health and PE in the Plum City School District and Norm teaches science and coached on the 1977 Valley School District ... Glen Hasselberg; veteran Staples-Motley golf coach, was inducted into the Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

1973 John Reff and his wife, Gail, hosted a gourmet meal as part of a fund-raising event for the Bemidji Boys & Girls Club. ... Marie (Chandler) Kovar was recently inducted into the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society during a ceremony in Bemidji ... Jeanne (Hart) Mattfeldt of Grand Rapids is a retired teacher who taught for years in the Greenway School District. She has four grown children, 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren ... Linda Wagner is a soprano with the Bemidji Baroque Ensemble ... Jeff Boucher and his wife, Denise, live in Mammoth Lakes, CA. While Jeff is retired from 28 years of ski patrolling, Cecelia Stoltman of Thief River Falls is a volunteer teacher of three home-schooled children and also volunteers at the high school ALC program, correcting math papers ... Linda Swenson recently completed training as a Master Gardener intern in Bemidji ... Michael and Pamela Kelsey (71), owners of Kelsey’s in Bemidji, are participating in the Paws for Patriots program with Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. The program provides guide dogs for American soldiers blinded fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan ... Tom King has retired from the Warroad School District, ending a 33-year teaching career. He and his wife, Carol, have four children and six grandchildren ... Edward and Carol (Johnson) Burns (76) have two children, Jessica and Jason. Carol has retired after teaching 31 years in the Wadena-Deer Creek schools.

1972 Kathleen (Jenkins) and Gregory Nadeau (74) live in Lake Elmo and have two grown children ... Dan Cartrell, professor of education at BSMU, co-presented a seminar at the annual conference of the Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children in Washington, DC. He also recently completed revisions for the fourth edition of his textbook, A Guide for Primary Teachers. ... Jerry Walker announced in January that he’d seek DFL endorsement to represent the party in the race for the Minnesota House of Representatives District 6A seat. He has taught with Walker Public Schools. He and his wife, Renay, have three children ... Marilyn Stone of Isanti has retired from a 34-year teaching career at Centennial School District in Circle Pines ... Ron Kristofferson has served as mayor of Baxter and was recently featured in a profile appearing in the April 17 Bemidji Dispatch entitled “Life After Vietnam” ... Beryl (Paul) Wernberg recently completed training as a Master Gardener intern in Bemidji ... Kaelah (Kohel) Brandborg has retired after spending 34 years teaching in Wadena-Deer Creek schools. She and her husband, James, have four children, Sarah, Michael, Amy and Kelly and three grandchildren.

1971 Pamela and Michael Kelsey (73), owners of Kelsey’s sporting store in Bemidji, are participating in the Paws for Patriots program with Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. The program provides guide dogs for American soldiers blinded fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan ... Jim Sutton and his wife, Sue, hosted a gourmet meal as part of a fund-raising event for the Bemidji Boys & Girls Club ... Nordy Nelson of Sartell served this winter as internship coordinator for the St. James School District. His wife, Bettye, works with special education students in St. Cloud and the couple has two grown sons, Ryan and Troy ... Marg and Glen Trembath both retired from teaching in East Grand Forks this year, having logged a combined total of 62 years. Marg taught third grade at South Point and Glen was a seventh-grade social science teacher at Central Middle School. They have two grown sons, Corey and Eric ... J. Scott Anderson and his wife, Mary Lea, of Blackduck recently retired from teaching after spending 34 years in education. They have two children, Lance, 27, and Jay, 26. Mim Bjelkengren has taught grades 4-6 in Me-nahga for two years. She and her husband, Bob (89), a potter, have three grown children Alyce (Falconer) Gibson is a classroom volunteer at Riverside Elementary School, Brainerd, four days a week.

1970 Maggie (Lynch) and Ken Corens (68) are retired and living in Wayzata. They have two children, Kristin, 27, and Tracy 25 ... Corens is coordinator of the Bemidji Pioneer newspaper, which won the Minnesota Newspaper Association Sweepstakes Award and received First Place in continuing news coverage for its reporting of the 2005 Red Lake school shootings ... Rich Glas has been named as an assistant coach at the University of Northern Iowa. He guided the University of North Dakota men’s basketball program for 18 seasons and won more games, 335, than any coach in UND history ... Richard Lundeen has retired from a 29-year career as business manager for the Detroit Lakes School District. He was recognized by the Minnesota Association of School Business Officials in 2005 as the School Business Official of the Year. He and his wife, Kathy, plan to remain in Detroit Lakes. They have two grown sons, Brian and Michael ... Tamia Moe, a teacher and artist from Ely, exhibited her art recently on display at the Lake of the Woods Fair Board, she teaches elementary and high school art ... Bill Jacoby and his wife, Luan, live in San Diego, CA ... Dave Hallan of Bagley retired in January from a 33-year career of teaching and coaching ... Elaine (Williams) and her husband, Evan, have three grown children, Brian, Stuart, and Kathryn, and still live in Bemidji.

