Saving a Language
Fervent Quest Critical to Future Fluency

A Champion
Visionary Professor Lights the Way

Meaningful Differences
From College Activist to Corporate Leader
This deceptively simple strategic statement – one of four in our strategic plan – has launched powerful partnerships that are achieving remarkable results. This summer, our Outdoor Program Center (OPC) moved its recreational facilities to the waterfront of Bemidji’s recently renovated Diamond Point Park. This beautiful, historic gem is now a bustling, resort-like setting where the OPC is the hub for city residents, tourists, and students to rent bicycles, take pontoon rides, get gear for camping, paddle canoes, or learn to maneuver a kayak. The city park has also become an extension of our campus, providing a northwoods environment in which to study, eat lunch, observe ducks and loons, drop a fishing line, or just get away for a moment. This city-University partnership has enabled both to offer area and campus residents a truly first-class experience. Another summer initiative was with the area chamber of commerce. Together we are seeking ways to draw upon our combined expertise to secure Bemidji’s vitality. That vibrancy is important to the University as we seek to attract new students and meet the social, health, and economic needs of our current students. The University’s vitality is also an economic essential for the area’s businesses. The University has hundreds of such partnerships underway. All have the same philosophical base: As we reach out and work with others, we become a better, stronger, more vibrant University with exponential results for all involved.

Dr. Jon E. Quistgaard, President

“Promote vital communities through involvement.”
Since his college activist days, Dave Sorensen, General Mills’ vice president of worldwide sourcing, has focused on living a purposeful life.

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Social Work and Nursing Programs Accredited

The social work and nursing programs at Bemidji State each successfully completed accreditation reviews this spring.

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) reaccredited BSU's baccalaureate degree program in social work. The re-accreditation became effective in March and continues through February 2016.

CSWE accreditation is required for any four-year U.S. college or university offering a degree program in social work. Accreditation requires rigorous compliance with educational standards that prepare students for social work practice. The re-accreditation process includes a detailed self-study that outlines the social work program's compliance efforts within eight accreditation standards.

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited the Department of Nursing's baccalaureate nursing program for 10 years, the maximum amount that can be granted to a program. The accreditation was awarded in April and continues through June 2018.

Officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accreditation agency, the CCNE is an autonomous accrediting agency contributing to the improvement of the public's health.

Social work and nursing joined industrial technology as major programs at Bemidji State to achieve accreditation status during the 2007-08 school year.

Recent Leadership Changes Occur in Key BSU Posts

Several senior leadership changes occurred recently at Bemidji State, including the naming of a new interim vice president for academic affairs.

“We have remarkable talent at BSU, and the changes at the senior leadership level represent a cross-section of the high-quality professionals at the University who expertly apply their knowledge, experience, and creativity to enhance the educational environment of those we serve,” President Jon E. Quistgaard said of the recent leadership moves and new hires.

The leadership changes occurring this summer were:

Dr. Nancy Erickson, former dean of the College of Arts and Letters, is now serving a two-year term as the University's interim vice president for academic affairs. In this role, she has leadership responsibilities for implementing the reorganization of Bemidji State's colleges, preparing the University for the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation visit, advancing the Academic Master Plan, and furthering the University's mission. Erickson joined the faculty as a professor of German in 1981, was named interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters in 1997, and has served as the college's dean since 2001.

Dr. Joann Fredrickson has accepted a position as associate professor of business administration, stepping down from her role as provost and vice president for academic affairs. Fredrickson was selected for the faculty position following a national search. In 2002, she came to BSU as senior vice president for academic and student affairs and later was named provost and vice president for academic affairs. Prior to her leadership at Bemidji State, Fredrickson served as interim vice president for academic affairs at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) in Marshall, MN. While at SMSU, she also was a business administration professor and an interim dean for professional studies.

Dr. Donald Day, alumnus and former director of BSU's Indian Student Services, returned to his alma mater as executive director of the American Indian Resource Center. Prior to his recent appointment, Day served as president of the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, MN, for five years. He was the director of the American Indian Center at St. Cloud State from 1997-99 and from 2001-02. In between, he served as an assistant professor in the College of Education at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. From 1983-97, he worked as Indian Student Services director at BSU.

Dr. Mitch Davidson joined the campus community as the University's chief information officer. Davidson came from Western Illinois University (WIU) where he was the director of academic computing from 2001-2007. In January 2008, he was named executive director of WIU's enterprise technology services.

Dr. Patrick Guilfoile was appointed to a three-year term as associate dean of the new College of Arts and Sciences. Joining the Bemidji State faculty in 1994, Guilfoile has taught classes and served as chair in the biology department. During the 2007-2008 academic year, he was the associate dean of professional education in the former College of Professional Studies.
Green Fee Starts This Fall

Beginning this fall, a new student fee at Bemidji State will empower students to make the campus a more environmentally friendly place and assist in efforts to support the University’s first full-time sustainability coordinator.

The green fee, a $5 charge students will pay each semester, was approved by the BSU Student Senate after exploring the idea with University administrators during the 2007-08 school year.

The coordinator will aid Bemidji State’s move toward sustainability and will collaborate with staff, students, faculty, and administrators in making the University more ecologically and economically sustainable. The coordinator also will oversee environmental issues on campus and participate in community environmental initiatives. The search to fill the coordinator’s position was underway this summer.

The green fee idea at Bemidji State began three years ago when students were laying the groundwork for enrollment in TailWinds, a wind energy program offered by Otter Tail Power Company. Using student fees, Bemidji State agreed to purchase enough wind energy through the TailWinds program to power the Hobson Memorial Union, an agreement that helped the University earn recognition as a Green Power Partner with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Teachers Get Hands-On Manufacturing Training

Nine high school and junior college teachers from across the country spent time at Bemidji State to take part in the Project Lead the Way’s Summer Training Institute, where they received hands-on training in computer integrated manufacturing.

The summer institute, sponsored by the 360° Manufacturing and Applied Engineering Center of Excellence, condensed a year’s worth of coursework into an intense, two-week workshop in Bemidji State's Bridgeman Hall. The institute taught teachers to apply the principles of robotics and automation to the creation of three-dimensional models. During the course, participants developed new instructional techniques they could use in their own classrooms.

Project Lead the Way is a middle and high school pre-engineering curriculum, and the computer integrated manufacturing course at Bemidji State is an advanced level of that curriculum. The Summer Training Institute at Bemidji State was among a group of classes held during June and featured instructors Dave Lord, a high school teacher from Dayton, OH, who has a lengthy background in Project Lead the Way, and Gerald Nestel, associate professor of technological studies at Bemidji State.

Sculpture Depicts Channeling of Energy

“Sun and Wind,” a sculpture by local artist Gordon Van Wett, was installed near the Bridgeman Hall pergola in July. The half-ton limestone and cast glass sculpture depicts an American Indian elder channeling energy from Lake Bemidji and its surroundings. The installation is the first of two planned for the Bridgeman pergola area.

Trumpet Ensemble Performs at International Convention

Bemidji State’s trumpet ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Del Lyren, was one of only five U.S. trumpet ensembles invited to perform at the International Trumpet Guild’s 33rd annual conference held in Banff, Alberta, Canada, this June. The five-person ensemble was selected to perform after submitting a CD recording to a screening committee.

“It was a huge honor for us to represent Bemidji State at the largest annual international conference of trumpet players in the world,” said Lyren, professor of instrumental music.

The Bemidji State students who participated in the concert were Jeannine Burnette of Bemidji, Dave Nelson of Luverne, MN, Elisa Buchler of Oberon, ND, Bob Opgrand of Fargo, ND, and Andy Cresap of Minot, ND.

They shared the concert stage with the trumpet studio from the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, led by Trudi Mason, one of Lyren’s former students.

The International Trumpet Guild was founded in 1974 to promote communication among trumpet players around the world and to improve the artistic level of performance, teaching, and literature associated with the trumpet.

Colleges Undergo Restructuring

Bemidji State’s College of Arts and Letters, College of Professional Studies, and College of Social and Natural Sciences have been restructured and renamed. The new college names are the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Health Sciences and Human Ecology, and the tentatively titled College of Business, Technology and Communications. The college will select a permanent name this fall.

The College of Arts and Sciences is the largest college and contains the University’s pre-professional programs and the liberal education component, while the two smaller colleges are home to select professional programs.
Nine Faculty Earn Emeriti Status at 2008 Commencement

Nine faculty members with a total of 271 years of service to Bemidji State University were named professors emeriti during the University’s 89th commencement exercises in May at the John Glas Fieldhouse. Faculty who retire from the University with at least 15 years of service are eligible to receive emeriti status.

