Around the Block
Professor Explores the Art of Contradiction

Establishing a Foothold
Grad Connects with Entertainment Industry
Leaving a Legacy

Two stalwarts of the BSU family passed away this fall, giving us reason to pause and recount their legacy.

Dr. Harold Peters, a professor emeritus of biology, died on November 10 at the age of 99. Former wrestling and football coach Chet Anderson, professor emeritus of physical education, died on November 19. He was 90. They had a combined service to Bemidji State of over 50 years.

Although coming from different areas of campus, coach Anderson and scientist Dr. Peters shared personal qualities that serve as standard-bearers for us today. They were passionate about their work, whether it was charting a course to conference championships or conducting fieldwork to track the lifecycles and habits of insects. They inspired others – sharing their enthusiasm, knowledge, and wisdom with not only their budding charges, but also their colleagues and community members. They were compassionate, showing a personal interest in the lives of those they coached and taught.

More important than the campus facilities that bear their names are the people whose lives they shaped. Some followed in their footsteps and became coaches and professors. All have led richer lives having had them as teachers, colleagues, and friends.

Their passion, inspiration, and compassion will continue to have an impact at Bemidji State University for years to come.

Dr. Jon E. Quistgaard, President
Study Shows Minnesotans Support Lake Cleanup

Not surprisingly, Minnesotans love their lakes. They’re also willing to pay to keep those lakes pristine, according to a Bemidji State study published in November. Results of the research indicate that Minnesotans are willing to pay to restore lakes impaired by pollution.

Dr. Pat Welle, professor of economics and environmental studies at BSU and the project’s principal researcher, along with Jim Hodgson, Upper Mississippi River Basin coordinator for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), conducted the study. Funds to support the research were provided by the MPCA in collaboration with the Sauk River Watershed District and the city of Lake Shore.

Conducted on the Lake Margaret-Gull Lake Watershed near Brainerd and the Sauk River Chain of Lakes between Richmond and Cold Spring, the research determined the willingness of property owners to pay for lake restoration and their preferred pollution control management methods.

A property owner’s willingness to contribute financially to lake restoration was closely related to the perceived environmental and economic benefits of lake cleanup. By identifying the economic value, as well as the environmental benefits of lake restoration, researchers hope to help guide policy makers looking for the best ways to reduce the impact of lake pollution and the cost of implementing those methods.

Although the study indicated a willingness to financially support cleanup efforts, it also identified an equity issue among restoration supporters.

“While survey participants indicated a willingness to help pay for cleanup of the lakes, they also wanted those responsible for the degradation and the owners and lake users who benefit from the cleanup to pay their share as well,” Welle said.

To download a copy of the study, go to: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-b4-01.pdf

President Signs Climate Commitment

Bemidji State University President Dr. Jon E. Quistgaard signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in ceremonies at the American Indian Resource Center in November. His signature added Bemidji State to a growing roster of nearly 600 colleges and universities nationwide that have committed to becoming carbon neutral.

The American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment addresses global warming by garnering institutional pledges to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions. With higher education’s involvement, the goal is to accelerate research and educational efforts to re-stabilize the earth’s climate.

By signing the commitment, presidents agree to eliminate their campuses’ greenhouse gas emissions over time. This involves completing an emissions inventory; setting a two-year target date and milestones for becoming climate neutral; taking immediate short-term action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; integrating sustainability into the curriculum and overall educational experience; and making the action plan, inventory, and progress reports publicly available.

Sustainability Coordinator Hired

Bemidji State’s newly hired sustainability coordinator is no stranger to campus or to today’s environmental issues. As Erika Bailey-Johnson began working on her master’s in environmental studies, she became active on the University’s Environmental Advocacy Committee, serving as its co-chair in 2005-06. Since 2006, she also has been an adjunct instructor, teaching the People and the Environment course. She was named sustainability coordinator in August.

Besides her work on campus, Bailey-Johnson also has been active in the Bemidji community, serving on the Bemidji Area Climate Change Coalition since 2006. She has helped the coalition organize and coordinate a variety of community events to educate and motivate area residents on the effects of global climate change.

She is active in a number of state and national environmental groups, including the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability, the North American Association for Environmental Education, and the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education, where she serves on the board.

Bailey-Johnson has a bachelor of arts degree in biology from the University of Minnesota, Morris, and a master’s in environmental studies from Bemidji State.
Bemidji State University rose to Tier 1 status among Midwestern master’s institutions in the U.S. News and World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges 2009” survey. Bemidji State was ranked No. 67 in the region, tying with four other institutions.

Master’s universities are defined in the rankings as institutions offering a full range of undergraduate programs and some master’s programs, but few doctoral programs. The rankings split 572 universities into four geographical regions—North, South, Midwest, and West.

Bemidji State was one of eight schools in Minnesota appearing in the Tier 1 regional lineup. The other schools were Hamline University, College of St. Catherine, Bethel University, College of St. Scholastica, Augsburg College, University of Minnesota-Duluth, and Winona State University.

The U.S. News and World Report survey ranks schools based on peer assessment, retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate, and alumni giving rate.
Football, Soccer Stars Earn Post-Season Honors

Sophomore Ashlee Ellefsen, a midfielder on the Bemidji State soccer team and senior Terrell Phelps, a defensive back on the football team, garnered numerous post-season honors after strong seasons with their respective Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) sports this fall.

Ellefsen, from Hugo, was named a 2008 Daktronics NCAA Division II Women's Soccer All-America Honorable Mention, becoming the first player in BSU's soccer history to earn the honor. She also became just the third BSU soccer player to earn a berth on the Daktronics First-Team All-Central Region. Leading the Beavers, she tied for the NSIC lead with 12 goals and tied the school record with seven assists. Her 31 points led the team, while her 79 shots on goal led the NSIC and tied the BSU single-season record.

Along with junior forward Jamie Ford of Edina, Ellefsen was also named to the Third-Team All-NSIC, while sophomore defensive player Alysha Domiano of Payton was named honorable mention all-conference.

Phelps, who was Bemidji State's lone First-Team All-NSIC, North Division honoree, was named First-Team All-Super Region 3 by Daktronics, Inc. and was the leading vote-getter among defensive backs. He became just the second Beaver to earn first-team all-region honors from Daktronics, Inc. and just the eighth BSU player overall to be honored on the all-region team.

The NSIC leader in passes broken up and passes defended, the North Carolina native led a group of 10 Bemidji State All-NSIC honorees. Linebacker Jake Anderson of Karlstad and defensive end Rob Wills of Roseville were named to the defensive second team, while quarterback Derek Edholm from Anoka and offensive tackle Nathan Mahlik from Two Rivers, WI, were named to the second-team offense. Linebacker Andrew Eagan of Sauk Village, IL, wide receiver George Kadlec of Chicago, IL, linebacker Luke Knutson of Bagley, safety Jason Kunz of Esko, and wide receiver Andrew Schultz of Grand Forks, ND, were named honorable mention all-conference.

Volleyball Finishes Second Season under Bitter

The BSLI volleyball team, playing what's thought to be the toughest conference in NCAA Division II, completed its second season under head coach Laurie Bitter. The team compiled a 7-25 record, including a 3-17 mark against the newly expanded NSIC. The Beavers played eight matches against nationally ranked opponents, including third-ranked Southwest Minnesota State and the nation's number one team, Concordia-St. Paul.

Nineteen Athletes on NSIC Fall Academic Team

Bemidji State University placed 19 student-athletes on the 405-member 2008 Fall Academic All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Team.

The football team paced the fall contingent, with six players recognized for academic accomplishment. BSU also had five soccer players, five volleyball players, and three women's cross country team members selected to the 2008 squad.

Sports considered for the fall academic team are men's and women's cross country, football, women's soccer, and women's volleyball.

To be eligible for the Academic All-NSIC Team, a student-athlete must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 3.20 or better, be a member of a varsity traveling team, and have reached sophomore academic standing at his or her institution with one full year completed at that institution.

Golf Teams Wrap Up Fall Tournaments

The Bemidji State men’s golf team had a successful fall campaign, finishing third at the NSIC Championships and fourth at the NCAA Northwest Regional Championship, with Jesse Nelson finishing third at the NCAA Northwest Regional. During the season, Beaver golfers finished first or second individually three times.

The women’s golf team finished tenth at the NSIC Championships to cap a five-event fall campaign. Jenna Schurman was BSU’s top individual finisher in four of the team’s five events.

