Prescription for Excellence
Health research moves ahead at Boise State

Kustra Makes the Rounds | Professor of the Year | Ex-Broncos in the NFL
Agriculture may be 13,000 years old, but we still find plenty of room for innovation.

Half a century ago, we invented the frozen french fry. Today, with a global business involving virtually every aspect of food production and distribution, we’re innovating in ways our founder never dreamed of. Like precision fertilization technology that uses satellite-guided machinery to increase yields, raise quality and lower costs. And new menu concepts like Cornados, the world’s first stone-ground corn fry. We’re even opening markets for U.S. beef in Asia. With operations from field to table, the opportunities for innovation never end at Simplot. In fact, like everything we do, they’re growing.
FOCUS FALL 2003, VOL. XXIX, NO. 1

ABOUT THIS ISSUE:
From research on preventing skin cancer to molecular level studies of Alzheimer’s disease, health-related research has emerged as a new area of excellence at Boise State University. Starting on Page 28, this issue of FOCUS looks at ideas being generated in Boise State labs with potential to impact human health. Professors and students are collaborating with regional medical centers, conducting joint projects with universities in Idaho and around the country, and winning multidisciplinary grants from top-tier funding agencies. (Cover photo of biology professor Julia Oxford by John Kelly. Photo below of biology professor Cheryl Jorcyk and her student research team, also by Kelly.)

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DEPARTMENTS
his issue of FOCUS, while highlighting health-related research, speaks volumes about the ongoing transformation under way on the Boise campus. Long heralded as an institution devoted to classroom teaching, Boise State now seeks to add another dimension to its mission — that of a metropolitan research university of distinction.

During the days when Boise was in its early stages of growth, it was sufficient for Boise Junior College and later Boise State University to play the role of the traditional comprehensive university with a strong teaching mission and a very limited research role.

But as the Boise economy morphed into a dynamic marketplace of ideas and products — especially with its highly sophisticated technology sector — and the city became a major metropolitan region, it was inevitable that the city’s university would need to make the transition to a metropolitan research university.

In the pages that follow, you will learn more about the discovery process at Boise State, especially with regard to how our faculty and students are researching and solving some of health sciences’ most challenging issues.

It is far from a complete picture, given the flurry of research activity springing up across the campus.

Of course, we remain committed to our goal of recruiting and supporting faculty who love to teach and work directly with students in the classroom. Our reputation in this area is well deserved and a fact of life on the Boise State campus. What may not be so well known are the individual and collective efforts of our faculty in our colleges and departments to expand their disciplines’ frontiers of knowledge and contribute to the advancement of learning and discovery in our classrooms and laboratories.

As you can see from FOCUS’ reports on biomedical research at Boise State, we are especially committed to research that has practical application. It is not research for research’s sake.

In order to meet the needs of the community we serve, we must also couple our research efforts with additional graduate programs. Our students must have the opportunity to specialize, as graduate programs require, as they refine their knowledge and prepare for advanced careers in their areas of emphasis. Current plans include a Ph.D. in computer and electrical engineering, a Ph.D. in public administration, and a master’s in urban and regional planning.

Building more and higher quality graduate programs will enhance our quest for academic success in at least two ways. First, it will serve the needs of our employer partners who must have knowledgeable workers on the cutting edge of their disciplines. Second, it will strengthen Boise State’s hand in recruiting the very best faculty in the marketplace of teaching and ideas. Most of the nation’s brightest graduate students studying for their places in the professorate of tomorrow are interested in universities that offer opportunities for research and opportunities to teach in graduate programs. Boise State must do both if it is to be a world-class partner to a world-class Boise economy.

Both the research agenda and the development of new graduate programs are very costly items in the university’s budget. At the core of such ambitious goals must be a state willing to provide the investment for the university to succeed in its mission, a mission that will in turn bring enormous benefit to the city of Boise and state of Idaho.

But it will also take aggressive leadership on the part of the university. First, it will take a commitment from the president, which I have made, to search for external funding from individual and corporate donors, foundations and the federal government.

Second, it will require the initiative of our administrators and faculty to develop sound and ambitious proposals for research and graduate program support.

Finally, it will take the generosity of Boise State alumni and community and corporate partners to respond to our need for support. This university cannot keep pace with the economy of the region unless all of those who care about its success contribute to the effort.

It is a privilege to serve as president of Boise State at such an exciting time.

— Bob Kustra, President
Micron Technology chips in with $2 million gift for engineering

Thanks to a $2 million gift from the Micron Technology Foundation, Boise State’s College of Engineering continues to expand its engineering education programs.

The Micron Foundation pledged $2 million over four years to start a materials science and engineering bachelor’s degree program at Boise State, which the university plans to have up and running by fall of 2004. The announcement of the donation was made at an on-campus press conference in September.

“We applaud Boise State’s leadership in expanding its engineering education programs,” says Mark Durcan, vice president of research and development for Micron Technology. “Having a quality program available enables Boise State students and faculty to participate at the forefront of technology.”

Close ties between the regional economy and the microelectronics industry have led to the demand for a materials science program, as demonstrated by hiring needs of local employers and expressed interest from engineering students, notes Boise State President Bob Kustra.

“This generous donation from the Micron Technology Foundation will further enhance the College of Engineering’s and regional industry’s prominent roles in the field of microelectronics,” says Kustra.

“Boise State’s ongoing relationship with Micron has helped propel the College of Engineering into the national spotlight, with several recent national awards and honors recognizing excellent research by students and faculty.”

“Developments in materials impact nearly every aspect of modern life and every academic discipline,” says Cheryl Schrader, dean of the College of Engineering. “This grant is of great benefit as we continue to enhance our engineering experience at Boise State University, and it is yet another milestone in community engagement.”

Construction projects change look of Boise State campuses

The landscapes of Boise State’s main campus and its Canyon County site are in store for major changes in the coming months.

With construction of its first academic building now under way and the official opening of the Technology and Entrepreneurial Center (TECenter), the Boise State-West campus has begun to take shape. At the same time, two major student housing construction projects have sprouted up on the main campus along University Drive and the Boise River.

University officials and other dignitaries broke ground on the Boise State-West Academic Building in August. It is being constructed on the 150-acre campus north of the Idaho Center off Canada Road in Nampa. When completed in December 2004, the 65,600-square-foot building will have classrooms, science laboratories, student services offices, a branch library, a bookstore and more.

The new campus is designed to meet the needs of a growing number of students in Canyon County and beyond. The number of students enrolled in academic programs at the current Canyon County Center in Nampa doubled between 1999 and 2003. More than 1,800 students enrolled this fall.

When the new building is completed, all Canyon County academic programs will be moved to the new campus, freeing up space at the Canyon County Center on Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard for expanding applied technology programs.

The 38,000-square-foot TECenter became the first building on the Boise State-West campus when it opened earlier this summer. The business incubator for technology start-ups and early stage companies provides office space, individual consulting, support services, help with funding and other resources. The TECenter is operated by Boise State’s Idaho Small Business Development Center.

Other projects under way include:

Construction of a new student apartment complex and new residence hall is on schedule. The first apartment building will be finished and available to students in March. The last apartment building and residence hall are scheduled for completion in July. Housing rental income will pay for the project.

Phase two of the parking structure was opened this summer. The $4 million addition added 618 spaces on four levels and connects to phase one of the parking garage. The expansion will be paid for with parking revenue.

The Children’s Center celebrated completion of a 4,600-square-foot addition to the center with an open house in November. The addition adds four classrooms to accommodate 40 more infants and
toddler day care program. It was funded by $600,000 in private donations.

Construction of a **BUS TURNOUT LANE** on University Drive is complete and work on bus shelters are under way. The project is being funded with federal transportation dollars that Idaho’s congressional delegation helped Boise State secure.

The turnout lane will help remove bus traffic from University Drive while passengers are loading and unloading, improving traffic flow.

Other long-range construction plans are under consideration. In early October the State Board of Education gave the university tentative approval to study the feasibility of a 65,000-square-foot interactive learning center next to the Multipurpose Classroom Building and a student services center.

Two other planned feasibility studies will look at safety and health-related improvements to Bronco Stadium and the planning and design of an environmental science and policy center.

Enrollment tops **18,000** despite budget cutbacks

Boise State continued its recent growth spurt this fall, becoming the first university in Idaho to surpass the 18,000-student enrollment mark. The university’s 2003 fall enrollment of 18,447 students is a 4 percent increase over last fall’s total of 17,714. Despite budget cutbacks, the fall ’03 number marks the eighth consecutive fall semester in which the size of the student body has increased.

Mark Wheeler, dean of enrollment services, says the higher admissions standards recently adopted by the university set this year’s enrollment apart. “Because of higher admission standards, the university did not admit more students than last year,” he says. “Instead, the 4 percent growth is due primarily to increased numbers of juniors and seniors returning from last year.”

In fact, higher admissions standards for students applying for fall 2003 resulted in more than 500 students being denied degree-seeking admission — 250 more students than the previous year.

Even tougher standards slated to go into effect in fall 2004 are expected to increase that number by an additional 200 students.

Wheeler says research supports the fact that the higher standards increase the likelihood of new student success, thus aiding in retention.

In addition to the enrollment increase, students are taking heavier class loads. This is reflected in the increase in full-time students by 5.5 percent to 13,450. Furthermore, full-time graduate enrollment is up 7.3 percent and enrollment at the Canyon County Center experienced a 7.7 percent jump.

To meet this need, the university added more than 30 new sections of core and major service classes this fall.

Adding new classes also means finding faculty to teach them — a difficult task in light of a budget $3 million short of two years ago. But Provost Daryl Jones says the university is doing its best to keep up with demand.

“For the time being, we are filling vacancies created by retirement and departures,” he says, “and we would hope to create some new faculty positions in the future, should funding become available.”
Boise State will host a dual celebration in February featuring the installation of President Bob Kustra on Feb. 27 and observing its 30th anniversary as a university with a week of events and activities.

Founded in 1932 as a junior college, Boise State became a four-year school in 1965, moved into the state higher education system in 1969, and became a university in February 1974.

Several university-related events will lead up to the installation and anniversary celebration, and campus and community members are invited to join in.

Feb. 21 — Service Saturday, where participants tackle three to four community service projects throughout Boise. Sponsored and coordinated by the Volunteer Services Board.

Feb. 21 — The International Food, Song and Dance Festival, an evening of performances and ethnic food from around the world. This annual event is sponsored by the International Student Association.

Feb. 26 — The 15th annual Leadership Quest, sponsored by Student Union and Activities and the LEADS program.

Feb. 27 — Presidential installation.

Feb. 27 — Third annual Women Making History Reception, recognizing 25 outstanding women. Sponsored by the Boise State Women’s Center.

Feb. 28 — Step Afrika, an African American dance program. Sponsored by Student Programs Board.

Also that week, the Student Union Gallery will feature the National Women’s Juried Art Show in observance of Women’s History Month in March.

For a detailed listing of what’s happening on campus, visit entertain-ment.boisestate.edu.

### Kustra jumps right in, gets to good grasp of what the challenges and opportunities are and asks very penetrating questions. He is very attuned to the synergy between the business community and the university. He gets that connection, and that’s what we need.”

 Adds Steve Ahrens, director of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry: “Dr. Kustra hit the ground running at 100 miles an hour. He envisions Boise State as an urban research institution, which holds wonderful opportunities for Boise and Idaho. His vision for Boise State is dramatically different than the college’s past history and points a clear direction for elevating Boise State to a new role in Idaho higher education.”

 In his early visits and speeches, Kustra has delivered a pointed message that touts the value of Boise State, yet also outlines the issues facing the school as it continues to experience a booming demand for its services. And he doesn’t back away from talking about some of the toughest challenges facing Idaho’s higher education system: equity funding for Boise State, low faculty salaries and a dwindling share of the state revenue pie.

“l’m really anxious to speak on these issues and see if we can get some support under the dome,” says Kustra. “The challenge is to develop a statewide focus on Boise State as the institution of promise when it comes to growth and development. What the state’s political leadership and its business community have to understand is that Boise State, by virtue of being embedded in this growing metropolitan region, is the future of this state.

### Boise State’s newest Bronco has joined the herd with the energy of a spirited colt and the aggressiveness of a protective stallion.

To wit: After only four months on the job, President Bob Kustra has received approval to begin a feasibility study to construct a new classroom building and a student services center as well as for a luxury suite/press box addition to Bronco Stadium. In addition, he has issued a bold invitation to Idaho State to locate its health science programs in a new building on Boise State’s campus. So much for the “get-acquainted” phase that marks the initial months of most college presidents.

Not that Kustra hasn’t been doing plenty of that, too. His car’s odometer was spinning at top speed over the summer as he crisscrossed the state to build relationships with his new constituencies.

Find someone to listen and he was there, from individual visits with key decision-makers to speeches to Boise’s major civic organizations and meetings with the media. Kustra’s people skills and speaking abilities have already earned him favorable reviews, including those from directors of two of Idaho’s largest business organizations.

“He is an amazingly quick study,” says Nancy Vannorsdel, director of the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce. “He has a

### LEADS program.

Kustra jumps right in, gets to
Radio show offers new horizons

ew President Bob Kustra is getting the word out in several ways — including on the airwaves of NPR News 91, the university’s National Public Radio-affiliated station.

Starting in August, NPR News 91 began airing *New Horizons in Education*, a 30-minute interview show hosted by Kustra. Aired each Friday at 3:30 p.m. (Mountain Time), *New Horizons* features guests from a variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise.

Kustra’s guests have included newsmakers, dignitaries, authors and educators discussing important issues of the day. “The goal is high-quality, interesting radio,” says Kustra. “But the most important outcome, I hope, will be to showcase Boise State in yet another venue as a metropolitan research university of distinction, and to enhance our reputational currency.”

Kustra is an experienced broadcaster, having hosted his own program at Eastern Kentucky University, where he previously served as president. Prior to that, he declined an offer to host an afternoon talk show on WLS in Chicago, where he was serving as Illinois’ lieutenant governor.

“At NPR News 91, we had been talking about a local talk program for some time,” says program director Jim East. “But finding the right host kept us from going forward. After Dr. Kustra was named president of BSU, we were delighted when he agreed to continue what he had done at Eastern Kentucky. He’s an excellent communicator and provides a lively forum for the people and issues that impact Idahoans.”

NPR News 91 is a service of Boise State Radio and Boise State. It is heard on KBSX, 91.5 FM Boise; KBSY, 88.5 FM Burley; KBSJ, 91.3 FM Jackpot, Nev.; and KBSQ, 90.7 FM McCall.

Additional information about *New Horizons in Education* is available online at radio.boisestate.edu/stations/npr/NewHorizons.asp.

—Bob Evancho
TWO ‘IDAHO REVIEW’ STORIES WIN PRESTIGIOUS O. HENRY AWARDS

Two short stories in The Idaho Review, an annual collection of fiction and poetry published by Boise State’s creative writing program, have been selected for reprint in the 2003 edition of Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards.

Publication in Prize Stories is considered one of the highest honors in literary publishing.

The selected stories are “Kissing” by veteran Montana writer William Kittredge and “Bleed Blue in Indonesia” by newcomer Adam Desnoyers.

SHALLAT BOOK WINS TWO AWARDS

Secrets of the Magic Valley and Hagerman’s Remarkable Horse, a book edited by Boise State history professor Todd Shallat, received the Idaho Book Award and was also named a finalist in the Independent Publishers 2003 Book Awards earlier this summer.

Published by Black Canyon Communications in Boise, the book is a richly illustrated account of the Magic Valley’s flourishing past.

EXTENDED STUDIES CLAIMS REGIONAL MARKETING AWARD

Boise State’s Division of Extended Studies was awarded the 2003 Gary Award for Marketing Ideas for its summer programs print marketing materials. The winning materials were produced by Extended Studies graphic designer Julie Erb.