The 2008 emeriti were:

- **Dr. Michael Garrett**, professor emeritus of geography, 29 years
- **Mr. Richard Gendreau**, professor emeritus of business administration, 39 years
- **Dr. Russell Lee**, professor emeritus of psychology, 35 years
- **Mr. Richard Mayer**, professor emeritus of accounting, 30 years
- **Dr. Catherine McCartney**, professor emerita of education, 19 years
- **Dr. Tom Richard**, professor emeritus of mathematics and computer science, 37 years
- **Dr. Johanna Jordan**, professor emerita of education, 29 years
- **Mr. Robert Kyryluk**, professor emeritus of business administration, 29.5 years
- **Dr. Madalyn Wick**, professor emerita of accounting, 23.5 years

Teachers Experience A History Lesson They’ll Never Forget

Dr. Elizabeth Dunn and Dr. Tom Murphy, BSU history faculty, recently led a contingent of 50 northern Minnesota high school teachers on an educational tour of Boston, MA, and surrounding areas. The tour, funded by a Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education, was the capstone trip of a four-year teacher education partnership between Bemidji State University and the Northwest Service Cooperative, based in Thief River Falls, MN.

Since 2004, the Northwest Service Cooperative and Bemidji State have worked together under the grant to aid the professional development of northern Minnesota history teachers. This summer’s trip concluded the first four-year grant period, and the partners will be starting a new four-year teacher education cycle under a new grant this fall.

“The teachers were great ambassadors for their schools, and, as a group, they were wonderful ambassadors for the state of Minnesota,” Dunn said. “The trip was about giving these teachers an opportunity to have hands-on experience with some of our nation’s history, and it ended up becoming a sort of cultural exchange between northern Minnesota and Boston.”
BSU Athletes Earn Academic Honors This Spring

Several student-athletes earned academic honors this spring, including national honorees Sheena Devine, track and field, the women’s basketball team, and Zac Preble, track and field.

Sheena Devine, former Bemidji State track star from North Branch, MN, was named the Women’s 2008 Division II Indoor Field Scholar Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTF-CCCA) in July. She also was named to the 2008 USTF-CCCA Division II Women’s All-Academic Track and Field Team that was comprised of 222 student-athletes representing 69 Division II colleges and universities. A 2008 graduate, Devine was a five-time All-American, three-time national champion, and seven-time all-conference performer. She established school records in the indoor shot put and weight throw and the outdoor hammer throw and shot put.

The BSU women’s basketball team was named to the 2007-08 Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Division II Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll. The Beavers carried a cumulative grade point average of 3.406 during the 2007-08 season to rank 20th in all of NCAA Division II women’s basketball.

Zac Preble, Bemidji State University decathlete from Coleraine, MN, was named to the 2008 Division II Men’s All-Academic Track and Field Team by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Preble was one of 109 student-athletes representing 44 Division II institutions of the men’s 2008 All-Academic squad. To qualify for the All-Academic Track and Field Team, the student-athletes must have compiled a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 and met the NCAA Division II Indoor or Outdoor automatic or provisional qualifying standard in their respective event. Preble is the BSU and NSIC record-holder and two-time defending conference champion in the decathlon.

Twenty-two BSU student-athletes placed on the 211-member 2008 Spring Academic All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Team. The Bemidji State spring contingent was led by the baseball team, which had seven players recognized for academic accomplishment. BSU also had six tennis players, five members of the softball team, three women’s outdoor track and field student-athletes, and one member from the men’s outdoor track and field team selected to the squad.

A total of 84 Bemidji State athletes earned recognition for their academic achievements during the 2007-08 academic year, including 53 Bemidji State student-athletes in NSIC athletic programs, 13 women’s hockey All-WCHA Academic team honorees, and a league-record 18 All-CHA Academic selections on the men’s hockey side.

Remitz Participates in U.S. Olympic Trials

Former Bemidji State University thrower Joe Remitz participated in the shot put at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene, OR, in late June. He was one of 25 athletes who competed for a spot on the Team USA participating in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. He did not advance to the finals of the Trials.

The largest national championship track meet in the world, the U.S. Olympic Trials hosted more than 1,000 athletes competing for the right to represent Team USA at the Olympic Games.

Remitz, who graduated from Bemidji State this spring, is the University’s most decorated male field athlete of all time. The seven-time All-American amassed seven individual conference championships and 12 All-NSIC honors, was a two-time NSIC Indoor Field Athlete of the Year, and was the 2008 NSIC Outdoor Field Athlete of the Year. He also holds school records in four events.
At graduation in 1997, Bemidji State alumnus Xihao Hu had two significant achievements already under his belt: a big-four accounting firm position and the top CPA score in Minnesota. While it’s an impressive start for a fledgling accountant, Hu reflects modestly upon his accelerated professional standing.

“I never have huge aspirations,” Hu says. “For me, I just try to do well for myself. That way I don’t have huge disappointments, but I get some sweet surprises.”

Sweet Surprises
The first taste of the sweetness in store for Hu came to him as a junior at BSU, when mentor Dave Odegaard, now a retired Deloitte partner, encouraged him to investigate internship possibilities with Deloitte & Touche. Hu was unsure a large firm would be interested in the product of a smaller school. Despite his misgivings, he tried. After two interviews, Hu was offered an internship and eventually a permanent position after graduation.

Landing a position with one of the nation’s top accounting firms before graduating demonstrated Hu’s professional value, but his CPA exam results cemented his place as an exceptional young accountant. While BSUs accounting program consistently produces quality accounting professionals and some top CPA scorers, Hu received the highest CPA score in Minnesota at the time.

A Place to Grow
Hu has found the career growth and intellectual challenge that have emerged during his 11 years of accounting work to be greatly satisfying.

As a new employee at Deloitte & Touche in 1997, Hu performed auditing. From there he sought a position that would include more financial services clients. His search led to a role dealing with complex financial instruments. Today, as an assurance and enterprise risk services principal at the firm, Hu engages in complex accounting and valuation services with the company’s Regulatory & Capital Markets Consulting group (R&CM).

“A large part of what I do is help clients understand complex financial instruments and special purpose vehicles,” Hu says. “They are very hard to understand for accounting purposes, tax purposes, and regulatory purposes.”

In addition to leading this services line for the firm’s southeast United States region, he also heads up the firm’s regional subject matter resource program and acts as R&CM’s deputy banking industry leader.

“I enjoy using the knowledge I had before and applying it to new structures,” Hu explains. “It’s very cool to leverage your prior experience to advance to the next stage.”

More Than Numbers
Hu enjoys the relationships that come with his work as much as he savors the numerical challenges. From co-workers to clients, he appreciates learning from others, working in a company with loyal relationships, relating to clients on complex subject matter, and bringing groups to consensus on difficult issues.

The latter has Hu realizing the importance of communication skills — a proficiency rarely associated with an accountant’s job.

“People skills are one of the most important skills in my job. I have to hold the team together and make sure clients – internal and external – are satisfied with our services. Now with more regulators added to oversee the profession, I need to work with them too.”

Xihao Hu
“I didn’t realize the communication skills needed,” Hu says. “People skills are one of the most important skills in my job. I have to hold the team together and make sure clients – internal and external – are satisfied with our services. Now with more regulators added to oversee the profession, I need to work with them too.”

When it comes to communication, Hu cites the ability to respect others’ points of view and to express your own without a superior tone as critical in his role. He also notes the importance of bringing people to agreement on actions and solutions amidst varying opinions and perspectives.

**BSU as a Base**

Much of Hu’s appreciation for people and interpersonal relations comes from his experience at BSU.

“Deloitte is strong in its client relationships, and it’s a good fit for me because I like relationships,” Hu explains. “I got a lot of that from BSU. Everyone – from the accounting department, to other departments, to my campus employers and co-workers – genuinely wished me success in every endeavor. It’s a wonderful environment.”

Likewise, Hu values his exceptional mentor, Odegaard, who looked after him as a friend and helped him launch his career.

“Dave has always helped me along the way,” Hu says. “He was instrumental in me getting my job and always very interested in my success with the firm. ‘Are you getting the right mentorship? Is there anything you’re interested in growing with the firm?’ Dave is definitely the person I look up to. I say my career started because of him.”

In addition to the relationships and related skills Hu developed at Bemidji State, he also credits his professors for giving him a strong work ethic. He believes that the commitment and value given to good work at BSU provided him an excellent foundation in which to advance at Deloitte & Touche.

**Fit for the Future**

Hu’s plans at Deloitte & Touche are long term and could include overseas experiences. With friends in Hong Kong, London, and Singapore, as well as parents in Shanghai, Hu sees many options on the horizon. Some day he would like to further develop his people skills in a managerial role.

However far Hu may go in his career, he will maintain an affinity for BSU and the skills and qualities the University helped him develop.

