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BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
FALL 2007, VOL. XXXIII, NO. 1

FOCUS

BIGGER & BETTER
Boise State’s fall enrollment sets a state record and reflects a boost in both quantity and quality.

V FOR VALOR
Maj. Vaughn Ward from the Class of ’94 is awarded the Bronze Star for heroism in Iraq.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS
Boise State researchers make preparing your business for a pandemic as easy as rolling the dice.

GRIDIRON GRADS
Four recent graduates make the cut as National Football League rookies, bringing the total of former Broncos in the NFL to nine.

HEAD OF HER CLASS
Communication professor Heidi Reeder is named Idaho’s top professor for 2007 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This marks Boise State’s 11th honoree since 1990.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE:
Boise State’s campaign to raise $175 million was announced in late August during the celebration of the institution’s 75th anniversary. Destination Distinction: The Campaign for Boise State University strives to unite the campus and community in a single goal: excellence. This issue’s theme section outlines the four areas of the campaign’s focus: students, faculty, academics and facilities. Join us on a journey of discovery through our Destination Distinction campaign. Cover photos by John Kelly and Carrie Quinney. Cover design by Drew Roberts.
FOCUS

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FOCUS Fall 2007

FOCUS Fall 2007

FOCUS Fall 2007
Enrollment reaches 19,540, sets another state record

With the exception of one year, Boise State has seen an increase in its fall enrollment every year since 1996 and 19 times in the past 22 years.

Enrollment has become a matter of both quantity and quality at Boise State. That's partly because for the 10th time in the last 11 years, the university has set an all-time record for Idaho higher education institutions with a fall enrollment of 19,540 — an overall increase of 3.5 percent from last year's head count of 18,876. The impressive increase of 644 students marks not only the first time an Idaho school has surpassed the 19,000 level, but is also Boise State's largest enrollment gain in four years during more than a decade of managed growth.

Equally important, says President Bob Kustra, is the fact that the university is attracting not only more students, but also better students — a trend that is borne out in the profile of the incoming freshman class. Kustra notes that while the freshman class of 2,280 is a record, it is also one of the most academically talented groups to enter Boise State, as indicated by:

• The addition of 12 National Merit finalists — an increase of 300 percent over last year.
• An inaugural class of 28 Presidential Civic Leadership Scholars — recipients of a new scholarship offered to high-achieving Idaho residents who have experience in and a commitment to civic leadership.
• The recognition of 33 Boise State Capital Scholars — recipients of a renewable scholarship for standout students in Idaho who are in the top 10 percent on a high school class and scored within the top 10 percent of a national standardized test. The 33 recipients represent an 83 percent increase in Capital Scholars from the previous year.
• A composite ACT score that surpassed the previous year’s entering freshman class and exceeded the national and Idaho average scores.
• The students’ average high school GPA of 3.30 is an increase from last year’s number.

“Our very highest priority is recruiting high-ability students,” Kustra says. “We’re bringing much more strategic about bringing them here.”

Kustra adds that the quality of the school’s newcomers and the academic prowess they bring to the campus is a driving force behind Boise State’s development as a metropolitan research university of distinction. “Our record-setting fall enrollment is evidence that our efforts to enhance the value of a Boise State diploma are paying dividends,” he says.

Since 1996, the only two fall enrollment increases that surpassed this year’s 3.5 percent hike were 4.2 percent gains in 2001 and 2003. With the exception of one year, Boise State has seen an increase in its fall enrollment every year since 1996 and 19 times in the past 22 years. Since 1996, Boise State has grown by more than 4,400 students, or 29 percent.

“These are extremely exciting times at Boise State,” says Kustra, “and the fact we have more than 19,500 students who want to be part of this experience speaks volumes about the quality of our faculty, our campus facilities and our academic offerings.”

Boise State nets $26.8 million in research funding

Boise State research continues to gain momentum and stature after setting another annual record for sponsored project funding for a wide array of research programs.

Boise State netted $26.8 million in sponsored project funding during fiscal year 2007, a new university record and increase of $3 million over the previous year. This increase is just the latest step in a coordinated campus-wide focus on fostering research programs that address issues such as the development of new energy sources and the treatment of debilitating diseases.

“University research programs don’t just add to the stature and prestige of the institutions where they are housed and the scholars doing the work,” says Boise State President Bob Kustra. “It’s true that the momentum we’re building in top-notch research programs helps Boise State attract the best faculty and students possible. But these programs also pump millions directly into the regional economy.”

Since 2000, total awarded funds for research and sponsored project funding have increased 47 percent. During that same period, total awarded funds from the National Science Foundation have increased 130 percent and funding from the National Institutes of Health has increased 314 percent.

In total, 243 Boise State research projects received sponsored funding during fiscal year 2007. Nearly $14.5 million of Boise State’s sponsored project research dollars came from federal grants and awards, according to Boise State Vice President for Research Mark Rudin.

“With each new research initiative and each new dollar awarded, BSU’s reputation as a research university grows and helps breed future success,” says Rudin. “Our focus on research will be at the heart of Boise State’s growth and advancement far into the future.”

For a rundown of some of Boise State’s research highlights from fiscal year 2007, go online to http://news.boisestate.edu/newsrelease/092007/0911researchprograms.shtml.

Professor of the Year communicates excellence

You may have seen her interviewed on NBC’s Today show, or perhaps you caught her on the Life & Style show, on a local radio talk show, or speaking at a community event. But if you haven’t seen her in action in the classroom, you haven’t really seen Heidi Reeder at her best.

That’s because as dedicated as this Boise State associate professor of communication is to sharing her research in a meaningful context, her passion lies in teaching — the opportunity to mold and change lives for the better.

Reeder credits her own teachers with transforming an awkward, self-doubting teen into a young woman with a clear vision of how she could make a difference as a teacher. It’s that vision that she hopes to pass on to her own students.

“I believe I’m at my best when I provide students with experiences that challenge them on a personal level,” she says.

Her concern about her students as individuals and her ability to help them see new ways to approach life’s challenges are what make her such a successful mentor and teacher. So successful, in fact, that she has been named the 2007 Idaho Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Reeder’s honor marks the 11th time that a Boise State professor has earned this award, and the seventh time in the past decade. In mid-November, she and other state winners from across the United States were honored at a reception in Washington, D.C.

When asked what sets her apart, students point to her ability to connect with people both in and out of the classroom, her enthusiasm for her chosen profession and her ability to make it real and personal. And just as her former teachers showed her the way, she is now acting as a mentor to others.

‘Dr. Reeder guided me on a path of self-worth and discovery. She enabled me to see my full potential and assisted me in breaking the self-made barriers holding me back,’ writes former Arbiter editor and student Mary Dawson in a letter of recommendation. ‘I only hope my actions reflect her teachings and that in some small way I, too, will have an impact on those around me.’

Reeder’s honor marks Boise State’s 11th Idaho Professor of the Year award.

By Kathleen Craven

For the Boise State Arbiter
CELEBRATING OUR DIAMOND JUBILEE: The Boise State campus was abuzz with 75th anniversary celebration events in late August and early September. From top clockwise: Students Seren Horton (second right) and Alyssa Dunlap (far right) of the Associated Students of BSU watch as fellow students sign a happy 75th birthday card during the ASBSU-sponsored Founders’ Day Grill and Chill in the Quad on Sept. 6. Members of the comprehensive campaign steering committee hold up the amount — more than $70 million — that the campaign had raised so far during the Aug. 21 gala that formally kicked off the campaign. Gov. Butch Otter and first lady Lori Easley Otter at the gala. Boisean Pauline Hill, a member of the first group of students to attend Boise Junior College on Sept. 6, 1932, visits the campus during Founders’ Day — 75 years later to the day.
KLOC WINS NATIONAL AWARD

By Kloc, associate general manager and director of development and marketing for Boise State Radio, was named Development Professional of the Year by the Public Radio Association of Development Officers. Kloc received the award from PRA-DO at the organization’s Public Radio Development/Marketing national conference in Reno, Nev. 21 July.