The award is given annually by the Western Association of Summer Session Administrators for excellence in print marketing.

This marks the third award Extended Studies and Erb have received from WASSA. In 2002, they were first runner-up for “Best Catalog Cover” and in 2000 took first place in the “Best Use of Theme” category for the class catalog.

FINANCE STUDENTS FARE WELL IN INVESTMENT COMPETITION

A team of College of Business and Economics finance students, under the direction of marketing and finance professor Keith Harvey, earned a 27.7 percent return from Sept. 1, 2002, through Aug. 31, 2003, on an initial investment of $50,000, according to D.A. Davidson & Co.

Boise State placed third out of 18 schools that participated in the D.A. Davidson investment project. The company contributed $50,000 about eight years ago to Boise State and 17 other schools. The company keeps track of rates of return earned by the schools and publishes it annually.

Campaign benefits scholarships

The Boise State University Foundation will announce plans for a comprehensive fund-raising campaign for student scholarships later this fall.

The Campaign for Students will seek to enhance the university’s opportunities to attract, retain, reward and encourage the best students by providing more scholarships, and will allow donors to give to a variety of scholarship categories.

A $1.5 million financial donation from the Boise Industrial Foundation in June was the lead gift for the campaign. Members of the BIF, an economic development association, university officials and members of the Boise State Foundation made the announcement at a press conference held on campus.

“The initial contribution to this campaign from the BIF will be a major step in our efforts to raise additional funds for scholarships,” says Richard A. Smith, Boise State’s vice president for university advancement.

“This gift will benefit many Boise State students for years to come. We are most grateful to the BIF for its generosity.’’

Founded in 1958, the BIF is a group of Boise-area business and civic leaders dedicated to the growth, development and prosperity of industry and commerce in Boise and the surrounding area.

‘Father of biodiversity’ to speak in April

Biologist E.O. Wilson (right), arguably one of the most important thinkers of the 20th century and often called the “father of biodiversity,” will speak April 14, 2004, at Boise State as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

Wilson’s address is at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Jordan Ballroom and is free.

A Harvard professor for four decades, Wilson has written 20 books, won two Pulitzer Prizes and numerous other awards, and discovered hundreds of new species. Among his many accomplishments is the discovery that ants communicate through pheremones. He is most famous for the publication in 1975 of Sociobiology: The New Synthesis, which advanced evolutionary thinking and described social behavior from ants to humans. The student-funded Distinguished Lecture Series brings to campus speakers who have had a significant impact in politics, the arts or the sciences. The most recent speaker was Michael Cunningham, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Hours.
It’s impossible to sit in Alicia Garza’s classroom and not feel energized. As students settle into their chairs in her Introduction to Hispanic Literature class, Garza moves around the room, chatting easily in Spanish and flashing a warm smile.

“She’s a wonderful teacher. She’s vibrant and she can be very funny,” says student Melissa King, as she pulls out the rough draft of an essay she’s working on. Adds student Holli Storey, “She has a lot of energy.”

Moments later, Garza tells students to move into pairs to edit essays. One student literally catapults over a desk to claim the prized spot of working with Garza. “I need all the help I can get,” he says with a sheepish grin.

A professor of Spanish at Boise State since 1996, Garza routinely receives accolades for the excellence of her teaching. Her expertise in Latin American and Chicano culture and literature has enabled her to develop new courses in the department of modern languages and literatures.

“Teaching is highly satisfying for me,” says Garza, who grew up speaking Spanish at home and first learned English from watching TV. “It’s a privilege to teach.”

For her outstanding teaching, Garza has been named the Carnegie Foundation’s Idaho Professor of the Year for 2003. She’ll join winning professors from other states in mid-November for an official ceremony and reception on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

“I’m speechless. I can’t believe it. This is the highlight of my career,” says Garza.

The public is invited to a reception for Garza at 5-7 p.m. on Dec. 2 in the Lookout Room of the Student Union Building. Boise State President Bob Kustra and other dignitaries will officially present Garza with the teaching award.

Garza may have been surprised at her selection, but those who know her say she is richly deserving of the award. “She shows genuine respect and consideration for all students, whatever their linguistic capacity, whatever their opinion,” wrote Teresa Boucher, chair of the department of modern languages and literatures in a letter supporting Garza’s nomination.

Garza has the ability to deal with sensitive issues such as gender, race and unequal social status that are part of her course literature in a way that never belittles students, according to a letter from former student Iris Rocha. “Her mastery of the subject matter and constant enthusiasm has [encouraged] many students to get involved in the community,” Rocha wrote.

The daughter of migrant farmworkers whose formal education ended at grade school, Garza is a powerful role model, say students and colleagues. “For Chicanos and Chicanas, she is soul food because she shares her experiences and they are similar to those of her students,” wrote one student in a course evaluation.

Garza earned a Ph.D. in Hispanic literature from the University of Arizona. She credits her family with instilling in her the importance of an education and encouraging her dreams. She received the 2002 Distinguished Teaching Award from the College of Arts and Sciences and the 1998 Outstanding Faculty Award from the Associated Students of Boise State.

Garza is the eighth Boise State professor overall to win the prestigious Professor of the Year award. Past recipients include Todd Shallat, history; John Freemuth, political science; Russell Centanni, biology; Pam Gehrke, nursing; Stephanie Witt, political science; Greg Raymond, political science; and Tom Trusky, English, who won three times.
Scholarship honors fallen firefighters

A memorial scholarship established by Boise State will honor two students who lost their lives this summer while battling a wildfire near Salmon. The scholarship is designed to preserve their memory and recognize their bravery.

In late July the university established the Jeff Allen and Shane Heath Memorial Scholarship. The pair died from a combination of burns and asphyxiation July 22 while battling a wildland fire in the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

The Allen-Heath Scholarship will provide financial assistance to students in Boise State’s fire service technology program. The Boise State University Foundation announced that it would provide $1,500 in seed money for the endowed scholarship fund in honor of the two.

Allen, 23, of Salmon, and Heath, 22, of Melba, were both senior business majors.

“Boise State is deeply saddened by the loss of these two fine young men,” said President Bob Kustra in July. “Although I did not have the opportunity to meet them, I am told both young men were exemplary students and fine citizens. It is our hope that this endowed scholarship in their honor will help preserve their memory, remember their courageous work and help train other young firefighters.”

Administered by the Selland College of Applied Technology, Boise State’s fire service technology program is an associate degree program with courses delivered through local fire departments.

Donations to the Jeff Allen and Shane Heath Memorial Scholarship can be made by contacting the Boise State Foundation at (208) 426-3276.

From history to mystery, authors have it covered

**RED, WHITE, AND DEAD**

By Lonnie Willis

A born-again minister, a private investigator, a woman in danger, a former bouncer and a punk with an attitude join together to form an intriguing mystery novel from Boise State emeritus professor of English Willis. Red, White, and Dead, set in Boise, is available through Vista Book Gallery and Book and Game in Boise, at www.Amazon.com and at www.1stbooks.com (194 pages, $14.95, paperback). In addition to publishing works of short fiction, Willis has published several scholarly articles on American writers.

**AHSANTA PRESS**

Forbidden City, a first book of poetry by Peggy Hamilton of Pompano Beach, Fla., was published in September by Boise State’s Ahsahta Press (124 pages, $14.95, trade paper). Hamilton is the current recipient of the Florida Individual Artist Fellowship in Literature for poetry.

**LEST WE BE DAMNED:**

PRACTICAL INNOVATION AND LIVED EXPERIENCE AMONG CATHOLICS IN PROTESTANT ENGLAND, 1559-1642

By Lisa McClain

Sixth in a series by Routledge Press looking at religion in history, society and culture, Lest We Be Damned (273 pages, $65, hardback) explores how ordinary Catholics dealt with Protestant reforms in England. In the absence of Catholic churches, priests and sacraments, BSU history professor McClain explores how Catholics, fearful over their chances at salvation, made innovatory changes to religious rituals, identity and community.

**WATER FOR THE ANASAZI**

Edited by Todd Shallat

Written by Colorado civil engineer Kenneth Wright, the book summarizes his research team’s eight-year study of how the prehistoric American Indians might have engineered a system capable of gathering enough water in that arid land to sustain their society. Edited by Boise State history professor Todd Shallat, the book (81 pages, $15, paperback) is a richly illustrated collaboration between the Public Works Historical Society and the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State, which houses the PWHS editorial offices and publishes the Public Works History newsletter. The book is available online at www.apwa.net/bookstore.
Researchers garner $22 million

Boise State was awarded a record $22 million for externally sponsored research grants and programs during the past fiscal year, officials announced earlier this year.

The $22 million includes grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Defense and many other agencies to fund a broad range of research projects and related programs at Boise State, says John Owens, the university’s vice president for research. Many of the awards are for multi-year research projects that are continuing in fiscal 2004 and beyond.

“We are pleased and excited about the continuing growth in external funding for research at Boise State,” says Owens. (See Page 28.)

Winter Commencement scheduled for Dec. 19

Boise State will hold its third winter Commencement at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, in The Pavilion with President Bob Kustra officiating the event for the first time. Approximately 500 students participated in last December’s Commencement, and an estimated 20 percent more August and December 2003 graduates are expected to apply for participation in this year’s winter ceremony.

In 2001, Boise State officials decided to host a winter graduation ceremony because of capacity crowds at the May Commencement over the past few years. With Boise State’s enrollment now more than 18,000, the hope is that two ceremonies each year will ease overcrowding.

This winter’s Commencement, the university’s 72nd overall, will include the presentation of the Silver Medallion, Boise State’s highest honor. The ceremony will include two large screens that will show the graduates accepting their degrees so that those sitting farther away will be able to see individual graduates up close.

On campus ...

Michael Cunningham
Pulitzer Prize-winning author
Boise State University Distinguished Lecture Series
Oct. 9, 2003

“A book is a profound, electrified exchange between the writer and the reader. I take my readers very seriously.”

COUNCIL NAMES PEARSON FINANCIAL EXEC OF YEAR

Stacy Pearson, Boise State’s associate vice president for finance and administration, was named a 2003 Financial Executive of the Year by the Pacific Northwest Council of the Institute of Management Accountants.

The IMA is the leading international trade association for corporate accounting and finance professionals. Twenty-one financial executives from around the nation were honored this year as financial leaders.

Pearson (MPA, ’95) has been at Boise State for eight years and currently oversees the university’s financial operations.

SCHRADER HONORED

Cheryl Schrader, dean of the College of Engineering, was awarded an Exemplary Course Project Award at an international conference on Web-based learning.

Schrader received the award for a graduate-level Linear Systems and Control course she developed last year as an electrical engineering professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

CM PROF WINS AWARD

Boise State construction management professor Borinara Park earned the Best Paper award at the International Conference on Information Systems in Engineering and Construction earlier this year.

The paper was titled “Evolution of Visualization Technology in Construction: Current Practices and Future Implications, and Their Genuine Role.”

COLLEGE OF ED RECOGNIZED

Boise State’s College of Education was recognized for its part in an award won by Boise’s Taft Elementary, which was recently honored by the U.S. Department of Education as a No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School.

Taft received the award after its students posted dramatic gains on the Idaho Reading Indicator. Boise State was acknowledged for its partnership with Taft. University students work in Taft’s classrooms as student teachers.

Dollar Amount of Projects Awarded
SELLAND STUDENT CAPTURES GOLD MEDAL AT SKILLSUSA

Darren Jenks, a student in the Selland College of Applied Technology, took the gold medal in the Internet working division at the SkillsUSA Championships this past summer.

Two other Boise State students finished high at the national competition. Bret Rachwitz took second in collision repair technology and Darren Stevens was third in electronics technology.

STUDENT FINISHES SECOND IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Boise State student Ryan Edwards placed second in international competition in entrepreneurship at the 2003 Delta Epsilon Chi International Career Development Conference earlier this year. Edwards received $500 from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation for his second-place finish.

Another Boise State student, Crystal Roundy, placed in the top 10 for her performance in retail management.

HR STUDENTS TAKE THIRD IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

A team of Boise State human resource management students tied for third place in the Human Resource Collegiate National Competition earlier this year. Adam Scheerer, Paul Cheney and Sara McClarin competed in a Jeopardy!-style competition. The Society for Human Resource Management sponsored the contest.

ENGINEERING GRADUATE HONORED FOR PAPER

Nate Stutzke (B.S. electrical engineering, ’03) recently earned second place in the Region 6 finals of the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers student paper contest. Region 6 has more than 6,000 members.

Stutzke’s paper was titled “Testing, Stressing and Modeling of Simple Integrated Circuit Building Blocks on IC Chips.” On his way to the regional finals, Stutzke also won first place among students from six other institutions. Stutzke’s achievement gives Boise State electrical engineering students the best results in Region 6 over the last three years.

On campus …

David Broder
‘Washington Post’ political columnist


“We are sacrificing freedom [since 9/11]. There is no question of that.”
Art students create capitol ornaments

The eyes of the nation will turn toward Idaho when the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree is dedicated this holiday season. Cut from a forest in the Emmett Ranger District, the tree will be the first from Idaho and will feature 5,000 ornaments handcrafted by Idaho residents. About 80 smaller trees from across the state will adorn offices in the House, Senate and other government buildings as a gift from the people of Idaho.

To help Idahoans, especially students in grades K-12, craft the ornaments, Boise State art education majors worked with state Department of Education officials to design attractive, regionally inspired ornaments that students can easily recreate in the classroom.

Three of the ornaments, created by Sheila Boester, Brian Schreiner and Lance Waters, are featured on the official Web site for the capitol holiday tree (www.capitolholidaytree2003.org/Ornament/ornamentsamples.htm) along with detailed lesson plans and ideas for incorporating the ornament-making into school curriculum.

Heather Hanlon, a Boise State art professor, says the students have been working on field testing ornaments for two years, using the Pentagon tree as a prototype. The students looked at how the ornaments stood up against the weather, whether they were large enough to be seen at a distance (9 to 12 inches minimum) and how easy it was for students to reproduce the designs.

Peggy Wenner, fine arts/humanities specialist for the Idaho Department of Education, invited Boise State to participate, and research was funded by the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Not only did ornaments need to be large and withstand the weather, they also needed to use recycled and/or inexpensive materials, preferably from Idaho products.

“Over two years we’ve had a total of about 40 art education majors in K-12 art methods classes who’ve created, developed and designed ornaments, at almost no expense,” Hanlon says. Even a hand tooled saddle ornament, which looks like leather but is made from an inexpensive foam product, ended up costing less than $20 for an entire 22-student class.

Other creative ideas were ornaments made from tied flies and plastic cottage cheese container lids covered with foil and adorned with Idaho scenes.

“These were all very easy and very Idaho,” says Hanlon. “There are some wonderful ideas.”

The tree will be cut in early November and will travel through Idaho communities before adorning the capitol in Washington, D.C.

Brubeck headlines 7th annual Gene Harris Jazz Festival

The seventh annual Boise State University Gene Harris Jazz Festival will be held April 1-3, 2004, and feature legendary pianist Dave Brubeck and vocalists Ernie Andrews and Rebecca Parris as headliners.

Tickets for the festival will go on sale in December.

Brubeck (right) will be featured with his quartet and the Boise Philharmonic during “Gene’s Jazz Party” on Saturday evening, April 3, at the Bank of America Centre.

The 82-year-old jazz icon has received countless awards including a Jazz Master’s award, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, induction into the Down Beat Hall of Fame, a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, six honorary doctorates from American universities and two from European institutions along with induction into the Jazz Hall of Fame.