“BSU and Bemidji offered me a home, that was very important to me,” Hu says. “I feel like Bemidji made me what I am today.”
The late 1960s were a time of civil unrest and paradigm shifts on campuses across the nation, including Bemidji State. For alumnus Dave Sorensen, this highly charged campus atmosphere provided fertile grounds for learning. "It was a very active time on college campuses," Sorensen recalls. "We were going through a lot of social change. I learned a lot about being involved in change and respecting the perspectives of others."

Raised in the northwestern Minnesota town of Warren (pop. 1675), Sorensen arrived at Bemidji State in 1968 with a strong sense of community and desire to make a difference. "An advantage to a small town is the sense of community you always carry with you," he explains. "There's a closeness you don't have in a city: an interest in others' success, what makes them work, a focus on them as people."

He took those qualities and expanded upon them at Bemidji State, where he found an array of grassroots oppor-
tunities. Besides participating in protest marches, he led the student body, served on the Inter-Residence Hall Council, and was a member of the Minnesota State Student Association.

Despite his busy college life, he was uncertain about a career direction. “Life was focused on getting a degree and looking at the journey,” he recalls.

Fortunately, through his many pursuits, he was introduced to business concepts that intrigued him.

While some students during this change-driven period chose social work and similar fields, Sorensen was drawn to driving change through economic development. Through business, he saw an opportunity to make the world better. Moreover, he felt his career choice was not only an opportunity, but also an obligation to make things better than they were.

“It was very important to many of us that our lives were meaningful – not just to us, but to others,” he reflects.

Crafting a Fulfilling Career

In 1972, with a business-related degree in hand, Sorensen landed at General Mills as a commodity trader. His job included trading and buying grain.

Continued on next page
worldwide as well as managing country elevators in Idaho, Montana, and Utah. Following a stint on the Board of Trade’s grain exchange, he moved into business and commodity analysis at the corporate level. With buying functions added to his responsibilities, Sorensen oversaw non-ingredient and grain functions, including packaging, operating and office materials, and capital equipment.

Today Sorensen is vice president of worldwide sourcing at General Mills. “A huge portion of what General Mills sells comes in as raw materials,” he notes. “All of that needs to be bought. All of that falls within the scope of my responsibilities.”

Through his responsibilities at General Mills, he has touched industries in nearly every corner of the world – putting him in the midst of blueberry fields in Maine, sugarcane harvesters in Florida, ice cream plants in France, beekeepers in Uruguay, and paper making plants throughout the world.

“I’ve experienced tremendous diversity in people and industries,” Sorensen says. “People and places are fascinating.”

For Sorensen, working for a company that values its culture; creates quality, everyday products; and fosters an ongoing tradition as a marketplace leader has been rewarding. “I never started out to be an officer,” he notes. “I started out to be the best I could be and enjoy what I did.”

**Expanding Opportunities**

With early retirement on the horizon, Sorensen reflects on the qualities he’s applied throughout his career, many of which he gained at BSU.

“Leadership,” he says strongly. “And I think the basic principle of realizing that leadership is about understanding and empathizing with others is something I learned at Bemidji State.”

Sorensen also believes everyone has the opportunity to be a leader and contribute to society.

“I think through participation and commitment you can be a leader and affect others in many ways,” he says. “The best part of college is using that time to test your own boundaries of learning, commitment, and resolve. Have integrity, be innovative, be energizing, set aggressive goals, and deliver against those goals.”

Another quality Sorensen learned at BSU was to embrace change. “It’s fun when you’re engaged in change,” he says. “It’s not fun when you fight it.

“Resisting change because you’re afraid of it is not a good place to be. Be part of the change, influence the change,
“Resisting change because you’re afraid of it is not a good place to be. Be part of the change, influence the change, and affect the change. You might as well face the change of your situation, whatever it may be. You then create your best opportunity to direct it.”

Dave Sorensen

and affect the change. You might as well face the change of your situation, whatever it may be. You then create your best opportunity to direct it.”

A member of Bemidji State University’s foundation board, Sorensen draws upon his college experiences to shape the future of others. “I’ve been very fortunate, and when you’re fortunate, you have an obligation to give back,” he says.

Sorensen is helping students experience and develop abilities through the Sorensen Leadership Scholarships, which he and wife Kathryn recently endowed. The scholarships are awarded to those who demonstrate initiative, commitment, and a desire to expand their leadership capabilities while focusing on social and community betterment.

He hopes that what he gives back to Bemidji State will, in turn, produce passionate individuals who are energized to lead, direct change, and make positive impacts in a spirit of cooperation.

“One of life’s biggest lessons is perhaps that we can learn and get to better places, in better ways, through conflict-free expression, respect for the perspectives of others, and mostly collaboration.”

Meet Nikki, Nick, and Anna.

Despite their very different career paths, they share a similar drive to succeed that was honed at Bemidji State.
When the job offer came from e5 Solutions Group, it had a residency requirement: she could live anywhere she wanted as long as it was near an airport. That directive suited Nicole Gislason, who starts as a junior treasury consultant at e5 Solutions this fall, just fine. A senior business administration major with an international focus, she learned to love traveling, from her first trip abroad as a 15-year-old nanny in Germany to South Africa as a BSU student last January. Perhaps the biggest journey this fiercely independent 20-year-old has taken, however, occurred 10 years ago when she decided to divorce her parents.

Her mother and father were doing drugs and alcohol, and their parenting responsibilities were often interrupted by jail sentences. When their fighting and chemical abuse became too much for Gislason, she grabbed her eight-year-old brother and hit the streets in her small North Dakota hometown. "I didn't want the life I was living," she openly explains. "I saw the effect it was having on my brother, and I didn't want him to head down the path my parents were on."

So she called an uncle in Moorhead, telling him their bags were packed and stacked on a curb where she and her brother waited. He picked them up, immediately changing their lives. Within two weeks, her father was in jail and her mother arrested.

A short time later, she explained to a judge why she and her brother couldn't return to her family's home, compelling the judge to revoke the parental rights of her mother and father. Adopted by a friend of her uncle, Gislason has been driven to succeed ever since.

She eventually enrolled at Vermillion Community College before arriving at Bemidji State to study international business. "My adopted mother was in business, and my grandmother was the person who directed me into international business," Gislason says of the two people who have influenced her life. "My grandmother saw me as a child who decided not to take the wrong path in life. She inspired me because she wanted me to go places."

Gislason blossomed at BSU, where she reports finding professors who were willing to help, class sizes that were small, and students who were welcoming. "Bemidji State is the stepping stone that will allow me to be successful," says Gislason, who has recently reconciled with her birth mother but remains estranged from her father. "It is important for people to realize that you can dream big and make things happen, even if you've had hardship in your life."

Nick Stoltman finished his final year at Pequot Lakes High School (MN) by exploring mass communication programs at universities across northern Minnesota. Some he found inviting, others interesting. None offered what he sought most – involvement – until he landed at Bemidji State University.

Now a senior, Stoltman found BSU the perfect match for a professional affair with radio.

In an introductory broadcasting class, he realized he'd been searching for a medium where a personal connection, like the one he had experienced with the radio DJs back home, could be crafted. Their air-wave friendship developed as Nick listened to those DJs announce upcoming tunes, relay news, and tell stories.

"Radio can be that friend always informing you about what's going on and keeping you entertained. It's a neat link between you and your area of the world," he says.

Once caught by the radio waves, Stoltman dove in headfirst. During his freshman year, he spearheaded work to resurrect KDRS, the first student-driven electronic medium on campus. Carried only in-house, the station had grown silent beside FM90, an on-air station broadcast throughout the community. Carried only in-house, the station had grown silent beside FM90, an on-air station broadcast throughout the community. A year later, KDRS was back and reaching a larger audience.
Ask most college students to cite qualities of a dream job, and they’re likely to list that it relates to their field of study, has tasks they love to do, provides challenges as well as opportunities, and offers the possibility of success.

Anna Parthun, a senior nursing major from Becida, MN, would add one more item to her dream-job list: it will break your heart while lifting your spirits. Parthun hopes to serve on a Mercy Ship once she’s completed her school-related obligations. The vessels provide health care to the impoverished in ports around the world.

“The poorest person in the United States is 20 times richer than most people in a third-world country,” she says. “We lose sight of what huge resources we have and the ways we really waste them. I’m as guilty as anyone.

“Growing up, I’ve seen poverty. But I don’t know what real poverty is like in other parts of the world. So my heart’s ready to go out and see that.”

Parthun started on her heartfelt path by completing the Licensed Practical Nursing program at Northwest Technical College (NTC) before graduating from Northland Community and Technical College’s Registered Nursing program. She enrolled at BSU while working in the family care center at North Country Regional Hospital in Bemidji.