1969 Robert Dalley, Western Carolina University’s occupational safety program director, retired after 37 years in industrial education. He has worked as an expert witness and commentator for FOX, ABC, NBC and Radio Canada. His publications include an internationally distributed book, Are You Burning Money? A Handbook of Energy-Saving Devices. He has two grown children, Russell and Tina ... Rodney Kekkonen has been promoted to director of architectural engineering by Hormel Foods Corporation. He started his career with Hormel in 1969 and was named general manager of the company’s Shanghai Hormel Foods joint venture in 1996. He returned to the United States in 1999 as corporate manager of industrial engineering at the corporate office ... Ron Rude of Plains, MT, is the author of Waiting for Ohio, available at the on-line bookstore of PublishAmerica.com. The novel is set in North Dakota from the early to late 1900s. Ron is a retired English teacher and school superintendent ... Roger Paskvan is associate professor of mass communication and director of broadcasting at BSU ... Jane (哈尔滨) Marconetti retired in January from a 26-year teaching career at the Cook School ... Ed Gmosch of Berlin, NJ, retired in June after teaching U.S. history at the New Jersey schools for 37 years. William Anderson has been a teacher and coach in Thief River Falls since 1969 and was recently awarded the Bush Nass Outstanding Assistant Coach Award by the Minnesota High School Coaches Association. In May, he was also inducted into the TRF Prowler Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Kittie, have two children, Gary and Kelly ... John Hendrickson of Owatonna, ND, has been teaching in North Dakota for 36 years and plans to retire next year ... Carolyn (Hoppes) Hegland is coordinator of the Bemidji Community Food Shelf.

1968 Blace and Myrna (Pearson) Schmidt of Pelican Rapids have two grown children, Paul and Pam, and four grandchildren. Blace recently retired after more than 33 years in education. For most of the 18 years he spent in the Pelican Rapids district he served as Viking Elementary principal ... Sharon (Cullen) Geisen is a member of the Board of Bemidji Public Library, She has been an intern with the Bemidji Pioneer ... Maggie (Lynch) Corens (70) are retired and living in Wayzata. They have two children, Kristin, 27, and Tracy 25 ... William and Mary (Orton) Robertson (74) live in British Columbia, Canada, and have a daughter, Jennifer, 26. William served as chief umpire at the 2006 World Mens Curling Championships, an umpire for 2006 Olympic Curling and chief umpire at the 2005 World Mens Curling Championships. Andrea (Gilbertson) and James Degen (67) live in East Gull Lake and have two children, Leslie and Shannon. Carol retired from Pillager Public Schools and now teaches drivers education for the school district. James is a sales representative for Hillyard, Inc., and currently serves as a Cass County commissioner ... Bonnie Holt has retired from teaching and living in Lindsborg, KS. She is a member of Kappa Gamma International Society during her undergraduate years in Bemidji ... Rodney Kekkonen has been promoted to director of architectural engineering by Hormel Foods Corporation. He started his career with Hormel in 1969 and was named general manager of the company’s Shanghai Hormel Foods joint venture in 1996. He returned to the United States in 1999 as corporate manager of industrial engineering at the corporate office ... Blace and Myrna (Pearson) Schmidt of Pelican Rapids have two grown children, Paul and Pam, and four grandchildren. Blace recently retired after more than 33 years in education. For most of the 18 years he spent in the Pelican Rapids district he served as Viking Elementary principal ... Sharon (Cullen) Geisen is a member of the Board of Bemidji Public Library, She has been an intern with the Bemidji Pioneer ... Maggie (Lynch) Corens (70) are retired and living in Wayzata. They have two children, Kristin, 27, and Tracy 25 ... William and Mary (Orton) Robertson (74) live in British Columbia, Canada, and have a daughter, Jennifer, 26. William served as chief umpire at the 2006 World Mens Curling Championships, an umpire for 2006 Olympic Curling and chief umpire at the 2005 World Mens Curling Championships. Andrea (Gilbertson) and James Degen (67) live in East Gull Lake and have two children, Leslie and Shannon. Carol retired from Pillager Public Schools and now teaches drivers education for the school district. James is a sales representative for Hillyard, Inc., and currently serves as a Cass County commissioner ... Bonnie Holt has retired from teaching and living in Lindsborg, KS. She is a member of Kappa Gamma International Society during her undergraduate years in Bemidji ... Rodney Kekkonen has been promoted to director of architectural engineering by Hormel Foods Corporation. He started his career with Hormel in 1969 and was named general manager of the company’s Shanghai Hormel Foods joint venture in 1996. He returned to the United States in 1999 as corporate manager of industrial engineering at the corporate office ...
sentative for Hillyard, Inc., and currently serves as a Cass County commissioner. Reuben Brooks retired from the Tennessee State University in Nashville where he served as a professor of geography. A widower, he has three grown children and 10 grandchildren and plans to remain in Nashville.