Kloc was recognized in his efforts to demonstrate excellence and leadership in development at Boise State Radio. He was recognized for his work in underwriting, membership, individual donor development, and BSU Radio’s newly created marketing department.

SELLAND STUDENT WINS GOLD

Boise State student Josh Bovey won the gold medal in the Precision Machining contest at the SkillsUSA National Championships earlier this year.

Bovey, who will graduate in December, with a bachelor’s in applied science degree in machine tool technology from the Seland College of Applied Technology, won the gold medal in the same event at the SkillsUSA state competition in April to qualify for the nationals in Kansas City, Mo.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the showcase for the best applied technology students in the nation. Contest begin locally and continue through the state and national levels. More than 5,000 students competed in 87 separate events this year.

PROGRAM EARNS RECOGNITION

Boise State's Service-Learning Program was honored with the Idaho Health Care Association’s annual Enrichment Award. The award is given each year to the individual or the organizations with outstanding contributions to long-term care.

Students in the Service-Learning Program were recognized for their volunteer work with residents at the Boise Samaritan Village Health Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Last year, the Service-Learning Program coordinated 169 service-learning students with the community to enhance learning and foster civic responsibility. These students served more than 3,575 hours with five long-term care agencies through 17 different service projects.

CORRECTION

In the faculty retirement article in the Summer 2007 issue of FOCUS, the biographical sketch of former Seland College draft technology co-director Reed Shinn incorrectly included a photo of Ed Lomadale, another Seland College faculty member.

“ When we [the U.S.] sacrifice our principles we lose our greatest power.”

GARY HART

Former U.S. Senator


24th annual Frank Church Conference on Public Affairs

Alumnus Ward wins Bronze Star for valor

On Sept. 22 Maj. Vaughn Ward (BS, political science, ’94) was awarded the Bronze Star with a Combat “V” for valor for his heroic actions while serving as a Marine rifle company commander in Fallujah, Iraq.

On behalf of President Bush, Ward’s battalion commander, Lt. Col. Brian Sule, awarded the Bronze Star to Ward at Devens Reserve Forces Training Area in Massachusetts in front of 200 Marines and sailors, some of whom Ward led in combat between March and October of 2006.

A native of Jerome, Ward joined the Marine Corps in 1995 after he graduated from Boise State. In 2000 he left the Corps and earned an MBA from the University of Maryland in 2002. Ward later joined the CIA, where he was a case officer in the Middle East and Africa. He then put his career with the CIA on hold and rejoined the Marines to serve in Iraq.

Ward, 38, is currently working in the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs in Washington, D.C. He and his wife and daughter plan to return to Idaho by the end of the year. Ward, who served as a legislative aide for then-U.S. Sen. Dirk Kempthorne in 1993, plans to pursue a political career.

NEWMAKERS

• JULIA OXFORD, biologist, was quoted in a story about the State Board of Education’s approval of a $1 million grant for Boise State University to establish a biomedical research center. The center will look for new therapies and preventions for bone disease. The story ran across the state and region.

• JOHN FREEMUTH, political science, was quoted in an Idaho Statesman story on C.L. “Butch” Otter growing into his role as governor. The story was also posted on The Oregonian’s Northwest Headlines Web site.

• GENE BLEMAIWER, athletic director, was quoted in a Macom Telegraph (Ga.) story about how the football team’s success has equated to overall university and community success.

• The research of JOHN ZIKER, anthropology, was featured in a story that appeared on Vesti Taimyr (Taimyr News-Channel 2 in Russia) in August. The story was about Ziker’s work on a project titled “Home, Hearth and Household in Siberia and Northern Canada.”

• Boise State football was the cover story on the Aug. 20 USA Today sports page. Outside of athletics (CHRIS PETERS and BRAD LARRONDO), others quoted in the story included President BOB KUSTRA, Boise Mayor Dave Bieter and US Bank’s Jim Grigsby.

• CAROLE NEMNICH, project coordinator for the Social Science Research Center, was quoted in a USA Today story on Idaho’s growth.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY IN THE WEST

Edited by John Freemuth

Political science professor Freemuth and his co-editor compile a roster of top scholars to explore population growth and industrial development vs. wide open spaces and natural resources in this new edition of their book, first published in 1993. Boise State public policy and administration department chair Les Alm is a contributor.

CONCEPTS OF ATHLETIC TRAINING

By Ron Pfeiffer

Pfeiffer, a professor of kinesiology and co-director of the Center for Orthopaedic and Biomechanics Research, joins with his co-author on this fifth edition of a text targeted to undergraduate students majoring in athletic training, coaching or physical education. In print since 1995, it is used widely at colleges and universities around the country and internationally.

THE NONCONFORMISTS

By Nick Miller

In The Nonconformists: Culture, Politics, and Nationalism in a Serbian Intellectual Circle, 1944-1991, history professor and department chair Miller examines the interaction of culture, politics and nationalism in Serbia since 1945. The book focuses on the activities and ideas of novelist Dobrica Cosic, painter Misa Popanovic and literary critic Borisavlje Mijailovic Mihajlov. Together, these three helped forge a new Serbian identity that fused older cultural imagery with modern conditions.

Click First Editions, ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY IN THE WEST, and THE NONCONFORMISTS on campus news for more information.
FOCUS

Four former Broncos gathered in Green Bay’s Lambeau Field earlier this season when the Packers hosted the Philadelphia Eagles. From left: Quintin Mikell, Kimo von Oelhoffen, Derick Schouman and Korey Hall. Photo courtesy of the Boise State Alumni Association and Athletic Department designed to connect former Bronco athletes, band members, cheer squad members, Marlene Dancers, sports medicine graduates, and parents of student athletes with Boise State. Contact Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B coordinator, at www.broncosports.com/varsityb.

FOCUS

Four rookies make it nine former Broncos in the NFL

Four members of Boise State’s undefeated and nationally ranked 2006 football team made the cut as National Football League rookies this year, bringing the total of former Broncos in the NFL to nine.

A second-round selection by Detroit in the 2007 NFL draft, DEREK SCHUMAN is in his third year with the Oakland Raiders. In 2006, he began his 14th year in the NFL as a member of the Packers. The fourth first-year player is Green Bay fullback JEB PUTZIER, drafted in the fifth round by San Diego, the versatile LEWIS DINWIDDIE played for the Winnipeg Eskimos’ injured list.

Four former Broncos gathered in Green Bay’s Lambeau Field earlier this season when the Packers hosted the Philadelphia Eagles. From left: Quintin Mikell, Kimo von Oelhoffen, Derick Schouman and Korey Hall. Photo courtesy of the Boise State Alumni Association and Athletic Department designed to connect former Bronco athletes, band members, cheer squad members, Marlene Dancers, sports medicine graduates, and parents of student athletes with Boise State. Contact Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B coordinator, at www.broncosports.com/varsityb.

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FOCUS

Keiser, 6 ex-Broncos inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

JOHN KEISER, Boise State’s president from 1978 to 1991, and six former Bronco athletes were inducted into the university’s Athletic Hall of Fame this fall. The other inductees were basketball player ROBERTO BERGERSEN, gymnast JOANNA EVANS, football player BART HENDRICKS, tennis player WELEY MOODIE, track and field athlete JARRED ROME, and wrestler KIRK WHITE. The seven bring the total members of the Hall of Fame to 86.

