ONCE UPON A TIME
The Power of Story

A Novel Concept
Tackling the ‘Impossible’ in Material Ways

AYE, AYE, PROFESSOR
Algebra on a Navy Destroyer

Urban Affairs
A Field School for Civics and History

Boise State Alumnus, Rhodes Scholar and Director of “The Last Station”
Michael Hoffman — p. 14
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Our mission:
To enrich people’s lives.
An emeritus math professor takes the classroom to the high seas, teaching intermediate algebra to sailors on duty in the Persian Gulf.

Novel materials research is making advances in areas ranging from space to the cell phone in your pocket.

While storytelling is ancient and inherent in the lives of all people, the basic concept and elements of the craft too often are left out of discussions about writing. A new center at Boise State focuses on this fundamental notion.
A university on the rise, Boise State has gone to even greater heights with the unveiling of a new Horizon aircraft painted with university colors and marks. The Boise State-themed plane joins a fleet that includes the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, the University of Washington and Washington State University.

THE UNIVERSITY’S research program continues to advance and now is the fastest growing in Idaho. Research funding brought in $37 million last year.

Visiting artists add an important dimension to Boise State’s ceramic arts program. Ceramists come from across the U.S. to share their talents and insights.

Intent on helping the College of Business and Economics grow, a Treasure Valley businessman steps up to help “Meet the Match.”
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Corrections:
A photo on page 36 of the spring 2009 FOCUS incorrectly identified Boise State College’s 1967 forensic team as the national champion. Ohio State won nationals that year. Boise State College received a team Silver Award for placing in the top 20 percent overall, the first time Boise State won a team award at a national tournament.
Recognition this fall that Boise State University ranked among the nation's and West's “top up-and-coming schools” boldly underscores the recurring theme of dynamic change here on campus.

U.S. News & World Report lists Boise State among the colleges and universities making “the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus or facilities” in its annual review of the nation's best colleges and universities. It is our most recent academic distinction and confirms our progress as a university of choice for talented students across the West.

In all, just 77 “colleges and universities that have recently made striking improvements or innovations” were mentioned, including schools like George Mason, Arizona State and the University of Cincinnati. Joining Boise State on the list in the West were Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and Santa Clara University.

Signs are everywhere that we are on the right path in our advancement as a metropolitan research university of distinction. Our ambitious agenda is showing strong results, demonstrated through higher-achieving entering students, stronger retention of continuing students, the planning and construction of new buildings, and record investment in research.

Our sole benchmark for success at Boise State is that of our students and alumni. Each and every day, we make decisions about the future of this university that are designed not only to improve our graduates’ potential but also elevate the value of their Boise State degrees. Acknowledgement from our peers that we stand out from the crowd is gratifying and energizing.

– Bob Kustra, President

HAILEY WILSON, SPRING COMMENCEMENT STUDENT SPEAKER

“Your attitude will dictate your life. I chose to believe I could succeed.”

VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH MARK RUDIN, COMMENTING ON A $9 MILLION INCREASE IN SPONSORED PROJECT FUNDING FOR FY2009.

“Research conducted by Boise State faculty and students addresses some of the major health, environmental, technological and social issues of the day.”

CHRIS PETERSEN, BRONCO HEAD FOOTBALL COACH, AFTER A $350,000 CONTRIBUTION TO THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS BUILDING FUND

“We believe academic excellence and athletic prominence must go hand in hand.”

BETHINE CHURCH, AFTER RECEIVING AN HONORARY DOCTORATE AT SPRING COMMENCEMENT

“You face a bright future with endless possibilities, so make no small plans.”

MICHAEL HUMPHREY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, COMMENTING ON LIVING IN THE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

“I’m getting to know students on a level I wouldn’t normally.”
A RECORD YEAR FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Boise State’s research mission continued to advance in fiscal year 2009. A total of 268 projects garnered a university record $37 million in funding, easily eclipsing the previous highpoint of $28 million last year. Since 2000, the total amount of Boise State’s research funding has doubled.

President Bob Kustra reported the news at his annual State of the University address, noting that Boise State’s research program is the fastest growing in Idaho. “The significant increase in support of our research is a clear indicator of our growing momentum and stature as a metropolitan research university of distinction,” Kustra says. “Our expanding research portfolio drives economic development, attracts top-notch faculty and provides our students with tremendous opportunities to pursue creative activities that strengthen their education.”

Five of the grants awarded in fiscal year 2009 exceeded $1 million, and the average award was $138,330. More than 100 entities provided funding, including federal, state and local agencies, private industry, other universities and not-for-profit organizations.

“They conduct research that addresses some of the major health, environmental, technological and social issues of the day,” says Mark Rudin, vice president for research. “Our researchers not only are providing innovative solutions to vexing problems, they also are improving quality of life, strengthening business and providing inspiration.”