She is the product of a program that facilitates transition from NTC to Northland to BSU, allowing students to eventually earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing while working in the field. It’s an opportunity that leads to better jobs as well as more employment options for those who complete all of the steps.

Along her way, Parthun discovered nursing means more than taking care of people. It means becoming an advocate for patients; communicating needs; managing home care with families; or tracking x-rays, lab requests, medications, and whatever else appears on a patient’s chart.

“Some people say, ‘I could tell that nurse was in here just to do her job,’ and that was it,” explains Parthun, who brings deep religious convictions to her chosen profession. “But a nurse has to have empathy and a caring spirit. We’re called as Christians to lift up those who are broken and hurting.”

Eventually Parthun hopes to matriculate to pediatric medicine or patient education. By then, her career path will be a dream come true.
"These women’s self-defense cases are extremely hard – hard fought and hard to win."

Janet Prater
For Janet Prater, a passion for justice started young. The assistant professor of criminal justice at Bemidji State University became an attorney in part to fulfill the dreams of her father, whose law career was cut short when he died of a brain tumor. Besides leaving her with a possible career direction, he left her with volumes of his poetry and writings, an interest that fueled her decision to earn an undergraduate degree in English before pursuing law. In turn, she points to her maternal grandmother, a writer and a teacher, as the person who inspired her mid-life transition to the classroom.

Early in her law career, however, a pivotal murder case further shaped her perspectives and deepened her passions. Prater received a call asking her to meet with Jeanette Smith, a 47-year-old woman who had been accused of fatally stabbing her estranged and abusive husband after he had threatened to kill her. Practicing law in Detroit, MI, at the time, she and civil rights lawyer Dean Robb agreed to represent Smith. From the beginning, they felt strongly that Smith should not be sent to prison.

“This case really opened my eyes,” says Prater about the plight of domestic abuse victims and the shortcomings of the legal system that should protect them.

The 1979 case was groundbreaking. At the time, women who killed their abusive partners customarily pleaded guilty or employed insanity as a defense. Prater and Robb decided instead to pursue a strategy of self-defense. They built their case over months of research and with significant assistance from judges, attorneys, jury selection experts, police officers, and mental health practitioners. They also relied on the testimonies of Mr. Smith’s former wives. Their accounts of his horrific behavior helped jurors understand why Smith, fearing for her life, acted in self-defense.

“Jeanette Smith was very lucky,” recalls Prater, who had much to celebrate when Smith was acquitted. “These women’s self-defense cases are extremely hard — hard fought and hard to win.”

For Prater, the Smith case ignited a desire to prevent domestic abuse and better defend those who fight back in self-defense. A practicing attorney since 1976, she has worked at every level of the civil and criminal court systems in Michigan. Following the Smith case, she represented numerous other clients accused of fighting back against or killing abusive partners or family members. She’s typically pursued a self-defense strategy.

From her experiences, Prater also recognized the need for better education among law enforcement practitioners who work with domestic abuse victims. In the early 1990s, she created an undergraduate course on domestic violence and has since taught law and law-related courses at the undergraduate, graduate, and law school levels. Inspired by her classroom experience, she returned to school, earned a master’s degree in counselor education in 2005, and accepted a faculty position at Bemidji State the following year.

Prater is a member of the Michigan Bar Association and has served on numerous state-level committees, including the Special Committee on Domestic Violence. This summer, she worked on a federal initiative to better train law enforcement officials about domestic violence, including elder abuse. In Bemidji, she helped launch a domestic violence awareness conference last spring and works with the Native American community and others interested in preventing this abuse.

As Prater’s career has evolved, the Smith case remains a defining experience in her life, one that keeps her focused on issues of domestic violence. What she learned from the case changed her life and made her work meaningful. Whether it’s training for a federal domestic violence program or preparing her Bemidji State students to become the next generation of criminal justice practitioners, Prater knows her work is important.

“One of the beautiful things about this position is that it brings together all of the things that I can do well,” says Prater, who particularly enjoys using her counseling skills as an adviser to about 50 Bemidji State students. She encourages students to stay true to themselves in whatever career path they choose and to be open to adventure.

“I don’t try to please everyone, which has been important to my success,” says Prater, who relies on her intuition, as well as her intellect, to guide her in life. “Overall, I’ve had my own style and approach to things, and that’s something I advocate with my students.”
Saving a Language

“For Ojibwe people, language is one of the central threads that connects us. Our spiritual traditions and culture hinge on the survival of the language.”

Dr. Anton Treuer

By some estimates, nearly half of the world’s languages are likely to vanish in the next 100 years as populations of fluent speakers age and die. Dr. Anton Treuer, associate professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University, is determined that the Ojibwe language not be one of the lost languages. Raised on Minnesota’s Leech Lake reservation, Treuer remembers learning the Ojibwe language by attending traditional ceremonies. At the time, he was a reluctant student.

“My mother was always dragging me off to ceremonies, but as a typical kid, I didn’t really appreciate it,” reflects Treuer.

Yet he grew more intrigued and, at age 20, sought a spiritual apprenticeship with Archie Mosay, grand chief of the St. Croix Ojibwe and highly regarded medicine man.

Treuer drove to Mosay’s home in Balsam, WI, arriving unannounced. “When I found Archie, he looked at me and said, ‘Oh, I’ve been waiting for you,’” recalls Treuer, who thought the greeting strange as the two had never officially met.

Some 20 years later, Mosay’s words ring prophetic, and Treuer speculates that Mosay anticipated their meeting in a dream. Although Mosay was a mentor to many, perhaps none were so intensely involved as Treuer. His mentorship instilled in Treuer a love for the Ojibwe language and a fervor to preserve it.

An Apprenticeship

Mosay accepted Treuer as an assistant, teaching him complicated rituals, songs, and legends committed to memory in the Ojibwe oral tradition. Some of the ceremonies lasted 18 hours a day for up to six weeks. By the end of those sessions, Treuer recalls that even his dreams were in Ojibwe and always in Mosay’s voice. Through the immersion experience, Treuer quickly became fluent.
While Treuer attended Princeton University and then earned his master’s and Ph.D. in history from the University of Minnesota, he spent summers working with Mosay. When Mosay died in 1996, Treuer, then 27 years old, became a spiritual adviser, a role generally reserved for elders. Mosay also left him in possession of rare Ojibwe cultural knowledge.

“I’m the only person who still knows some of his music in its ritual context,” says Treuer, who worries that much of that knowledge could be lost. For the Ojibwe, sacred songs and legends may not be written or recorded, which makes saving them even more challenging as the population of fluent Ojibwe speakers diminishes.

Endangered Language

“For Ojibwe people, language is one of the central threads that connects us,” says Treuer. “Our spiritual traditions and culture hinge on the survival of the language. As we lose speakers, we are very worried. We have a lot of eggs in very few baskets.”

Treuer has been awarded a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation to continue his work developing the first comprehensive grammar manual of the Ojibwe language, one that includes the many Ojibwe dialects, some of which have never been documented. For languages to survive, linguists believe grammar documentation and revitalization programs must exist.

The Guggenheim Fellowship will release Treuer from his BSU teaching assignments, giving him time to conduct the many interviews needed to research the book. Other than some brief sketches by missionaries, there are no pedagogical manuals for Treuer to follow. He hopes that the finished work will make the language easier to access and teach, ultimately leading to more language initiatives.

Valuable Speakers

In the Midwest, Treuer says most Ojibwe speakers are 70 years old or older. In the last 15 years, he has interviewed nearly 50 fluent speakers for his grammar book and for two other books he has written. In that time, 35 of them have died, and young speakers are not emerging quickly enough.

Yet, Treuer believes the trend could be reversed. Other cultures have revitalized their endangered languages through immersion programs for children. The Maori of New Zealand once had fluency rates of about seven percent. Now Maori is the official language of the country. Native Hawaiians, Blackfeet, and Mohawks also have had success with immersion efforts.

Believing immersion is the only way to become fluent, Treuer hopes to eventually introduce his Bemidji State students to immersion experiences. One possibility might be an exchange program with one of the isolated Ojibwe villages on the Canadian border where Ojibwe remains the predominant language.

If interest in the language grows, he also envisions expanding Bemidji State’s Ojibwe studies program from a minor to a major.

Treuer leads by example. He speaks Ojibwe at home with his children, takes them to ceremonies, and involves them in a traditional Ojibwe lifestyle as much as possible. He also encourages Ojibwe parents to support their children in any effort to learn the language. To ensure the knowledge shared by Mosay and others is not lost, he also mentors others interested in becoming spiritual leaders.

Knowing that fluency can be revitalized in about 12 years through a successful immersion program, Treuer hopes to see the day when Ojibwe is once again commonly spoken among the Ojibwe people.

In the meantime, he implores the next generation of Ojibwe speakers to study the language.