1966 Jim Gorman is an officer in the Bemidji Lions Club, zone chair for Region 2, Zone 1. Andy Wells, president of Wells Technology in Bemidji, was awarded this year’s American Indian Business of the Year Award. The award is presented by the United Indian Development Association, part of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise.

1965 Linda (Wallstrand) Schaefar and her husband, Ron, have owned and operated Blackduck Floral and Gifts since 1981. They have two grown sons, Brian and Paul, and have been married 35 years. John Rude of Victorville, CA, was recently selected to serve as Victor Valley College’s dean of instruction (humanities and social sciences). Also, this year he served as the Circuit 1 Coordinator for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He has two grown daughters.

1964 Faith Wick, a doll maker, had 200 of her classic fairytale dolls included in an exhibit entitled Miniature Fairyland that opened at the Children’s Discovery Museum, Grand Rapids, in March. Carol (Hensel) Aenne is the new superintendent at Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School in Bena. She has a grown daughter, Kern, and two grandchildren. Bruce Melin is an assistant coach at Sartell and was honored by the Minnesota Track and Field Coaches Association as the 2005 Class AA Coach of the Year. Bonnie (Bement) Anderson and her husband, Stephen, live in Ely and have two grown children, Ben and Lindsay. Elton and Marion (Seedor) Cunningham (62) live in Stillwater and have a daughter, Sara.

1963 Lucille (Rydeen) Aasland is a retired elementary teacher. She lives in Thief River Falls and has five grandchildren. Joel has grandchildren. Miller is a great-grandson. Bill Hansen was recently inducted into the Minnesota High School Athletic Directors Hall of Fame and the Prior Lake High School Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Sharon, live in Prior Lake and have two grown children, Michelle and Tracy. Steve Malin of Lu- gene Beach, CA, retired from teaching 10 years ago and is enjoying traveling.

1962 Marion (Seedor) and Elton Cunningham (64) live in Stillwater and have a daughter, Sara. Clarice (Gottafson) Smith lives in Walnut Creek, CA. Shara and Patron (Lindberg) Wagner have retired from careers teaching in city suburbs and now live by a lake in the Longville-Hackensack area. They have two grown children, Ryan and Amy. Carol (Tappero) Anderson and her husband, George, are retired and have taken cruises to Hawaii and many Caribbean islands during the past six years. They live in Wrenshall and have two grown children, George and Heather, and three grandchildren.

1960 Kern Bensen of Bemidji shared his recipe for walleye on the grill with readers of the Bemidji Pioneer food page.

Class Notes

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1950s Eight couples get together each winter in Mesa, AZ. Most went to school together at Bemidji State in the early 1950s. They have all been married to the same person for over 50 years. These couples include: Tom and Noreene (Mihelich) ’52. Marie, Benny ’55 and Joan (Whalen) ’2. Lawrence, Luvern ’55 and Avis Eickhoff, Ivy ’54 and Pat (Moore) ’54. St. John, Loran ’53 and Janine (Greege) ’53. Eickhoff, Dick and Mary (Randall) ’52 Norgard, Noel and Carole (Remick) ’52. Triden, and Robert ’58 and Phyllis (Carpenter) ’51 Snustad.

1959 John Buckanaga announced that he’d file a candidate for the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the White Earth Reservation Tribal Council. Bernadette Anderson, a member of the Paul Banyan Vintage Auto Club, loaned a 1917 Model T from his collection to be included in the new Paddle, Ride or Fly exhibit at the Beltrami County History Center.

1954 Jim and Bette Henkes ’53 live in Fergus Falls and have five daughters. He coached varsity football at Wheaton from 1961 to 1974 and in 1987 was inducted into the Fergus Falls Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Fame.