Ironi Paces BSU Cross Country Team

Genna Ironi, a junior from Sauk Centre, was Bemidji State’s top individual finisher at both the NSIC Championships, held in Aberdeen, SD, in October, and the NCAA Central Regional, held in Kearney, NE, in November. Including the two championship events, Ironi was BSU’s lead finisher three times in six meets last season.

Women’s Hockey Goalie Earns Olympic Spot

In 2010, goalkeeper Zuzana Tomickova will become the second BSU women’s hockey player to participate in the Olympic games. Nina Ziegenhals, who played for Team Germany in the 2002 games in Salt Lake City, UT, was the first.

Tomickova, from Bratislava, Slovakia, backstopped a surprising performance by the Slovakian National Team at a November Olympic qualifying tournament in Bad Tölz, Germany. She posted shutouts of Germany and Kazakhstan in the first two qualifying rounds, helping the Slovakian National Team earn a bid to the XXI Winter Olympics to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in 2010. She sat out the team’s final game against France, because the team had already qualified for the Olympics.
As Trudy Rautio was about to leave for college, her father handed her a $5400 check and a simple piece of advice: “Make it last.”

Rautio’s father, Joe Kocinski, was a logger in International Falls who met the challenges of a harsh climate and demanding work to build his own business, even though he didn’t have a high school diploma. He also proved to his daughter how passionately he valued education by taking an extra job, selling fence posts, to fund her college tuition.

(Continued on Page 6)
“To think how hard he worked to make that education possible was really humbling,” she reflects. “He always viewed education as something vital; it was something that couldn’t be taken away from you.”

Rautio not only made her funds last, but also leveraged the education she obtained with those funds to build a stellar career. An executive vice president and chief financial officer for the Minnetonka-based company, Carlson, she oversees the financial operations of its worldwide businesses in the travel, cruise, hotel, restaurant, and marketing arenas. Carlson operates in more than 150 countries and, with $30 billion in annual sales, is considered one of the world’s largest privately held corporations.

**Wise Investment Decisions**

Like the company she helps lead, her corporate success is no accident. She’s made wise educational investments, beginning with courses at Rainy River Community College, continuing through Bemidji State University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting, and ending with an MBA from the University of St. Thomas.

Besides using the knowledge gained in the classroom, she’s applied lessons learned from her northern Minnesota upbringing.

“There is a work ethic that comes from northern Minnesota that is very special,” she notes. “There is also an integrity and a realness about the value system.”

“I never expected to be in the job I’m in today. I never expected to travel the world and sit on the boards of public companies in Europe.”

Trudy Rautio
That work ethic, coupled with her educational investments, has shaped a career she never imagined possible as she graduated from BSU 30 years ago.

**A Natural Fit**

Her climb to corporate success began when she entered college as an undecided student. A counselor suggested accounting as a natural fit for the undergraduate who was good in math and whose mother did the bookkeeping for the family business.

Still, it was an unusual major for a woman in the 1970s, when only 10 percent of graduates in the field were female.

“When you start your first job and they ask you to make the coffee, that is an interesting transition,” Rautio admits as she recalls her naivety toward working in a male-dominated profession. “I've always been focused on the job at hand. You just continue to prove yourself by the work you do.”

After earning her degree, she began her climb to success in the cost accounting office of Boise Cascade, even though that type of accounting was the last thing she wanted to do. She then moved to the Pillsbury Company for 12 years before joining Jostens, Inc. She was Jostens’ senior vice president of finance when Carlson hired her in 1997.

As she climbed the corporate ladder, she reflected on how Bemidji State broadened her thinking. In a world that often sees accounting answers as black and white, Rautio appreciates that BSU challenged her to grapple with different perspectives and to discover solutions among shades of gray.

“If you don’t have that breadth of perspective, that grayness can be problematic for you in coming to decisions,” she says.

As one of the key decision makers at Carlson, she has ample opportunity to use her well-honed perspectives and problem-solving abilities. She spends much of her time traveling on company business in the United States and abroad. A frequent flyer to Carlson’s travel division in Paris, she also journeys to Brussels where Carlson owns a large share in the Rezidor Hotel Group, one of the world’s fastest growing hotel groups. The group operates mid-range and luxury hotels, including Park Inn, County Inn, Radisson SAS, and Regent.

Despite her fast-paced, executive lifestyle, Rautio finds time to counsel others who are on various rungs of the corporate ladder. Mentoring them in career development, she uses her own experiences and perspectives as guideposts.

“If you can’t offer people a career, you only offer them a job; you won’t be able to retain them.”

As for herself, she scans the past years and remains amazed about the way in which her career unfolded. “I never expected to be in the job I’m in today,” Rautio admits. “I never expected to travel the world and sit on the boards of public companies in Europe.”

**A Career Capstone**

Her achievements have received accolades. She was selected 2005 Woman Changemaker by The Business Journal. The Minneapolis chapter for the National Association of Women Business Owners gave her the 2004 Corporate Women of Achievement Award. She was honored with a Carlson Fellows Award for special achievement and, in 2001, was named one of the top women in finance by the newspaper, Finance and Commerce.

Despite her many awards, the honor she cherishes most is the 2007 BSU Outstanding Alumni Award in recognition of her personal and professional accomplishments.

“It just is a capstone to career achievements,” she says. “I felt very proud, very humbled by it, and very connected to the school.”

Rautio’s success has come full circle. Her achievements have made it possible to honor her roots and ensure her father’s request continues. She recently established an endowment at Bemidji State to honor her father, who passed away 10 years ago. The resulting Joe Kocinski Scholarship will be awarded to an accounting student for the first time this spring.

And like Rautio, that recipient will have a chance to grow the investment into unimaginable returns.
Visual arts professor Butch Holden enjoys contradictions — embracing them and relishing the fertile ground they harbor for creativity and broader thinking — for himself and for his students.

To illustrate his point, he tells of a former student, Fred Yiran of Cameroon, who wanted to know the origin of the clay used in the campus ceramics studio. Searching for the answer together, they learned that the clay and other resources used for making pottery in the studio came from as nearby as the Mississippi River and as far away as India. This discovery pleased Yiran, who made pottery and gave it to friends “as a piece of the world made in Bemidji,” Holden notes.

Weeks later, a visiting potter and conservationist, Richard Bresnahan, talked to the studio arts students that everything they needed to make ceramics could be found in their own backyard and getting them elsewhere was a waste of energy.

“This really troubled Fred, and he was downcast for a while,” recalls Holden. “Then a few weeks later, Fred was back in the studio as happy as ever making pottery. I asked him if things were back to good, and he said, ‘Yep. I really liked the message that Richard Bresnahan gave us, but I decided my backyard is bigger.’”

Holden smiles in telling the story, noting that Yiran was grappling with viable, yet conflicting, global and local concepts.

Chair of the visual arts department, Holden nears his 25th anniversary as a BSU faculty member. He teaches a variety of art courses in drawing, ceramics, and art foundations. In addition, he manages the BSU pottery studio with assistance from his students, who help with everything from preparing the clay to firing the kiln. A highly regarded studio artist, he has paintings and pottery in galleries from Grand Marais, MI, to Duluth and Minneapolis.

In his recent exhibit, “Around the Block,” he explored a contradiction that puzzled and excited him as a boy.

“I grew up in the suburbs of Golden Valley, and it was an adventure to go around the block,” says Holden. “Yet going around the block is a bit of an oxymoron.”

With his art, Holden contrasts the circle and the square, a theme present in his work since graduate school. He also draws inspiration from his passion for gardening, merging his geometric images into garden-like themes.

Using the gallery as a blank canvas, his recent show started with one stunning blue, ripple-patterned bowl. Appearing as if a pebble had been tossed into a pool, the geometric pattern spread to the bowl’s rim. His compositions progressed sequentially to a final mosaic of 10 bowls, wrapping the room in vibrant colors that evoked the notion of an open flower. An inner circle of pedestals displayed bowls and vases inspired by the earthy shapes and colors of seeds, pods, and bulbs. Hoops and strings, some suspended from the ceiling, created a sense of otherworldliness, a combining of heaven and earth.

Piece by piece, the exhibit captured Holden’s personal sense of adventure and wonderment of going around the block and exploring the world.

“For me, this kind of blending is like instruments in an orchestra blending, becoming something bigger than an individual sound,” says Holden. “It’s that aesthetic tickle, a kind of feeling that you get in your gut when there’s something pleasing.”

As an undergraduate, Holden studied biology at the University of Minnesota. He loved the lab work and the
Meet Delana, Jane, and Robert. They’re focused, with their sights set high.