“There’s a lot at stake,” says Treuer, acknowledging that his own life has been enriched by his knowledge of Ojibwe language and tradition.

“It’s amazing how beautiful the language is.”
"I can only speak for Mortenson, but I know that here, it is a good thing to say you are from Bemidji State. BSU graduates have a reputation of being ready to work and that is a major point of pride for me."

Barrett Stoks
"BSU is doing something right," says student Barrett Stoks, who has nearly completed his bachelor's degree in industrial technology with an emphasis in construction management (CM). Stoks is currently interning as a safety engineer with M.A. Mortenson, a national company with Minnesota roots that conducts general contracting, construction management, program management, design-build, project development, and turnkey development. As part of Mortenson’s Energy Division, Stoks is involved with constructing wind turbines and hopes to parlay his on-the-job student experience into a full-time position by fall.

Stoks is an example of the budding professionals being readied to meet industry’s demand for their skills through Bemidji State’s construction management emphasis area. An upturn in the need for managers in this field and the nation’s increasing emphasis on renewable energy have created new opportunities in these high-tech industrial occupations.

The program is a blend of technical, management, and business courses. The technical core offers courses such as fluid power, electronic technology, and mechanical power. Within the professional core, students grapple with such topics as human resources, project management, and quality assurance. The construction management block addresses construction technology, construction materials and practices, print reading and project documentation, project bidding and estimating, and computerized construction estimating. The six-credit business block allows students to take accounting and business administration courses that fit their interests and career goals.

Adding to the students’ professional development, the construction management emphasis offers many opportunities for students to connect with the industry through field trips, interviews, guest speakers, and attendance at national conferences.

"BSU’s approach to skills is an advantage, but the best way the program prepared me for the industry was by improving my ability to problem solve," Stoks says. "It also gave me the skills to learn quickly on the job."

Both problem solving and learning quickly are key for construction management professionals. “Our CM students have to be flexible, adapting to technologies as the industry demands,” says Timothy Brockman, technological studies assistant professor.

Small classes in the program foster strong student-to-student and student-to-faculty relationships. These relationships have led to active alumni involvement in the program. “We have the good fortune of having excellent graduates who provide curriculum-design feedback directly from the field,” notes Dr. Elaine Hoffman, associate professor in the technological studies department.

Besides providing program perspectives, alumni also often help place students in internships and graduates in positions, demonstrating a loyalty to BSU that Stoks already values. “My greatest experience at BSU was developing personal relationships with other students and professors,” he says.

Industrial technology faculty help students hone their academic expertise, build confidence in their abilities, and guide them toward jobs where they can begin building their careers. “We help them develop in their construction interest and abilities and mature in their professional attitudes and abilities toward learning and management,” Brockman says.

To advance, skills are essential, but so is the storied work ethic exemplified by many BSU graduates.

“I can only speak for Mortenson, but I know that here, it is a good thing to say you are from Bemidji State,” Stoks says. “BSU graduates have a reputation of being ready to work, and that is a major point of pride for me.”
Champion

Bemidji State University professor Dr. Jim Mastro had one goal in mind as he finished his junior year in high school. The shot putter had just competed in the Minnesota State High School track and field meet. The day had been cold and rainy, and no one had performed well. Mastro knew he could do better, perhaps finish his senior year as a top contender.

Instead, his dreams were dashed.

Born blind in his right eye, Mastro lost his vision in the other eye during a mishap as an 11-year-old. In a let’s-pretend sword fight, a neighbor boy inadvertently struck him in the left eye with a curtain rod. Two surgeries and Coke-bottle thick eyeglasses temporarily restored his sight, but nothing could be done when it slipped away again. It was 1966, and Mastro, 18, thought his athletic career had vanished along with his vision.

Dropping sports for nearly two years while he studied braille, orientation, and mobility, he then enrolled at Augsburg College. There, against his eye doctor’s wishes, he went out for wrestling. Mastro figured he had nothing to lose in trying.

Three years after failing to make the team as a freshman, he earned the conference championship. “That first year was hell,” recalls Mastro, who smiles at the memory. The team captains refused to cut him any slack.

“One of the things I want is for blind people to have the right to compete, the right to have as normal a life as possible. To be given that opportunity is very important.”

Dr. Jim Mastro
Despite his blindness, Mastro’s return to the mat sparked an athletic career that brought Mastro numerous honors. His latest came in May when he received the Medal of Courage during induction ceremonies for the United States National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

The Medal of Courage continues what has been a whirlwind of attention for Mastro in 2008. Earlier this year, he was one of five Paralympic nominees for the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, and his accomplishments were featured in a story published at ESPN.com.

Mastro’s U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame nomination recognized his place in history as the first person ever to medal in four different Paralympic sports—judo, wrestling, track and field, and goal ball. Goal ball is a three-on-three, full-body, soccer-style game played by blindfolded athletes. He competed on seven Paralympic teams from 1976 to 2000, winning four gold, four silver, and two bronze medals. He also was elected flag bearer for the U.S. Paralympic Team in 1996.

If there were any doubts about his athleticism, Mastro dissuaded them for good in 1996 when he became the first blind athlete to earn a slot on an Olympic team as an alternate for the U.S. Greco-Roman wrestling squad. Mastro also made the U.S. team in the 1973 World University Games, where he remembers fans following him around in disbelief.

“They were amazed that a blind guy could make it,” says Mastro, whose opponents quickly learned never to underestimate him.

Overall, Mastro earned 18 international medals in various sports. He was inducted into the Augsburg College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997 and the National Beep Baseball Association (NBBA) Hall of Fame in 1999 as a member of nine NBBA tournament teams and as a three-time most valuable player.

Continued on next page
Mastro also holds the distinction as the first blind person to earn a Ph.D. in physical education in the United States. He taught at the University of Minnesota before joining Bemidji State, where he teaches classes in education foundations, special education, and adaptive physical education.

Getting a job as a blind educator wasn’t easy. It took 13 years for Mastro to find a full-time teaching position. He was shocked, he recalls, when he got an interview at Bemidji State and even more surprised when he got the job. He credits Bemidji State for giving him an opportunity to prove that people with disabilities have much to contribute.

“If you have a disability, you have to try harder,” says Mastro, noting that stereotypes are hard to break, which may be especially true with blindness since it is less common than other disabilities. Most people, he says, don’t know someone who is blind.

If Mastro has any regrets, it’s that he dropped out of sports those two years after losing his vision. Instead of attending his northeast Minneapolis high school, he had a tutor his senior year and then studied a year at the Minneapolis Society for the Blind. At the time, he didn’t think sports participation was an option.

“We all have our stereotypes of people, and my stereotype of the blind was a guy selling pencils on a street corner,” says Mastro, recalling how he felt about his future when he lost his vision. “If I had it all to do over again, I would have kept on wrestling and doing track and field.”

Always a competitor, Mastro, 60, would love to medal in a fifth Paralympic sport, but can’t imagine what that would be unless new ones were added. In the meantime, he still practices judo and stays fit by running 12 flights of stairs 15 times a day at BSU’s Tamarack Hall, a place, he jokes, where he never gets lost.

His hope for the future is that para-athletes, particularly the blind, have more opportunities to compete in a wider variety of sports. He has been a proponent for U.S. competitions in Power Showdown, a newer table game that combines the action of ping-pong and air hockey for blind or blindfolded players. Mastro includes the game at his Northern Plains Vision of Sport Camp that he started at BSU six years ago. The camp is for kids with visual impairments.

“One of the things I want is for blind people to have the right to compete, the right to have as normal a life as possible,” says Mastro, noting that some children who attend his camp have never had an athletic experience. “To be given that opportunity is very important.”

In that regard, Mastro has an ideal job at Bemidji State. He teaches prospective teachers how to best tap the athletic abilities of people with disabilities. Instead of being stymied by limitations, Mastro encourages students to be masters at adaptation to ensure every person has a chance to savor a moment of victory.

Mastro teaches students to play Beep Ball at his summer camp.