The seventh inductee is in his fifth season with the Eagles. In addition, tight end JEB PUTZIER is in his second season with the Edmonton Eskimos. In 1999, he was selected as the first-team All-Big West Conference receiver. He is a two-time first-team All-Big West selection at forward and was also named to the 1999 first-team all-district team. He is currently playing professional basketball in Europe.

BERROBERTO BERGERSEN played for the Bronco men’s basketball team from 1996-99 and was named the 1999 Big West Conference Player of the Year. He is a two-time first-team All-Big West selection at forward and was also named to the 1999 first-team all-district team. He is currently playing professional basketball in Europe.

A six-time NCAA All-American in the shot put and discus, the most by any Bronco track and field athlete, JARRED ROME is currently ranked fourth among the world’s discus throwers. As a Bronco, he earned All-America honors from 1997 to 2000 winning three each in both events. He qualified for the 2004 Olympics in the discus.

In 1999 KIRK WHITE earned All-America honors and captured the 165-pound NCAA national wrestling championship as a sophomore. He went on to win two more All-America awards, the most of any Bronco wrestler in school history. Now an assistant coach for the Bronco wrestling team, White continues to wrestle freestyle and won silver medals at the 2003 and 2004 Pan American Games.

FOCUS FALL 2007

FOCUS FALL 2007
Influenza game helps businesses prepare for pandemic

By Kathleen Craven

T here’s an old superstition that says if a visitor wants to return to the place he has just visited, he needs to leave something behind.

If that’s true, then many return trips to South Korea lie in store for Boise State literary professor Stan Steiner.

Steiner spent the spring and part of the summer on sabbatical at Chonbuk National University in Jeonju, South Korea, as part of an agreement between Chonbuk and Boise State’s College of Education. Steiner, who specializes in children’s literacy, began arranging for children’s books to be donated to Korean libraries.

An influenza pandemic will be very different from other disasters,” says Uwe Reischl, a public health physician and one of the project’s research partners. “This requires a unique preparedness strategy both at the individual level and at the business level.”

The game has already been applied at four local Treasure Valley organizations.

The Idaho Review celebrates 10th anniversary

By Julie Hahn

W hen you pick up The Idaho Review and take in its elegant cover and layout, there’s no indication that you’re holding a literary success story in your hands.

But the Boise State University publication, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2008, has produced eight issues and has had eight stories appear in prized anthologies — which is equivalent to having a football team that makes it to a major bowl game every year.

Prof donates books to Korean library

In 1997, as Boise State explored the idea of the review shortly after he arrived at Boise State from the University of Alabama, where he received his master’s degree.

By Kathleen Craven

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Destination Distinction: The Campaign for Boise State University, is Boise State’s recently launched $175 million fundraising initiative. The campaign will transform BSU into a metropolitan research university of distinction, bringing students unparalleled opportunities, improving the quality of life for Idahoans, and solving problems at home and around the globe.

Boise State’s people (our students, faculty and staff) are the motivation. The university’s programs (our exceptional academics and enhanced research agenda) are the means to achieve greatness. Boise State’s places (our new buildings and facilities) are where that greatness will be imparted, witnessed and shared.

However, Boise State will face an uphill battle to meet those obligations unless we broaden our base of support. Building and sustaining this greatness requires commitments from our alumni, supporters and community partners — a concerted effort to improve the university’s reputational currency, thus attracting better students and faculty and securing even better opportunities.

Only with the generous help from individuals, companies and foundations can we achieve the goals of Destination Distinction and take Boise State to unprecedented heights for an enthusiastic, diverse and accomplished student body.

The following 12 pages feature a look at four key areas of focus that the campaign is designed to support: students, faculty, academics, and buildings and facilities.

Join our Journey to Distinction

FOUNDATION AT THE FOREFRONT

“Destination Distinction: The Campaign for Boise State University” is spearheaded by the Boise State Foundation. A nonprofit Idaho organization, the Foundation is Boise State’s official fundraising organization and also serves as the custodian for donations to the university.

For additional information about the campaign and a breakdown of the target amounts for each area of need and how the funding will be used, please go to the “Destination Distinction” link at the bottom of Boise State’s main Web page. You can also visit the campaign Web site directly at http://foundation.boisestate.edu/campaign.

To contact the Boise State Foundation by phone, call (208) 426-3276 or call toll-free at 1-800-341-6150.

Boise State’s comprehensive campaign is designed to support the university’s faculty, students, programs and places. From left: One of the elevator towers that will support the new skyboxes and press box at Bronco Stadium, Adelina Draghici, a marketing and business major from Romania, celebrates her 2007 graduation. Former electrical engineering student Todd Plum, who graduated in 2003, conducts research in the Idaho Microfabrication Laboratory.
JOHN KELLY often feels her students’ financial pain.

Spanish professor Teresa Boucher (left) says she expose themselves to new cultures and experiences.

The No. 1 reason that students stop attending Boise State is financial need. … [They] have responsibilities that people need to be aware of.

By Julie Hahn

Take a look around professor Teresa Boucher’s Spanish 498 senior seminar and you’ll get a snapshot of Boise State students.

There are the traditional undergraduates who arrived on campus fresh out of high school; there are students who decided to further their educations after serving in the armed forces; there are mothers and fathers; and students who have spent time, effort and resources to study abroad and expose themselves to new cultures and experiences.

These students share a love of the Spanish language, and a quick survey reveals that they would continue their educations here if they could — but they can’t. Although a plan for a master’s degree program in Spanish has been in the works for years, Boise State has lacked the funding to get the program started.

And even though these students are some of the top Spanish students at Boise State, few of them have received any scholarship money.

“I received $125 once,” Greg Shaffer says, recalling his scholarship as a major in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. Another student received $500 to study abroad, which paid for only 10 percent of the total cost of her trip.

The students in Boucher’s class demonstrate one of the core needs of the Boise State “Destination Distinction” campaign: the financial support needed to recruit and retain excellent students. Destination Distinction has outlined many areas of need for students, including scholarships, graduate assistantships, new degree programs and expanded research space and library collections.

ALL ASPECTS

Funding for students is the most important part of any campaign, says Michael Laliberte, Boise State’s vice president for student affairs.

And that funding plays into all aspects of a student’s college experience, from where the students live — one of the campaign goals is to raise money to remodel and expand student housing, including residential colleges, where students and faculty live in the same building — to how they study. Boucher’s Spanish program alone hopes to benefit from a $30,000 boost to the Albertsons Library Spanish collection, and many other departments are counting on expanded resources for students.

The No. 1 reason that students stop attending Boise State is financial need, Laliberte says. “Students have amazing responsibilities that people need to be aware of,” he says. “It’s not unusual to have people working full time and going to school full time.”

DEEP IN DEBT

Idaho college graduates carry one of the nation’s highest average debts; about 71 percent have student loans. The average debt accrued by graduates of four-year colleges and universities exceeds $20,000.

According to Laliberte, if Boise State can create scholarships that can augment students’ living expenses and life needs, it will have much more engaged students who are likely to graduate.

Boucher’s diverse student population leaves gaps that aren’t met by traditional scholarships. For instance, students who are returning to college after a long absence don’t necessarily have the academic standing required for many scholarships.

“Our students aren’t cookie cutouts,” Laliberte says.

BOISE STATE students and faculty face financial obstacles in their efforts to enroll in graduate-level Spanish courses.

The No. 1 reason that students stop attending Boise State is financial need. … [They] have responsibilities that people need to be aware of.

Boucher says she feels her students’ pain most acutely when she has to turn away those who would like to continue their educations at Boise State but can’t because a master’s degree in Spanish isn’t offered here, or anywhere else in Idaho.