Andrews performed and recorded with Harris and the Philip Morris Superband. He also worked with Harry James, and recorded with Cannonball Adderley, Benny Carter and Ray Brown.

Parris has performed all over the world with her own groups, as well as with some of jazz’s greatest legends including Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy Rich, Woody Herman, Terry Gibbs, David “Fathead” Newman and Norman Simmons.

Andrews and Parris will be part of “Singin’ and Swingin’” on Friday evening, April 2, at the Bank of America Centre. Other featured artists include Llew Matthews, Andy Martin, the Boise State Big Band and the Riverside Jazz Orchestra.

The annual festival brings jazz musicians to Boise for three nights of concerts and two days of student clinics and competitions. For the first time, the 2004 festival will feature clinics for elementary school children.

For more information visit www.geneharris.org.

Boise State earns ranking

Boise State was again ranked in the second tier group (out of four tiers) among master’s universities in the West in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2004 college rankings.

The College of Engineering again made the list of top undergraduate programs whose highest degree is a bachelor’s or master’s. This year Boise State was 49th. Excluding private universities and military colleges, the Boise State engineering school ranked 15th overall in its category.
If the number of current NFL players a college football program has produced is any indication of its recent success, Boise State is doing quite well. Seven former Broncos are currently on active NFL rosters.

• Defensive end KIMO VON OELHOFFEN of the Pittsburgh Steelers is the elder statesman of ex-Broncos in the pros. The 32-year-old native of Hawaii was drafted in the sixth round by Cincinnati after the 1993 season.

• BRYAN JOHNSON is in his third year as a backup fullback and special teams player with Washington. He was signed by the Redskins after the 1999 season.

• Kansas City free safety SHAUNARD HARTS returned an interception for a touchdown earlier this season. He is in his third season with the Chiefs after being drafted in the seventh round following the 2000 season.

• MATT HILL has seen starting duty as offensive tackle for Seattle this year. Hill is in his second year after being drafted in the fifth round by the Seahawks after the 2001 season.

• Denver tight end JEB PUTZIER is also in his second NFL season. He was drafted by the Broncos in the sixth round following the ’01 season.

• Strong safety QUINTIN MIKELL, last year’s WAC Defensive Player of the Year, is in his rookie season with the Philadelphia Eagles. Running back BROCK FORSEY, the 2002 WAC Offensive Player of the Year, is in his first season with Chicago. He was drafted in the fifth round by the Bears.
For the second straight year, Boise State student-athletes have an award-winning graduation rate.

Boise State was ranked No. 1 among the NCAA’s Division 1 schools in the category “Institutions with the highest student-athlete graduation rates above the average of the student body” with a plus-33 percent rate in the 2003 USA TODAY-NCAA Academic Achievement Awards.

Last year Boise State led all NCAA 1-A schools in the same category with a plus-36 percent rate.

Fifteen different categories comprise the academic achievement awards.

Boise State is one of only two schools to win an award for the second straight year and was ranked fifth in the same category when the first awards were presented in 2001.

Along with the national recognition, Boise State and the other 14 winning schools will each receive $20,000 to use however they choose. Last year’s award, which was $25,000, was used to upgrade computers in Boise State’s Peterson-Preco Learning Center.

When compared to Boise State’s student-athletes, the lower graduation rate of the overall student body is fairly typical of a metropolitan university in which a significant amount of its population is in the “non-traditional” category, i.e. students who do not come right out of high school and have families and jobs.

**Women hoopsters make the grade**

The BSU women’s basketball team tied for 16th place in the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association 2002-03 Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for NCAA Division 1.

The awards recognize the nation’s highest team grade-point averages for the 2002-03 season based upon nominations submitted by WBCA-member coaches.

Boise State’s women were tied with Creighton University for 16th with team GPAs of 3.135. Boise State was one of 25 programs recognized from more than 320 NCAA Division 1 squads. The Broncos were also the top-ranked team from the Western Athletic Conference.

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Success is in the cards for new game

What Idaho author created Tarzan the ape man and once served as a Parma city councilman? What Nobel Prize winner had a cat named Boise? What filmmaker was also noted for her critically acclaimed novel Abandoned Trails?

The answers to these (Edgar Rice Burroughs, Ernest Hemingway and Nell Shipman) and other questions are found in a new version of the classic card game Authors, updated and customized for the Gem State. Idaho Authors! was created by the Idaho Center for the Book (ICB), an affiliate of the Library of Congress housed at Boise State. Cards sell for $9.95 a set and are available at the Boise State Bookstore, www.boisestatebooks.com (click on “general books”).

Featuring 11 writers who were born or maintained residences in Idaho, the card game is played much like the original Authors. Book titles from the authors’ works are listed on sets of four cards, and players attempt to match up the most sets, or “books.” In addition to the authors mentioned above, the cards feature Glenn Balch, Carol Ryrie Brink, Vardis Fisher, Mary Hallock Foote, Grace Jordan, Ezra Pound, E.E. “Doc” Smith and James Stevens.

The idea for the game was suggested by ICB board member Cort Conley, and enthusiastically adopted by Tom Trusky, a Boise State English professor and ICB director.

“As soon as Conley asked what I thought of an Idaho Authors game, I knew we had an Oscar winner,” Trusky says. Trusky felt certain that adults of a certain age would recall with fondness the original Authors game, and that their children would also enjoy playing along. In the process, both would learn something.

But envisioning the game was the easy part; making it

Tom Trusky, center, Sneaks a peek at his opponent Megan Mortensen’s cards in a game of Idaho Authors!
happen was a lesson in resourcefulness. Not only did Trusky immerse himself in research on Idaho authors and their works — with the assistance of Western literature expert and fellow Boise State English professor Jim Maguire, historian Mary Reed and University of Idaho archivist Terry Abraham — he also had to learn a few lessons in manufacturing.

“It’s been a great, if arduous, adventure,” Trusky says. “Seldom are English professors fretting about how playing cards are manufactured. Who makes them? Where? I was at a loss when quizzed, ‘Would you like that deck poker-sized or bridge-sized, sir?’”

Being resourceful, he managed to find several manufacturers through an Internet search, eventually opting for a company named Carta Mundi, an international firm with offices in Tennessee.

But before the cards could be printed, the authors needed to be chosen. Authors were selected according to several criteria. First, they must have ties to Idaho. Second, they had to be deceased. Finally, they must have written at least four significant works of poetry or fiction.

In selecting titles, we sought to include works generally held to be excellent literature and works which showcased the Gem State,” Trusky says. “Often, I’m delighted to report, selected titles met both criteria.”

He even made some discoveries along the way. “My greatest find was probably discovering Tarzan author Edgar Rice Burroughs’ Minidoka,” he says.

“It’s a colorful, cockeyed, Western American Grimm’s fairy tale fantasy, a perfect saga to keep parents awake while they read to their children.”

His one regret in the choice of authors is that he couldn’t include noted Idaho novelist William C. Anderson, author of BAT-21. Anderson, a Boise State alumnus, died this past summer as the cards were being printed.

Boise State designer Kathy Robinson created the colored renderings of the artists used on the cards. Each card is backed by the wallpaper pattern from the childhood home of poet Ezra Pound.

A sampling of Idaho Authors! trivia

Boisean Glenn Balch’s (1902-1989) book Indian Paint was made into a feature film starring Jay Silverheels (who played Tonto in The Lone Ranger) and Johnny Crawford (from the TV series Rifleman).

Carol Ryrie Brink (1895-1981) based the heroine of her Newbery Medal-winning novel Caddie Woodlawn on her grandmother’s pioneer experiences.

Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) was a city councilman in Parma before writing Tarzan of the Apes.

Vardis Fisher (1895-1968) penned the novel that inspired the Robert Redford film Jeremiah Johnson.

Mary Hallock Foote (1847-1938) is best known today as the central character in Wallace Stegner’s prize-winning novel Angle of Repose.

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) wrote much of his novel For Whom the Bell Tolls in Sun Valley.

Ezra Pound (1895-1972), one of the 20th century’s most controversial poets, was an admirer of the Italian dictator Mussolini.

BOISE STATE STUDENTS DOMINATE BRIN AWARDS

Boise State students Sorcha Cusack (first place), Alexander Ide (tied for second) and Ryan Medeck (honorable mention) dominated the graduate student division of a poster contest at a conference of the statewide Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN) held in August.

The students, who are pursuing master’s degrees in biology, are conducting BRIN-sponsored cancer studies and other biomedical-related projects. They competed against Ph.D. and master’s students at other universities and were judged on 10-minute PowerPoint presentations of their research.

Boise State also had a strong showing in the undergraduate poster contest, with Amanda Hibberd winning second and Judy Wayne receiving honorable mention.

STUDENTS AWARDED INRA FELLOWSHIPS

Two Boise State students have received fellowships worth up to $35,000 annually from the Inland Northwest Research Alliance (INRA) to join in a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional doctoral program in five western states.

Marc Buursink and Carlyle Miller, both Ph.D. students in Boise State’s geophysics program, will join with doctoral students at universities in Idaho, Montana, Utah, Alaska and Washington in the Subsurface Science Research Institute (SSRI). The SSRI uses modern distance delivery techniques to bring classroom instruction and seminars in real time to doctoral students at member universities across the Northwest.

The only program of its type in the country, the SSRI fellowships are equivalent to National Science Foundation fellowships. The fellowships include a $25,000 annual stipend and full payment of tuition and fees.

BSU RECEIVES NSF GRANT

The National Science Foundation has awarded Boise State $300,000 in a major research infrastructure grant to fund the development of a Beowulf computer cluster on campus.

A Beowulf cluster is a type of supercomputer that is constructed from standard personal computer components. Students and faculty will be involved in the fabrication, development and use of the cluster, which is designed to solve intensive problems in diverse fields that include atmospheric and ocean fluid dynamics, seismology, electromagnetics, neural networks, hydrology, mathematics, physics and engineering.
Exploring Southwest Idaho’s geologic past

BY JANELLE BROWN

Two Boise State University graduate students are conducting geological studies in southwestern Idaho after receiving prestigious fellowships from the NASA Idaho Space Grant Consortium.

Brittany Brand, (right) a master’s student in geology, and Gregg Beukelman, a Ph.D. student in geophysics, each received one-year $6,000 fellowships as part of a statewide program to fund research endeavors involving space, aeronautics or other areas of research interest for NASA.

“These new fellowships are a sign of the growth and quality of our research programs at Boise State,” says Clyde J. Northrup, chair of the university’s geosciences department. “We’re excited and pleased that our students were selected for these awards.”

Brand’s project involves studying an extinct volcano called Sinker Butte near Swan Falls Dam in southwestern Idaho.

One million years ago, Sinker Butte was an active “hydrovolcano” that erupted with terrific force from beneath a shallow lake. The lake eventually disappeared and the Snake River eroded the layers of rock from the eruptions until a near-perfect cross section was exposed. Brand is studying the rock layers in order to document the volcano’s eruptive sequences.

Brand’s project has the potential for cosmic applications. “The Sinker Butte volcano is very similar to volcanism on Mars, which may have also involved interactions with water,” says Brand. “By using remote sensing, it should be possible to correlate the data we’ve collected here with similar locations on Mars.”

The scope of Brand’s project only involves characterizing the Sinker Butte site, but she’s excited that the research could have much broader applications. “Hydrovolcanoes haven’t been extensively studied, because in most locations, such as the ocean, they erode very quickly,” says Brand, who plans to eventually pursue a Ph.D. in volcanology. “Sinker Butte is unusual in the fact that it is well preserved. This is because the lake under which it erupted dried out and vanished soon after the eruption ended. This kept the deposits from eroding away so quickly.”

Beukelman’s project involves using remote sensing data to identify fault characteristics on the Western Snake River Plain, which stretches across southwestern Idaho from Glenns Ferry west to Ontario, Ore.

By studying the satellite-generated maps, Beukelman can help reconstruct the plain’s geologic history and identify faults that were created in the past 10,000 years and are thus considered to have the potential for further activity.

The studies will provide new information about the potential for earthquakes in southwestern Idaho, an area of interest for NASA. “The Western Snake River Plain is poorly understood due to the fact there’s very little geologic information about it,” says Beukelman. “We still have a lot to learn.”
Bahruth shares research with Cuban academics

Cuba may lie only 90 miles off the coastline of the United States, but for American citizens, it remains a world apart. A trade embargo imposed by the U.S. in 1962 has kept the land of Fidel Castro off-limits to U.S. investments and most commercial travel. For American academics, the embargo has resulted in fewer opportunities for cultural or professional exchanges with their counterparts at Cuba’s universities and colleges.

Boise State education professor Robert Bahruth counts himself fortunate to be among educators who have had the opportunity to visit Cuba and discuss his research. An internationally recognized expert in applied linguistics and cultural pedagogy, Bahruth visited La Universidad de la Habana (Havana University) in July, where he spoke to professors and graduate students at a conference of the university’s Centro de Estudios Sobre Estados Unidos (Center for United States Studies) on his approach to critical thinking and bilingual education.

Bahruth gave his presentation at the invitation of the Ernesto Galarza Center for Chicano Studies at the University of California at Riverside. The only non-Hispanic invited to present at the conference, Bahruth said he wondered at first how we would be received. “They totally embraced me,” says Bahruth, who is fluent in Spanish. “I never felt like an outsider.”

Bahruth says he was impressed by the intellectual curiosity and academic preparation of professors and graduate students at Havana University. The admiration was apparently mutual; Bahruth was invited to be a presenter at a second conference at the university in November.

Bahruth also visited Guatemala, where he made a presentation at San Carlos National University, visited a school for children with special needs in San Lucas and worked with the native Cakchiquel peoples in a small remote village.

Bahruth says his experiences highlighted the progress each country is making in education. In the San Lucas school in Guatemala, Bahruth encountered a holistic approach to teaching that effectively addressed each child’s learning styles and individual needs. In Cuba, Bahruth encountered a culture that values education and that boasts one of the highest literacy rates (96 percent) in Latin America.

Bahruth says his visits to Guatemala and Cuba will enrich both his classroom instruction at Boise State and his research efforts. He’s looking forward to going back.

— Janelle Brown
Aristotle is alive and well and continuing to provoke thoughtful discussion in Boise. Under the direction of founders Tony Roark, a Boise State philosophy professor, and Jeff Sadler, a local investment adviser, five men and one woman meet monthly as the Aristotelian Society of Boise. The group members meet in one another’s homes to discuss the age-old question of the good life, or how a person ought to live in order to find true happiness.

“It’s like a book club, only we don’t follow a list of great books,” Roark says. “Quite far from that. We’re interested in working through various classical works and trying to understand them and extract some relevance for today.”

Books have ranged from classics by Aristotle and Plato to Pope John Paul’s encyclical, *Fides et ratio*, which deals with the relationship between faith and reason. To qualify for study, a book must touch on the nature of human beings, the nature of reality or the nature of knowledge.

“I know some of these texts quite well,” Roark says. “I teach them and work with them extensively in my own research. But it’s very refreshing to talk to non-academics about them.

“We academics tend to be rather narrow, you know, so when I hear smart people from other walks of life discussing these texts I become aware of elements and nuances that I hadn’t noticed before. I think my teaching has really benefited from the variety of viewpoints.”

The society was formed when Sadler, a non-traditional student in Roark’s philosophy class, approached him with the idea.

“Several years ago it became evident to me that there were major holes in my education,” Sadler says. “The question then was what to do about it? I could read on my own, but that would not be as productive as having someone to discuss ideas with.”

Having formed the Boise Chamber Music Society several years earlier, he had the experience to organize a formal group; after recruiting a few like-minded members, the society officially began meeting about two years ago.

Considering all the world’s great classical thinkers, why does Aristotle get top billing above Plato, Cicero or even Sophocles?