**STATS**

- Medal of Courage, U.S. Wrestling Hall of Fame
- U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame nominee
- First athlete to medal in four Paralympic sports
- First blind athlete on U.S. Greco-Roman Wrestling Team
- Winner of 18 international sports medals
- Augsburg College Hall of Fame
- Beep Ball Hall of Fame
- First blind person to earn a Ph.D. in physical education in U.S.
- Founder of Northern Plains Vision of Sports Camp
Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend

Athletic Hall of Fame and Alumni Athlete Weekend

October 17-19, 2008

More information and registration materials will be sent prior to the event

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 17

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Beaver Pride Lunch
2:00 - 4:00 pm - National B-Club Forum (all alumni athletes invited to attend)
Attend practice for teams not on the road
6:00 - 9:00 pm - Athletic Alumni Social (complimentary food and beverages sponsored by Dave’s Pizza, Bernick’s and Beehive Liquors)
7:00 pm - Women’s Hockey vs. Wisconsin

Saturday, October 18

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Beaver Pride Tailgate Party
1:00 pm - Women’s Soccer vs. Northern State
1:00 - 4:00 pm - BSU Football Game - Beavers vs. U of M Crookston
5:30 pm - Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

Sunday, October 19

1:00 pm - Women’s Soccer vs. University of Mary

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Kevin Kish, Wrestling; John Kopari ’67, Football, Track, Basketball;
Jim Lawrence ’61, Football, Baseball, Basketball; Bruce “Buzz” Olson ’69, Ice Hockey;
Joe Rezac ’65 & ’74, Track; Mike Roysland ’80, Basketball;
Kim Roysland ’80, Volleyball; Steve “Pete” Saxe ’73, Wrestling.

Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee

Dr. Patricia Rosenbrock - 1969-1989
Gymnastics, Track & Field, Volleyball

Team Hall of Fame Inductees

1957 and 1959 Football Teams

Hotel Information

Best Western - 218.751.0390 - $77 + tax
Hampton Inn - 218.751.3600 - $118 + tax
Holiday Inn Express - 218.751.2487 - $95.95 + tax
Super 8 Motel - 218.751.8481 - $61 + tax

Ask for BSU Athletic Hall of Fame rate
2006 Andrew Cashin has been hired as a policeman serving Duluth, where he lives ... Lucas Jurck of St. Cloud and Christine Thorman (’04) of Lonsdale were married this summer ... Dean Holm of Detroit Lakes has been named the park ranger at Hayes Lake State Park near Wannaska ... Cole St. Peter of Owatonna married Laura Peschges earlier this summer ... Jennifer Bruchhof and Mark Hinz (’05) were married in Brainerd. The couple lives in Welcome, and both are employed at Fagen, Inc.

2005 Chris Kelsey of Grand Forks, ND, has been awarded a certificate of recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The information technology director at the University of North Dakota’s College of Nursing, Kelsey was recognized for his commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions as a participant in the Low Carbon IT Campaign.

2004 Michele Vedbraaten of Fosston has been accepted into the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program at the University of Minnesota. Wayne Boerner of Mankato has been named the new manager of Minneopa State Park near Mankato. He previously was the manager of Lac Qui Parle State Park.

2003 Aaron Winkelman and Amy Ceryance were married in January. The couple resides in Bemidji, where he is employed as a financial service officer at the Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union, and she is an advertising consultant with the Bemidji Pioneer ... Matt Nohner has been hired as a math teacher at Delano High School. He previously taught for five years at Montevideo High School.

2002 Todd Knott of Des Moines, IA, has been appointed head coach and general manager of the Sioux City Muskeeters, a member of the United States Hockey League (USHL). The premier junior hockey league for men 17-20 years old, the USHL is considered a major source of talent for NCAA Division I hockey teams ... Kathy Macomber has joined the University of Missouri extension faculty as a business development specialist. Within an eight-county area, she delivers business education and counseling. Macomber also serves on the board of examiners for the 2008 Missouri Quality Award. She and her husband Jeffrey live in Lamar, MO.

2001 Rita Albrecht has joined the Bemidji city staff as its community development director. In her new position, she is responsible for the city’s community and economic development programs. She lives in Bemidji, where she had been working at the Headwaters Regional Development Commission ... Jennifer (Shaner) Graber and her husband Chris announce the birth of a son in February. She is employed as an early childhood special education teacher for the Spring Lake Park School District. The couple lives in Dayton ... Kristopher Price is an application engineer at Douglas Machine, where he has worked for 27 years. He lives in Alexandria.

2000 Kristina Carlson and Kevin Sandau (’98) were married last fall in Brainer. They reside in Prior Lake, where he is employed at Sandau Construction, and she works at the Prior Lake-Savage School District ... Crystal (Rouleau) Scully and her husband Regan announce the birth of a daughter in April. She is teaching elementary special education at Franklin Elementary School in Eveleth, where the couple resides.

1999 Brook Mallak is opening the Brook Mallak Law Office in Brainerd, where she and her husband Gary Handeland live with their two young children. Mallak will specialize in civil defense law ... Holland Walters has been promoted to senior project manager for ROEL Construction, a San Diego, CA, based company with five offices in three states. Walters was recognized as one of the top 300 construction managers in Las Vegas, NV, where he lives, and was named Speaker of the Year for three years by the Young Entrepreneurs Society. He is a single father raising two sons and a daughter ... Eric Luedtke has moved to Walnut Creek, CA, where he will be serving a pastoral internship at Hope Lutheran Church and Saint Matthew Lutheran Church. He and his wife Stephanie announce the birth of their first child, a girl, born in May.

1998 Jared Diem will be the new head coach of the Brainerd High School volleyball program. Diem previously served as a junior varsity coach, a volunteer assistant coach at Central Lakes College, and a coach with the Heartland North 18-U Junior Olympic Team. He taught last year at Harrison Elementary in Brainerd but will teach fourth grade at Baxter Elementary School this fall. He resides in Crosslake ... Jeff Ostrom, a math and pre-engineering teacher at Clearbrook-Convick School, has been selected to the G1T Master Teacher Team for Project Lead the Way, a national organization that develops and promotes pre-engineering for middle level and high school students. As a master teacher, he will instruct other teachers in summer training programs. He lives in Clearbrook with his wife Darla ... Andrew Brouwer has been appointed as the head football coach at Bagley High School, where he had been an assistant coach for two years. He previously coached at schools in Marshall, Remer, and Houston, TX. Brouwer and his wife Pam reside in Bagley with their two sons.

1997 Brenda Omang recently joined the Farm Services Agency office in McIntosh. As a program technician, she will assist Polk County farmers in applying for the livestock and disaster programs. She and her husband DJ have two young children and reside in Gully ... Sarah McNeil was recently hired as a senior principal at the Minneapolis public relations firm Carmichael Lynch Spong, where she will chair the business-to-business and technology practice groups. An Osseo resident, she previously served as a senior vice president at Fleishman-Hillard and an account executive at Kathleen Davies & Associates.

1995 Howie Leathers has been named the regional development director of the Northland Chapter of the American Red Cross. He will be responsible for fund raising in northern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. He lives in Duluth and brings a background in communications, sales, and banking to his new position ... Greg Prom has earned a Hazardous Materials Managers Certification. A resident of Duluth, he is an environmental scientist at American Engineering Testing and conducts phase I and II environmental site assessments, remedial investigations for leaking underground storage tank sites, pre-demolition asbestos and hazardous materials surveys, and indoor mold and air quality surveys.

1994 Charisse Salo and her husband Tim Aho welcomed twin girls into their family last fall. They live in Embarrass and now have three young girls ... Jon Buller has been promoted to director of finance of the Duluth News Tribune newspaper. He previously was controller of the River Town Newspaper Group in Red Wing. He, his wife Carrie, and three stepchildren live in Duluth ... Kelly Raymond will be the new boys’ basketball coach at St. Peter High School. He brings 20 years of college and high school basketball coaching experience to the position, including two years as an assistant at BSIU. He and his wife, Cyndi, who was named as the head coach of the girls’ basketball program at the same school, have two children and live in St. Peter ... Season (Sze-Shun) Wong was recently promoted to senior research scientist at Lynntech, Inc., a technology develop-
The class of 1958 celebrated their 50-year reunion during commencement week this spring at BSU. Many members of the class returned for the celebration, as well as several alumni from the classes of 1957 and 1959.


Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism and several Minnesota Page One Awards from the Society of Professional Journalists.

1991 Father Glenn Frerichs has been assigned as pastor in Wabasha where he serves the parishes of St. Felix, St. Agnes, and Immaculate Conception. He previously served parishes in Janesville, Waldorf, and Rochester.

1988 Stephanie Baker headlined the fifth annual Celebrate Music and the Arts benefit concert supporting the Warren-Alvarado-Oso School Board Education Foundation. Originally from Warren, Baker performed music ranging from light classical to popular selections during the concert. She and her husband Dan now live in Frazee with their two children... Mike Kirchmeier is the new director of the Jackson County Historical Society Museum and will manage the daily operations of the facility. Prior to accepting this position, he was a science teacher at schools in Wisconsin and Minnesota as well as the solid waste administrator in Cottonwood County for 14 years... Melanie Benjamin won her third term as the chief executive of the Milte Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Benjamin, who lives in Onamia, also serves as vice chair of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe... Phil Holt of Shoreview wrote, directed, and produced the film Living Room Fragile, which is currently screening on the web at Google Video. The drama was shot in Minnesota and awarded the Best Original Teleplay at the 2007 National HomeTown Video Awards presented by the Alliance for Community Media. He also wrote, directed, and produced a full-length CD of short sound plays entitled Isolated Incidents.