The first quarter of fiscal year 2010 set another university record. With $16.1 million in external grant awards, it is the highest quarterly total in school history. The figure marked a 77 percent increase from the previous year’s $9.1 million quarterly total and includes $4.6 million through 12 National Science Foundation grants.

“Last year’s momentum has not been slowed by the economy,” Rudin said. “Instead, research is being viewed as a vehicle to jump-start the economy and keep our businesses moving forward through the development of new products and creative solutions.”

For more about Boise State research, visit www.boisestate.edu/research/.

FRIEND, FAN OR FOLLOW US

by Melissa Jensen

Social media is not just for the younger generation. Alumni, faculty, staff and students have been coming on board as members of Boise State’s Facebook, Twitter and YouTube sites.

Boise State started using social media last spring as one more way for friends of the university to hear about breaking news and events on campus.

Many parents, including Kimarie Johnson, mother of a current Boise State student from Seattle, Wash., are following Boise State’s social networks to keep abreast of university life.

“I like to be connected to my daughter at Boise State,” Johnson says.

Alumni also are finding connections through the university’s social networks.

“As an alumnus, I like to hear current information on what’s going on at Boise State. And it’s fun to read comments from other Bronco fans,” says Diana Echeverria Coba (BBA business economics, ’86, MA, interdisciplinary studies, ’04).

An easy way to connect with Boise State’s social networks is to visit the university’s Web site at www.boisestate.edu and click on the social media icons at the bottom.

In addition to Boise State’s main social networking sites, the Bronco Alumni Association has Facebook and Twitter sites for alumni connections. To connect to these sites, visit the Alumni Association Web site at http://alumni.boisestate.edu/ and click on the social media icons at the top of the page.
PULITZER WINNER
STEVE FAINARU IS NEXT
DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

Following a one-year hiatus, the Distinguished Lecture Series returns to Boise State with Washington Post reporter Steve Fainaru, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting. Fainaru will speak at 7 p.m. Feb. 16 in the Morrison Center. His lecture is free; no tickets are required.

Fainaru will discuss his experiences covering the war in Iraq and the implications of a world without newspapers. For example, what if there was a war and nobody covered it? With newspapers disappearing and those that remain eliminating expensive foreign coverage, information on how America conducts its business abroad is rapidly decreasing.

Fainaru won the Pulitzer Prize for his 10-part series on private security contractors in Iraq that operate outside many of the laws governing American forces. In December 2008 he published a book on the topic titled “Big Boy Rules.” In April, the Post began running an ongoing series written by Fainaru and colleague William Booth. Titled “Mexico at War: On the Front Lines,” the series focuses on the increasing violence in the Mexican drug war. Learn more at www.boisestate.edu/distinguishedlectures/.

Academic Enrollment Continues Dynamic Trend

In a year that marked the successful transition of approximately 1,200 students from Boise State’s College of Applied Technology to the new two-year College of Western Idaho, the university experienced increases in both academic student enrollment and the return of first-year students for a second year.

Boise State remains the largest university in Idaho with 18,936 students, including an increase of 426 students enrolled in academic programs. Through the years, the university has grown 16.8 percent from its enrollment of 16,209 in 1999 and 51 percent from its student population of 12,586 in 1989.

“With the transfer of our applied technology programs, a number of our students transitioned to the College of Western Idaho,” says Michael Laliberte, vice president for student affairs. “We welcome in return those students who will transfer to Boise State University to complete a baccalaureate degree.”

In addition to new freshmen, students are returning in greater numbers to the Boise State campus for a second year, despite a national decline in freshman retention rates.

According to an annual survey conducted by ACT Inc., the percentage of freshmen across the nation returning to their first-year colleges dropped from 68 percent in 2006-07 to just 66 percent a year later. Over that same time period, retention rates at Boise State rose from 63 percent to 68 percent, putting it above the national average.

In 2004, Boise State created a freshman success task force to determine why students do or do not return for a second year, review the effectiveness of current campus programs and make recommendations on services that would increase the likelihood of retaining first-year students. The result was the Freshman Success Task Force Action Plan. Recommendations for improvement identified in the plan include areas of staffing, orientation, math education, student services, and academic and career advising.
Alex Feldman spent his summer on a 500-foot Navy destroyer called the John Paul Jones. After embarking from the Arabic island state of Bahrain, the emeritus math professor taught intermediate algebra to sailors on duty in the Persian Gulf through the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE). Fourteen accredited colleges and universities offer degrees through NCPACE, enabling Marine Corps and Navy service members to take undergraduate, graduate or adult-learning courses while at sea.

Feldman was the only civilian onboard for most of his two-month engagement, but it didn't take long for him to become part of the community. In addition to teaching three classes, the former ultra-marathoner participated in physical training with the crew every day, talked physics with his 24-year-old roommate and spent time in the pilothouse learning about navigation. He blogged about his experience almost daily, and it evolved from a personal diary into a popular newsletter for crewmembers and their loved ones.