“\textit{I grew up in the suburbs of Golden Valley, and it was an adventure to go around the block. Yet going around the block is a bit of an oxymoron.}” \footnote{Butch Holden}

what-if questions of science. He took his first drawing class in his junior year and found art irresistible.

“I got my foot in, and I wanted to immerse myself further,” recalls Holden. “I discovered art supply stores, and then I started going to galleries and seeing what other artists were doing. This whole new world of human endeavor just opened up for me."

Holden delights in asking thought-provoking questions that inspire his art and challenge his students. Exuding a quiet curiosity, his enthusiasm is contagious. He sees the studio as a place where students “own their education,” finding fodder for their artistic expression through self-discovery.

Like the scientists he met as an undergraduate, he tirelessly explores his artistic world, melding together new forms, concocting new glazes, and experimenting with new firing methods. For Holden, the wonderment and anticipation of what may be just around the corner is foremost on his mind.

\textit{See a video of Holden’s recent exhibit at www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday}
Delana Smith believes in inspiring children to pursue their dreams. After all, her aspirations as a young adult blossomed from a childhood dream of her own.

Smith, an early childhood education major at Bemidji State University and an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, was five years old when she met Miss Indian World at the Gathering of Nations in New Mexico. Awed by the experience, Smith returned to her Twin Cities home with aspirations that she, too, might become an Indian princess and ambassador for native peoples.

After graduating from Osseo High School in 1999, Smith moved with her parents to the Red Lake Indian Reservation. She took a job with the local Head Start program, discovered a passion for teaching, and enrolled at Northwest Technical College. In 2003, she graduated with her associate degree and a renewed determination to pursue her dreams.

“I had a 4.0 GPA, and I just felt I could do anything,” recalls Smith, who, buoyed by her academic success, entered the Miss Indian World competition and won the crown in 2004.

A year of travel ensued in her role as princess. Smith met dignitaries and attended functions such as the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, and an arts awards show in Los Angeles. She stayed with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and visited tribes in the Bahamas and Ecuador.

This year, Smith will complete student teaching and graduate from Bemidji State in May.

“Her understanding of young children will make her a fine teacher,” says education professor Dr. Dan Gartrell, describing Smith as a dedicated student who shines quietly and brightly. “Delana will touch many lives for the better as she makes her way in the world.”

Smith is an accomplished Native American jingle dancer, past treasurer of the BSU Council of Indian Students, an admissions office tour guide, and a frequent presenter on native culture. She also spends one week each summer at a Montana camp where she teaches youth to balance native traditions within a modern world, encouraging them to excel and to pursue higher education much as she has done at Bemidji State.

“What’s important to me is to leave young people with hope for their future,” says Smith, who now aspires to fill young learners with enough confidence and self-esteem to pursue their own dreams.
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Robert Erickson

Robert Baril

Robert Baril of Warroad started writing comedy at age 13, always carrying a notebook to record his ideas. He later gravitated to the social commentary of Jon Stewart and Bill Maher, who influenced his appreciation for satire.

“You can disarm with laughter, and it can be used to get the truth out,” says Baril, who graduated from Bemidji State University in December with a double major in political science and philosophy. He still carries a notebook, a tip he gleaned from a Jerry Seinfeld biography.

For Baril, comedy is a means to serious discourse about topics that matter to him, particularly politics and current events, although he enjoys delving into any topic. He hosted a TV show at Bemidji State, interviewing faculty and community members about the environment, Iraq, the arts, and other current events. He reads broadly and hopes to work through a top-100 list of classic novels and movies.

“He’s an exceptional student with diverse interests, multi-talented and very bright,” says Dr. Kit Christensen, professor of philosophy. “He thinks deeply about things that a lot of other people don’t think about.”

Baril describes the diversity of thinking he has encountered at Bemidji State as a breath of fresh air. He also notes that his coursework and classroom discussions, often in small, intimate settings, helped him develop better-reasoned views that should serve him well in life.

Baril appreciates how BSU’s smallness creates greater opportunity for involvement. In addition to his TV show, Baril wrote for the student newspaper, served a term on the Student Senate; wrote and directed a sketch comedy; and acted in several major theatrical productions, including his recent role as Socrates in the satire No More Peace.

Playing Socrates is full of irony for Baril, who embraces the Oscar Wilde quote, “If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh; otherwise, they’ll kill you.” Socrates missed out on that apt advice, quips Baril.

Baril’s ideal job would be a non-partisan position in Washington or better yet, a stint at the White House doing anything to observe the presidency up close. Wherever Baril lands, he expects to remain engaged in political discourse and comedy.

“I can’t get rid of the entertainer in me,” says Baril. “If there’s anything that I’m black and white on, it’s the power of laughter. It’s good for you.”
“Modeling and marketing closely relate to each other. One is selling yourself to a producer or casting agent, and the other is selling a product to a client who trusts you. I’m comfortable doing either.”

Lucas James Joyce
Some people call him Lucas James. Others know him as that charming guy who won a date with Jo De La Rosa through a TV reality show. Classmates and faculty at Bemidji State call him Lucas Joyce. Thousands in Arizona recognize his smiling face. Millions across North America have seen his feet on Nike commercials.

Despite the multitude of personas, Lucas James Joyce remains remarkably centered, knowing who he is and what he wants to achieve. A 2004 graduate of Bemidji State, Joyce is balancing the pains, joys, frustrations, and rewards of dual careers as he becomes established professionally and personally in the Phoenix, AZ, area. On one hand, he’s pursuing marketing jobs where he can promote corporate images to the public. On the other hand, he’s attempting to market himself as a model and actor in the entertainment industry.

“I have a strong sense of self, and I’m a very motivated person,” Joyce says. “It’s my nature to go after things if I feel I have the potential to get the job done. But being a risk taker has given me confidence. Good things have happened, and that makes me more confident.”

Joyce’s motivation has made his face, if not his feet, one of the most recognizable on television and advertising in Arizona. He’s participated in advertising campaigns for the National Basketball Association (NBA), the Seattle Mariners, CBS, eBay, Massage Envy, Dillard’s, and Hilton. He won the reality series “Date My Ex: Jo & Slade” that ended last summer on Bravo TV. Competing against 500 audition hopefuls, he was selected as co-host for the TV show “Arizona Entertainment Weekly.”

He admits his favorite role was one where viewers never saw his face. Nike was shooting a commercial with NBA star Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns. Because Nash was available for only two hours of shooting, a call went out for a body double who would dribble crossovers and shoot jump shots for two days while the camera focused on the shoes being worn.

“It was a rare opportunity,” Joyce admits. “I got paid to hang around with Steve Nash for a couple of hours and then play basketball for two days.”

Although the competitive world of modeling and acting now consumes much of his time, Joyce is ready to re-enter the equally competitive marketing field. After all, it was this arena where he first funneled his professional drive after graduating from BSU.

Heading to Arizona after graduation, the Wadena native was hired within a month as an account executive for the Phoenix Mercury of the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) and later as a senior account executive for the Phoenix Suns. His job was marketing ticket packages, premium seating, and luxury suites. Eventually he became the director of marketing for a company that specialized in selling upscale homes. Difficult economic times hit that business, and Joyce began to focus more on his other opportunities.

“Marketing and sales are my passion,” says Joyce, who majored in marketing communication and mass communication. “I’m successful at it, and it’s where I want to be. Modeling and marketing relate well to each other. One is selling yourself to a producer or casting agent, and the other is selling a product to a client who trusts you. I’m comfortable doing either.”

He freely admits BSU had a lot to do with his comfort level and self-confidence. He was well known on campus as a residence hall assistant and later as an assistant residence hall director. He was active in campus print and electronic media. He also started a club to teach hip hop and pop dance that became so popular it grew to 50 members and appeared in the annual campus event, Funtastic Dance Follies.

“My confidence matured at Bemidji State,” says Joyce, who understands that knowing who you are involves understanding how you arrived at that knowledge. “I went to BSU because it was a small school with small classes and chances to do things outside of the classroom. I saw BSU as an opportunity to make myself well-rounded while also getting a good education.”
The Alumni Association Board of Directors is soliciting alumni interested in serving on the board. Elections will be held in March to fill three of eight open seats. The remaining five seats will be filled through board appointments. For more information about the board, go to www.bsualumni.org, call 877.278.2586 (toll free), or send an email to alumni@bemidjistate.edu.

ALUMNI BOARD SEEKING CANDIDATES
A BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI UPDATE

Kim Moran has three children. She currently works in military strategy from the National Defense University; and national security and foreign policy. She also holds master’s degrees in military science and international health. Anderson, who is currently in his second year of existence and building it into one of the premier programs in national Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) during his 26-year career.

