

Modest Progress

Funding for capital bonding projects remains lean

News from St. Paul regarding this year's capital bonding projects has been disappointing for most MnSCU institutions, including Bemidji State. The University's requests as advanced by the Board of Trustees included repair and betterment projects; land acquisition dollars for the high school property; architectural design funds for a major project involving Sanford and Memorial Halls, along with the student union; a Hagg-Sauer psychology department classroom and laboratory renovation project; and demolition funds for Maple Hall. Unfortunately, these requests either did not survive the legislative conference committee or were line-item vetoed by the Governor.

The University will receive \$1.75 million for some asset preservation and enhancement projects to be completed this summer.

Because of the University's many successes in the past few legislative sessions and with the Governor's Office, my expectations for this session were modest given our Minnesota State Colleges and Universities 2010 Capital Budget Request rankings. Our projects were ranked from 24 to 31. It takes time for projects to advance from their lower position on the MnSCU list to the top.

The Governor's veto of the higher-ranked capital projects the past two years created a backlog going into the session. In addition, a \$42 million capital request that was higher on the MnSCU list this year impacted lower-ranked projects such as ours. At the end of the day, the Governor's use of the line-item veto appears to have reduced the total MnSCU capital-bonding request to approximately the same level as the University of Minnesota, which had more modest requests this year. Thus, we were caught this year by the lower rankings of our projects, which will gradually move up the list, and by the Governor's desire for a much leaner bonding bill this legislative session.

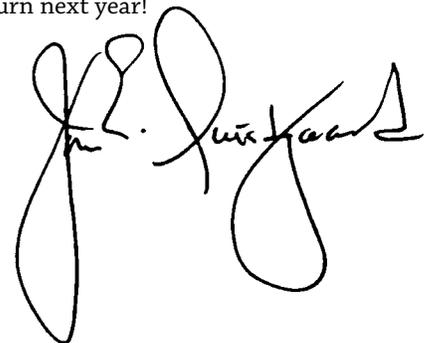
We should be heartened, however, by the support and successes that Bemidji State University has experienced this decade for our capital bonding projects. The campus has received more than \$10 million in asset en-

The campus has received **more than \$10 million in asset enhancement projects and more than \$50 million in facility enhancements this decade.**

hancement projects for new roofs, elevators, heating plant improvements, chiller units, lift stations, new pathways and electrical updates. Facility enhancements have included the American Indian Resource Center, Bridgeman Hall, the nursing clinical laboratory and Sattgast Hall. Capital expenditures for these facilities totaled more than \$50 million. With the use of revenue funds, the University also renovated Linden Hall for \$8.5 million.

We may still receive some good news on the revenue-fund side for a proposed \$6.5 million Birch Hall renovation project. If this proposed project is successful, the updated Birch Hall would re-open in fall semester 2011, with Maple Hall used to accommodate displaced students during the construction period.

Undoubtedly, this has been a very difficult year for continuing the capital bonding momentum that advances the University's 40-year facilities master plan. However, through the diligence of many people, including former and current legislators as well as special friends of the University, the campus has leaped forward in transforming itself rather dramatically. Let's hope the momentum will return next year!




what'sinside

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- BTC hosts "The Adrian Project" hands-on workshop with IRS agents.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program offers free tax help through April 15
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Dean finalists wrap up campus visits next week

University hosts three finalists for dean of College of Arts & Sciences

► Finalist bio briefs available at BSU Today:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2010/03/11/cas-dean-finalists>

Bemidji State has announced four finalists for its position of dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The finalists are **Dr. Jon Dalager**, chair of the Department of Political Science at Georgetown (Ky.) College; **Dr. Paul Faber**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Fort Hays (Kan.) State University; and **Dr. P. Joan Poor**, assistant to the president for planning at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Dalager was on campus to interview for the position on March 18-19, while Faber visited the University on March 25-26.

Poor's interview is slated for Thursday and Friday, April 1-2.

Dr. Daniel Brown, dean of University College, Texas A&M Kingsville and associate professor of biology at Texas A&M, was scheduled to interview for the position early next week, but withdrew his candidacy for the position late this week.

Brief bios of the finalists are available at BSU Today. For more information on the search, please contact search committee chair Bob Griggs, associate vice president for extended learning and library, at 2068 or rgriggs@bemidjistate.edu.

A reminder about opportunities to meet with Poor during her visit to campus next week will be sent out via the Fac-Staff mailing list.