“The blog was probably the most appreciated part of what I did,” Feldman says. “It got to be, in a funny way, a mark of honor for people when they appeared in it. It became more than just something in place of sending e-mail to my friends and family.”

At the end of Feldman's tenure aboard the John Paul Jones, he was given a collection of the ship's official coins and a meaningful compliment from several high-ranking officers. They said he was the most engaged NCPACE instructor they had ever encountered.

“It was a great experience,” Feldman says, “and I'm definitely thinking about doing it again.”

To read Feldman's NCPACE blog, visit math.boisestate.edu/~alex/ddg53.html.

Popular ‘Beat Pete’ Scholarship Race Garners Award

Boise State’s Beat Coach Pete Scholarship Run not only has sprinted to popularity within the local community, it also recently caught the eye of judges from the Western Region of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Held in April, the second annual run was awarded the association’s 2009 Innovative Program Award in November. The award recognizes an outstanding program that furthers the growth of students and enhances life on campus.

The annual Beat Pete race is sponsored by Campus Recreation, in conjunction with the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Athletics. Students, staff, faculty and community members are invited to race against football coach Chris Petersen in a three-mile run along the Boise Greenbelt.

Participants who best Petersen's time receive an "I Beat Pete" T-shirt. In addition, Coach Pete personally donates to the scholarship fund for each runner who finishes ahead of him. In 2008 he gave $2,000, and in 2009 the figure rose to $5,000. All race proceeds directly benefit the general scholarship fund and are dedicated to need-based scholarships and emergency funding for students.

The first two years of the race have resulted in $33,000 in donations to the Boise State general scholarship fund, and organizers are looking forward to the third annual event on April 10, 2010.
Boise State is continuing outreach efforts to the local business community this fall in the form of free energy evaluations.

The Idaho Small Business Development Center is training Boise State students from a variety of disciplines — business, engineering, construction management and environmental health and science — to analyze utility bills and complete on-site energy evaluations. The students will come away with valuable business skills, and it is hoped that the businesses will realize instant cost reductions.

Although small businesses can save as much as 20 percent on their utility bills through energy efficiency, there has been relatively limited adoption of energy efficiency measures by small businesses.

“Often they are so busy running their businesses that they do not have time to learn about energy saving options or available incentives,” says Joan Meitl, Idaho SBDC environmental assistance coordinator.

The program is part of an initiative launched last spring, when the College of Business and Economics rallied its faculty, students and various centers to assist more than 600 businesses. The college established the Business Research and Economic Development Center, a one-stop-shop for the local business community to tap into the expertise of Boise State faculty members and other specialists.

Business faculty and their students took on 102 class projects and 15 consulting projects, the TECenter assisted 22 callers with high-tech entrepreneurial ventures, and 478 other businesses were connected with small business and manufacturing experts in the Idaho Small Business Development Center and TechHelp to meet their specific needs. COBE even assembled a group of recent MBA graduates to offer free consulting.

The free energy evaluations will continue through spring semester. Learn more at idahosbdc.org.
“Materials are everything, right?”

The question – more of a statement, really – is less obvious than it sounds. It is a simple way for Darryl Butt, head of Boise State’s Department of Materials Science and Engineering, to illustrate the complexity and wide-open potential of novel materials research.

Like Butt’s question, the study of materials and their uses seems fairly straightforward and routine on the surface. But under the surface, at the molecular level, the creation and study of new or novel materials is having a profound impact on the development of everything from next-generation microelectronics and space vehicles, to medical diagnostics and surgical tools, to nuclear energy and solar power.

Novel materials are newly engineered materials that have properties allowing them to function in ways conventional materials cannot. Much of this work is done at the nanoscale level – between one and 999 nanometers (a human hair is about 100,000 nanometers wide) – where even familiar materials do unexpected things.

“It’s like cutting an apple in half and getting an orange,” says Jeunghoon Lee, an assistant professor of chemistry and one of several Boise State researchers who create novel materials in their laboratories in support of research initiatives on campus.

By learning the characteristics of materials at nanoscale, researchers can manipulate them to enhance qualities needed for a certain purpose, deemphasize unfavorable properties or create entirely new materials.

‘Pushing the Limits’

In many ways, novel materials research is a world of trial-and-error coupled with highly educated guesses.

“In my work, I try to find out how a material works and then find a system where its attributes can be optimally used,” says Peter Müllner, director of Boise State’s Center for Materials Characterization and a professor of materials science and engineering. “I ask the question, ‘What can this material do and why does it do that?’ and go from there.”

From iPod to tennis racquet to advanced armored systems and the batteries powering hybrid vehicles, novel materials are behind the advancements that make the things we use every day smaller, faster, stronger or less expensive to manufacture. They also are making possible what once was impossible.