With the two-time NIC Wrestling Coach of the Year at the helm, the Beavers captured NIC titles in 1972, 1973, and 1976. The program also posted 33 individual conference championships. Anderson's teams finished among the top 10 in the country on 12 occasions and placed third at the national tournament in 1971. Anderson was inducted into the NAIA Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1975 and the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches’ Hall of Fame in 1979. As the Beavers' head football coach from 1955-1960 and from 1962-1966, he led Bemidji State to two of Bemidji State's five conference titles – one in 1957 and again in 1959. In 10 seasons, he coached five NAIA All-Americans, 29 NIC All-Conference selections, and a pair of the league's Glenn Galligan award winners. In 1996, the BSU football facility was renamed Chet Anderson Stadium in honor of the legendary coach.

Since his retirement in 1981, Anderson remained a staunch supporter of BSU athletics. He was often seen cheering for the Beavers at a variety of venues including hockey, basketball, and football.

Col. Mark Backlin

Dr. Leah Carpenter

Tony Graper

Peggy Ingison

Scott Lindberg

Dr. Benjamin Tsang

Tony Graper graduated from Bemidji State in 1970 with a double major in business management and accounting. He began his career in accounting and eventually moved into real estate development and management. He currently heads Graper Company, LLC, a private investment company. He also is one of the organizing partners and a co-managing partner of MGM Grand Detroit, one of three licensed casinos in Detroit. Graper has three grown sons and currently resides in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Peggy Sullivan Ingison graduated from Bemidji State with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1974. Ingison has assembled a public service career in the state of Minnesota spanning three decades. In 2004, she was named commissioner of the Department of Revenue by Governor Pawlenty. In 2007, she moved into her current role as chief financial officer of the Minneapolis Public Schools. She and her husband, Tom (’74), have two children in college, including one at BSU. The Ingisons make their home in New Brighton.

Scott Lindberg earned a business administration degree from Bemidji State in 1975 and then spent 25 years in the semiconductor industry. Lindberg retired from Hitachi as the vice president of sales in 2004 and currently works for Northstar Insurance, a brokerage firm serving private clients in California. He and his wife, Ellen, have three children and make their home in Mill Valley, CA.

Dr. Benjamin Tsang graduated from Bemidji State in 1971 with a degree in chemistry and earned a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Ottawa, Canada. He is currently the director of the reproductive biology unit and professor of obstetrics and gynecology and cellular and molecular medicine at the University of Ottawa, where he has spent the majority of his professional career. He also holds a senior scientist position at the Ottawa Health Research Institute. Dr. Tsang and his wife, Janet, currently reside in Ottawa and have two grown children.
2008  Chad Heitz has been hired by Wanzer Construction of Fargo, ND, as a project engineer. He was employed previously by Malinski Mowing of Shakopee ... Jamie Docken of Owatonna is teaching first grade in the Janeville-Waldorf-Pemberton school system, where she also coaches seventh- and eighth-grade volleyball ... Jessica Joy Johnson and Jason Porteous were married in mid-July and reside in Eden Prairie ... Emily Prall of White Bear Lake is teaching kindergarten at the primary school in Chisago City. She also recently completed her first marathon in Duluth ... Derek Levno of Dassel has been hired to teach industrial technology at Dassel-Cokato High School ... Mark Sailer is teaching technology education in Onamia ... Andrew Burford is a new addition to the Pike Bay Township Police Department, where he has been assigned as the school resource officer for the Cass Lake-Bena Middle School. Burford had been working at the Northwest Juvenile Center in Bemidji ... Emily Volk is teaching kindergarten in the Onamia school system ... Jaci Hovland is directing the band programs at Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls. In addition to overseeing the drumline, she teaches general music and band on the elementary, junior high, and high school levels. She and her husband, Tom, live in Fertile ... Stacy Borchert is teaching third grade in Isle, where she, her husband, Tom, and three children reside ... Jill Erickson has been hired as the social worker in the Grygla School. Her husband, Todd, is employed at Thief Lake. The couple resides in Gatzke ... Dana Robinson is teaching math at the Grygla School ... Dan Ziebeck is teaching American history, junior high religion, geography, and pre-algebra at Austin Catholic Schools, where he also coaches the girls' tennis team.

2007  Kirstin Drexler is a hospice social worker at Lakeland Hospice and Home Care in Fergus Falls. She formerly worked at St. Williams Living Center in Parkers Prairie ... Zachary Stafford has been hired by Wanzer Construction of Fargo, ND, as a project engineer. He had been employed by Christiansen Construction of Bemidji ... Jessica Torkelson married David Short during a June ceremony in her hometown of Nevis. Katie Moe of Bemidji and Mike Dagel of Cohasset were married July 10. Both are now employed with Grand Rapids Realty. Katie is also studying surgical technology at Lake Superior College ... MerriAnne Werder is the new high school science teacher, head volleyball coach, and Science Olympiad coordinator in the Randolph school system. She previously taught at Blackduck High School ... Rachel Becker was recently named coordinator of game entertainment for the Washington Capitals of the NHL. In this capacity, she coordinates all in-game and game entertainment logistics. Becker also works on video productions and participates in the integration of marketing campaigns. She lives in Washington, D.C. ... Amy Barmeis- ter has been hired as an instrumental music teacher in the McGregor school system ... Nicole Schmidt has been hired as an English teacher for grades 7-12 in the Hancock school district, where she also directs one act plays. She previously completed a long-term substitute teaching assignment in Osakis ... Megan Flaten is serving as the interim director of the Audubon Science Center in Albert Lea. The center, which includes animal exhibits, hands-on activities, classes, and learning games for young learners, recently expanded its after-school program for kindergarten students through fifth grade ... Jillian Schuster of Brownston has been accepted into the Peace Corps. Assigned to Macedonia, she will collaborate with teachers in developing better school curriculum ... Kirsten Gerylgko is a new kindergarten teacher at the elementary school in Lino Lakes. She previously was a substitute teacher for St. Michael-Albertville schools and was head pre-kindergarten teacher at Loretto ... Ben Metz is teaching fourth grade in Ashby to a third-grade classroom in Ellsworth, where he lives.

2005  Meghan Mack has been hired as the industrial technology instructor in the Clinton-Graceville-Beardsville school district. She lives in Wilmington, where she teaches technology education in the combined middle and high school facility in Graceville ... Jennifer Gondringer married John Larson last spring in Deerwood. She is employed in the Youth Connection Program for the Brainerd school district, while he works at Parker Hannifin. They reside in Baxter ... Jennifer Hendrickx is teaching kindergarten in East Central School in F.in-layson. She previously served as a long-term substitute in Red Lake ... Pamela Schenkey is teaching first grade in Greenbush after serving as a Title I reading teacher and paraprofessional in the K-8 facility within the Greenbush-Middle River school district. She and her husband, Marc, make their home in Middle River ... Kristi Hager is teaching senior high English and a college English course for students at Chokio-Alberta schools.

2004  Dan Carpenter has accepted a teaching position at Greenbush-Middle River schools as the director of the high school band, high school choir, middle school band, and fifth grade band. He, his wife, Sara (’01), and young son moved from Lynd, where he had taught elementary music ... Melissa Jacobsen of Wayzata has been hired as an assistant county prosecuting attorney for the juvenile division of the Carver County Attorney’s Office. A graduate of the William Mitchell College of Law, she was a law clerk in the Ramsey County District Court and the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office before accepting the position with Carver County Attorney’s Office. Ronnie Magnuson is teaching kindergarten at the Tower-Soudan School. Magnuson, who previously taught first grade at the Nett Lake School, lives in Sturgeon Township with her husband, Mike, who runs the DNR Forestry Office in Tower ... Steven Johnson has been reassigned by the North Dakota Highway Patrol to serve the patrol’s southwest region in Bismarck. He had been stationed in Lakota, ND, of the Grand Forks region ... Mary Hagena is teaching algebra and math classes at Cass Lake-Bena High School. She moved to Cass Lake from Worthington, where she taught math in a variety of school settings ... Kate Lundquist is teaching junior high English in the Roseau school district. She had previously served as a substitute teacher in Roseau, Warroad, and Badger schools. Her husband Jake, is a technology specialist in research and development at Marvin Windows. They have one young daughter.