“Historically, he is the first thinker to contemplate the world in his society,” says Sadler. “If you’re going to study a subject or field, you want to have a foundation. In the Western historical framework, that’s Aristotle.”

Roark is quick to point out that every theory or school of thought the group discusses is loosely based on Aristotelian theory, even if the actual books were written by someone else.

“Aristotle is really my ‘guy,’” he says. “He did it all — biology, astronomy, ethics, political theory. That’s the model for the group.”

So far, the two men say the society has been very successful, sparking a number of thoughtful discussions.

“We’re all having a lot of fun,” Sadler says. “Educators spend so much effort on trying to devise a sugar coating to the pill. But that’s unnecessary; learning is its own reward.”
Environmental technology helps assure pure water

Most of us enjoy a refreshing glass of water without ever having to worry about its purity. Researchers at the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) housed at Boise State University are developing new technology to make sure you never have to.

Utilizing personal digital assistant (PDA) technology, the Electronic Enhanced Sanitary Survey (E2S2) allows technicians to more quickly and effectively compare the physical characteristics of local water systems to state and federal standards.

What used to entail a trip back to the office to complete a 40-page written report can now be done instantly in the field.

EFC director Bill Jarocki says a sanitary survey addresses several physical concerns, such as whether a system can continue to deliver water if a water line breaks, if operators are licensed and certified, if test records are accurate, and whether or not the system is producing water to standard.

The PDA program, unveiled at a national convention in March while still in its developmental stage, grew from an inspection report the Boise State EFC developed for water systems in Alaska. Boise State’s EFC encompasses Region 10, which includes areas in the northwestern United States.

“I built the first electronic form in an Excel spreadsheet, which allowed officials in Alaska to collect information through their laptops,” says Michael Keith, an EFC project associate. “Jarocki asked, ‘Why not develop handheld versus laptop technology?’ so that’s where the PDA version came into play.”

By inputting data into a handheld PDA while still in the field, information will have greater integrity and will be available to key decision makers in a more immediate and timely manner, Keith says.

Along with his associates and student assistants, Keith worked to develop software that would satisfy Idaho state requirements.

The result was a program that allowed technicians to enter all their data into a PDA, and then return to the office to automatically load that information into a database.

The program took a quantum leap forward when the EPA asked for a national model.

“There are federal requirements that states must meet in reporting on sanitary surveys,” Keith says. By incorporating national standards into the new programming, states now have the ability to link with federal databases without having to enter additional information.

The national model of the program was rolled out in New England in early October. From there, the EPA and Boise State’s EFC will work with other states to provide software and training.

“We’ve made it flexible enough that states can meet their own requirements as well as federal requirements,” Keith says. “It can be molded to fit each state’s needs.”

The program has benefited the EFC in two ways. First, the additional contracts have been a financial plus for both itself and Boise State. Second, the program has brought the center, and its programs, both regional and national attention.

“The new software is even more efficient and powerful than the original,” Jarocki says. “The new national standard is coming out of our work.”

To learn more, visit www.epa.gov/OGWDW/dwa/esansurvey.html.

— Kathleen Craven

NSF GRANT WILL ADVANCE ATOMIC-LEVEL RESEARCH

Boise State received a $338,000 National Science Foundation grant to acquire an advanced Electronic Magnetic Resonance (EMR) spectrometer.

The EMR, the only one in Idaho, will be housed in a new lab in the Science/Nursing Building and will be particularly useful to scientists working to develop new semiconductor materials or conducting biomedical research, including studies involving cancer and Alzheimer’s disease.

The EMR will be used by scientists and students at Boise State and by research collaborators at the Veterans Affairs Regional Medical Center, the Mountain States Tumor Institute, Micron Technology, the University of Idaho, Idaho State, Washington State, the University of Utah and several institutions in other regions of the country, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Auburn University.

The powerful new tool detects unpaired electrons and provides data that can be analyzed to understand the electronic state of the atom or species containing the unpaired electron, the nature of its bonding and its interactions with its immediate surroundings.

MURDOCK GRANT AIDS NEW MOLECULAR LAB

Boise State is the recipient of a $327,500 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust that will fund the acquisition of biomedical equipment for a new Molecular Interactions Laboratory.

The new lab will focus on an area of biomedical research involving proteomics, which builds on the knowledge gained from the Human Genome Project. The lab will study proteins — large molecules that are built according to directions encoded in the DNA — and their interactions with other molecules in a living organism.

Scientific equipment that will be purchased with the new Murdock grant include light scattering equipment and an analytical ultracentrifuge to characterize proteins and their complexes, and a microcalorimeter that measures heat and energy associated with molecular processes.

The new lab will also include scientific equipment acquired as part of the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN) and other research programs.
Imagine an epidemic on such a grand scale that it strikes someone every 42 seconds and kills one person every 18 minutes. It’s more prevalent than homicide and though it preys on all ages, it strikes adolescents at an alarming rate.

Sound like science fiction? It’s not. It’s suicide, and it’s the second leading cause of death among teens and young adults in Idaho. The state ranks seventh in the nation for suicides per capita, and second in the nation among teens. And consider this: for every completed suicide, between six and 20 friends, relatives or peers are directly affected by the death.

Boise State University professors Peter Wollheim, communication, and Cindy Clark, nursing, find these statistics alarming enough that they have dedicated years to research and community action to help put intervention programs in place.

Wollheim has worked with the Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline, which fields calls from across Idaho, for 11 years. In the time that he has been involved in training volunteers to staff the hotline, somewhere between 250 and 300 volunteers have been trained and countless people have called for help.

But Wollheim says that’s not enough. “It’s a big issue. There are a lot of resources for a traffic accident, a homicide or even heart disease, but not for suicide.”

Part of the problem, he says, is society’s take on mental illness. “There’s a stigma about any issue concerning mental health,” he says. “If a pancreas is not functioning, you go to the hospital. But a mental illness is seen as a moral weakness.”

Because of that, people often wait until they reach a crisis point, or a situation that overwhelms their ability to cope, before they’ll seek help.

“Crisis intervention can offer people a secure, anonymous venue to explore their feelings, name them, talk about how it makes them feel. Sometimes this is easier to do with a stranger than anyone else.”

To help, Wollheim was instrumental in developing a certified crisis worker...
program that is unique to Boise State. So far, two graduates are ready to take the exam for certification. Several others are working on their 500 hours of evaluated crisis prevention work.

Clark, who is a psychiatric nurse and an adolescent and family therapist, has spent years researching why kids attempt suicide and ways to prevent it.

“Since 1960, we’ve seen a 360 percent increase in suicides,” she says. “Some studies show that many teens who consider suicide will confide their intention to a friend before they will an adult. This is important information. It means that we need to design prevention strategies that target peers and teach kids what to do if a friend talks about suicide.”

But those strategies often go against the current trend of keeping suicides quiet and trying to sweep them under the rug. Talking about suicide, the theory goes, only encourages more of it.

But Clark disagrees. “Many kids won’t disclose their intentions to an adult, so the friend needs to know how to handle it,” she says.

Her research reveals why some kids attempt and complete suicide, what methods are commonly used, and the financial and human costs associated with suicide. Her data was presented at Idaho’s first statewide suicide prevention conference in November 2001, which was attended by people from all walks of life.

That first meeting was followed by a second in 2002, helping to launch an official Idaho suicide prevention plan, which will be unveiled at the Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) conference in Boise in November 2003.

According to the National Suicide Help Center, “Suicide is not so much the desire to die as it is the fear of living.” Clark and Wollheim hope Idaho’s prevention plan will make a real difference in the lives of Idahoans as they move toward a more meaningful life.
State Board approves health-related centers

Two new Boise State centers were approved by the State Board of Education last summer. The Center for Orthopaedic and Biomechanics Research will be based in the College of Engineering and will encompass programs already in progress or planned by professors and students from mechanical engineering, kinesiology, biology, radiologic sciences and respiratory therapy, in partnership with area physicians and other health-care providers.

Center researchers, students and surgeons will have a state-of-the-art lab in which to study mechanisms of sports injuries, gait abnormalities and applications of medical imaging technology. Kinesiology professor Ron Pfeiffer and mechanical engineering professor Michelle Sabick direct the center.

The State Board also approved the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Environmental Health and Safety (CEEHS) at Boise State University. The mission of this center will be to enhance public health and safety through technical assistance, consultation and educational outreach. CEEHS will be housed in the College of Health Sciences and immediate administrative support will be provided by the Center for Health Policy.

In conjunction with the new Center of Excellence for Environmental Health and Safety (CEEHS), Boise State’s existing Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCon) program will move under the auspices of the College of Health Sciences. OSHCon provides confidential consulting services free of charge to small businesses to identify and correct safety and health hazards.

Workplace hazards can result in serious injuries to employees and significant costs to employers in Idaho’s small businesses. In 2002-03, more than 300 small businesses — including hair salons, painting contractors, radiator shops, piercing and tattoo shops, cabinet manufacturers others — have benefited from health and safety advice offered by the OSHCon program. For information call 208-426-3283, or visit http://www2.boisestate.edu/oshconsult.
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BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY needs your support. Our students are bright, determined and brimming with potential. But financial limits can keep many from devoting their full attention to a college education. A study shows 77 percent of Boise State students work off campus, compared to 34 percent nationally. The study also reports that the most common reason Boise State students cite for not taking full-time academic loads is need to work many hours.

The cost of higher education continues to rise. Even at Boise State, the most affordable of Idaho’s universities, the total annual cost of attendance (including living expenses, fees, books, etc.) is estimated at almost $12,000 for Idaho residents and $18,000 for non-residents. Help Boise State students succeed by contributing to the Campaign for Students. Below are just a few ways you can earmark your contribution.

The Boise State University Foundation was established in 1964 as a non-profit corporation devoted entirely to the benefit of Boise State University. Its purpose is to provide private support for the university from individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations and other sources. The Foundation is also charged with the management of gifts to the university and the distribution of those gifts as designated by the donors. The Boise State Foundation is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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- GENERAL SCH
  Gifting to the General Fund provides the flexibility to assist students according to the widest range of needs.

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  These four-year renewable awards cover fees plus the option of College residence, fees and financial need are other factors.

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Scholarships
Make a Difference

Whitney Parker
Boise, Idaho
Senior political science major
(international relations emphasis)

“The scholarships that have been awarded to me have given me an opportunity to concentrate more on my education by decreasing the amount of time I need to spend working. Scholarships have also given me a sense of accomplishment and appreciation for the work I’ve done in school. The outstanding faculty and low tuition make Boise State a great value, but the scholarships offered to me make an education here a true bargain.”

Micheal Adcox, M.D.
Boise, Idaho
1981 pre-med graduate

“The scholarships I received at Boise State were instrumental in my ability to afford a college education. Without such financial assistance — made possible by the generosity of many people — my entry into medical school and the medical profession would have been considerably more difficult.”

Scholarships

Industrial Foundation’s outstanding lead gift of $1.5 million, Boise State University has kicked off a scholarship fund-raising drive to raise support for the best and brightest Boise State students. These great students need your help — enrollment is increasing while financial assistance has leveled off. Please consider investing in Boise State students by participating in the Campaign for Students. Gifts to Boise State may qualify for matching funds from the Boise Industrial Foundation and may be designated to any of the following scholarship categories for which you wish to contribute.

- DIAMOND SCHOLARSHIPS
  These four-year renewable scholarships cover full Boise State fees for many of Idaho’s bright high school seniors.
- GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS
  Graduate fellowships, which normally include an annual stipend and full tuition and fees, are awarded for one year with possibility of renewal.
- ROBERT R. LEE CATEGORY B PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP MATCH
  By choosing to match the state’s award of a $500 Promise Scholarship, donors make possible Promise Scholarships worth up to $1,000 per year to encourage Idaho high school seniors to enroll at Boise State University.

For more information or to donate, please contact one of Boise State’s development officers at 208 426-3276 or by email at development@boisestate.edu.

General Scholarships category provides Boise State students in a variety of situations.
- College Scholarships
  Renewable scholarships cover full institutional fee of room and board in Driscoll Hall, the Honors College’s residence hall for students of outstanding academic ability.
- Involvement Scholarships
  Cover partial to full fees for students who demonstrate State activities and who have a strong commitment.
- Opportunity Scholarships
  Renewable scholarships cover full fees for presented students who lack the financial resources to pursue higher education. Students’ academic potential are both considered.

Several scholarship categories for which you wish to contribute.

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Ron Pfeiffer and Michelle Sabick, co-directors of the Center for Orthopaedic and Biomechanics Research, monitor a jump by youth soccer player Camille Cooper.
"Ready. Set. Go!" says Boise State mechanical engineering professor Michelle Sabick.

In the brand-new Intermountain Orthopaedics Biomechanics Research Lab in the College of Engineering, 10-year-old soccer player Camille Cooper swings her arms exuberantly as she leaps high into the air and lands with a decisive, flat-footed thud. Her motions are captured by high-speed cameras at 250 frames per second and transmitted to a computer system to create a three-dimensional, animated image of her leap.

Sabick and Boise State kinesiology professor Ron Pfeiffer monitor the experiment, part of a series of studies aimed at analyzing the biomechanical factors that affect how forces are transmitted through bones and joints and at determining if kids can be trained to jump or run differently to avoid injuries.
“That was perfect,” Sabick says and shows the computer screen to Cooper, one of dozens of Boise-area youth soccer players who have volunteered as research subjects.

“The equipment (display shown below) that we use is the same as some of the equipment that’s used to create video games and also to create animated movies like Toy Story,” Sabick explains.

Boise State’s new Center for Orthopaedic and Biomechanics Research, which was approved by the State Board of Education in June, will help BSU scientists edge further into the national spotlight in the highly competitive field of knee injury research. By focusing on an area that hasn’t been extensively studied — preventing injuries of the knee’s anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in youth athletes — researchers are finding success.

“In research, you have to find your niche,” says Pfeiffer. “Our research in the area of ACL injuries, particularly in children, is to the best of our knowledge unique anywhere. There doesn’t seem to be any other research group, certainly in North American labs, that is actively pursuing that line of inquiry.”

It’s not only the biomechanics researchers who are breaking into the major leagues of medical research at Boise State. Biomedical and health-related research has taken off in the past five years and comprises a significant portion of Boise State’s total research grants, which amounted to $22 million for externally funded grants and programs in fiscal year 2003 (see Page 11).

While the research projects vary greatly in scope and direction, they share many similarities. Instead of competing head to head with major research institutions, Boise State departments have built research clout by successfully leveraging their assets — collaborating with other research institutions and universities, addressing issues that bigger research centers may overlook, capitalizing on Boise State’s location in Idaho’s capital city, and procuring grants to obtain new equipment that allow them to head out in pioneering directions.

An entrepreneurial spirit is emerging as researchers from nursing to psychology, from physics to materials science work together on major medical issues, hoping to see some substantive results.

“I think in the future, great developments in scientific areas will come at the interfaces of these disciplines,” says Martin Schimpf, a Boise State chemistry professor and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “I think Boise State has a strong interdisciplinary research community in which everyone knows each other and there’s a lot of collaboration going on all over campus.”

For example, biology professor Julia Oxford has joined forces with electrical engineering professor Bill Knowlton to use an atomic force microscope, commonly used for imaging atomic or molecular level structures in semiconductor devices, for a medical research application. A $234,000 grant from the National Science Foundation enabled the university to upgrade the microscope in 2001.

“With the atomic force microscope, they’re getting wonderful pictures of collagen molecules,” says

Medical research from A to Z

Here’s a small sampling of some of the health-related research projects at Boise State:

**Alcoholism** — Henry Charlier, chemistry, studies enzymes involved in alcohol metabolism. How alcohol is metabolized may be an important determinant in the development of alcoholism and fetal alcohol syndrome. He also works with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VA) to study the role enzymes may play in causing heart damage in patients using chemotherapeutic drugs called anthracyclines. Funding: Mountain States Tumor and Medical Research Institute (MSTMRI), National Institutes of Health BRIN program, NIH, Research Corp.