Bemidji State hosts "Adrian Project"

BSU first school in Minnesota to host IRS student financial crimes workshop

► Complete story available at BSU Today:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2010/03/08/bsu-irs-fraud-conference>

► Bemidji State on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/BemidjiState>

Embezzlers? Busted. Bar owners with a second set of secret books? Nabbed. Tax cheats? Pinched.

Perpetrators of various financial crimes were hunted down by Bemidji State University accounting students during a one-day seminar on Friday, March 26, when the College of Business, Technology and Communication played host to "The Adrian Project."

The project, a collaboration with universities and the Internal Revenue Service which began at Adrian (Mich.) College in 2002, turned teams of students into "special agents for a day," coached

by experienced special agents or retired agents, as they identify and attempt to solve a finance-based crime scenario involving an informant, played by Vice President **Bill Maki**, delivering information on potentially criminal financial activities at a fictional local snack shop.

The event at BSU marks the first time the Adrian Project has been implemented at a college or university in Minnesota, and it is thought to be the largest student group to participate.

Photos from the event's kickoff are available on the University's Facebook fan page.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program underway

Free tax help available Tuesday and Wednesday evenings through April 15

► Complete story available at BSU Today:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2010/01/15/vita-program-starts-feb-3>

Bemidji State students who have completed the Tax I course and passed Internal Revenue Service certification tests are again donating their time to the community for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

The free workshop is open from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays through Thursday, April 15, in Decker Hall 14.

The student volunteers will use their tax knowledge to provide assistance to other students, including international students with special requirements, low-income and elderly individuals in the area who may be uncomfortable or

unfamiliar with tax law and filing requirements.

The program not only offers free preparation, but also free e-filing for those who qualify. With e-filing and direct deposit, those who qualify typically receive their refund in eight to 10 days. In the preparation process persons who qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit are able to receive a larger refund than just the taxes that have been withheld from their paychecks over the tax year.

Minnesota Property Tax Refunds for Renters can also be prepared and e-filed by VITA. However these refunds do not usually arrive until late July or early August.



Supporting those affected by the Regency Park fire

Beltrami County requests aid in the form of monetary donations, gift cards

Bemidji State has received word from the Beltrami County communications office that victims of Monday's fire at the Regency Apartments are most in need of monetary donations and gift cards. These donations will enable the fire victims to get medications, personal items and other necessary supplies that were destroyed or damaged in the fire.

Cash or gift card donations may be dropped off or mailed to: Mt. Zion Church in Nymore or the United Way of Bemidji. The church's address is: 414 Lincoln Ave SE, Bemidji, MN

56601. The United Way is located in the downtown Wells Fargo Bank Building, P.O. Box 27, Bemidji MN 56619.

At this time, clothing is not being requested. If you have clothing or other items to donate at this time, please take them to the local Goodwill, St. Philip's Clothing Depot or the Seventh Day Adventist's Clothing Depot.

On two Saturdays in April, April 10 and 24, Churches United will host an event at their warehouse located at 4th St NW and Park Ave (tan building with green trim) to solicit gently

used furniture and household goods -- dishes, towels, pots and pans, etc. No appliances will be accepted; these should be taken to Habitat Restore in the Industrial Park. Clothing donations are limited to new items only. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will be on hand to assist.

Anyone with available housing is asked to call (218) 333-8320 or (218) 333-8386 and leave your information. The county will add the information to the list of housing options that have already been identified.

Friday, March 26, 2010

Staff Feature

Dan Wiltse, Catering Director, Dining Services

What's your job at BSU?

"I am the catering director."

How long have you been here?

"This is my fourth year at BSU - I've been here since 2005. Before that, I owned the 71 Bar."

What's your favorite thing about being at BSU?

"Getting a chance to work with all of the organizations and groups and meeting various types of people."

Inside the Beaver's Studio

1. What is your favorite word?

"Loser."

2. What is your least favorite word?

"You're wrong."

3. What turns you on?

"Riding my motorcycle. Fast."

4. What turns you off?

"Traffic."

5. What sound do you love?

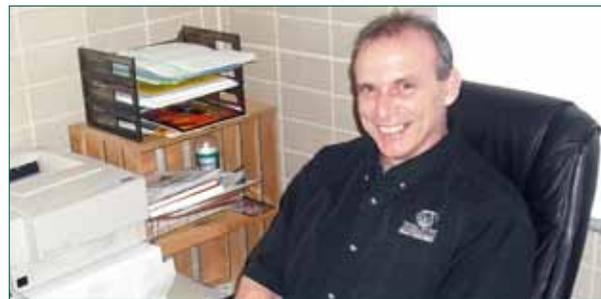
"I like the loud sound of my motorcycle."