2003  Andrew Bronczek has been accepted into the management of technology master’s program at the University of Minnesota Center for the Development of Technological Leadership. He is a project engineer at Emerson Process Management and is married to 2005 graduate Lindsey (Bromenshenkel), who is a technical project analyst at Emerson Process Management ... Air Force Second Lt. Bryan Helscher was named the Logistics Readiness Division Company Grade Officer of the Second Quarter 2008. The commander of the 12th Mission Support Squadron on Randolph Air Force Base in Universal City, TX, recognized Helscher for leading an initiative to rewrite and update redeploymen information and increasing efficiency time by 20 percent in the processing of returning airmen and women from overseas assignments. He also received the Air Force Achievement Medal in 2007 ... Markus Oksene is teaching eighth-grade language arts at Redwood Valley Middle School and was named the head boy’s basketball coach in the Redwood Valley High School in Redwood Falls. He and his wife, Dextany, have a young daughter.

2002  Denise Vorgert is teaching fifth and sixth grades at Lafayette Charter School. She previously taught those same grades for six years at Holy Family Catholic School in Silver Lake ... Donnie Farnsworth has joined Northland Counseling Center in Grand Rapids, where he will conduct therapy with individuals suffering from different types of mental illness. He is also currently finishing the graduate program in clinical psychology at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND.

2001  Jamie Thaler married Nathan Coon this summer. The couple lives in Ely, Minn. She is a teacher at Washington Elementary, while he is employed at Holtmeier Construction.
Paul Peterson has been named athletic coordinator at Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls. He has extensive experience at the college, having served as activities director and assistant athletic coordinator. He and his wife, Rebecca (’02), live in Thief River Falls. Shannon Svalen has been hired as the new ECEF school readiness and Headstart instructor at Win-E-Mac schools. Over the past five years she taught at schools in Brainerd, MN. Her husband, Jason, is an elementary teacher. They have three children and live in McIntosh.

Lisa Lommen is teaching high school math in Milaca after previously teaching in Branson and Onamia schools. She and her husband live in Princeton with their two sons.

Maria Burnham, an adult basic education teacher in the Monticello Workforce Center, was named the 2008 Adult Basic Education Teacher of the Year by Literacy Minnesota. The award is given annually to the teacher whose unique contribution to adult basic education exhibits high standards of quality. Brian Bertlud of Greenbush is a new agricultural and business officer at Border State Bank. The bank serves Thief River Falls and the surrounding area. Prior to accepting the banking position, he was a sales representative for the Fastenal Company in Rochester and managed the Fastenal Company location in Thief River. He and his wife, Desiree, have one son. Laurie Olson is a fourth-grade teacher at Chisholm Elementary. She had worked with the Mesabi East School District for eight years in a variety of capacities and with the Minnesota Extension Service for 14 years before obtaining her degree from Bemidji State University.

Beth Erickson has been hired as a communications officer for the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. A resident of Iron River, WI, she previously held positions as managing news editor at KBJR-TV in Duluth, director of college communications at Northland College in Ashland, WI, and media buyer for JGP Group in Duluth. Jason Bradley of Red Lake Falls married Jolene Seibel in a spring wedding. Jennifer L'Allet is an interactive art director for Denali, a marketing agency in the Twin Cities. Prior to joining Denali, where her accounts include Best Buy, Great River Energy, and Major Floteler, she worked at MRM Worldwide, the Lacey Group, Life Time Fitness, Ashanti Eaton, and Campbell Mithun. L'Allet lives in Minneapolis. Lori (Thoma) Byrne and her husband, Matthew, announced the birth of their second child in June. The couple resides in St. Joseph. Dana Flint is director of choral activities at Underwood High School. She has prior choral conducting experience at Parkers Prairie High School and Fergus Falls Middle School. Her husband, Mike, is a farm and crop consultant for Crop and Soil Associates. They reside in Elbow Lake with their two sons. Suzanne Vivier was named the Outstanding American Indian of the Year by the Minnesota Indian Education Association. A White Earth Band of Ojibwe enrollee, Vivier teaches first grade in the Bagley school system and previously taught at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School. She and her husband, Eugene, have two young sons.

Betsy Kokett-Nordin was recognized as a Teacher of Outstanding Performance (TOP) within the Anoka Hennepin school district, where she has been employed for 11 years. The school district selects 20 teachers from those nominated by parents for the TOP honor, with four selected to receive a grant and cash award. Kokett-Nordin, who currently teaches in Oak View Middle School, was one of the four recipients. She and her husband, Thomas (’99), live in Andover with two young children. Shane Bauer recently started a new company, Laughingstock Design, in Duluth. Bauer specializes in projects that bring levity and positive thinking to promotions, projects, and design challenges. Prior to starting his company, he worked as promotion and design director for Grandma's Natural Foods. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two children.

Marnie Carter has joined the Ad Monkeys agency in Grand Forks as a production manager responsible for client relations, project research, writing, and scheduling. She joined Ad Monkeys after working with Goldmark Property Management, and serving as finance administrator with the non-profit touring group Up With People. Bob Kreye and his wife, Erika, are the proud parents of a new daughter born in August. He works as a senior environmental health and safety specialist for Medtronic in Fridley, while she is a registered nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. The couple now has two children.

Kevin Greenwood began the current school year as the new assistant to the superintendent in the International Falls school district. Grover started his career as a math teacher at Falls High School and previously served the district as assistant administrator at the high school. He lives in International Falls.

Robin McRae is currently a resident prosthetist at Prosthetic Laboratories in Rochester. He is a 2007 graduate of the Northwestern University School of Medicine with a degree in prosthetics. Trista Diem brings experience in real estate appraising and real estate investment to her new position as an agent in the Brainerd/Baxter Edina Realty office. She and her husband, Jared (’98), live in Cross Lake with their three young children. Jared teaches fourth grade in Baxter and also coaches the girls’ volleyball team. Troy Mills and his wife, Denise, announced the birth of their first child in September. Mills is employed at Lakewood Health System in Staples. The family resides in Garfield. John Kalls is a new math instructor at Lancaster schools. He is back in the classroom after a one-year stint as a mechanical engineer. He had previously taught math for 11 years in Minnesota and Arizona. He and his wife, Kathleen, who teaches in Greenbush, have two children. Kimberly (Algoe) Betcher was inducted into the St. Cloud Technical High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Betcher, currently the programming director at the Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center, competed in swimming, track, and basketball while in high school and later in track at BSU. She and her husband, Joshua (’98), live in Detroit Lakes.

Ryan and Kristin (Dalhberg) Brovold live in Clear Lake. He recently was named academic dean at Rasmussen College in St. Cloud, and she works as an adult protection and adult services social worker in Wright County. They have two young daughters.

The Rev. Steven Anderson has been installed as the pastor at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in Braham. Anderson previously served as pastor at Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church in Crosslake after being employed at Solvay Pharmaceuticals for 10 years. He studied at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He and his wife, Joanne, have two adult children. Dave Rocheleau has been named the activities director for Pierz schools. Rocheleau had served as a math teacher and head baseball coach in the district since 1988.

Karrie (Schirmers) Boser has joined the Pierz Healy High School administrative team as principal for grades 7-12. Prior to accepting her current position, she served as principal at Long Prairie High School, dean of students at Brainerd High School, a business teacher at Pierz Healy High School, and an assistant to the superintendent in that school district. Boser earned a master’s degree at the University of Minnesota and an administrative license from St. Cloud State University. She and her husband, Brian, have four young children and live in Pierz.

Tony Aho has received the North Branch Education Association Teacher of the Year Award. A coach and educator in North Branch, he was the North Suburban Conference Coach of the Year and his wrestlers were recognized as one of the top 10 academic wrestling programs in Minnesota Class AA. He, his wife Rhonda, and two daughters live in Stanchfield. Kay Netzerberg has been hired as assistant speech pathologist for Nevis schools. A current school board member, she formerly taught on the elementary level within the district. She and husband, Olaf (’92), live in Nevis.

Randy Finn has been appointed the deputy executive director of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Business Committee. He previously held positions in the fields of health, self-governance, special projects, and planning with AmeriCorps. A resident of Cass Lake, he has a master’s degree from UW-Superior.

John Richards is an aggregate supervisor with Knife River in the corporation’s north central region. He and his wife, Sara, make their home in Royalton. Roy Booth of Bemidji will publish Roy C. Booth’s Theater of the Macabre, a collection of one-act plays, an (Continued on page 18)
adoption of a short story, and a previously published essay on the portrayal of dark, speculative fiction on the stage. He currently owns and operates Roy's Comics and Games in Hibbing and Bemidji.