“We have the population, the student demand, but no program,” she says. Every year, Boucher writes letters of recommendation for outstanding students who move elsewhere after receiving an undergraduate degree from Boise State. “We lose some really talented people,” she says.

ESPECIALLY TROUBLING

It’s especially troubling because Boucher also responds to numerous requests for highly educated Spanish speakers as the demand for qualified bilingual teachers, translators and business people grows daily.

Boucher receives requests from Idaho’s court system and hospitals, where a mistake in translation can lead to disaster.
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE MUSIC TO HIS EARS

Jake Ineck is one busy guy.

A senior who is double majoring in music performance and music education, he’s expected to devote four hours a day to practice. And do his homework. And check out graduate schools. Oh, and give 35 students private guitar lessons.

But as Ineck says, he’s luckier than a lot of other music students. He has been the recipient of a number of scholarships that have allowed him to devote more time to his studies and less time to an outside job.

His most recent scholarship, a prestigious award from the Presser Foundation, will take care of most of his academic needs this year. Throughout his academic career, he’s also received a number of departmental scholarships that have helped defray his costs.

“They all do help offset the cost of attending here, which is really important,” Ineck says. “The price it takes to be a music major is a lot more than you would expect. Once you’re done with your homework you still have hours of practicing you need to do … to tack work on top of it, it’s just more.”

Ineck is from Boise and decided to stay in the area to study guitar at Boise State. “I was excited that it was a quality institution in my hometown,” he says, adding that Boise State has given him a well-rounded education.

Ineck plans to go to graduate school after a couple more years at Boise State, making his scholarships especially important. “That’s when the big bucks start happening,” he says. His undergraduate scholarships have given him an advantage, he says.

“It takes a while to get started,” he says of a music career. “It’s even harder to get started in the professional world with loans and everything hanging over your head.”

— Julie Hahn

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT DRIVES FACULTY IN CLASSROOM, COMMUNITY

By Mike Journee

W hen C.J. Northrup first came to Boise State as a young Ph.D. in 1998, he was struck by the vision with which the Department of Geosciences approached the future.

With aggressive five- and 10-year plans in place and being actively pursued, the department’s focus on building a national reputation for envelope-pushing research and, in turn, one of the field’s best academic programs in the country, was strong.

That disciplined vision was a key selling point for Northrup. Now, as the chairman of the Department of Geosciences, Northrup underscores the concrete results — four undergraduate degrees, four master’s degrees, two doctorates, the department’s international reputation for excellent scholarship and millions of dollars in annual research funding through grants, fellowships and contracts with government, philanthropic and corporate sources.

Northrup has helped the geosciences program develop a rock-solid reputation.
“Our faculty members are the heart and soul of the university. They are the ones who make it work. Without them we do not have a university.”

Northrup and his colleagues talk about a similar campuswide vision as they recruit today’s generation of promising young professors and established scholars.

The university’s strategic focus on building research programs as a way of lifting the entire institution to a new level of distinction bears a striking resemblance to the geosciences department’s vision a decade ago, Northrup says.

IDEAS AND PASSION

“If you are someone who likes the idea of building a university with your ideas and passion for your field, there is probably no better place to be in the country,” Northrup says.

It’s a relatively new way of thinking. Boise State has long been known as a “teaching university” — where a professor’s main focus is teaching a full load of undergraduate classes.

But in recent years, Boise State’s momentum in developing key graduate programs — in large part through research — is seen as a path to expanded academic horizons for students while tapping into lucrative funding sources.

“Universities that do great research attract great students,” says Mark Rudin, who joined Boise State as vice president for research earlier this year. “Research and teaching are not mutually exclusive things. Professors researching the cutting edge of their field can offer a richer, more relevant learning experience for students.”

MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS

Faculty is only one piece of the overall puzzle the university’s leaders are putting together. But in these early years of establishing Boise State’s reputation as a serious research university, the intellectual capital they lend to the university’s reputation and their commitment to passing it on to students could be the most important elements, says Sona Andrews, the university’s provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“Our faculty members are the heart and soul of the university,” says Andrews. “They are the ones who make it work. Without them we do not have a university.”

That’s why developing the resources that make strong faculty happy and keep them at the university is a central focus of “Destination Distinction: The Campaign for Boise State University.” Up to $26 million of this $175 million comprehensive fundraising campaign has been earmarked for recruiting and retaining faculty who believe in the vision for the university’s future. Boise State is looking for professors interested in pushing the research envelope in their field and using that expertise to create an inspiring, cutting-edge academic environment for their students and to contribute to the needs of the community and regional economy. They must be teachers, scholars and ambassadors, Andrews says.

“A YEN FOR RESEARCH

In reality, it’s hard to separate the faculty earmark within Destination Distinction from the campaign’s other areas of focus: the creation of new academic programs and degrees, building new facilities for an increasingly crowded campus and supporting student needs.

Andrews, Rudin, Northrup and others say each area of focus and investment will play off of the others and go directly to the university’s Center for Geophysical Investigation useful in energy exploration, extraction, understanding fault movement and who I talked to, the dean, the department chairman, other professors — that Boise State was serious about its effort to push research.”

But the deal became sweeter when Boise State jumped on van Wijk’s proposal to build the Physicale Acoustics Laboratory to study seismic waves — similar to watching water ripples created when a pebble is dropped into a pond, only on land — to help characterize the Earth’s crust.

“It says, ‘Not only is this metro-politan research university of distinction a good idea, it’s actually happening.’”

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

Andrews says recent areas of focus include new programs, faculty, degrees or research centers in the areas of geophysics and geosciences, electrical and computer engineering, biomolecular sciences, chemistry, education, health sciences, public affairs, and the arts and humanities.

But more important than areas of focus, Andrews adds, is recruiting and retaining faculty who believe in the vision for the university’s future. Boise State is tapping into lucrative funding sources that make strong faculty happy and keep them at the university. They are the ones who make it work. Without them we do not have a university.”

“I really liked Boise. I realized then that I would like to come work here if I ever had the chance.”

For Kasper van Wijk, Boise State fits like a glove.

Long before the Dutch geophysicist joined the university’s faculty last year, he spent time at Boise State’s Hydrogeophysical Research Site just east of Boise. Now operated by the Department of Geosciences, the research station is on the cutting edge of the work being done by the university’s Center for Geophysical Investigation of the Shallow Subsurface to push the frontiers of what scientists know about the structure, processes and properties of the Earth’s crust.

“They were really pushing the boundaries,” van Wijk says. “I realized then that I would like to come work here if I ever had the chance.”

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FOCUS

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS + RESEARCH = STRONG
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Brendefur’s by-the-numbers approach seeks to improve math test scores.

By Kathleen Craven

It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s … Dr. Math to the rescue for students and teachers in the Caldwell School District.

Three days a week Boise State mathematics education professor Jonathan Brendefur (aka Dr. Math) and two research assistants visit with teachers at the elementary and middle school levels, helping them demystify mathematics and improve teaching.

The results are a greater understanding by students of mathematical concepts, more excitement for the subject, and improved test scores.

Brendefur is the driving force behind Boise State’s Initiative for Developing Mathematical Thinking (IDMT). Funded by a grant from both government and private entities, IDMT is a way to practically apply in the community what is being taught in the classroom.

IDMT uses the latest research to help teachers better understand how kids develop mathematical ideas and the best way to support that.

The long-range goal is to provide a strong mathematical foundation that will lead to more success in algebra and more students, especially minorities and girls, entering the math and science fields — two areas of critical need nationally and internationally.

Academic initiatives and partnerships such as that between Brendefur and the Caldwell schools are common elements of a growing, thriving university.