1987 Mike Hedlund has been named as chief of police of East Grand Forks. Prior to being named to that post, he was with the human resource bureau of the Grand Forks, ND, Police Department. Currently enrolled in a public safety executive leadership master’s program through St. Cloud State University, he and his wife, Paula ('86), live in East Grand Forks with their three daughters.

1986 Dennis Warner recently joined the professional consulting services firm Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. in its Grand Rapids office. A registered land surveyor with 15 years experience, he will be part of the survey group responsible for platting, boundary surveys, section subdivisions, project cost eliminations, FENA elevation certifications, ALTA surveys, and legal descriptions. He lives in Warba.

1985 Jeanne Edevold Larson is the director of the newly formed Mississippi Headwaters Area Dental Health Center in Bemidji. The center will be a public access dental clinic for people in the region who are on subsidized health care programs. From Bemidji, she was previously employed at the BSU Center for Research and Innovation.

1984 Kim Dowell of Duluth was hired as a coordinator for SOAR Career Solution’s Community Offender Re-entry Program. She will work with local corrections facilities and organizations to coordinate employment opportunities, housing, mental health, chemical dependency services, and transportation for offenders who have completed their sentences. Dowell has 24 years of experience working in corrections-based nonprofits, most recently as supervisor of an adult diversion program in Ramsey County.

1983 Ann Reed has traveled across Minnesota performing as part of the Minnesota Public Radio Troubadour Tour and visiting with audiences for themes relative to a musical composition she is writing to celebrate the Minnesota Sesquicentennial. Reed has produced 15 albums and played countless concerts around the world. She has received honors from Billboard magazine, the National Association of Independent Recording Dis-
1980  Larry Werder has been named an Administrator of Excellence by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators. He was superintendent of Browerville Public School and also superintendent at Bertha-Floyd School until he retired in 2006. A resident of Browerville, Werder was recognized for his leadership, concern for students, and active involvement in professional and community affairs.

1979  Marlys Vetteslen Knutson is the recipient of the BestPrep 2008 Carpenter Achievement Award for her success in integrating BestPrep programs into her classroom. BestPrep is a Minnesota nonprofit whose mission is to prepare students with business, career, and financial literacy skills. Knutson is a high school business teacher in Warroad, where she resides ... Richard Lee Armstrong recently released the CD *Hopes and Dreams*, a compilation of songs and Ojibwe humor dedicated to his grandson. From Deer River, Armstrong previously released the CD *Thunder of the Circle*.

1978  John Persell of Bemidji received DFL endorsement for the Minnesota House of Representatives in District 4A. Persell currently works as an environmental policy analyst for the Leech Lake Tribal Government. He has three adult children ... Valorie Knudsen of Minneapolis has been appointed chief financial officer of the Cote Family Companies and Grand View Lodge, which includes properties in Arizona and Minnesota. A certified public accountant, Knudsen most recently was the chief administrative officer for Fraunshuh, Inc., of Bloomington.

1977  Pete Sullivan of Bemidji has been inducted into the Northland Community and Technical College Athletic Hall of Fame. He competed in baseball and hockey at Northland. After completing his bachelor's degree at BSU, he embarked on a teaching and coaching career in Olivia, Red Lake Falls, and Bemidji. For the past 18 years in the Bemidji school district, he has coached boys' hockey, girls' hockey, boys' and girls' tennis, football, and girls' basketball, in addition to youth baseball, soccer, and hockey.

1976  Jim Madzey of Hibbing has taught math and sciences for 23 years at Nashwauk-Keewatin High School. He recently was certified to teach the district's Project Lead the Way pre-engineering courses ... David Lindig has been recognized for his contributions to the competitive swimming and diving program in Fergus Falls. A teacher and swim coach, he helped secure a pool for the MSHCA, was involved with city AAU and USS recreational swimming, volunteered at swim camps, and worked with the swim booster club. An educator and coach in Fergus Falls, he earned a Boys' Region Swim Coach of the Year Award ... Deb Jacobson was inducted into the Northland Community and Technical College Hall of Fame. A pioneer in women's athletics, Jacobson coached Northland's first volleyball and women's basketball teams in addition to directing the men's and women's golf program for six seasons. She was named an Outstanding Faculty Member by the Minnesota Community College Faculty Association, Faculty Member of the Year from Northland, and 2006 Merit Award winner from the Minnesota Coalition of Women in Athletic Leadership. From Thief River Falls, she retired as Northlands athletic director in 2007.

1975  Paul Sevold of Eagan retired after a 30-year career with Farmers Insurance Group.

1974  Bob Bird is running for the U.S. Senate in Alaska as an Independence Party candidate. Bird, who has been a social studies instructor for 34 years, lives in Kenai, AK, with his wife, Rosemary Flagg. The couple has three grown children ... David Barnum was named the 2008 Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association. Barnum has 35 years experience in teaching driver education and coordinates that program in the Crookston school district. A life science teacher, he also coached football and girls' track and field ... Gary P. Johnson is the laboratory operations manager for the Office of Research at the Spokane campus of Washington State University, where he has worked for nearly 30 years. He retired from a 23-year career in the National Guard in 2000. Johnson, whose hometown is Potlatch, ID, is married and has five children ... Steve Philion has retired after a lengthy career as a math teacher. Following stints in LeSueur, Gonvick, and Clearbrook, he spent the past 10 years at Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls, where he lives ... Adele (Levchak) Munsterman won an at-large seat on the governing board of the teacher's union at the recent state republican convention. She and her husband Walt live in Brooklyn Park ... Gail Honek has retired as a school social worker at both Motley Elementary and Motley-Staples Middle School. She and her husband Walt live in Brooklyn Park ...

1973  Nancy Fladeboe has retired as a seventh-grade English teacher in the New London-Spicer school district. During her 35 years in education, she taught English and history classes for seventh through 12th grades. She lives with her husband Gerry in ...
Spicer ... Ken Rogers completed a 25-year-old dream when he finished writing Pedaling on Purpose. The book chronicles a six-month, 10,000-mile bicycle trek he and a friend took across 48 states in 1982. The trip raised funds for Make-A-Wish of Minnesota to support the dreams of seriously ill children. The two cyclists began writing a book about the ride earlier, but only recently finished the manuscript.

1972 Jerry Wenzel was honored as an outstanding alumnus by the College of Education and Human Development at the University of North Dakota (UND). Wenzel received his bachelor's degree from Bemidji State before earning a master's through UND. A science educator in the East Grand Forks Middle School for 35 years, he was the recipient of the 1998 Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year from the National Association of Biology Teachers, the 2000 Middle School Science Teacher of the Year from the Minnesota Science Teachers Association, and the 2001 Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Regional Teacher of the Year. Now retired, he and his wife Kathy reside in Randall ... John "Terry" Bergum and his business partner—owners of Minnesota Twist Drill—have earned the Labovitz Emerging Entrepreneur Award. Minnesota Twist Drill sales have dropped from $20 million to $6 million under previous ownership. After purchasing the Hibbing-based company, the partners stabilized sales and started growing the company. Bergum lives in Hibbing with his wife Gail ... Terry Boone has retired from Browerville after a career of teaching physical education, health, and drivers education. During his tenure, he coached boys’ basketball for 29 years and boys’ and girls’ track for nearly 24 years.

1971 Michael Pahlen received the Coaching Achievement Award from the Superior (WI) Academic and Athletic Hall of Fame. Pahlen spent 32 years as boys head swimming and diving coach, 24 years as girls’ head swimming and diving coach, and 11 years as boys’ head tennis coach. He lives in Superior and is the father of two.

1970 Gary Trimble of St. Cloud was inducted into the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In 1977, Trimble became head coach of a football program at Kimball High School that had won 20 games in 14 years. When he left coaching in 1995, his teams amassed a 111-77 record, won three conference championships, and made four state tournament appearances. Trimble twice was named Central Minnesota Coach of the Year. Still teaching in Kimball, he and his wife, Peggy, have three adult daughters. Ed Gallina opened the store, Gallina Artworks & Gifts, in Mantorville, where he lived in the mid-1980s while teaching in Zumbrota. He had left Mantorville to teach in the Nashwauk-Keewatin school system. After retiring a few months ago, he returned to display and sell his art.

1968 Dan Bergan recently ended his 40-year basketball officiating career when he called his final game at Hibbing High School. Also an official for baseball, softball, and football, Bergan has been inducted into the Minnesota Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Hibbing High School Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Bemidji State University Athletic Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Terri, reside in Hibbing and have two grown daughters.

1967 Lowell Scarry of Brainerd became the second coach in Minnesota history to reach the 600 win plateau as a baseball coach. Currently in his 95th year of coaching, he recorded the win when his Brainerd High School Warnors swept a late season doubleheader to raise his career record to 600-239. The state record is 707 wins.