1988 James Retka has been appointed dean of workforce and economic development at Northland Community and Technical College, where he had been serving as a manufac-
turing specialist with the school's Center for Outreach and Innovation. Retka, who lives in Thief River Falls, has more than 15 years experience in manufacturing, engineering, and training.

1987 Sally Kerbaugh of Annandale brings 19 years of classroom experience to her new position of teaching sixth-grade reading in Maple Lake schools. Ann Marie Lubovich is the new choir director at Chisholm High School. In addition to her choir assignment, she teaches music to students in kindergarten through sixth grades as well as a junior high general music class.

1986 Jeff Peterson was named the Hutchinson-School District Teacher of the Year. He taught in Badger and Cedar Falls, IA, before accepting a business education position in Hutchinson in 1997. His wife, Toni ('88), is an occupational therapist. They and their two children reside in Darwin.

1985 Terry Furlong was appointed last fall to fill a vacancy on the North St. Paul City Council until the November general elections. He co-owns Furlong Liquors and has chaired the North St. Paul Parks Commission since 1993. Ray and Ruby (Scham-
burg) Schenkel are teaching at Moss Street Elementary in Reidsville, NC. Charlie Waring has resigned as head baseball coach at Sauk Centre High School after 18 years in that position. Waring compiled a 222-177 record and advanced teams three times to the state tournament. He will continue to teach health. Cindy Gorski has been hired as the new elementary physical education teacher at Lakeside Elementary in Chisago City. She previously was employed as a truancy pre-
vention worker at the Chisago Lakes Middle School and taught K-8 physical education for seven years in Cleveland, OH. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Chisago City.

1984 John White earned a doctorate in exercise science from the University of Mis-
sissippi after receiving his master’s degree from Bemidji State. He is currently regional health director for all Dow Chemical Com-
pany sites in Texas. A four-year letterman and NAIA All-America second team selection as an undergraduate at UW-Eau Claire, he was recently inducted into the Blugold Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Barb ('83), live in Lake Jackson, TX, and have three children.

1983 Paul Yantes is a financial advisor for US Bancorp Investments in Plymouth. He and his wife, Shari, live in Maple Grove with their two children.

1982 Jim Scanlan returned to the East Grand Forks High School boy's hockey team as its head coach this year. Also the Green Wave athletic director, he previously coached the team for 10 years before resigning in 2006. He and his wife, Cyndy ('81), reside in East Grand Forks.

1981 Mary Beth Anderson is a sales associate with Coldwell Banker Real Estate in Park Rapids. She and her husband, Rob, had moved to that area in 1996. He worked as a commodity broker, and she owned Mary Bees women’s boutiques in Dorset and Park Rapids, which she sold in 2007. Prior to moving north, she was an elementary teacher in the Twin Cities. Karen Gustafson Linne is a half-time supply pastor at Pike Lake Community Presbyterian Church. A graduate of Luther Seminary and ordained in 2002, she served as pastor of Salem Church in Mahtowa for six years. She and her hus-
band, Mark ('80), are residents of Duluth and have two grown children.

1980 Stephen Pitzen has published the novel The Flowers of Autumn, which relates the story of a developmentally disabled adult and a child who live in a small, northern Min-
nesota town in the 1980s. The book, Pitzen’s first, also contains three short stories. He has been a social worker for Cass County Health and Human Services for 20 years. He and his wife, Mary ('79), live in Benedict.

1979 Dr. James Tuorila was elected to serve as the surgeon general for the Veteran of Foreign Wars, the fifth-highest position in the national organization serving 1.6 mil-
lion veterans. Tuorila was recognized as the VFW National Outstanding VA Health Care Worker of the Year just prior to his retirement from the Veteran’s Administration, where he had served as a psychologist. Named a 1997 Bemidji State Outstanding Alumnus, he and his wife, Diane, live in St. Cloud.

1978 Trika (Guyer) Smith was recognized by Itasca Community College (ICC) as a 2008 Alumnus of the Year. Smith graduated from Itasca in 1976 before attending BSLU to earn a math education degree. She began her teaching career at ICC following graduation and has served on the math faculty since that time. She is a charter member of the school’s alumni association board of directors.

1977 Sharon (Midkiff) Randolph has completed the first two volumes of the Connecting Us to the Sun, a series of books chronicling trav-
ellers as they made their way to the Northern Rockies, the creation of Glacier National Park, and the settlement of towns in Montana. The four-work series follows the history through the end of World War II. Randolph has served as the student development coordinator at Flathead Valley Community College in Kal-
ispell, MT, for the past 17 years. She and her hus-
band, Gerry, live in Columbus Falls, MT.

1976 Sandy Eberhart has been named the new community education coordinator in the Bemidji school district. She previously held the same position in Park Rapids for 16 years and was a teacher in Detroit Lakes for six years.

1974 Adele (Levchak) Munsterman won an at-large seat on the Education Minnesota governing board at the teacher union’s state representative convention (this was reported incorrectly in the fall issue of Horizon). She and her husband, Walt, live in Brooklyn Park. Dennis Erickson is the new industrial tech-
nology teacher at Willow River High School. He retired with more than 20 years at the prison in Sandstone, had taught three years in Mazeppa, and worked in construction for sev-
eral years. He and his wife, Barb, live in Pine City. The couple has two adult children.

1973 Don Johnson retired from teaching technical education in Chetek, WI, area schools after 35 years. During that time he also coached football for 27 years and wrest-
ing for 25 seasons. He and his wife, Lynda, live in Eau Claire, WI, and have two grown children.

1972 Rod Schwarzeck was named Teacher of the Year by the Bemidji Education Asso-
ciation. He recently retired after teaching physical education, health, and developmen-
Death of a Hired Man. He originally wrote the publishing date for his third novel, National Guard Hero of the Year for his ser-

munity members to bring quality music to the clinic that addresses health and medical needs of local economi-

cally and socially disadvantaged individuals or families.

Allen Ramussen has been appointed to the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Rasmussen is an educa-
tional consultant who served as president of Rainy River Community College from 1993 to 2001. He was appointed to the board as a public member for a two-year term. The board is responsible for licensing and disciplining physicians as well as regulating acupunct-

ists, athletic trainers, physician assistants, and respiratory care practitioners.

Edith Dalleska designed and created a quilt that was featured on the cover of the 2008-09 Women's Directory published by the Women's Press in St. Paul. She created the quilt, "Woman with a Large Purse," in response to a challenge by the Minnesota Contempo-
rary Quilters to represent life on the Missis-
sippi. The quilt shows a strong, young woman holding a purse depicting a sunfish in reds, oranges, yellows, and blue. Dalleska lives in St. Paul. Tom Kinnunen was inducted into the Mountain Iron-Buhl Football Hall of Fame. Kinnunen was named the Minnesota Daily News Player of the Year while competing for Mountain Iron in the late 1950s. He pursued a career in education, serving as a teacher, coach, and administrator in the Grand Rapids area. He and his wife of 47 years Connie live in Grand Rapids and have two children.

Hersbert Day taught sixth grade for 35 years, primarily in North St. Paul schools. He and Virginia, his wife of 47 years and a music teacher, raised two daughters – both of whom are also educators. The couple lives in New Brighton.

IrV St. John has been inducted into the Northern Sun Intercolligate Conference Athletic Hall of Fame. A four-year letterman in baseball, track, and basketball at Bemidji State, St. John led the Beavers to three con-

ference basketball titles during his four years on campus. At Duluth East High School, he compiled a 243-118 record during a basketball

coaching career that produced six conference
crowns, two regional titles, and two state championships. He and his wife, Pat, live in Duluth.

Bruce Jamieson retired from the education field 21 years ago, when he and his wife, Burna (Krugler), moved to a Del Webb retirement community in Lincoln, CA, 20 miles northeast of Sacramento. They remain active in gardening, reading, walking, and other endeavors.

Signie Burke celebrated her 106th birthday with family and friends at the Guardian Angels facility in Hibbing. Burke was born on the Iron Range in 1902 and taught elementary education in Goodland until 1967.
Jaime LeDuc remembers wondering about the letter that arrived in the mail at the start of her senior year at Bemidji State University. The student athlete had never before received a letter from the BSU Foundation, so she was curious. Little did she know an affirmation of her dreams was sealed inside.

LeDuc was preparing for her final season with the women's hockey team, a tenure that started with uncertainties surrounding her as an un-recruited skater. She opened the envelope to read she was the 2007-2008 recipient of the Jack and Marie St. Martin endowed scholarship for hockey.

"That letter was a sweet surprise," she says. "Hockey means a lot to me, and I feel I put a lot of my heart into it. I dreamed of playing hockey in an NCAA Division I program, and the scholarship affirmed my commitment to my passion."