ISSUES OF MUTUAL BENEFIT

At Boise State they are absolutely essential to both the institution and the larger community it serves. New programs and research proposals are constantly being considered to address issues of mutual benefit in areas ranging from science and engineering to health care and the arts.

Because university offerings must respond to market needs and interests in order to be relevant, proposals for new master’s and doctoral programs are stringently reviewed.

Not only must new programs and research centers meet the needs of community partners, but they must also play to the strengths of existing undergraduate programs.

As part of its “Destination Distinction” campaign, Boise State is looking to fund new doctoral programs in biomolecular science, public policy, educational leadership and materials science and engineering; new master’s programs in community and regional planning; dramatic writing and Spanish; and new interdisciplinary research centers in innovation and entrepreneurship, imaging and memory, health policy, math education, biomechanics and human performance, and alternative energies and sustainability.

The university also plans to improve partnerships in elementary and secondary education, focus on its statewide public policy mission and continue to support the formation and implementation of a community college in the Treasure Valley.

“We’re creating new programs where we already have existing strengths and can be assured of the highest quality,” says Provost Sona Andrews, noting that the broad reach of the university is focused on improving life for Idaho’s citizens.

THE GREATER GOOD

As an institution working for the greater good of Idaho, Boise State is asking itself some tough questions, Andrews says.

In the area of public policy, for example, she notes that the university is investigating potential energy sources, their impact on the environment, and the best way to deliver those resources to the state’s citizens.

“The questions are more complicated, therefore Idaho can no longer rely on other people to come up with answers for Idaho … We need to be vested as a state in what happens to us,” says Andrews. “Our graduate programs are designed to address these [and other] issues and make Idaho a better place.”

NECESSARY TOOLS

As Boise State and its surrounding community continue to grow, new and greater challenges will be presented to many of the university’s researchers.

Adding programs such as a master’s in community and regional planning will give Boise State the tools it needs to provide the data local, state and government
agencies are seeking, while also providing a hands-on opportunity for students to contribute to the formation of public policy.

“This new program will integrate research and teaching, and promote research in the community,” says Susan Mason, director of Boise State’s certificate program in community and regional planning, which is administered by the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. “It will increase our capacity to perform the research that is needed, as well as give faculty members and graduate students opportunities to contribute to the formation of public policy.”

A new master’s program will also help jumpstart the Institute for Urban and Regional Planning, an interdisciplinary program administered by the Department of Public Policy and Administration. This and other proposed centers focus on research that is relevant to the welfare of the community, whether locally, regionally or globally.

PERFECT VEHICLES

“Research centers are the perfect vehicles for connecting university research to the community’s needs and the regional economy,” says President Bob Kustra. “They really become the circuitry by which the university helps improve the quality of life in our community, while fostering groundbreaking research of national importance.”

“Investing in research helps everyone,” says Mark Rudin, vice president for research. Not only does it address specific problems and issues, he says, it adds prestige to the university, thus attracting better students and research faculty. “Research really is the future of this university.”

GRADUATE STUDENT SEEKS ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

As the network administrator for the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, and the mother of a high school and a college student, Susan Emerson keeps plenty busy. Even so, she finds time to volunteer for Treasure Valley Public Access Television and serve on the Faith Relations committee for Habitat for Humanity. She’ll also graduate this spring from Boise State’s master of public administration program.

Emerson (BA, history, ’94) says the MPA is a multi-faceted degree that could open more doors for her. “I love policy analysis and program management,” she says. “This degree will help me frame policy in a historical context.”

If possible, she’d also like to eventually earn her Ph.D., perhaps helping her land a job at a community college. But with all of her commitments — her job, her family, the need to care for aging parents, etc. — leaving the valley to pursue that goal would be difficult, if not impossible.

Seeing Boise State’s proposed Ph.D. in public policy become a reality would allow Emerson to pursue her doctorate in Boise.

FINDING SPACE A KEY TO UNIVERSITY’S GROWTH

By Sherry Squires

Given its prominent location at the corner of Capitol Boulevard and University Drive, a new College of Business and Economics building will become both a landmark in the Boise city landscape and an icon for the university.

But far more important for Idaho is the energy that will be created inside. It will be a place where Boise State faculty can share knowledge and help students build the skills they need to enter or progress in the business world. A place where researchers can work alongside business people to address corporate and community development. And a place where the state’s economic engine can be refueled with new ideas.

Final programming and detailed design for the building will begin in earnest upon State Board of Education approval. It is expected that in addition to modern instructional facilities the building will include a high-tech financial trading center where students are exposed to the latest practices in money management, a center for student services, a center for economic development, and a center for innovation, along with...
“We were able to accommodate our recent record enrollment only because of the brand new Interactive Learning Center.”

prominent public spaces where students, faculty, business leaders and government leaders can work together.

Student enrollment in business programs has grown from 1,000 business majors in 1970, when the current business building opened, to nearly 3,000 students. Some existing classrooms have been retrofitted with the latest technology, but continuing to educate a growing number of students will require more space.

**TOP PRIORITY**

“A new building to house the College of Business and Economics is a top priority for the university,” says Boise State President Bob Kustra. “A state-of-the-art facility is essential in order for us to continue to meet the needs of today’s business environment.”

Boise State’s Campus Master Plan is a road map to the future, and the newly announced comprehensive campaign — “Destination Distinction” — is a catalyst for progress, says Stacy Pearson, vice president for finance and administration.

Boise State’s overall enrollment has increased by 18 percent, or 3,000 students, since 2000. But the state of Idaho has not funded an academic facility on the main campus since the Multipurpose Classroom Building in 1995. (The state provided funding for the West campus academic building in 2003.) Based on national standards and surveys conducted by the Society of College and University Planners (SCUP), Boise State is well below the average of net assignable square footage for academic space based on the number of full-time students for institutions of similar size. The 2005 survey reported a mean of 112 assignable square feet per student, while Boise State reported 85.

“Our growth of student enrollment has outpaced the addition of new academic space,” Pearson says.

**HIGH-TECH LEARNING**

The Interactive Learning Center was the first building outlined in the Campus Master Plan to be completed. When it opened in August, it added 54,000 square feet of classroom space and was designed to enhance today’s high-tech learning environment.

“We were able to accommodate our recent record enrollment only because of the brand new Interactive Learning Center,” says Kustra. “The building component of this comprehensive campaign will allow us to continue to serve the students who come to us from across Idaho and the country.”

Funding the new facilities will involve cobbling together a number of potential sources, including state and federal funds, student fees and saved university funds — as was the case with the ILC — and money raised privately through the comprehensive campaign.

There’s no doubt the investment will pay dividends.

Biology faculty members alone bring in more than $1 million in research dollars each year. As chair of the Biology Department for eight years, Jim Munger spent much of his time negotiating for a spot to set up a new piece of equipment, creating a lab for a new faculty member, or finding a bigger lab for a faculty member who landed a sizeable grant.

The Science Nursing Building is home to the Biology Department, along with chemistry and nursing — some of the most lab-intensive majors on campus. But it was built in 1977, long before faculty members were pursuing research agendas. Today, the Biology Department has 50 percent more faculty, four times as many majors, a thriving graduate program with 45 students enrolled and two new graduate programs on the way.

To enable them to conduct their research, classrooms have been remodeled into lab space, classes have been scheduled back-to-back to make use of every available hour, and labs are run as many as 18 hours a day to ensure students have time to work on projects. It isn’t ideal, but it’s working. In his new role as associate vice president for academic planning for the past 15 months, Munger’s eyes have been opened to similar needs across campus.

**LIKE A FRONTIER TOWN**

“Boise State is like a frontier town in one sense,” Munger says. “We need to be crafty and resourceful. We need to make the absolute best use of our space. But we’ve reached the limit of what we can do with what we have. We can only live in the barn for so long.”