**Alzheimer’s Disease** — Troy Rohn, biology, investigates whether a small protein, Beta Amyloid, is the trigger that causes critical brain cells called neurons to self destruct as part of a process called apoptosis. Apoptosis is widely believed to be what causes the destruction of neurons in Alzheimer’s victims. He collaborates with researchers at University of California-Irvine.
Oxford. She studies the molecular level function of collagen in tissues such as bone, cartilage and the vitreous humor in the eye. Defects in collagen processes can result in degenerative conditions such as osteoarthritis or thickening of the vitreous humor leading to a detached retina.

Understanding the processes, says Oxford, could potentially enable scientists to intervene and prevent those conditions. After all, this research isn’t merely an academic endeavor; its ultimate goal is to fight disease and improve human health.

Like the ACL researchers, biology professor Cheryl Jorcyk says she too has carved out a niche by researching a cell factor that, for now, seems below the radar of major medical labs. In collaboration with Dr. Randy Ryan at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, she’s studying the effects of a cell factor, Oncostatin M, on breast cancer tumor progression and metastasis.

“It’s not a super famous cell factor, so the competition isn’t as great,” she says. “We’re not going to compete with major cancer centers … [that] have entire buildings with 100 professors dedicated to one topic; here we have only one person [in the biology department] working on cancer.

“We know we’re competitive, we know we’re doing a good job here. Everybody here is a competitive researcher.”

Quality, not quantity, is the focus of this small cadre of scientists who emphasize well-chosen areas of inquiry in which they can make scholarly contributions and publish in peer reviewed science journals.

When it comes to biomedical research, another factor in Boise State’s favor is its location. “We’re in the metropolitan area of Idaho, and we are in close proximity to several hospitals that have active research programs that are focused on human health,” says Oxford.

From applied research on hospital practices to molecular level studies of disease processes, Boise State professors and students are collaborating with area medical centers and health-care providers. (See “Medical Research from A-Z,” below.)

Boise State’s location in the medical hub of Idaho has created numerous research opportunities even though Boise State’s primary role and mission is not in the field of health sciences. That’s Idaho State University’s role. Boise State’s primary academic emphases designated by the State Board of Education are business and economics, engineering, social sciences, public affairs, performing arts and teacher preparation.

However, Boise State’s strengths in medical research areas, from basic sci-

Funding: National Institute for Aging, American Federation for Aging Research.

**ANTICANCER AGENTS** — Don Warner, chemistry, studies a class of anticancer agents (aziridinomitosenes) that fight cancer by binding to DNA. Specifically, he wants to understand the order of events required for DNA interactions. Funding: MSTMR, NIH-BRIN.

**ASTHMA** — Denise Wingett, biology, studies how a regulatory protein expressed on the surface of T cells contributes to the development and progression of asthma. Funding: VA, MSTMR.

**BRAIN INJURIES** — Pennie Seibert, psychology, examines stroke and other traumatic brain injuries, looking for ways to continually improve outcomes and support systems for patients. She collaborates with the Idaho Neurological Institute at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

**BRONCHIAL CONSTRICION** — Lonny Ashworth, respiratory care, and Nirmal Charan, chief of pulmonary/critical care medicine at the VA Medical Center, evaluate the effect of bronchial blood flow on airway resistance and the delivery of aerosolized medications used to treat bronchoconstriction.

Biomedical researchers benefit from $9.89 million grant

A new high-speed, fiber-based telecommunications system, funded with a $9.89 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, will provide Boise State’s biomedical researchers with powerful new tools to access the latest research studies via the Internet and collaborate in real time with their counterparts in six Western states.

The new NIH grant funds the formation of a telecommunications network for biomedical researchers in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii and Nevada. Called Lariat, the network will enable scientists and educators to take advantage of the wealth of remote research resources, collaborations, and expertise that are routinely available to scientists in more populated areas of the country.

Boise State biology professor Julia Oxford, who coordinates the university’s Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN), says the NIH grant brings many benefits to Boise State’s growing biomedical research community, including the ability to access such technology sites as the San Diego Supercomputing Center. In addition, the new system will make communication much easier by enabling researchers at different institutions to meet “face to face” in virtual meetings in real time.

The Lariat project is led by biomedical researchers at Montana State University and the University of Washington. The network is expected to take two to three years to complete and is intended to be a model for future projects elsewhere.

“The ACL researchers, biology professor Cheryl Jorcyk says she too has carved out a niche by researching a cell factor that, for now, seems below the radar of major medical labs. In collaboration with Dr. Randy Ryan at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, she’s studying the effects of a cell factor, Oncostatin M, on breast cancer tumor progression and metastasis.

“It’s not a super famous cell factor, so the competition isn’t as great,” she says. “We’re not going to compete with major cancer centers ... [that] have entire buildings with 100 professors dedicated to one topic; here we have only one person [in the biology department] working on cancer. We know we’re competitive, we know we’re doing a good job here. Everybody here is a competitive researcher.”
ence to public policy, do not interfere with Idaho State’s mission of health science education, says James Girvan, dean of the College of Health Sciences at Boise State.

“I happen to think that the more universities do research, the more all of Idaho will benefit,” he says. “I don’t see Boise State as stepping on any toes in the area of research because we have many very qualified, very interested, dynamic individuals [at all Idaho institutions] who have not only a capacity but a willingness to study in these areas.”

Girvan points out that collaborations among Idaho’s three universities have brought opportunities that one individual university might not have been able to obtain on its own.

One successful effort joining Idaho’s sister universities began in 2001 with the National Institutes of Health Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN), a program to boost research at Idaho universities. BRIN funded the three universities in a shared $6 million grant focusing on medical genomics, the practical application of the Human Genome Project. This October, a proposal for another $12.5 million, five-year grant was submitted.

“The camaraderie and partnership that’s developed among researchers at the three universities is unprecedented,” says University of Idaho principal investigator and research professor of biology Michael Laskowski. “Everyone has eliminated their parochial interest and just works for the common good.”

Idaho institutions have also experienced dramatic growth in major NIH grants and contracts. Between fiscal 2000 and fiscal 2002, awards to Idaho’s universities more than doubled, growing from $4.2 million to $11.7 million. Idaho’s rate of growth for NIH funding is among the highest in the nation.

Boise State has also gained stature as an up-and-coming competitor for other major grants. Both private and public funding sources enabled the College of Arts and Sciences to acquire

**CELL GENETICS** — Cheryl Jorcyk, biology, investigates the function of a cellular factor, Oncostatin M (OSM), produced by certain cells of the human immune system, and the role it may play in breast cancer progression and metastasis. Her lab also conducts genetic experiments using mammary and prostate cell lines from different stages of cancer progression. She collaborates with VA. Funding: MSTMRI.

**CHEMOTHERAPY** — Susan Shadle, chemistry, studies molecular level causes of cardiotoxic (heart damage) side effects in a class of chemotherapeutic drugs called anthracyclines. She collaborates with the VA. Funding: NIH, MSTMRI.

**CULTURAL ISSUES** — Sharon Stoffels and Pam Springer, nursing, and Eric Landrum, psychology, explore elements related to cultural competency while developing a tool to measure cultural sensitivity in nurses. Funding: U.S. Department of Health Resources and Services Administration through the La Buena Salud project.

**THE ECONOMICS OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTS** — R. Larry Reynolds, economics, and Dwayne Barney, marketing and finance, authored several articles on the economics of organ transplants that are frequently cited. Reynolds has also published several articles on health care expenditures and the institutional structure of health economics.

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**Team seeks ‘cure’ for knee injuries**

Think of it as you would an inoculation to prevent a disease. The “medication” that Intermountain Orthopaedics surgeon Kevin Shea and Boise State kinesiology professor Ron Pfeiffer would like to administer to youth sports participants is a training program to immunize them against severe and debilitating knee injuries.

Shea and Pfeiffer haven’t succeeded yet, but their efforts have earned them an invitation to present their research, and that of BSU graduate students Sara Grandstand and Dana Roberts (MS, exercise and sports studies, ’03), in March 2004 at the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) conference in San Francisco. That elite invitation places them at the forefront of knee injury prevention research.

“What we’re seeing clinically is a growing number of children and adolescents with serious knee injuries, including ACL [anterior cruciate ligament] tears,” says Shea.

With help from the Idaho Sports Medicine Institute and funding from the Saint Alphonsus Orthopaedic Institute, the research team designed a program of strengthening, controlled jumping maneuvers and stretching exercises to see if they could reduce kids’ injury rates. The program is called KLIP — knee ligament injury prevention.

Because non-contact injuries often occur when kids are running and make quick direction changes, scientists have postulated that improving specific motor skills through an intervention program would reduce the injury rate.

From Twin Falls to Boise, 112 high school girls volleyball, soccer and basketball teams participated and were assigned to one of two groups — those that did the KLIP program and those that did not.

Girls teams were chosen as subjects...
because female athletes suffer ACL tears at a rate five to eight times greater than males, Shea says. The reasons for the higher injury rate are somewhat of a mystery and could involve numerous physiological factors. Another study aimed at understanding this gender difference is under way in the new Boise State Center for Orthopaedics and Biomechanics Research.

After two years, says Pfeiffer, “we found that there wasn’t a statistical difference in the incidence of ACL injuries at the schools that did our KLIP program. We were the first research group that found that an intervention program didn’t...reduce the incidence of ACL injury.”

The Boise State study was more scientifically rigorous than any done so far, says Pfeiffer, hence the top tier recognition by the AOSSM.

The researchers are planning to fine-tune the training program and try again. “I’d love to be able to have the cure for ACL injuries,” says Pfeiffer. Even Jonas Salk probably didn’t succeed on the first try.

—Patricia Pyke

He also says that developing biomedical research infrastructure is a relatively new task at Boise State since the university’s primary role and mission has historically been in areas in which external funding has been scarce.

Boise State’s lean infrastructure means researchers often wash their own test tubes, order their own supplies, run their own equipment, pay their bills and manage bookkeeping records on multiple grants, all with minimal administrative and technical staff support. Those tasks come in addition to hefty teaching loads and other research responsibilities such as preparing manuscripts, writing grants and traveling to conferences in order to exchange ideas with other scientists.

The researchers “who are here are under a strain, and they’re doing a magnificent job, but at some point they’re going to need additional support,” says Jones. “If the state will make that investment, we can repay it many fold. We can turn around and multiply every dollar they invest here.”

Pfeiffer, a 24-year veteran at Boise State, is representative of the many researchers who wholeheartedly enjoy teaching and research. “One of the things we take pride in is we are always providing students the opportunity to be involved with the research,” he says.
He prefaces further remarks by saying, “Please don’t think I’m anti-teaching. I love to teach, but you can only do so many things in a 24-hour time period. And unfortunately, research, certainly in these areas of inquiry, demands huge amounts of time to plan, implement and do something with the results.”

Even so, the biomedical researchers across campus seem remarkably upbeat, and their goals are nothing if not lofty. Jump-starting a biotech industry in the Treasure Valley is their ambition.

“The medical area is a hot area of research right now,” says Sabick. “It’s reasonably well funded and it would be a good diversification for [the university] as well as for the economy of the valley.”

In terms of economic development, health-related industry is a driving force, says Girvan. “Health care takes about 15 percent of [U.S. gross domestic product] and also employs about 15 percent of our work force,” not including additional amounts for research and public health expenditures, he says, citing statistics from a national policy conference held at Boise State in September.

Like electronics companies 30 years ago, perhaps medical industry visionaries will find a fertile environment to grow in Boise’s biomedical research climate.

BIOMED

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Parents’ influence can shield kids from skin cancer

Rob Turrisi still remembers the day he became dedicated to skin cancer prevention research. It was the same day he realized that at least three of his son’s 19 first-grade classmates were likely to develop skin cancer sometime during their lifetimes. That number seemed unfairly high, and it bothered him.

“Despite it being the most curable form of cancer, it is also the riskiest,” he says. “It’s the cancer most likely to spread to other organs, and it’s only curable if it’s diagnosed early. The more I talked to people, the more I realized they didn’t know that. I felt this was one thing I could actually help prevent.”

And thus was born a crusade to educate parents and children about the dangers of tanning, the importance of sunscreen and the need to get regular checkups from a dermatologist.

Joel Hillhouse, a friend of Turrisi’s from graduate school days who is now a psychology professor in Tennessee, originally recruited Turrisi for the project. Hillhouse had done the basic research on prevention and Turrisi had experience in parent and child communication. All they needed now was a cancer expert, so they went after one of the best.

“June Robinson is an M.D. at Loyola and an expert in the field of cancer prevention and treatment,” Turrisi says. “She’s it.” Although Robinson originally declined the invitation to join the team, after reading through the background material Turrisi sent her she called to say she was in.

In 1999, the American Cancer Society funded the trio’s three-year study to track the efficacy of parent-child communication in skin cancer prevention. Over the course of that study, the group talked with 600 families with children in grades four through six in Boise and in Johnson City, Tenn. Parents were given prevention materials to read and share with their kids, then asked about their own and their kids’ behaviors.

“We looked at sunburns, how often people intentionally tanned in order to look good, the severity of the burns and the need to get regular checkups from a dermatologist.”
skin cancer risk

sus risks,” Turrisi says. “What we found is that parents are very effective as change agents in this age group.”

“Our generation used to go out and bake in the sun,” Turrisi says, noting that a golden look has long been perceived as healthy, when it’s actually a visual sign of danger. “There was a perception that if you got a base tan, you wouldn’t burn. But in reality it’s just a slow form of baking and it damages cells.”

By educating parents about the dangers of sun exposure, Turrisi and his fellow researchers found that parents were not only willing to share the information with their kids, they actually changed their offsprings’ behavior, thus lowering their risk.

The next step is to find an effective way to disseminate their findings nationally on a large-scale basis. Outlets include Web sites and brochures or other printed information that will be given to parents by dermatologists and primary care physicians.

“There will be a big marketing campaign to make this literature a part of every annual checkup,” Turrisi says.

Study results have been published in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine and in Cancer, the journal of the National Cancer Institute.

— Kathleen Craven

Conference tackles business of health care

As the rising cost of health care makes it more difficult for Idaho businesses to provide coverage for their employees, more employees — and their families — end up with reduced benefits or unaffordable premiums. The unemployed face staggering premiums. That has meant a growing number of Idahoans are going without health-care coverage.

While it carries a heavy personal cost to them, it also is a major burden for taxpayers and the economy.

Boise State University tackled the business side of health care by sponsoring “Financing Health Care in Idaho and America: A Look Forward,” earlier this fall. The conference featured three national experts who addressed the economics of Idaho’s medically uninsured.

Boise State’s College of Business and Economics partnered with the Idaho State Planning Grant on the Uninsured (ISPG), other Idaho state colleges and universities and local chambers of commerce in nine Idaho communities to sponsor the conference, which was simulcast to audiences at seven other colleges and universities across the state.

“We partnered with business schools because this is a business issue,” says Michael Wilson, ISPG director.

The national experts shared that the business of health care has reached a crossroads.

“We can’t afford business as usual as we go forward,” says Len Nichols, vice president, Center for Studying Health System Change, and principal research associate for the Health Policy Center of the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

Nichols noted that the cost of health care has outpaced increases in income for the past 25 years, and has grown at double-digit rates for the past three years. And because the United States lacks a comprehensive plan for health-care coverage, Elliot Wicks, a consultant with Health Management Associates Inc., and project manager of Covering America, Economic and Social Research Institute in Washington, D.C., said the problem is multifaceted.