A three-time captain, four-time letter winner, and all-time leading scorer at International Falls High School, she had no college athletic scholarship offers and feared her competitive skating days were over. Some even told her outright she couldn't make it at the Division I level.

That sentiment wasn't shared by her parents or coach. So she increased her workouts, began power lifting, ran longer, and grabbed the chance to walk-on at BSU.
Three years after she earned a spot on the roster, the letter brought her hard work full-circle. Her final season capped a career where she appeared in 117 games, skated to a stunning road-win against a University of Minnesota powerhouse, earned an athletic scholarship as a junior, and was named to the WCHA All-Academic Team.

The St. Martins began funding hockey scholarships when BSU started a Division I women’s team in 1998. As friends of men’s coach Bob Peters, they understood the need for added support.

“We had been giving to the BSU Foundation since it started in the 1970s,” Jack says. “Bob said they needed scholarships for the great kids they were recruiting. We felt we could help by doing more.”

So they funded a hockey award and endowed another with the recipient alternating annually between the men’s and women’s programs. The Bemidji residents have since added an endowment for a Native American scholar-

“That letter was a sweet surprise. Hockey means a lot to me, and I feel I put a lot of my heart into it. I dreamed of playing hockey in an NCAA Division I program, and the scholarship affirmed my commitment to my passion.”

Jaime LeDuc

ship, as well as support for BSU students employed at Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), which the St. Martins franchised in Bemidji during the early 1960s. Their KFC enterprise grew to five restaurants in the region and four express outlets in Las Vegas. Like LeDuc, their dream started with uncertainty. They gambled by moving in 1974 to Bemidji’s west side, a residential area surrounded by jack pines. After tapping their friends and finances, they opened with $12.48 in the cash register.

“If someone would have come in with a $20 bill, we’d have been in deep, deep trouble,” Marie remembers. “We were lucky. Now you can’t do business like that. We made and overcame our mistakes. Today you can’t afford to make mistakes. That’s why education is so important.”

From Grand Rapids and International Falls respectively, neither Jack nor Marie continued their education beyond high school. Their son Brian, a BSU graduate who operates the Bemidji KFC, was the first from either family to earn a bachelor’s degree.

“We support scholarships because it is an opportunity to give back to Bemidji, the Native American community, and to Bemidji State because they have been good to us,” says Jack.

LeDuc used the St. Martin scholarship to pursue her academic dream as well. Active in water sports while growing up on Rainy Lake, she is majoring in aquatic biology.

“I liked being on water and always wondered what was going on below the surface,” says LeDuc, a fifth-year senior who is completing her degree with emphases in fish-
The President’s Society recognizes the University’s most generous contributors. Membership includes individuals, families, and organizations and is based on lifetime cumulative giving to the Bemidji State University Foundation. Members are recognized for gifts and pledges at the levels listed below:

**The Trustees’ Society** ($1,000,000+)
- The George W. Nelson Foundation

**The Chancellor’s Society** ($500,000 to $999,999)
- 3M Inc.
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- Dr. M. James and Nancy Benson
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**The Directors’ Society** ($100,000 to $249,999)
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- Jeff and Kathy Baumgartner/Circle B Properties
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- Enbridge Energy Company, Inc.
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**The Builders’ Society** ($50,000.00 to $99,999)
- Bank Forward
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- Dr. Ruth Howe
- William and Better* Howe
- Paul and Lynn Hunt
- Esther F. Instebo
- Johannesson’s, Inc.
- Kraus-Anderson Construction Company - North Division
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Marvin Lumber & Cedar Co
- MeritCare Clinic Bemidji
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Miller McDonald, Inc.
- Alex Milowski
- Harry Moore
- Charles Naylor
- William and Donna Mae Naylor
- Net Bottling, Inc.
- North Country Business Products
- Northern Light FX Sound & Lighting Equipment
- Northwest Minnesota Foundation
- Dr. Harold T. Peters

**The Ambassadors’ Society** ($25,000 to $49,999)
- J. M. Foundation
- Altech Associates Inc.
- American Legion Post 14
- Winnifred Anderson
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- Beaver Bookstore
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- Kopp Family Foundation
- Alan Koerp & Martha Nelson
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- Lake Region Rodeo and Jamboree
- League of Women Voters - Bemidji Area
- Drs. Gordon and Alice Lindgren
- James and Janet Love
- Minnesota Energy Resources
- Diane Moe & Thomas Fitzgerald
- Gary and Marlene Moe
- Sharon Moe
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Chargers, like the one on the left, are “awards of distinction” created especially for the President’s Society by Visual Arts Professor and Department Chair John “Batch” Holden. The award honors donors with cumulative giving of $50,000 or more.

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Control Staff
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Caroline Czarnecki
The Legacy Society recognizes those who have made a deferred or planned gift to the BSU Foundation. The society has grown from 43 charter members when it formed in 2002 to 782 members today.

Donald Anderson
Joan Campbell Anderson
Boris and Caroline Andric
Jessie Baer
H.C. Bae
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Dan & Terri Bergan
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Marie Bishop
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Gunnar Budgeman
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Joe and Jenifer Carson
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Almond (Al) and Shalyn Clark
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Margaret H. Johnson

Peggy (Marvin) & Sam Johnson
Vince Johnson
Willbur Johnson
Johanna Jordan
Pat and William Kelly
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Margaret Ann Kircher
Lillie M. Klein
Curt and Sue Kringen
Eva & Roy Lind
Neil B. and Patricia McMurrin
Nelmae Melville
Margaret (Peggy) Miles
John & Sue Minter
John & Walli Mitchell
Dorothy L. Moore
Harry Moore
Claude W. Morris
Bertie Murray
George Murray
Judy & Norman Nelson
Raymond Nelson
Willard & Alhonna Nelson
John O’Boyle
Charlie O’Connor
David & Diane Parmore
Lawrence Perkins
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David Lee Peterson
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Joanne M. Provo
Jon & Trish Quistgaard
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Patricia Rosenbrock
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Christel & Jeff Wallin
Victor Weber
Robert & Jeannette Welles
Wesley Winter
Sherry Yinimite
Robert & Sherry Young
Charles & Susan Zielein
Anonymous Members
*Deceased
Charter Members
Long before the concept of “paying it forward” became popular, Jim Heltzer’s mother Berneice practiced the ideal. In her will, she bequeathed him some money and included a simple stipulation: He had to give it away. And, as prescribed by the paying-forward concept, he passed on his good fortune to others.

“My mother specifically left the money to do what I could for others,” says Jim, who decided to fund scholarships at Bemidji State University. “There were students locally who might not otherwise afford to go to the University, and the scholarships were to provide the margin they needed to get through school.”

Jim gave the money to the BSU Foundation where endowments established three Jim and Marilyn Heltzer Scholarships—one each in education, political science, and music. Those areas were important to the Heltzers. Both started their professional careers in teaching, are politically active, and enjoy Bemidji State’s music performances.

In the fall of 2008, one of the scholarships was awarded to Patrick Bright, a political science senior from Bemidji. A graduate of TrekNorth charter school in Bemidji, he enrolled at BSU to become a social studies teacher. However, a class in political science changed his academic interest and professional aspirations. When he finishes his bachelor’s degree this spring, he will head to graduate school.

“History was always a passion of mine, but political science in this day and age seems much more relevant,” he says. “History is an interconnected part of political science; it provides the framework for moving forward.”

“This scholarship is a big thing. It recognizes the work I’ve done in the department, but it’s a lot more. As a low income student, this...
will allow me to pay for my tuition and books without taking out another loan. Worrying about how to pay for my undergraduate credits is the last thing I need going into grad school."

Bright has applied to the University of Pittsburgh, Miami of Ohio, Purdue, and several other universities that have strong international programs and student exchanges in Asia, Japan, or China. At Bemidji State, he has focused his academic attention on international relations, comparative politics, and security and conflict issues.

For the Heltzers, supporting BSU students like Bright was an easy decision, even though neither had been on campus before they moved to Bemidji in 1990. Jim arrived as the city's new director of housing and redevelopment. His wife Marilyn, a retiree, eventually became the station manager for the Minnesota Public Radio affiliate in town.

“When we arrived, the University wasn't even on our radar,” Marilyn says. “But BSU is an incredible place. It has a wonderful reputation and academics, and we have been really impressed with what the University contributes in terms of culture, arts, and people.”