Along with the new College of Business and Economics building, Bronco Stadium expansion, health care education labs, and a new alumni center (below) are specifically outlined in the campaign as immediate building projects.

These initial facilities address many of the identified campus needs, Pearson says, and recognize the key contributions of two of Boise State’s largest organizations for the university, the Bronco Athletic Association and the Alumni Association.

NEW ALUMNI CENTER

More and more Boise State alumni are coming home. And a new alumni center will make that experience all the more sweet.

“We want to extend a welcome and continue to engage alumni and friends of the university,” says Mark Arstein, executive director of the Alumni Association. “We are creating a space where we can truly bring people back to campus, and where we can recognize our history and the accomplishments of our alumni.”

The number of alumni who are connecting with the university is rapidly increasing. The Alumni Association had a record 8 percent increase in membership this past year, bringing the total number of paid members to 3,050.

“The Alumni Association is set up to provide a system of keeping friends and classmates in touch with a variety of ways that they can help with the advancement of the university,” says Allen Dykman, Boise State alumnus and donor. “We know that in this day and age public universities need private funds to be successful. This new center will be the bridge for future donations to BSU.”

While plans and a timeline are still being finalized, the new alumni center will be at least 35,000 square feet and be located on the same site as the existing center. About a third of the space will be used for public gathering areas.

The building also will house University Advancement staff, those dedicated to outreach to alumni, donors, friends of the university and the general public, and serve as a gateway to the east end of campus.

— Sherry Squires
Three new employees join campaign team

With Boise State’s comprehensive campaign officially under way, three new employees have joined the university to help lead its “Destination Distinction” initiative.

Alicia Ritter is the director of grant and fundraising initiatives, Kelly Palmer is the director of development for the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, and Rosemary Reinhardt has been named liaison between the President’s Office and the campaign staff.

Ritter comes to Boise State with extensive public relations and marketing experience at Ritter Consulting Inc., Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide and Dren+Black Public Relations. She worked in the areas of fund development and public communications at the University of California, Davis and has consulted with nonprofit, government and corporate clients.

In her new position, Palmer will work to raise funds for the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs through private, corporate and foundation donations. Palmer comes to Boise State after working as major gifts officer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

Reinhardt, formerly with the Idaho Shakespeare Festival and the Saint Alphonsus Foundation, has joined Boise State on a part-time basis as a special assistant to the president for the campaign.

Yanke’s gift to aid research, academics, scholarships

A $5 million commitment from longtime Boise State supporters Linda Yanke and her family will allow the university to expand, enhance and perpetuate the hallmark of excellence in education and leadership among its students and faculty. The gift is among several leadership gifts for the recently announced $175 million Destination Distinction campaign.

Paid out over five years, the funds will support three areas of critical need:

• Biomolecular Science Endowment, $3 million. This endowment will support, in perpetuity, graduate students studying biomolecular science. Initially, their research focus could include arthritis, cleft palate and cartilage degeneration. The endowment will build a foundation for advanced biomedical research at Boise State to address critical issues.

• Equipment for the Nursing and Student Wellness Buildings, $1 million. Scheduled for completion in 2009, this state-of-the-art building will be a showcase in the Treasure Valley for outstanding educational and research activities (page 30). Equipment needs include video cameras and microphones for simulation and skills labs; specialty beds for simulation rooms; machines that dispense unit doses of drugs while providing high levels of patient safety and security; and ICU equipment such as monitors and ventilators.

• Support for the Boise State Capital Scholars Program, $1 million. Many of Idaho’s top students list Boise State among their preferred higher education choices, but go elsewhere due to Boise State’s inability to provide merit scholarship awards. The Boise State Capital Scholars program recognizes Idaho’s outstanding high school juniors by offering five-year, $1,000 scholarships during an on-campus program that celebrates their achievements.

“Yanke Family has been a longtime supporter of Boise State University,” says Howard Smith, vice president for university advancement. “We truly appreciate this latest gift, which will allow our already impressive research programs to grow while also attracting more of Idaho’s finest students.”

Linda Yanke currently serves on the BSU Foundation board of directors executive committee and was on the campaign planning task force.

The Yankees have been major financial contributors to several projects at Boise State, including the SimpliGraf MicroCenter, the Centennial Amphitheatre and the expansion of Bronco Stadium. They also helped secure the land on which the Boise State-West campus stands. Ron Yanke was a local businessman, philanthropist and longtime supporter of Boise State who passed away in 2005.
 Bronco Nation gathered en masse in September when an estimated 8,000 alumni and friends attended six Alumni Association-sponsored events during an eight-day period.

The momentum continued through a slate of events during Homecoming and drew an estimated 2,500 assembled on the University of Washington campus before the Bronco-Husky game Sept. 8. Above left: Students took part in Homecoming festivities Sept. 15.

Top and above right: An estimated 2,500 alumni and friends gathered on the University of Washington campus before the Bronco-Husky game Sept. 8. Above left: Students took part in Homecoming festivities Sept. 15.

8,000 in 8 days: Bronco fans, supporters gather far and wide

The 20th group of Distinguished Alumni Award winners were honored during a Sept. 12 banquet in the Student Union. From left: Christine Echeverria Bender; Boise State President Bob Kustra; Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter; Lori Easley Otter; Doug Hackler and Bill Ilett.

Governor, first lady, novelist, business leader, CEO named Distinguished Alumni

I daho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and his wife, first lady Lori Easley Otter, were among the honorees who received Boise State’s 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award this fall. The other honorees were novelist Christine Echeverria Bender, businessman Bill Ilett, and Doug Hackler, president and chief executive officer of American Semiconductor.

The five were honored during a banquet hosted by the Alumni Association during Homecoming week. The event marked the 20th year that Boise State has recognized some of its most illustrious graduates with the award.

GOV. BUTCH OTTER attended Boise Junior College during the 1962-63 and 1963-64 academic years before transferring to the College of Idaho in 1964. Before he was elected governor in 2006 he served three terms as U.S. representative for Idaho’s 1st District (2000-2006), four terms as the state’s lieutenant governor (1986-2000), and two terms in Idaho’s House of Representatives (1973-1976). In the private sector, Gov. Otter served on the J.R. Simplot Co. board of directors for 27 years and in several executive positions with the company.

Throughout his career as both an elected official and a business leader, Gov. Otter has been a major supporter of Boise State. He was involved in the efforts to raise funds for Taco Bell Arena, the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts and the Nicholson-Yanke Athletic Center.

A former Meridian School District teacher and administrator, LORI EASLEY OTTER graduated from Boise State with a teaching degree in 1992 and later earned a master’s degree from Northwest Nazarene University. A former Miss Idaho USA, Idaho’s first lady taught K-12 physical education and health and coached girls basketball and volleyball at the junior high and high school level in Meridian for 13 years. She continues to be an education advocate and serves on the board of directors for the Family AdvoCare Program and the Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center Foundation.

A 1977 Boise State graduate with a bachelor’s degree in accounting, CHRISTINE ECHEVERRIA BENDER pursued a career in that field until 2000. At that time, she decided to try her hand at writing. Her first book, Challenge the Wind, was published in 2001. The historical fiction is about a young Basque cabin boy who accompanied Christopher Columbus on his voyage to the new world. Her second book, Sails of Fortune, was published in 2005. It, too, is a historical fiction with a Basque main character: this time a captain who served with Ferdinand Magellan on his voyage around the world. In 2006 she received a grant from the Idaho Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts to research Basque whalers in North America in the 16th century. The result of her research is the Basque whaling exhibit in Boise’s Basque Museum and Cultural Center.