The uninsured often do not get care when they need it, and therefore are at risk of not catching serious problems before they develop, often do not get the best care available when they do get sick, and stand to lose their savings and their homes if a serious illness strikes.

For more information, visit www.idahouninsured.org.

—Sherry Squires

Radiation treatment dosage — Amit Jain, computer science, conducts research to convert a program used to compute dosage of radiation for cancer patients to a Linux computer cluster to improve running speed by a factor of six or more. He collaborates with MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston.


Three-dimensional spine modeling — Joe Guarino and Steve Tennyson, mechanical engineering, create three-dimensional models of pediatric skeletal structures, primarily vertebrae to help surgeons plan complicated surgeries. They collaborate with Shriner’s Hospital, Intermountain Orthopaedics.

Zeolite safety — Dale Stephenson, environmental health, studies the solubility of mordenite, used in kitty litter and other common products. Analyzing the mineral’s solubility in simulated lung fluid will help determine its effect on human health. He works with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Funding: NIH.
What do you see as the primary role of The Center for Health Policy at Boise State?

There are three primary goals of any educational institution: educating students, research and community service. The College of Health Sciences has five unique educational units, which concentrate on educating students. The Center for Health Policy (CHP) assists these educational units in conducting research as well as providing local, state and national decision makers with evidence-based information, so that they can create sound health policy. We want to be able to relate to very scientific issues and questions the community may have.

CHP also provides administrative oversight for the Center of Excellence for Environmental Health and Safety (CEEHS) as
well as the Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program (OSHCon). These two organizations within BSU’s College of Health Sciences work directly with the community on health issues. OSHCon works with small businesses in the Treasure Valley and (CEEHS) with large businesses and corporations.

What are some examples of ways the center has accomplished its goals?

We have evaluated the effectiveness of various health organizations and interventions that have made a difference in improving the health in regional areas. We provide solid information to decide whether current policies are effective, and if they are not, we can provide reasons why [they] are not working.

Do you think Idahoans adequately understand the need for immunization?

Idaho is a rural state and access to health care is not what it might be in other states or nations. Many feel that once you are immunized you are immunized for life. Flu vaccinations are very important particularly for elderly or those with compromised immune systems. Common flu can be devastating for these groups.

One of my major concerns is that people in Idaho learn to consider themselves part of the global village. We need to be aware of diseases that don’t exist here but do exist when you travel — diseases, say in Central America, Asia [where] a person traveling to those areas might bring back diseases. A visitor might bring with him the disease vectors from those countries so we might be exposed to new diseases. We are not living in Idaho alone; we are living in the world and we need to be prepared to be exposed to those kinds of microorganisms.

So if someone did come off a plane here in Idaho with a communicable disease such as SARS, how prepared do you think Idaho is to face such a pandemic?

It’s hard to say. Is any community ready for that kind of event? Probably not. We don’t know how well we are prepared until we are actually exposed to it. We think we are prepared, but we might not be.

If someone were to come in with a communicable disease like SARS, would we be able to identify it? One of the key issues in dealing with diseases of that type is that the medical community might not always recognize the symptoms of the disease soon enough. Many diseases have the same preliminary symptoms. The common cold, for example, has the same preliminary symptoms as SARS.

I think that the No. 1 diagnostic tool for situations like this is to ask the patient about his/her medical history. It is important that physicians learn to ask proactive global questions. They need to consider the global nature of their patients [if a] patient might have been in Asia or Latin America.

And they need to be educated on the disease risks in those parts of the world. [Physicians] should ask [patients if they’ve] traveled or been in contact with someone who has traveled to [such] areas. They should ask you about insect bites. However the medical establishment doesn’t think to ask these questions until a pattern has been established.

The second part of this is: How are we able to contact people who may have contracted a disease? How can we reach them once we have identified where they are located? Is quarantine necessary? For SARS it would be. What does it mean to be ready? Can you contain it? Can you stop it quickly? That would mean yes, the community was ready. But it might not be possible to react any faster.
Foundation names new development directors

The Boise State University Foundation has hired three new development directors to help raise funds for Boise State's colleges and programs.


Clement works to advance the College of Business and Economics, the College of Education and the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. Most recently, she served as executive director of the Discovery Center of Idaho for five years, and formerly was development director with the Danforth Museum of Art in Farmington, Mass., senior development officer at Brandeis University, associate director of development at the University of Wyoming and development officer at Stanford University.

Stanwood works with the Alumni Association and the athletics department. He has served as development director for the Idaho Youth Ranch for the past five years and has participated in several national workshops, conferences and seminars.

Neil is the development director for the College of Health Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences. She previously served as a major gift officer and as the director of planned giving at the U.S. Naval Academy for eight years. Most recently, she worked for the Annapolis, Md.-based Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a supporter of environmental issues. She is also a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the National Committee on Planned Giving.

Donor Notes

Anonymous donors, $1,000 to the Frank Church Institute, $1,000 to the Nursing Enrichment Program, $10,000 to the President Support Fund, and $500,000 to the Alumni Center building fund.

American Production & Inventory Control Society of the Treasure Valley, $1,500 to the scholarship in its name.

Association of Government Accountants, $1,000 to the Associated Governmental Accountants Scholarship.

Bechtel BWXT Idaho LLC, $22,500 to the Business Administration Account and $1,125 to the Idaho Engineering Science Camp.

Lee Bernasconi, $1,000 to the Bernasconi Family Scholarship.

Mary Birch, $1,000 to the Glenn Balch Award for Writers.

Boise, $1,500 to the Boise Cascade Minority Scholarship.

Boise Industrial Foundation, $1 million to the BIF Scholarship Endowment and $500,000 to the BIF Administrative/Match Endowment.

Boise Rotary Foundation Inc., $2,550 to the Bob and Marjorie Gibb Memorial Scholarship.

Dorothy Jedlick Broyles, $41,332 to the nursing endowment in her name.

Central Paving Co. Inc., $3,000 to the Micron Challenge Engineering Building.

Cooper Norman CPAs, $2,000 to the College of Business and Economics account in its name.

Dave and Jean Croft, $5,000 to the Victoria Croft Memorial Fund.

Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, $250,000 to the general scholarship in its name and $60,000 to the nursing scholarship in its name.

Barbara and Robert Dargatz, $1,000 to the Dargatz Student Teaching Fund.

Deloitte & Touche LLP, $1,000 to the accounting department administration account.

Dave and Vicki Ewy, $5,000 to the Ruth V. Ewy English Scholarship.

Executive Women International, $3,252 to the scholarship in its name.

Ric and Kathleen Gale, $1,000 to the College of Business and Economics Alumni Scholarship.

GC Strategic Advocacy Inc., $1,000 to the Frank Church Institute.

John and June Hechinger, $1,000 to the Frank Church Institute.

Holland & Hart, $1,455 to the Northwest Venture Championship.

Human Resources Association of the Treasure Valley, $2,000 to the David Isen Memorial Scholarship and $2,000 to the Renda Sullivan Memorial Scholarship.

Idaho Community Foundation, $1,880 to the Donovan & Evelyn Grable Applied Technology Scholarship.

Institute of Management Accountants, $1,500 to the Institute of Management Accountants.

Intermountain Gas Co., $3,000 to the Micron Challenge-Engineering Building.

Intermountain Surgery Center, $3,000 to the Micron Challenge-Engineering Building.

Lee Bernasconi, $1,000 to the Bernasconi Family Scholarship.

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program, $24,000 to the Micron Scholars in Engineering, $3,000 to the Idaho Engineering Science Camp, $10,950 to the Micron Scholars in Production Operation Management, and $16,700 to the Micron Transducers Teaching Lab.

Michael and JoAnn Moore, $1,000 to the Frank Church Institute.

Harry W. Morrison Foundation, $200,000 to the Micron Challenge-Engineering Building.

Vera Morrow, $3,000 to the Sara Evelyn Morrow Nursing Scholarship Fund.

Walter Morrow, $5,000 to the Sara Evelyn Morrow Endowed Nursing Scholarship.

MRI Center of Idaho, $2,021 to the MRI student scholarship.

John F. Nagel Foundation Inc., $62,464 to the scholarship in its name.

Dale and Kathy Nagy, $3,000, to the scholarship in her name.

Harry and Margo Neef, $29,651 to the Harvey Neef Maneline Dance Fund.

Donald and Doli Obee, $3,000 to the biology scholarship in their name.

OELA Student Organization, $1,200 to the OELA Scholarship.

Wendell and Myrtle Phillips, $5,000 to the scholarship in their names.

James and Marilyn Pulliam, $1,200 to the unrestricted fund.

Ross Medical Foundation, $3,000 to the Gordon Ross Medical Foundation Scholarship.

Timothy and Jill Schlindwein, $1,095 to the Schlindwein Student Investment Account.

Shepler’s, $1,000 to the OctoberWest Administrative Account.

Stern Family Foundation Inc., $1,000 to the Frank Church Institute.

John Stevenson, $1,000 to the Frank Church Institute.

S.C. Taylor, $3,000 to the Frank Church Institute.

United Way of Treasure Valley, $1,700 to the unrestricted fund.

Dennis and Deva Ward, $5,000 to the Hallett Business Endowment No. 4.

Betty Weston, $1,250 to the Glenn Balch Scholarship for Writers.

David and Margaret Wilkins, $7,000 to the Quaternary Studies Research Fund.

Charles & JoAnne Wilson, $10,000 to the President Support Fund-BSU.
Association offers new credit card program

The Boise State Alumni Association is pleased to offer alumni, students and friends of the university a new credit card program through MBNA America. The program offers highly competitive rates and distinctive credit card designs.

Every time you use your card to make a purchase, you support the Boise State Alumni Association — at no additional cost to you. Funds generated support programs and activities for alumni and friends.

“Alumni are always looking for innovative ways to support Boise State and this offers them yet another,” says alumni director Lee Denker.

The partnership with MBNA America is new in 2003 after a six-year agreement with a different credit card provider. Alumni with credit cards from the old Boise State program are encouraged to switch to the new program through MBNA America.

For more information, visit alumni.boisestate.edu or call the Alumni Office at (208) 426-1698.

$500,000 gift helps building campaign

The Boise State Alumni Association recently received an anonymous $500,000 donation — the capstone gift to the three-year Boise State Alumni Center campaign.

“This [Alumni Center] is a great addition to campus and stands in tribute to the generosity of Boise State’s many loyal alumni and friends who made the dream of [this] center possible,” says Alumni Association executive director Lee Denker. “In particular, we need to thank this generous anonymous donor for helping to finalize a successful campaign.”

The Alumni Center, which opened in April 2001, has become a gathering place for university activities and has fostered a stronger sense of community among students, alumni and friends of the university.

Located at 1173 Grant St. across from Bronco Stadium, the Alumni Center is decorated with Bronco memorabilia and comfortable furnishings, making it a prime site for campus functions of all kinds.

Alums: check The REC

Remember campus recreation life as a student at Boise State? It may have left a bit to be desired. Welcome to Boise State in 2003, with the addition of the 86,000-square-foot student recreation center, better known as The REC.

Boise State alumni and their spouses/partners don’t have to miss out on this outstanding facility just because their college days are over. The REC invites alumni to stay connected to the Boise State community while maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle with a REC membership.

Opened in August 2002, the $12 million facility offers a wide variety of fitness and recreational opportunities for its members. Programs and facilities include group exercise classes, cardio and strength training equipment, free weights, racquetball, rock climbing and many others.

Boise State’s Outdoors Program, which offers courses and rents outdoor equipment, is also located in The REC.

A three-court gymnasium is open for pick-up basketball or volleyball.

Free trial passes are available. Call (208) 426-5641 for more information or visit www.boisestate.edu/recreation.
Association experiences growth

If the first quarter of this year is any indication, alumni are prouder than ever to be part of Boise State. A record number of alumni joined the Alumni Association during the first three months of the fiscal year.

According to membership director Christine Lukas, ’02, membership growth equals greater resources for the association’s tradition of building programs on campus, in the community and beyond Idaho. “Without question, the value of a Boise State degree continues to increase as more and more alumni and friends support the university through alumni memberships,” Lukas says.

Lukas adds that it is difficult to identify one specific reason for the increase in membership. Instead, she points to a number of factors including record-breaking student enrollment numbers, national exposure through athletics, the excitement of President Bob Kustra’s arrival, and a greater appreciation for the impact that Boise State has on the economic well-being of the state of Idaho.

“Alumni are also telling us that they appreciate the work their Alumni Association is doing to help foster a sense of community on campus through quality programming,” Lukas adds. In particular, she says, are the association’s expanded Homecoming reunion activities, an emphasis on connecting alumni with their colleges and departments, a growing chapter program, and greater collaboration with students to grow pride, loyalty and tradition.

One area that the Alumni Association continues to expand is its member benefits. Currently, members receive discounts to select athletic events, discounts on apparel at the BroncoShop, discounts to Alumni Association events and more. A complete list of member benefits is available at alumni.boisestate.edu.

For additional information about the Alumni Association’s membership program, contact Lukas at clukas@boisestate.edu or (208) 426-1284.

SAA wins national award

Barely a year after its inception, the Boise State Student Alumni Association (SAA) received national recognition earlier this year when it was named a 2003 Outstanding Organization at the national conference of the Association of Student Advancement Programs.

Boise State SAA president Sheri Muncy and SAA adviser Cassandra Sipes accepted the award at the conference, which was held in Nashville, Tenn.

The SAA, comprised of about 17 students and growing steadily, promotes school pride, loyalty and tradition among the student population. Under the leadership of 2002-03 president Dawn DiFuria, the SAA worked to build a sense of community among students and foster traditions and lifelong pride on campus.

“Considering that there are more than 360 universities and colleges across the nation involved with similar programs, we are extremely proud and flattered that Boise State’s students were identified by their peers as the best,” says alumni director Lee Denker.

In May, the SAA was named Boise State University’s Outstanding Organization of the Year at the Associated Students of Boise State University recognition dinner.

Any Boise State student is welcome to participate in the SAA. Call the Alumni Association office at (208) 426-1698 for more information.

Decorate your Christmas tree with the “Spirit of the Broncos” holiday ornament. The ornament is a quality keepsake crafted in brass featuring the image of the popular statue in front of the Business Building.

The three-dimensional, limited-edition ornament is offered to members of the Alumni Association for $15 or non-members for $20. Measuring approximately 3 inches in diameter, it comes in an attractive gift box. All proceeds benefit the Alumni Association Student Scholarship fund.

To reserve your ornament, call (208) 426-1698 or visit alumni.boisestate.edu.
The place is inviting, accented with plush furniture, open curtains and clay-red floor. It smells like sweet spices in a cup of warm tea. Track lighting illuminates steel and bronze sculptures, while an ornate chandelier adorns the ceiling. Irene Deely (BFA, art, ‘99), owner of what may be the most unique gallery in Idaho, sits at the wine bar she welded herself, immersed in conversation with a fellow artist.

“I set out to create an atmosphere different from any other art gallery,” Deely (above) says. “I wanted a space that blended wine and unique fashion with art.”

Deely’s vision led to the birth of the Woman of Steel Art Gallery, 3604 Chinden Blvd. in Garden City. In addition to the wine bar, the gallery includes a small clothing boutique, welded sculptures and other art objects on display, and a cozy seating area. Sitting at the wine bar, patrons can watch sparks fly as the artist welds a new creation from behind a glass partition. The environment here is conducive to unwinding after work or relaxing on the weekend while enjoying art, such as Deely’s whimsical “Liberty: Let’s Roll.” The large sculpture of a kickboxing Statue of Liberty reflects Deely’s reaction to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Prior to opening her gallery last June, Deely had started a community art program, studied art in Bristol, England, taught art and graduated from Boise State. At the university, she studied with now-retired professor Al Kober, who not only introduced Deely to metal sculpture, but also recommended her for the job of providing the growing Eagle community with a public sculpture. In 1999, Deely completed “Commitment,” two eagles near their nest, now displayed in the Eagle Albertson’s shopping center.