1963 Linda Mickelson retired after teaching at Hughes Elementary School in Red Lake Falls for 45 years. She lives with her husband, Winton, in Oklee. They have three grown children who followed in her footsteps and became teachers.

1962 Fayre (Cordes) and Larry Litman ('65) hosted a mini-BSU reunion in their Plymouth home. Alumni guests were Edie Banks ('61) from the St. Catherine, Ontario, Canada area, Clare Gustafson Smith ('62) from San Francisco, CA, and Diane Hoselton Genova ('62) of Northfield. The reunion marked the first time in 45 years some of the alumni had seen each other.

1960 Norm Hecimovich was named the 2008 Volunteer of the Year for the city of Austin. A current city council member and former principal in Austin, he is widely known for his leadership in education and veterans’ issues as well as for his involvement on community, housing, family, tourism, and planning boards.

1959 Don Peterson was inducted into the Iowa Girls Coaches Association Basketball Hall of Fame. During 25 seasons as a head coach, all but one in Lakota, Iowa, he compiled a record of 421 wins against 174 losses and won nine conference titles. Now retired and living in Hackensack with his wife, Laurie, he has two sons and three stepdaughters.

IN MEMORIAM

Rosemarie Albie ’75, Blackduck, MN
Dolores Berg ’41, Thief River Falls, MN
Don S. Bilben ’72, International Falls, MN
Twyla Bjornaraa ’89, Loma Linda, CA
Merle Bryant ’46, Tenstrike, MN
Brian C. Caroline ’01, Clearwater, FL
Kenneth L. Christianson ’50, Bemidji, MN
Raymond E. Clay ’48, Lenawee, KS
Harriet Driscoll ’68, Duluth, MN
Nicholas Faymoville ’67, Bemidji, MN
Wayne “Bags” Haglund ’73, International Falls, MN
Patricia Hawks ’92, Blackduck, MN
Naomi Goodell Hemphill ’34, Hibbing, MN
Hazel Hermanson ’57, Bloomington, MN
Robert Isaacson ’49, Little Falls, MN
John Kolstoe ’70, Oklee, MN
Frederick Marsh ’71, Westford, MA
Sadie Melby ’69, Bellingham, WA
William Olson ’64 & ’73, Hibbing, MN
Thomas Raich ’62, Pengilly, MN
Alice Roos ’58, Thief River Falls, MN
Wilfred Sarkela ’58, Grand Rapids, MN
Marie Smilanich ’27, Tower, MN
Helen Stennes ’35, Thief River Falls, MN
Melvin J. Sudeith ’52, Cobble Hill, BC
Jeanne A. Sugrue ’48, Pine Island, MN
Rupert Syverson ’63, McIntosh, MN
Erma Weir ’36, Corvallis, OR
Suzanne M. Wolbeck ’66, Thief River Falls, MN
Beaver Pride Luncheon
Walnut Hall, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, $8 per person
Join other BSU athletic fans as they listen to coaches and student athletes talk about their upcoming season.

Women’s Soccer vs. Moorhead
BSU Soccer Field, 4:00 pm

Outstanding Alumni Member Reception
American Indian Resource Center, 5:00 – 6:30 pm. For all Bemidji State University Outstanding Alumni and their Families.

BSU Alumni Association Honors Banquet
Beaux Arts Ballroom, 6:30 pm. Join alumni, faculty, and friends of Bemidji State University for the presentation of the 2008 BSU Outstanding Alumni awards.

Social Hour, 6:30 pm
Banquet, 7:00 pm
Awards Program, 8:00 pm
Advanced registration required. Tickets $24 per person. See registration information on next page.

Women’s Hockey vs. U of Manitoba
John Glas Fieldhouse, 7:00 pm

Women’s Volleyball vs. Winona State
BSU Gymnasium, 7:00 pm

Homecoming 5K Run/Walk
Course includes a tour of campus, 9:00 am. Check in / Registration 8:00 am. Registration fee of $10 per person includes T-shirt and beverages.

40-Year Reunion of the Class of 1968
Crying Wolf Room, 9:00 am. Reunion brunch for members of the class of 1968 and the wrap-around classes of 1967 and 1969. Registration information will be sent to class members.

BSU Homecoming Tailgate Party and Carnival
Diamond Point Park, next to the Chet Anderson Football Stadium, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Co-sponsored by the BSU Alumni Association, Beaver Pride, and Hobson Union Programming Board.

2008 Homecoming Football Game
Chet Anderson Stadium, 1:00 pm
The BSU Beavers take on the Northern State Wolves.

Women’s Hockey vs. US National Team
John Glas Fieldhouse, 3:00 pm
Lutheran Campus Center Open House
1221 Birchmont Drive, 3:00 pm
For all alumni, friends, and their families following the football game and continuing until 5:00 pm. Join them for some munchies, reminiscing, tours of the building, and good times. All are welcome!

Women’s Volleyball vs. Upper Iowa
BSU Gymnasium, 4:00 pm

Football Alumni Reunion
Bemidji Elks Club, 5:00 pm
Following the game. All football alumni are invited to attend.

President’s Society Gala
Beaux Arts Ballroom, 5:30 pm
A Foundation appreciation dinner in recognition of BSU donors. Hobson Memorial Union. By invitation only.

BSU Homecoming Street Dance
Downtown Bemidji, 8:30 pm
On Beltrami Avenue between 3rd and 4th streets. Gather with friends for live music, fun, and lots of BSU spirit. Sponsoring radio stations KBLJ, KB101, KZY, Z99 and WQXJ.

Women’s Soccer vs. U of M Crookston
BSU Soccer Field, 1:00 pm

Carl O. Thompson Memorial Concert
Thompson Recital Hall, 3:00 pm
Held in Bangsberg Hall on campus. Tickets available at the door.
Important Note

Advance registration is required for:

• The Alumni Association Honors Banquet—limited seating available.
• The 40-year reunion brunch.

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR BOTH EVENTS IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008.

Register online at:
www.bsualumni.org under Event Registration, or call the BSU Alumni Office at 755-3989 (local) or 877-278-2586 (toll free). Registrations will be accepted over the phone if payment is being made with a credit card.

University Bookstore Hours
Monday-Thursday 7:45 am – 4:30 pm
Friday 7:45 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Campus Tours
Weekdays, 10:00 am & 1:00 pm
BSU Admissions Office
phone 755-2040
toll free 1-877-BEMIDJI

Gillett Recreation & Fitness Center
Friday 7:00 am – 9:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Come enjoy a great workout with family and friends at the Gillett Recreation and Fitness Center during Homecoming weekend. Simply show your BSU Alumni membership card at the door, and you and your family will be admitted free of charge, or stop by the Alumni Office to pick up a pass.

Support these BSU Foundation supporters and take advantage of discounted room rates for BSU alumni. When making your reservation at any of these hotels, ask for the BSU Homecoming rate.

Best Western Hotel 218-751-0390
$85 + tax
Please make your reservations no later than August 26, 2008

Hampton Inn 218-751-3600
$118 + tax
Please make your reservations no later than September 5, 2008

Holiday Inn Express 218-751-2487
$101.96 + tax
Please make your reservations no later than September 1, 2008

Super 8 Motel 218-751-8481
$61 + tax
Please make your reservations no later than September 5, 2008

Outstanding Alumni Recipients

Col. Randall G. Anderson ’85
Army Medical Officer
Silver Spring, MD

Lt. Col. Mark Backlin ’79
Retired Air Force Officer / Consultant
Colorado Springs, CO

Leah Carpenter ’85
President, Leech Lake Tribal College
Bemidji, MN

Linda E. Erceg ’90
Camp Nurse / Health Risk Manager
Bemidji, MN

Anthony S. Gramer ’70
Business Owner
Bloomfield Hills, MI

Peggy Ingison ’74
CFO Minneapolis School District
New Brighton, MN

Scott Lindberg ’75
Businessman / Insurance Broker
Mill Valley, CA

Dr. Benjamin Kwok-Yin Tsang ’71
Medical Researcher
Nepean, ON, Canada
Tell It Like It Is!

Participate in the BSU/Alumni Association Survey

From alumni events and services to Horizons, we want your opinions.

To participate, contact the Alumni Office for a copy of the survey
877-278-2586 (toll free) or 755-3989 (local)
alumni@bemidjistate.edu.

Help shape the future. Complete the alumni survey.

ADMISSIONS

Fall Visit Days: October 16 & 17
Campus Preview: October 27
November 14
November 21

Open Registration: January 9
Minnesota Education Fair at Bemidji State, September 17

Keep updated on BSU events. Go to “Events Calendar” at www.bemidjistate.edu