1953 Richard Starr and his wife, Alta, live in Wickenburg, AZ, and have five grown children, Craig, Lynn, Patti, Scott and Vicki. He retired in 1990 and moved to Arizona in 2001. He’s currently commander of American Legion Post 12. Bette and Jim Henkes ’54 live in Fergus Falls and have five daughters. He coached varsity football at Wheaton from 1961 to 1974 and in 1987 was inducted into the Fergus Falls Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Fame.

1952 Mary (Fleener) Anderson and her husband, Sidney, live in Grand Forks, ND, and have two grown children, Jennifer and Karen. Mary works at a pre-school in Grand Forks and Sidney has retired from the North Dakota Geological Survey.

1950 Bruce Atwater of Bemidji serves on the Beltrami County Sheriff’s Office Community Guard, having joined the guard in 1992 after it was organized.

1949 Eva (Vida) Young lives in Chula Vista, CA, and is a professor at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.
Beaver Fever ... It’s Contagious!
2006 HOMECOMING OCTOBER 6-8

Alumni and University Events
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Beaver Pride Luncheon, Walnut Hall, $6/person. Join other BSU athletic fans as they listen to coaches and student athletes talk about their upcoming games.

5-6:30 p.m. Outstanding Alumni Member Reception, American Indian Resource Center. For Bemidji State University Outstanding Alumni and their families.

6:30 p.m. BSU Alumni Association Honors Banquet, Beaux Arts Ballroom. Join alumni, faculty, friends of Bemidji State University for the presentation of the 2006 BSU Outstanding Alumni awards. Tickets $22/person. Advance registration required. Register online at www.bsalumni.org, choose ‘Event Registration’ or call the BSU Alumni Office at 755-3989 or 1-877-278-2586 (toll free).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
8-10 a.m. Lutheran Campus Center Open House and Continental Breakfast, 1221 Birchmont Drive NE. All alumni and friends of the ministry are welcome.

9 a.m. Homecoming 5K Run/Walk, Chet Anderson Football Stadium, Diamond Point Park entrance. Registration 8 a.m. Registration fee of $10/person includes t-shirt and beverages. For more information email rfulton@vacationsports.com.

9 a.m. 40-Year Reunion of the Class of 1966, Hobson Memorial Union, Crying Wolf Room. Reunion brunch for members of the class of 1966 and the wrap around classes of 1965 and 1967.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Bemidji State University Homecoming Tailgate Party and Carnival, Diamond Point Park. Fun for the Whole Family: carnival booths, music, entertainment, food and beverages and FUN! Co-sponsored by the BSU Alumni Association, Beaver Pride and KBUN/KB101/Z99-FM Radio.

4 p.m. - Retirement Celebration for Kay Robinson - Brigid’s Cross Irish Pub, Bemidji. All theater alumni welcome.

5-7 p.m. - Football alumni gathering - Bemidji Elks Club. Food and drink provided. All football alumni welcome.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
11 a.m. Holy Spirit Newman Center Mass and Brunch, Newman Center. All are welcome. RSVP: 444-4762 or via email at ncenter@paulbunyan.net.

1 p.m. BSU Women’s Soccer vs. University of Mary, BSU Soccer Field.

3 p.m. Carl O. Thompson Memorial Concert, Beaux Arts Ballroom. Tickets available at the door.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS/ACTIVITIES:
University Bookstore Hours:
Mon.-Thursday: 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday: 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Campus Tours:
Weekdays, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.; BSU Admissions Office. 755-2040 (local calls) or 1-877-BEMIDJI (toll free).

Gillett Recreation & Fitness Center: Open Friday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Homecoming Special: Simply show your BSU Alumni Association membership card at the door and you and your family will be admitted free of charge.
August 25, 2006: Registration for Fall Semester, classes begin August 28
October 6, 2006: Alumni Honors Banquet, Beaux Arts Ballroom
October 7, 2006: 2006 Homecoming
December 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9, 2006: Madrigal Dinners, Beaux Arts Ballroom, Advance Tickets Sales Only, 218-755-2918
January 22, 2007: Registration for Spring Semester, classes begin January 23
February 16-17, 2007: Athletic Hall of Fame Weekend

Check www.bsualumni.org for more details on each event listed and for complete calendar of events taking place on the BSU campus.

2006 New Student Academic Advisement and Registration
August 11

2006 Campus Preview Days in Admissions
September 15   October 27   November 10
November 17   December 1   December 8

2006 Fall Visit Day Programs
October 19   October 20