Boise entrepreneur BILL ILETT is the president of TransCorp — a truck-leasing company — and managing investor of the Idaho Stampede of the NBA Development League. He graduated from Boise State with an associate of science degree in 1965 and a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1967. In 1966 he was elected student body president of the first class to graduate from Boise College, which had just become a four-year school. He currently serves as the chair of the Boise State Foundation. He also has served as president of the BSU Alumni Association and the College of Business and Economics Advisory Council and on the boards of the Bronco Athletic Association and the College of Applied Technology. He and his wife, Christianna, have donated five semi trucks to the Idaho Center for Professional Truck Driving in the College of Applied Technology.

DOUG HACKLER earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Boise State in 1998 and went on to distinguish himself in the semiconductor industry. In 2001 he founded American Semiconductor Inc., after he worked his way through the microelectronics device world with stints at Intel, Northern Telecom, General Instrument, Honeywell, Zilog and M/A-Com Inc. He is the holder of five patents for advanced microelectronics devices and circuits with another four patents pending.

In addition to his executive duties, Hackler is the principal investigator for multiple research contracts with the Department of Defense, the U.S. Air Force Research Lab and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency. He is the co-author of seven recent publications based on American Semiconductor Inc. research. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a master’s in electrical engineering.

BOISE STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Justin Allen graduated from Boise State with a philosophy degree in 1997 and packed up for New York, envisioning a Jack Kerouac-like stint at Columbia University.

Allen earned an MFA, but he also has found success dreaming up stories that not even Kerouac imagined. His first novel, *Slaves of the Shinar*, was published in July by Overlook. *Slaves of the Shinar* is set in ancient Mesopotamia — Shinar — and tells the story of a wandering thief, Uruk, and a slave, Ander, who while struggling toward freedom become embroiled in a war they neither wanted nor dreamed possible.

Publisher’s Weekly calls the book a “promising debut,” and Booklist reviewed it as a “high-quality” first novel. That’s wonderful praise for a book that Allen didn’t set out to write. He says he wrote the story to support a friend who was intimidated by a class assignment. “I wasn’t interested in writing it initially, but then I wrote more than 20 pages in one sitting,” he says.

Allen’s background in the publishing industry — he spent six years working for a literary agency — gave him the tools to get the book published. This summer, Allen spent a few months on a book tour and made his way back to Boise, where he gave a reading at The Cabin and signed books at the Boise State Bookstore. He visited one of professor Andrew Schoedinger’s philosophy classes to talk about how his degree gave him the foundation he needed.

Allen wanted to impress upon students the idea that a philosophy degree opens them up to the world, he says. Writing the book gave him a chance to delve into philosophical schools of thought that he studied at Boise State.

Allen just finished a new book, *The American*, and is a dancer and administrator in a New York-based dance company. He also was a member of Idaho Dance Theatre. “In the arts, the more you do, the more complete you are in your thinking,” he says.

— Julie Hahn

Terry and Susan Hutt: Still a team after 28 years

They may not have made a big splash with the national media like Ian and Chrissy, but back in 1979 Boise State All-American wide receiver Terry Hutt and nursing student Susan Hollingsworth caught the eye of a FOCUS photographer as they celebrated their graduation at Bronco Stadium. One month later they were married.

Susan (AS, nursing, ’79) and Terry (BBA, industrial business, ’79) were both Borah High graduates, but didn’t meet until they were fellow students at Boise State, where Terry was named a first team All-American in 1977. The Broncos won the Big Sky Conference championship that year.

Terry has spent most of his career in software sales and Susan has worked mainly in women’s health care. They have three adult children: Tara, 26, who lives in California and works as an accountant; Nicholas, 23, who graduated this spring from Idaho State with a degree in anthropology; and Matthew, 21, a graduate student in accounting at the University of Oregon.

The kids didn’t follow in their dad’s footsteps on the gridiron, but they played soccer and basketball with Terry coaching some of their teams. While the kids were growing up, the family spent summer weekends on the water at Lucky Peak and Payette Lake, waterskiing and wake boarding.

“I always said yes when the kids wanted to do something,” Terry says. “I never said I didn’t have the time. It brought us all together. It still brings us together.”

They were all together at the Fiesta Bowl on New Year’s Day when the Broncos scored their historic win over Oklahoma. “I had butterflies watching that game,” Susan says.

The Fiesta Bowl win was a landmark accomplishment for Boise State, and in more ways than just athletics, Terry says. “Boise State was a great experience for me back in the ’70s, both academically and on the football team, and we’re thrilled to see the way the school is going.”

Susan and Terry are old hands at marriage after nearly 30 years, and say the key to their success is that they have always shown love and respect to each other and to their kids, and they work well as a team.

“I’ve always told the kids the greatest gift I ever gave them was their father,” says Susan with a smile.

— Anna Fritz
Salinas finds her niche right at home

A lot of students can’t wait to leave home. Boise State alumna Maria Salinas couldn’t wait to get back.

Salinas lived as a child in Farmway Village, a large migrant farmworker settlement just west of Caldwell. Today she is the director of La Escuelita, an after-school program that sits on the same location as her home once did.

She spends her days teaching and advocating for sons and daughters of farmworkers who are at-risk of not succeeding in the school system.

“I would say it was destiny,” she says. Salinas was working as a teacher’s aide when she was encouraged to become a teacher and applied to Boise State.

“My mind was set on being an executive secretary,” she says. “I had worked 12 years for Canyon County and really didn’t think that I could go to college. But it was in me all the time.”

In 2005 she completed a bachelor’s degree in elementary education with a minor in bilingual/ESL studies. She credits Jay Fuhrman, a retired education professor, with helping her see her potential and succeed.

As an employee of the Caldwell School District, Salinas arrives to do the same thing for her students. She acts as a liaison at five schools between her students and the school system, helping keep their needs in front of those who make decisions about education. She also spends individual time tutoring students and has seen many students make the transition to college.

“I would say it was destiny,” she says. "Seeing my students go on to graduate brings tears to my eyes,” Salinas says. “It’s so rewarding. I feel that I never left Farmway Village. I always was meant to be a part of this big dream.”

— Sherry Squires

Wheeler named associate director

Jennifer Wheeler has joined Boise State as the new senior associate director of alumni relations for the Alumni Association. Wheeler was most recently a programs officer for the Idaho Community Foundation and has experience as associate director of alumni relations for both Idaho State University and Portland State University.

Wheeler is responsible for directing, shaping and network programming as well as the association’s online community. In addition, she will assist the director with broad strategic initiatives aimed at advancing the Alumni Association.

Wheeler earned both a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a master’s degree in communication in an advertising/public relations emphasis from Idaho State.

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School after 33 years in education, Davis began his teaching career in Goodwell. He spent two years as a real estate agent then formed his own real estate company in Boise. He later worked in agencies in Spokane and north Idaho.

RICK WESS, BFA, ‘78, has been hired as manager of Srovodova Hospitality Specialists, a real estate brokerage office in Boise. Wess has more than 30 years of commercial/real estate experience. The Phoenix-based company is a member of Hotel Brokers International.

MARY BENTON, BFA, all education, ‘75, MA, education, ‘94, was awarded the PIA 2007 Outstanding Educator Award in Boise. Benton is a fourth-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary and has taught in the Boise School District for 23 years. She has been a contract of teacher with Boise Art Museum for 20 years and has worked with Job Service Youth Job Program. Boise Mayor Dave Biel decried April 4, 2007, as Mary Benton Day.

CHARLES BUFE, BM, general music, ‘74; MA, education, ‘80, has published more than 30 books, some of which he has authored/co-authored, compiled-edited or translated. His current band, Bull for Comfort, will release its last CD this year. He is also writing a science fiction novel and a non-fiction book on the role of fear in daily life.