Deely notes that her favorite part of owning a gallery is providing people with the chance to enjoy art in a comfortable setting. Greeting people as they enter and walking them to the door as they leave, she is the sociable host in this chamber of comfort and creativity.

— Angela Jones
ing alumni. Patrick has been a licensed pilot for 35 years and has logged over 22,000 hours of flight time. He is a member of the Idaho Aeronautics Advisory Board and volunteers for both Wilderness Within Reach and Meridian High wrestling.

**ROBERT P. CARLILE, BBA, accounting, ’77,** is the partner in charge for Assurance Practice at KPMG in Seattle and was recently recognized as one of Boise State’s College of Business and Economics outstanding alumni. Carlile is an advisory board member for the Seattle University Entrepreneurship Center, a member of the Accountancy Advisory Board for the College of Business at Boise State, and a former chairman of Idaho Business Week.

**MARSHALL G. MOST,** BA, communication, ’77, MA, curriculum and instruction, ’86, is a professor of communication at Boise State, and coach for the university’s speech and debate team. He most recently received one of the first ever Alumni Service Awards, presented by the Boise State Alumni Association. The award honors alumni who have consistently provided exemplary service to the university community. Most has guided Boise State’s forensics team to national prominence. The team earned a third place national finish in April at the Pi Kappa Delta National Collegiate Forensics tournament.

**JOHN MARK BARSNESS,** AS, marketing-mid management, ’80, has been in Idaho Law Enforcement since 1983, and a sergeant with the Boise Airport Police for the past eight years. Barsness is also a private pilot and received his rating as a paragliding pilot last year.

**JOY BELLE MCLEAN,** BA, communication/English, ’80, is director of lawyer discipline and chief disciplinary counsel in the state of Washington. In 2003, her staff of 15 lawyers and 20 paraprofessionals disbarred a record number of lawyers.

**WILEY JOEL DOBBS,** BA, social science, BS, physical education, ’82, is the interim principal for O’Leary Junior High School in Twin Falls. Dobbs also holds a master’s degree through Albertson College of Idaho and an education specialist degree from the University of Idaho.

**WILLIAM F. LAURANCE,** BS, biology, ’82, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for “distinguished contributions to the understanding of the impacts of intensive land uses such as habitat fragmentation, fires and logging on tropical ecosystems.” Laurance earned a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and is the...
Griffin helps shape political messages

When presidential hopeful John Kerry’s political messages roll out, they’ll likely be shaped by the work of Boise State alumna Christine Griffin (BS, sociology, ’88) and her co-workers at Kiley and Co. Griffin (below) has worked for the Boston-based political polling, strategy and consulting firm for the past 13 years, beginning when she was a graduate student at Northeastern University. Owner Tom Kiley is one of the most well-known Democratic pollsters in the country with 30 years’ experience. In an office of seven, Griffin works closely with the candidates her company represents.

She is currently working on Kerry’s presidential campaign, but the company also has worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy and plenty of New York Assembly hopefuls. Kiley and Co. works mostly on the East Coast, but has also worked on gubernatorial campaigns in Alaska and Washington.

Candidates hire Kiley and Co. independent of their campaign staff to do research, telephone interviews and polling to find their target audience and to tailor media messages.

After Griffin earned a sociology degree from Boise State with a minor in political science she moved east for graduate school at Northeastern and earned her master’s in sociology and cultural anthropology. In August 2002 she received a doctorate in social and cultural anthropology.

Griffin has always loved math, but found she was hooked on sociology her first year at Boise State. As the data analyst for Kiley and Company, she has found a way to combine the two.

“I’ve always been interested in politics,” she says. “I like the energy. I believe in what the candidates we work for stand for.”

Griffin grew up in Boise and is the daughter of Dennis Griffin, director of Boise State’s Canyon County Center in Nampa.

— Sherry Squires

author of several books. He is a staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

DEBORAH (MONTGOMERY) BELL, BA, English, ’83 is interim dean of students and counselor for Hamford High School in Richland, Wash.

DOMINIC J. ZAMORA, BBA, management, ’83, was elected to ownership of the firm LeMaster and Daniels, PLLC. After graduating from Boise State, Zamora earned a law degree from Gonzaga University.

JAMES “JIM” KINO, BBA, finance, ’85, was appointed vice president and manager for the new DL Evans office in Ketchum. Kino’s previous banking experience includes several years with West One Bank. Most recently, Kino was an AVP and mortgage loan officer with First Security Bank and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and a loan officer for First Bank of Idaho.

LISA D. (JONES) MCLAIN, BBA, management, behavioral option, ’85, is a new loan officer for Pacific Republic Mortgage. McClain’s experience includes 10 years of business and estate planning, insurance sales and more than seven years of construction office management. After receiving her degree from Boise State, McClain earned a certificate of completion from the Idaho Construction Liens Program.

JULIANA D. ARRIARAN, BFA, art, ’86, is one of the featured artists at the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho. Arriaran is a ceramist who began working with clay in 1972. She attended two art centers of ceramics in Peru and is a rostered artist with the Idaho Arts Commission on the Arts.

STEVE L. COX, BBA, marketing, ’86, was appointed vice president in charge of marketing and business development for Park Place Mortgage, LLC. Previously, Cox was the corporate account manager for AT&T Business Services. He also served as Idaho market manager for AT&T Wireless Services business. During his tenure, he received the National and Regional Circle of Excellence awards for distinguished service.

LAURIE JEAN (GANDIAG) HOWARD, BS, physical education, ’86, is the Castelford athletic director and was honored as the Class 1A athletic director of the year. Howard was honored for her work to better organize the Castelford High School athletic programs. Howard has taught math and physical science at Castelford since 1986. She coached girl’s varsity basketball for 12 years and varsity volleyball for ten years. For the past seven years, Howard has served as a volleyball official, and has been asked to officiate state volleyball competitions.

CARL R. KEEVER, BS, physical education, ’87, has joined the staff of Windermere Real Estate’s Boise Capital Group office as a sales associate. Previously, Keever owned and operated Keever & Parkinson Wealth Management Co. He is a former Boise State football player, a member of the Boise State Hall of Fame, and volunteers for local high school football programs.

CARL G. LANDOWSKE, BS, psychology, ’87, is the clinical director of the Landowske Clinic for the Treatment of Abuse and Trauma Recovery in Portland, Ore. Established in 2002, the clinic serves the needs of juvenile and adult sex offenders, and trauma survivors from around the Portland area. Landowske is also in his second year of teaching juvenile risk assessment at Mount Hood Community College in the Mental Health/Human Services department.

RANDY KENNETH SHRADER, BS, physical education, ’88, was promoted to principal of Jefferson Junior High School in Caldwell. Previously, Shrader served as Parma High School principal from 1998 to 2001. Shrader earned his master’s degree from the University of Idaho.

ANDREW SACKETT, BS, criminal justice administration, ’89, is a major in the U.S. Air Force. He commands the 48th Contracting Squadron and was named the Air Force’s 2002 Outstanding Contracting field grade officer. He is stationed at the Kadena base in Japan. While at Kadena, his unit received six major command level awards. During his tenure, Sackett has salvaged more than $2.5 million for base-wide surveillance projects and $1.1 million in upgrades for base firefighters and police. While in Bosnia, he supported 5,000 soldiers at five bases in the Balkans by coordinating more than $6 million in various contracts. Sackett has helped reduce the cost for 12 military projects through negotiations, saving the Air Force more than $2 million.

GEORGE BERNARD SCHOELOER, BS, biology, ’89, a Navy lieutenant commander, received the Meritorious Service Medal for two years of outstanding service at Naval Medical Research Center Detachment, Lima, Peru. While serving as entomology department supervisor, Schoeler conducted entomological research studies to enhance health protection for United States forces deployed to the Pacific American region and to improve the public health of the local population. Schoeler led the most productive entomology research program within the Department of Defense research laboratory system. Schoeler was instrumental in determining that spotted fever group rickettsia is a significant cause of febrile disease in Peru.

MICKI A. (SPITTLE) DOMENY, BBA, marketing, ’90, is the new marketing coordinator for Food Services of America.
Domeny worked the last six years for KTRV television, first as the Fox Kids Club director for two years, then as an account executive for the last four. Domeny also worked four years as the marketing director for the Eighth Street Marketplace. She has volunteered on local committees, such as the Downtown Boise Association where she chaired the entertainment committee for Alive After Five, and Opera Idaho.

MARIA DELROSARIO ALVARADO-PARKER, BA, elementary education/bilingual, ’91, is the new coordinator for the Boise State Cultural Center. She previously was a program assistant and interim coordinator for the center. The center provides a safe atmosphere in which students are able to create relationships on campus and make the adjustment to university life. She will work with Boise State’s 13 ethnic student organizations in planning community awareness events.

ALMA GOMEZ, MA, education, ’91, MFA, art, ’01, is a featured artist at the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho. Gomez is a visual artist and adjunct art professor at Boise State. She has earned two master’s degrees from Boise State and a bachelor’s from Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas. Her work has been selected for regional, national, and international exhibitions. Gomez has received numerous awards for her work, including one from the distinguished art critic, Lucy Lippard. The Hispanic Research Center at Arizona State University recently selected five of her oil paintings for inclusion in a two-volume book on art titled Contemporary Chicana and Chicano Art: Artists, Works, Culture, and Education.

DWAYNE ALLEN NEWKIRK, BBA, management, ’92, is the human resources director for Swift & Co. and was recently recognized as one of Boise State’s College of Business and Economics Outstanding alumni. Newkirk received...
his professional certification in human resources in 1993. He is a member of Canyon County Job Service Employer’s Council, Idaho Industrial Liaison Group, a volunteer for Nampa Neighborhood Housing, and a coach for youth baseball and soccer.

KIM PHILIPPS, MPA, ’92, was recently named director of marketing and development for Idaho Public Television. In her new position, Philips, a Boise resident, is in charge of the promotional and fund-raising efforts for the state of Idaho’s three public television stations. Philips served as associate director of development for Boise State for 16 years before joining Idaho Public Television.

DUSTIN THOMAS BLOXHAM, BA, criminal justice administration, ’93, was awarded the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Administrative Badge of Valor in a separate ceremony in Washington, D.C. Bloxham joined the DEA in 1998 and is currently assigned to the Los Angeles Mobile Enforcement Team’s Group No. 1.

VALERIE NICOLE CHARLES, BBA, management, ’93, has joined Elam and Burke, P.A. as an associate. Charles earned her juris doctorate degree from New Jersey’s Seton Hall University School of Law in 1999. Her practice emphasizes business transactions, business formation, municipal law, real estate and estate planning.

ARGUS CALVIN VILLINES, BBA, management, ’93, is a technical recruiter for Chipton Ross Inc. in Los Angeles. He recently completed his one-year HR MGT Certification from Irvine.

CLINTON W. BURGESS, BA, English, ’95, joined Axiom Creative Consulting Inc. as a high-tech consultant. Burgess has nearly 20 years of experience in technical writing, public relations, marketing, and project management. Burgess’ new role involves consulting, research and content development. He will be involved in the development of training for one of the local imaging and printing groups. Burgess also attended the College of Southern Idaho, Chaminade University of Honolulu and Idaho State University, and is a former Top Ten Scholar at Boise State University.

LISA RAE (FRY) DRESDNER, MA, English, ’94, recently completed her doctorate degree with distinction in English at Loyola University in Chicago. She was the Loyola Graduate School 2001 recipient of the President’s Medallion Award. Dresdner also attended Albertson College of Idaho and the University of Utah.

DIANE B. GEMPLER, BBA, management, entrepreneurial emphasis, ’94, is the new city clerk for Ammon, Idaho. She was formerly city clerk and treasurer in Ririe. Gempler is active in the Association of Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers.

MACADE K. STEYER, BBA, marketing, ’94, joined the staff of Lawyers Title of Treasure Valley as an escrow coordinator.

JAMES VINCENT FOUDY, BA, elementary education, ’95, is the new principal of McCall-Donnelly School District’s two elementary schools. This position will be his first year-round administrator job. Previously, he was a summer school principal in the Boise schools for six years. In Boise, he managed all summer elementary programs except extended special education. Foudy was also responsible for reporting on the Idaho Reading Indicator program, and oversaw the remedial education of 2,000 students who needed to improve their reading scores. He taught at Garfield Elementary School, then transferred to William Howard Taft Elementary, where he taught fifth and sixth grades. Foudy served in the Army from 1989-1993, and attended college classes at night while stationed in Texas. He has also earned a master’s in education administration from University of Idaho.

GRETHEN LEIGH BOLTON HABERMAN, BA, communication, ’95, has joined Windermere Real Estate as a sales associate. She was previously the director of human resources for McDonald’s/Darmady Enterprises in the Treasure Valley. Haberman is a member of the Bronco Athletic Association.

STACEY HOLLENBAUGH, BA, writing, ’95, is a project manager and consultant for Axiom Creative Consulting Inc. She has worked as a project manager in high-tech consulting and non-profit in the Treasure Valley specializing in the creation of help systems, Web content, and Web sites.

JOY MARIE MCLAIN, BS, health, ’95, is a project biologist for Maxim Technologies. She is responsible for managing
environmental and natural resources studies with emphasis on Idaho transportation projects. McLain was previously an environmental specialist for Power Engineers.

MARGARET D. SANKEY, BA, history, ’95, MA, history, ’97, is an assistant professor of history at Minnesota State University. She teaches 19th and 20th Century European history. Sankey was awarded the NACBS Love Prize for her article, “Elite Culture and the Decline of Scottish Jacobitism.”

JOSEPH “JOE” JACOBY, BA, theatre arts, ’96, is the new instructor of theater at North Idaho College in Coeur d’Alene. Previously, he was an adjunct speech instructor and guest artist with the theatre arts department at NIC. As the only full-time theater instructor, Jacoby has the added responsibility of running the department along with teaching classes.

BRIAN VAUGHAN MCCORMACK, BA, criminal justice administration, ’96, is the personal aide to Vice President Dick Cheney. Earlier, McCormack worked for the Idaho Republican Party and also with Dirk Kempthorne, from his time as a senator to his first two years as governor of Idaho. In 2000, McCormack signed on to manage the campaign for then 4th District judge Daniel Eismann, who was campaigning for the Supreme Court.

STEVE C. WILSON, BBA, finance, ’96, is the new general manager for the Best Western Coeur d’Alene Inn & Conference Center. In addition to the 122-room roadside inn, he will also have responsibility for the company’s restaurant, the Beachouse. Prior, Wilson served as the inaugural director of the Idaho Travel Council, director of sales for The Coeur d’Alene Resort, and manager of both the Inn and the Resort.

KIM K. ZEMAN, BBA, accounting, ’96, was hired as assistant vice president and controller for Idaho members in the Alumni Association during May-Aug. 2003. Join them and many others in becoming a lifetime member. Join online at alumni.boisestate.edu or call (208) 426-1284.