6. What sound do you hate?

"Gum chewers."

7. What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?

"Highway patrol."



8. What profession would you not like to do?

"Nursing."

9. If heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the pearly gates?

"Oh, my God, he's here. I'd probably scare him; rather than hell freezing over, I made it up there."

Thanks to Dan for playing along for this issue's staff feature! Participants for this section are selected randomly using a process that involves Kansas watching Kansas State in the Elite Eight from the comfort of their couches at home.

This is intended to be a lighthearted look at the non-professional side of some of our favorite professionals. If you have suggestions for a faculty or staff member you'd like to see featured here, e-mail Andy Bartlett at jbartlett@bemidjistate.edu or call my office at 2746.

Entries for campus notes are compiled by reporters in each college, school or administrative area and submitted to the Office of Communications and Marketing for inclusion in BSU Insider. Photos used in Campus Notes are submitted. Photos for use in Campus Notes can be e-mailed in high-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG format to: jbartlett@bemidjistate.edu



Personnel News

New faces and old friends in new places

- **Kristen Flathers** joined the Office of Admissions, effective March 15.
- **Peggy Nohner** joined the College of Health Sciences and Human Ecology, effective Feb. 2.
- **Carol Hess** joined Business Services as an account clerk senior, effective Feb. 12.

Campus Notes

Updates on the activities and achievements of our friends in the campus community

Academic Affairs

• **Janet Prater**, assistant professor of criminal justice, has been named director of Bemidji State's 2011 Eurospring Study Abroad Program. Eurospring is BSU's longest-running study abroad program, affording students an opportunity to study for five weeks at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford, England, followed by a three-week tour of Europe.

Finance and Administration

• **Bill Maki**, vice president for finance and administration, helped Bemidji State University win one of 12 Excellence in Financial Management awards for 2009, awarded by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The awards are given for significant contributions to increased efficiency and effectiveness of finances and administrative services throughout the institution.

Maki also recently received an Exemplary Leader Award from the Chair Academy, a national organization focused on higher education leadership based in Phoenix. The awards honor those who exemplify the best practices of organizational leadership worldwide. Maki was 11 individuals in the MnSCU system to be honored.

Student Development & Enrollment

• **Dr. Lisa Erwin**, vice president for student development and enrollment; **Mary Tosch**, interim director of the Hobson Memorial Union; and **Chinwuba Okafor**, interim associate director of the Hobson Memorial Union, attended the 2010 National Association for Student Personnel Administrators Annual Conference, March 8-10, in Chicago. Okafor, along with two colleagues from University of Illinois-Urbana and Ohio State University, presented "Legacy of Leadership: Enhancing Graduate Competencies." Okafor and the same team of colleagues entered and won the New Professional category of the NASPA Case Study Competition.

Arts and Sciences

• **Dr. Kathleen Meyer**, professor of languages and ethnic studies, has been participating in an exchange program with the Tampere Professional Institute in Tampere, Finland, teaching several courses in German. Her classes include groups of students just learning German and a more-advanced group.

Business, Technology and Communication

• **Dr. James McCracken**, professor of technological studies, attended the National Policy Seminar of the Association for Career and Technical Education in Washington D.C., March 8-10. While in Washington, D.C., McCracken also visited House and Senate staffers to discuss education issues.



LEFT: Nursing students Heather Sledge and Kari Josefson were part of the Department of Nursing's contingent that attended Nurses Day on the Hill in St. Paul on Feb. 23. At the event, students and nurses travel to the state capitol to advocate for a variety of nursing issues.

Benefit account established for Emma Jennings

Dear BSU community;

Your good wishes and support are greatly appreciated in the HSHE office as we recover from the loss of Coleen Jennings. Several of you have asked what you might do to help Emma Jennings.

I am so pleased to announce that Dr. Pat Welle and Stephanie Hendricks have been working to create an account to help Emma with her tuition and other expenses as she finished her final credits at BSU and moves on toward graduate school at Purdue!

Our cashiers have volunteered to collect donations. Please send your contribution to the BSU cashiers marked "for Emma Jennings."

If you should have any questions, please contact Joann Gardner at 2898 or jgardner@bemidjistate.edu.

Thank you everyone!

Patricia L. Rogers
Dean, HSHE