JAMES RENN, BFA, marketing, ‘79, has joined First National Bank as a bank service associate in Boise. Renn has 25 years of experience in banking, lending, budgeting and project management. He held the position of customer service manager at Promontory, Inc. in Boise and was a vice president and project manager for U.S. Bank.

1980s

MARK CHRISTENSEN, MBA, ‘85, current president and CEO of the Idaho Youth Ranch for 12 years and has been hired as manager of commercial real estate company in Boise. He has more than 25 years of experience in sales and management.

LUCI ASUIMENTI-MERENESS, BS, physical education, ‘88, has been named president of Shoshone Street location of the Boise State Outreach Center.

GENE HAHN, BBA, marketing and finance, ‘81, has been promoted to vice president, district business banking manager for KeyBank in Boise. Hahn will oversee business banking efforts in Idaho and work directly with Boise clients. With nearly 17 years’ banking experience, Hahn joined KeyBank in 2003 as a vice president and small-business team leader.
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CHRISTOPHER VELOZ, BBA, economics, ’93, was recently re-elected chairman of the Nampa Planning and Zoning Commission. Veo is one of only a few Hispanic officials in the Treasure Valley. The Business Journal asked Veo what he enjoys about his family business, IV Furniture and Northwest Sales. He operates Nampa Mayor Tom Dale’s quarterly Hispanic Professional and Business Owners forums.

GREG KIESTER, BA, history, ’93, is a former Boise State head football coach. He returned to the Treasure Valley to join the Boise State men’s golf department. Kiestler has been with the district for the past two years as half-time assistant principal and half-time teacher at Hobby Middle School. Prior to moving to Shelley, he coached at Mountain Home Junior High for five years and Nampa High School for three years.

TAYLOR HAYNES, BA, history, ’97, is in his fourth year as a teacher at Sandpoint Middle School. He teaching experience covers five years and includes time at Sandpoint Middle School and Meridian High. Haynes is also the head boys basketball coach for Sandpoint High.

JEREMY MAXAND, AS, criminal justice, ’97, sociology, ’97, was the executive director of Snake River Alliance but left recently to travel in Mexico and the Treasure Valley. Wade also works for his family business, W & J Studios.

DANIEL “DANO” MADDEN, BA, theater arts, ’97, has received the director’s Student Playwriting Award for his play in the Shakespeare festival, which was performed at the Idaho Shakespeare Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., earlier this year. The play also performed by the BSU Theatre Arts De Natura was one of four college productions selected to be part of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

SPOKANE BILLS, management, ’99, and his wife, MICHELLE WILLS, BA, music, ’99, premiered their original musical, “Miss Musick,” at the Avalon. Spencer currently works for Stamps & Up in the marketing department where he serves as editor, webmaster and manager. Michelle has written more than 30 choral and instrumental works. Their first published work, “Three Sanga,” was written for the Pickwick Pipers of Boise State under the direction of music professor Jerry Schoenlieb in 1998.

LYNN ROBERT BERG, BA, theatre arts, ’00, is an Idaho Shakespeare festival actor and recently performed in the play The Tempest in Boise.

JULIA HOFFMAN GANSKE, BM, music performance, ’00, is completing a doctor of arts degree in piano performance with a secondary emphasis in theory from the University of Northern Colorado. Hoffman Ganske is an adjunct piano instructor at Northwest Nazarene University and has a private piano studio in Nampa.

KRISTIN SLOTEN, BBA, accounting, ’03, has been promoted to payroll tax manager of Grom restaurant’s corporate office in town. She is responsible for managing the payroll department, which includes reconciling payroll accounts, reviewing payroll tax reports, and providing managers with payroll information related to their individual locations.

MACAY “MAC” WIGLEY, BBA, economics, ’02, is the new assistant vice president and construction loan officer for the builder services group of Syringa Bank. Wigley works with residential builders to finance construction projects throughout the Treasure Valley.

BECKY DUGGAN, BM, music education, ’01, is an elementary music teacher of McKernan Elementary in Boise. Duggan was a part of Boise Music Week, which showcased music performances with thousands of children, community members, church choirs, musicians and community theater performers. Duggan is active in vocal performance with Opera Idaho Chorus and is the chamber vocal group Bella Cantanti.

CRAIG GUMMOW, BA, finance, ’01, has been named vice president/chief lending officer at Baseline Financial Credit Union. Gummow supervises the lending, collection, collateral insurance and file functions in the Idaho fall of offices.

J. ANDREW JOLLEY, AA, sociology, ’91, received his law degree from the University of Idaho in May. Jolley plans to relocate to Prescott, Ariz., with his wife.

SARAH MAWHIRTER, BS, sociology, ’01, MA, history, ’02, has been hired as the women’s studies director at Northwood Community College in Montpelier. MaWhirter was selected as a Boise State Top Ten Scholar in 2001.

BEN MERRILL, BA, history, ’01, is the new principal for Salmon River High and Junior High schools for the Salmon River Joint School District in Riggs. Merrill’s educational experience includes work at Boise High School, Avi Village (Azusa), School District 78, Woodland School, Meridian High School, and Vallivue High School. He has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and driver’s education instructor.

JASON YATE, BM, music composition, ’01, BM, arts and sciences, ’03, has

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CARROLL MEYER, emeritus professor of music, died July 4 in Boise. Meyer was a pianist and professor of music at Boise State for 57 years. He began teaching at Boise Junior College in 1948 and retired in 1985. Contributions in Meyer’s memory can be made to the Carol Meyer Memorial Piano Scholarship Fund, in care of the Boise State Foundation.

NICOLE MISESELIONE (SMITH), BA, English, ’03, died on July 25 at the age of 29. Miseselion english teacher at Eagle High School, was the tennis coach for her husband’s Capital High School tennis team, and was a practiced musician.

KEVIN MOLTBERG, AA, arts and sciences, ’64, died Aug. 7 of the age of 63. Moltberg was a real estate agent at Gem Insurance Agency until his retirement in 1994. He won awards from the Boise Roadster Show for his restored Corvettes, was a member of the Train Collectors Association, and was a former member of Elks Lodge No. 310.

CHRISTY ROALSTAD, BS, chemistry, ’98, died July 26 at the age of 32. Roalstad received her doctorate of medicine in May from the University of Utah.

NICHOLAS RAGANIT, BBA, business management, ’96, died June 16.

CHRISTO ROALSTAD, BS, chemistry, ’98, died July 26 at the age of 32. Roalstad received her doctorate of medicine in May from the University of Utah.

CAROLYN SEARLE, BS, biology/secondary education, ’71, passed away on Aug. 8 of the age of 68. She worked in Boise State’s Payment and Disbursement Office and also served as a volunteer at events at the Morrison Center and Bronco Stadium.

BERN ANN TRAVIS, BA, elementary education, ’90, died June 21.

JOHN TROYER, BS, operations management, ’97, died July 14 at the age of 34. Troyer served as a commander for McH-1-189 AVN, Army Guard.

DONALD WELCH, BA, history, ’71, died July 27 at the age of 58. Welch worked for Northwest Airlines for 37 years, the day was the general chairman for Air Transport. District 143, International Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union, for five years.

Attention all Boise State alumni: What have you been up to lately? Changed jobs? Recently retired? Perhaps you’ve earned that big promotion. Maybe you’ve been elected to the city council or have moved to a new state. Whether you’re a CEO or a recent graduate, the Boise State Alumni Association and FOCUS want to hear from you.

CAROLYN SEARLE, BS, biology/secondary education, ’71, passed away on Aug. 8 of the age of 68. She worked in Boise State’s Payment and Disbursement Office and also served as a volunteer at events at the Morrison Center and Bronco Stadium.

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