“And economics,” Jim adds quickly. He has seen that impact first-hand as a three-term county commissioner. "In a lot of cities, there's separation between town and gown. My first teaching job was at a junior high school in a college town where the college was literally and figuratively on a hill above town. But here it is reversed. You find great contributions by University personnel doing things for the community all the time."

Bright hopes to be an emissary beyond campus as he pursues his primary goal of teaching on a college campus.

"I really want to teach students that political science is not only what you see on TV. It's not just red versus blue. There are so many intricacies, but the most intriguing part is seeing how people use politics to relate to each other.

"If I can create that spark of interest in one student, change that person and get them interested in the world, then I'll feel I've made a difference."

And in the process, pay forward good fortune that arrived in the form of a scholarship established many years before.
At age 85, Bertha Evenson fell and injured her hip at a care facility for the elderly. Doctors said healing would come with bed rest, a treatment directive that went unheeded at the facility. Prompted to walk despite her objections, Evenson fractured her hip. She would never take another step and was confined to a wheelchair until she died in 1984.

She and her six children were determined to prevent others from suffering due to preventable mistakes. Their inspiration arose from the echoes of Evenson’s pain-driven plea at the time of her injury, “Please don’t let this happen to anyone else.”

Her call to action became a reality while she was alive. Using a settlement from an ensuing court case, her family established the Bertha Evenson Scholarship for nursing students interested in working with long-term care patients.

“It was a terrible thing to see that happen to my mother, and it wasn’t good to see anyone suffer,” remembers Bonnie Swanson, one of Evenson’s children. “She was a humble, giving person. She was interested in the simple things. She lived through the Depression, was never boastful, and was a hard worker.

“We thought there was little we could do for her with the settlement, but maybe we could do something for others. There had to be a lot of small towns like the one she lived in where there were facilities with inadequate training to understand when someone was really hurting. It was tragic that the end of her life was spent in misery, but she would be pleased about what’s happening with the scholarship.”

Pleased, indeed.

Twenty years after the scholarship was created, Dawn Benson
Benson, who didn’t start out to work in long-term care, became an Evenson scholarship recipient.

As a nurse in training, Benson of Hill City, made various professional nursing rounds to learn which she liked or disliked. In a nursing home, she witnessed an accident caused by a nursing assistant error, saw the terrible results of the mistake, and vowed never to work in geriatrics.

Her decision, however, changed a short time later when Benson added weekend shifts to a 40-hour week to help make ends meet. As a temporary worker, she was assigned to nursing homes, and her earlier views about them soon disappeared.

“I fell in love with the patients, their stories, their personalities, and their histories,” says Benson, now a BSU senior. A registered nurse at that time, she began working at Evergreen Terrace Nursing Home in Grand Rapids, and, six years later, is the assistant director of nursing. Among her duties is the training of nursing assistants.

A single mother with three pre-teen and teenage children, Benson recognizes the impact the scholarship has had on her family and her future. She is paying for her own education, so the grant makes this year’s education loan smaller and enables her to put a bit more into the budget for her kids and their needs.

She also appreciates how the BSU program fits her needs. She travels to BSU once every two or three weeks for a full day of classes and completes other requirements online.

“I couldn’t do a program where I had to be on campus,” explains Benson, who has a 14-credit course load this fall. “I have to work 40-plus hours and try to keep things as normal as possible at home by attending all of the kids’ games and school functions.”

Once she graduates, Benson will enroll in a master’s program with similar flexibility, so she can become a nurse practitioner. She already talks about a future where she will travel to nursing homes in the Grand Rapids area to treat and diagnose residents while also educating family and staff on proper care.

“I firmly believe that nothing happens by chance,” says Benson. “There’s a reason I ended up wanting to get into this field and for what happened to Bertha Evenson. I think it’s great that her family used a tragedy to help other people. It has definitely made a difference in my life.”

### Statement of Position

**June 30, 2008**

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Contributions Receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td>Contributions Receivable</td>
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<td>Remainder Interest in Real Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Surrender Value Life Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,698,936</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Termination Benefit Payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annuities Payable, Current Portion</td>
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<td>Accrued Interest Payable</td>
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<td>Note Payable, Current Portion</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Long-term Liabilities</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Termination Benefit Payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annuities Payable, Long Term Portion</td>
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<td>Note Payable, Long Term Portion</td>
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<td><strong>Total Long Term Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<td>University Fund</td>
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<td>Alumni House Acquisition</td>
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<td>Plant Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Permanently Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,698,936</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opportunities and a legacy – those were Eva Lind’s hope for the BSU scholarships that would be established in her family’s name following her death. In 1998, her expectation was expressed in the form of the largest gift, over $409,000, ever given by an individual to help BSU students achieve their academic goals. Since then, the Lind scholarships in elementary education, mass communication, and visual arts are presented each year.

Joshua Christensen, one of 15 undergraduates who received a 2008-09 Roy and Eva Lind Scholarship, fully understands the opportunity he’s been given.

The Department of Mass Communication set aside one award this year to fund a student who would work at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver. A senior from Ramsey, with majors in both mass communication and political science, Christensen earned the scholarship through a competitive selection process.

“This was a life-changing experience,” Christensen says. “When I was notified about the scholarship, I remember asking my family, ‘What if this changes everything?’ and I think it has. This was about being a professional, especially since I was able to do fieldwork in the media. It affected me personally and professionally. It gave me confidence and motivation.”

Prior to the convention, he attended meetings to learn about the operation of the political event and covered protests for Denver’s ABC affiliate KMGH-TV, shooting video and blogging on their website. He also negotiated press credentials to hear former President Bill Clinton address the delegates, see Joe Biden accept the vice presidential nomination, and watch the eventual party nominee, Barack Obama, make a surprise appearance.

Those experiences fit well into Christensen’s career aspirations, which include a dream job covering the political beat as a TV journalist in Washington, DC. He fully understands that he needs to earn this type of assignment by starting in a small market, gaining experience as a reporter, and working his way through the system.

He started building his professional base in Bemidji. In the three years since transferring to campus from Anoka Ramsey Community College, he has volunteered and worked at Lakeland Public Television. At the station, he has shot video, created news packages, conducted interviews, and performed behind-the-scenes jobs. For campus station KBSU-TV, he staffs the master control console for hockey broadcasts and provides on-air talent for basketball games.
Fulfilling the opportunity component of Eva Lind’s vision, Christensen is now beginning to carry out the expectation part of the formula as one of 220 students receiving a Lind scholarship in the past decade. These “Lind alumni” are teaching fourth graders, writing news stories, and creating ceramics. They also are early childhood educators, public relations specialists, and studio photographers. They work in clinics, ad agencies, and university systems.

The recipients are working in communities in three foreign countries and 14 states, from Soldotna, AK, to Coral Gables, FL, and from Burbank, CA, to Leesville, SC. The majority remain in Minnesota, living in cities from Alexandria to Zimmerman.

Eva was born and raised near Bagley in a family originally from Sweden. She graduated from Bemidji State in 1928 and taught on the Iron Range for a few years before moving west. She married Roy, a carpenter, in Great Falls, MT, where she continued teaching for 38 years. After retiring, the couple returned to Minnesota. Roy, who died in 1996, and Eva created the gift to the University as part of the dispensation of their estate.

“I would thank her and her husband, with all my heart for giving me this once-in-a-lifetime experience and giving other students their opportunities as well,” Christensen mentions when asked what he might say to the Linds if they were alive today. “It will help my career to say I got the scholarship to work at the convention and that will create more opportunities in the future.”

It also completes the equation the Linds envisioned when establishing their endowment: opportunities + expectations = legacies.
CAMPUS Calendar

January 1  Summer Session Class Schedule On Line
January 12  Spring Semester Classes Begin
February 6  Summer Session Class Schedule Available in Print
March 2  Summer School Registration Begins
March 12-13  Early Childhood Mega Conference
March 20-21; March 27-29  Spring Musical, "Cabaret"
April 8  Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference
May 8  Commencement

ADMISSIONS

Campus Preview
Friday, January 23
Friday, January 30
Monday, February 2 - Transfer Preview Day
Friday, February 15
Monday, March 16
Friday, April 3
Monday, April 20 - Junior Preview Day

Academic Advising and Registration

FRESHMEN (Fridays)  TRANSFER STUDENTS (Fridays)
March 20  April 3
March 27  May 15
April 17  June 19
April 24  July 24
June 26

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March 20-21; March 27-29  Spring Musical, "Cabaret"
April 8  Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference
May 8  Commencement

Snow Ball  January 31
Featuring Jazz I and vocalists
For More Details - 218-755-2915

For More Details - 218-755-2915

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