Jean Vandenburg, Boise, ’49
Richard Vandenburg, Boise, ’49
Linda Stivers, Boise, ’67
Gary Stivers, Boise, ’70
Robert T. Francis, Long Beach, Calif., ’73
John Schaffer, Alexandria, Va., ’73
Ronald Stratton, Boise, ’73
Scott Harmon, Boise, ’75
Kathleen W. Gurnsey, Boise, ’76
Jerrod R. Moore, Boise, ’79
Tray E. Ailshie, Santa Ana, Calif., ’80
James M. Telford, Meridian, ’81
Nancy Dunn, Gooding, ’85
Kevin W. Hawkinson, Wellesley, Mass., ’85
Dave Christian, Boise, ’88
Ty Jones, Jerome, ’88
Alex LaBeau, Boise, ’91, ’00
Cindy Jones, Jerome, ’95
Alsy Cory, Boise, ’96
Joshua Cory, Boise, ’97
Kristin Harmon, Boise, ’97
Brian Seppa, Boise, ’97, ’02
Libby Clary, Seattle, ’00
Judy Harris, Buhl, ’00
G. Michael Pea, Urbandale, Iowa ’01
Roy Hansen, Boise, ’02
Robert J. Horton, Boise, ’02
Leonard B. Jenkins, Boise, ’02
Anisa Pea, Urbandale, Iowa, ’02
Robert J. Horton, Boise, ’03
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Distinguished Alumni Award

The Alumni Association will select up to four Distinguished Alumni Award winners who bring honor and glory to Boise State based on a record of outstanding accomplishments in their chosen profession. Presented at the Distinguished Alumni & Top Ten Scholars Banquet on April 23, 2004.

Alumni Service Award

The Alumni Association will select up to two Alumni Service Award winners whose extraordinary interest in the university, demonstrated through dedicated volunteer service, serve as an inspiration to the campus community. Presented at the Alumni Association Annual Meeting, May 5, 2004.

Requirements for both awards:
1. Nominee must have received a degree from Boise Junior College, Boise State College, or Boise State University. 2. Recipients must attend the ceremony to receive their award. 3. Nominations must be submitted no later than January 15, 2004.

Your nomination should include a letter describing the nominee’s qualifications for the award. Also include the following: Nominee’s name and class year; category (Alumni Service Award or Distinguished Alumni Award); occupation/job title; address; home and work phone. Nominators should include their own name, address and phone numbers(s).

Deadline: January 15, 2004

Send information to: Alumni Awards Committee, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1035 or nominate online at alumni.boisestate.edu.

More information: Call the Alumni Association at (208) 426-1698 or visit alumni.boisestate.edu for further information.

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Exams and health monitoring for diabetics, and the University of Utah John Moran Eye Center, where his emphasis was in contact lenses. He also worked at the Eye Foundation, a referral clinic where he was actively involved in the treatment of glaucoma.

John C. Mendiola, BBA, finance, ’00, was promoted to district manager of Home Federal Savings. He will oversee a portion of the institution’s 15 branch locations. Before his promotion, Mendiola was the manager of the Jerome in-store location. In addition to his management duties, Mendiola is Home Federal’s mortgage loan officer for Jerome. Mendiola also holds an associate degree in accounting from the College of Southern Idaho.

Deny D. Moles, BBA, general business management, ’00, was appointed president and CEO of Idavid Credit Union. Moles has been with Idavid for 23 years and served as assistant manager for the past 15 years. She graduated from the Western Cuna Management School before attending Boise State. She is also president of the Idaho Credit Union League’s southwest chapter.

Irina Nava, BBA, international business, ’00, was promoted to marketing coordinator for Project Mutual Telephone. Nava has been with the company for two years as a customer service representative.

Maria Louise Bracci, BFA, graphic design, ’01, has joined Cole/Associates Architects. She will be responsible for all of the

Alta Lynn (Lamm) Selekov, BS, geology, ’98, joined the professional real estate staff of Idaho Properties GMAC Real Estate.

Sean Stanley, BBA, computer information systems, ’98, was hired as systems administrator for the Lee Pesky Learning Center. He previously worked for Albertson’s Inc., providing technical support for their computer systems.

Ester Ceja, BS, political science, ’99, MPA, ’03, is the new statewide campaign director for The Snake River Alliance. Ceja will be responsible for general outreach and campaign coordination and will advocate for responsible cleanup of nuclear waste at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in eastern Idaho. While at Boise State, Ceja participated in the Idaho Progressive Student Alliance, Boise State Environmental, Education and Diversity Club and the Organizacion de Estudiantes Latino-Americanos. Prior to joining the Alliance, Ceja worked as a program associate for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 10 environmental finance center, was a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service and a volunteer for the Girl Scouts.

Adam Casey Dayley, BS, health science, ’99, is the new optometrist for the Eye Clinic of Orofino. After graduating from Boise State, Dayley attended Pacific University College of Optometry where he graduated with distinction and received the David J. Kerko Low Vision Award. Dayley has worked for the Salt Lake Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where he focused on comprehensive vision...
firm’s marketing and general office management.

ROBERTO GAYTAN JR., BFA, graphic design, ’01, is a featured artist at the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho. He is a graphic artist for the Idaho Department of Reclamation. In his spare time, he creates artwork on canvas, cars, T-shirts and in print.

STEPHENV. GREEN, BBA, finance, ’01, was promoted to the position of finance manager for Minor’s R.V. and Marina Inc. in Nampa.

LINDA LEE KUHSE, AAS, small engine repair, ’01, has established her own repair business, Clear Creek Small Engine, in east Boise County.

FRANK LEE BERNAS, BS, criminal justice administration, ’02, has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Bernas received a high Basic Rifle Marksmanship score and was awarded a Superior Performance certificate. He is a petroleum specialist assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment at Fort Jackson, S.C.

JAMES “JAMIE” ALAN LANG, JR., AAS, drafting technology, ’02, has joined the staff of Leavitt & Associates Engineers Inc. He will be working as a draftsman under the direction of a professional land surveyor and will be responsible for drafting plats and records of surveys. Lang is currently working on the final plat for the Cobblefield Crossing Subdivision in Meridian and the as-built plans for Roosevelt Park Subdivision in Nampa.

SUZANNE L. WALTER, BBA, marketing, ’02, was hired as an account coordinator for Oliver Russell, an integrated marketing services firm.

LINDA COOK, BA, English, ’03, is a copy editor for the Idaho Press-Tribune. She will be the primary coordinator for three sections of the newspaper: the monthly ‘Your Home’ and ‘Your Health’ sections, and the weekly ‘Real Estate Showcase’.

JASON CUSHING, AAS, drafting technology, ’03, joined W&H Pacific’s land development team as an AutoCad technician.

ERIC BRIAN HACKETT, BSC, civil engineering, ’03, has joined the firm of Doherty & Associates Inc. He will be assisting the firm with general roadway, utility, traffic control and airport designs.

WEDDINGS

JENNIFER RENEE POWELL and Aaron Whittacre McSween Hill (Newport Beach, Calif.) March 23.

LINDSAY BATIE and Adam Blank (Caldwell) May 22.

TRAVIS PAUL BURROWS and CHRISS LEE WARHURST (Nigril, Jamaica) May 22.

NICHOLE WASSMUTH and Tim Kinzer (Ferdinand, Idaho) May 24.

MADELEINE MARIE BRADFORD and Corey Drewes (Melba) May 31.

CURTIS LAYNE OSBORNE and MEGAN IRENE SORVAAG (Susanville, Calif.) May 31.

ANNE HIRSCHFELD and Lance Rieber (Sun Valley) May 24.

LEVI T. WIMER and Jenny Carey (Boise) July 4.

DEATHS

BOB BEAVER, MA, elementary education, ’72, died May 10 after a brief illness. He was 69. Beaver was born in Seligman, Mont., and moved to Boise in 1935. After graduation from Boise High, Beaver joined the Navy Sea Bees and served four years, primarily in Japan building airfields. While at Boise State he was president of the campus veteran’s group, and the Esquire club. Beaver taught sixth grade at Owyhee Elementary for three years and then became a principal, first at Monroe, then Campus and Highlands and retired from Roosevelt. Beaver served as president of the Boise State Alumni Association in 1988 and also was an active member of the Bronco Athletic Association.

JUDY D. (BRAY) BEHLER, BS, physical education, ’78, died in Lewiston of complications from multiple sclerosis. She was 46. Behler was born in Pocatello and graduated with honors from Blackfoot High School in 1974. After graduating with honors from BSU, she went on to earn a master’s degree from Oregon State. Behler taught seventh and eighth grade science and coached girls’ basketball and volleyball at Prairie Middle School from 1979 to 1986.

NEIL W. BROOKS, BS, physical education, ’70, died June 10 in Boise. Brooks was born in Emmett and was a four-year letter winner at Emmett High
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School. After graduation, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force and later earned a bachelor’s degree from Boise State. Brooks became a coordinator for Boise Community Schools, and a physical education specialist and coach for the Boise School District. He retired from education in 1988.

DELORES FLAMING, AS, nursing, ’84, died in Dallas on June 10. She was born in Frazier, Mont. and moved to southwest Idaho in 1959. Flaming decided to continue her education in 1982 and enrolled at Boise State. She graduated at the top of her nursing class two years later. In 1985, she moved to Baytown, Texas, and worked for Gulf Coast Hospital until her retirement in 1998.

LUCILLE (GRUBB) TRACADAS, BA, English, ’73, MA, English, ’82, BA, theatre arts, ’90, died of complications from Alzheimer’s disease on May 25 in Ontario, Ore. She was 85. A Nebraska native, she earned a scholarship to attend the University of Wyoming and Pasadena Playhouse. Tracadas continued her education at Boise State where she earned two bachelor’s degrees and a master’s degree. Tracadas worked as a runway model in Phoenix, as an actor with the Pasadena Playhouse in Pasadena, Calif., and was also a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

JACK BRUCE HALBERT, BA, history, ’70, died July 17 in Clay Center, Kan. He was 63. Halbert graduated from Payette High School in 1958. He enlisted in the Army after graduation and served from 1961-1963. After graduation from Boise State, Halbert taught briefly, then held various management positions. He moved to Clay Center in 1981 and managed the Short Stop No. 1 for 22 years.

CAROL DILLON HALEY, BA, communication, ’80, died in Meridian from complications related to Alzheimer’s disease. She was 83. After retiring from Pacific Telephone in 1978, she moved from California to Eagle and enrolled as a full-time student at Boise State. Haley ran for a seat on the Eagle City Council in 1979 as a class project and won. Four years later, Haley became the first woman to serve as mayor of Eagle. In 1993 Haley, who served as a Navy recruiter during World War II, was appointed to the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission.

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DARRELL LEE JOHNSON, CC, applied technology, ’79, died in Boise on May 19 from a heart attack. Johnson was born in Oakland, Calif., but lived in Boise most of his life. He graduated from Borah High School and continued his education at Boise State. Johnson served in the U.S. Navy from 1975 to 1976, and later worked as a surgical technician.

RANDALL J. KATH, BBA, management, ’89, died at age 46 in Scottsdale, Ariz. Kath was born in Davenport, Iowa, and moved to Phoenix in 1972. He graduated from Paradise Valley High School in 1975 and later relocated to Idaho where he attended Boise State. After graduation, Kath worked as a police officer with the Homedale Police Department and then with the Nampa Police Department. He made a career change in 1989 and moved to Arizona, then Washington where he worked in the insurance field until his death.

ELSIE MAY (RASMUSSEN) LARUE, CC, practical nursing, ’77, died in Nampa on June 16. She was 78. LaRue was born in Jarrahdale, West Australia, and moved to the United States in 1946. She farmed for many years before relocating to Boise in the early 1950s. She was working as a nurse’s aide before she decided to continue her education at Boise State University. After graduation, LaRue worked for St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise Valley Sunset Nursing Home and Boise Valley Convalescent Center.
TRONNIE K. (OLSON) LOSEKE, AS, secretarial, ’81, BS, psychology, ’82, died June 8 in Cascade after a battle with breast cancer. Loseke, a Cascade native, began work with the U.S. Forest Service as a seasonal employee in 1978. After graduation, she began her full-time career with the Forest Service in McCall, and continued working there until her death.

On Sept. 27 a bus carrying 22 members of the Boise State University debate team was involved in an accident on Interstate 84 near Mountain Home. The driver of the bus, STEVEN MCNUTT of Boise, was killed and several members of the debate team were injured. McNutt was an employee of Interwest Systems. The students involved in the crash were treated and released.

ERNEST RAYMOND MEDLEY, AAS, electronic technology, ’85, died of complications from Fabry on June 17 in Arvada, Colo. He was 67. Medley grew up in Weiser, Emmett and McCall. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Medley earned his Boise State degree after retiring from the military in 1983. After graduation, he began his civil service career as an electronics tech for the Pacific Missile Test Center in Point Magu, Calif. He was promoted to electronics mechanic in the electronic prototype branch, later became an electronic tech supervisor and then was assigned to the communication and data link division at Laguna Peak, Calif. Throughout his career, Medley received many high performance ratings and numerous military awards.

ROSALYN O. BARRY ROBERTSON died May 30 in Sonora, Calif., after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. She was 71. Robertson taught journalism at Boise State before moving to California in 1980. Previously, she had worked for various newspapers in Idaho and also was a United Press International correspondent.

MARC RUSSELL SMITH, BS, criminal justice, ’81, died Sept. 27 in a Boise motorcycle accident. He was born in Richland, Wash., and grew up in Benton City, Wash., where he attended school until his family moved to New Jersey in 1968. Smith graduated from Cedar Ridge High School in New Jersey then returned to the Pacific Northwest to attend Boise State. He took a break from his education and joined the Army in 1977, serving as a ranger and helicopter navigator with the Air Cavalry. He attained the rank of sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1981 with a Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and Expert Qualification Badge. Smith served as a Canyon County sheriff for four years. He later completed his education at Boise State and had worked for the university for the last 16 years as a technical support specialist, then telephone systems engineer.

CHERA SOMMER, a four-year starter on the Boise State volleyball team and a captain on the 2002 squad, died in an automobile accident June 22 while driving from Los Angeles to her hometown of Seal Beach, Calif. She ranked fifth in all-time career assists and seventh in all-time assists per game. As a student she completed internships with the KIVI sports department and with The Boise Weekly. She planned to return to Boise State this fall to finish her bachelor’s degree in marketing. She graduated from Los Alamitos High School in California in 1999.

JONNA L. STEPHENSON, BA, economics, ’73, died Aug. 16 in Scottsdale, Ariz., after a short illness. Stephenson was born in Idaho but lived on the east coast for a few years before returning to her home state. She was employed by Ore-Ida Foods in the Logistics Department for more than 3 years. In 1985, she moved to Scottsdale, Ariz., and started a new
KRISTINA A. VAUGHN, BBA, administrative services, ’88, died in Boise on Aug. 10. Vaughn was born in Germany and moved to Idaho while still a child. She graduated from Borah High School in 1981. Vaughn worked for the Idaho Business Review for 11 years and also worked a number of years as a sponsor of the Soap Box Derby racers. She later took a supervisory position with the Ada County Recorder’s Office, and worked there until her death.

Former education dean GERALD R. WALLACE died Sept. 26 in Boise. His education included undergraduate work at then College of Idaho, a master’s in American history from UC-Berkeley in 1944 and a doctorate from University of Oregon in 1956. Wallace taught and was a principal in the Boise School District before serving in superintendent positions in Pocatello, Corvallis, Ore., and New Jersey. In 1968, he came to Boise State to become the first dean of education, a position he held for 10 years. He also served as the university’s acting executive vice president from 1977-78. Upon his retirement from Boise State in 1978, he was awarded a Silver Medallion, the university’s highest honor.

LAURIE JEAN WILSON, BBA, administrative services, ’82, passed away on April 25 in Gilbert, Ariz. She was 45. Wilson was born in Boise and graduated from Meridian High School in 1976. After her Boise State graduation, she worked at Micron and Zilog before moving to San Jose, Calif. She continued working in the computer industry and later moved to Gilbert, Ariz. where she worked as an operations analyst for Motorola until her death.

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