“We are pushing the limits of materials to operate in regimes and ways that they could not before,” says Butt, who works with oxides of uranium, plutonium and other similar materials. His work explores possible nuclear energy fuels that cannot be used in weapons and have very little or no waste stream – potentially eliminating the proliferation of nuclear weapons and disposal of nuclear waste as hurdles to nuclear energy’s use on a large scale.
Airbags, Cartilage, Satellites and Cancer

Work being done by materials science faculty forms the heart of novel materials research at Boise State. Butt quickly points out, however, that the most creative and promising progress being made in novel materials research is happening in areas where traditional science disciplines overlap, allowing the unique perspectives of researchers from a wide range of disciplines to impact the work.

Novel materials work can be so versatile that Boise State researchers can mention a microelectronics project they are working on in one sentence and their contributions to a potential cancer treatment in another. The interdisciplinary nature of the work allows the unique properties of these materials to be applied to questions in an ever-broadening range of fields.

Dmitri Tenne, an assistant professor of physics, works with piezoelectric materials – materials that convert electrical energy into mechanical energy – that could have applications for use in automobile airbags and ultrasound machines.

Julia Oxford, director of Boise State’s Biomolecular Research Center and a professor of biology, uses special scaffolds made of various materials to foster the growth of cartilage. Oxford studies the molecular organization of cartilage so she can understand how it functions as a tissue. Arthritis or joint pain sufferers could one day benefit from her work, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Idaho State Board of Education, among others.

Engineering professors Don Plumlee, Jim Browning, Amy Moll, Sin Ming Loo and Inanc Senocak are part of a team working on electric propulsion in low-temperature, co-fired ceramic (LTCC) materials. Bringing together
materials science, mechanical, electrical and computer engineering, the collaborative project is focused on developing an affordable, micro-propulsion system that could strategically point small satellites and enable them to maintain position while in orbit much more inexpensively than traditional chemical rockets.

And a group of physicists, biologists, engineers and chemists continues its work using zinc oxide nanoparticles to preferentially kill immune cell cancers and fight infections that kill thousands of people. Using nanobiotechnology, these researchers are building on the work of physics professor Alex Punnoose, who started down the path to cancer research by working on semiconductors and nanoelectronics (See Winter 2009 FOCUS).

A New Way to See DNA

One of the most promising and visionary research initiatives at Boise State is work led by Bernard Yurke, a materials science and engineering research professor. His aim is to build micro devices on tubes made out of strands of DNA, a cutting-edge concept that could take the inexpensive miniaturization of electronics to a new level – well beyond the soon-to-be reached limits of silicon-based electronics and computers.

In research funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Science Foundation, Yurke’s team uses DNA’s ability to “self-assemble” to fold a single long strand of DNA, called a “scaffold,” several times and bind it together with shorter “staple” DNA strands.

By chemically attaching individual gold nanoparticles to the ends of the short DNA strands, the team hopes to fuse the nanoparticles to rows alongside these DNA nanotubes, essentially creating nanoscale-sized gold wires that could be electrified.

The team also has attached miniscule semiconductors called quantum dots to the DNA nanotubes. By running a pair of the gold nanowires to a quantum dot, Yurke hopes to create a “nano light bulb” that can be illuminated by an electric current flowing through the wires.

“The main reason to do this is to demonstrate a technology by which we can make electrical devices with components that are a few nanometers in size,” Yurke said. While he knows his work one day could be used to make smaller more powerful computers, he’s near certain that “other applications will be found that we’re not clever enough to think about yet.”

Metal Foam with a ‘Memory’

Müllner’s work with magnetic shape-memory foam is another of Boise State’s most successful materials research initiatives and likely makes him one of the top experts in the world on the subject. Müllner and his collaborator at Northwestern University recently published dramatic new research results in Nature Materials, the leading research journal in materials science.

The research is focused on a nickel-manganese-gallium alloy that changes shape when exposed to a magnetic field. The alloy retains its new shape when the field is turned off but returns to its original shape if the field is rotated 90 degrees, demonstrating magnetic shape-memory. The alloy can be activated millions of times and has potential applications in next generation printers, green car engines and surgical tools, and it will enable innovations in such fields as biomedicine and microrobotics.

Not New, But Still Novel

Müllner says that the wide-open potential of novel materials research is one of the main reasons for the attractiveness to scientists and the government agencies, companies and others that fund their work. In theory, every material known could have some hidden potential that could add value to their goals.

Nothing has really changed since humans first began assessing materials and how to use them – today, just as then, everything around us is made of materials, as Butt’s simple question illustrates. Yet it’s clear that the excitement of discovery is just as keen as it ever was, and that Boise State novel materials researchers are just scratching the surface of possibility.

“This is not a new science,” says Müllner. “There are probably hundreds of papers published each week on materials research. Still, when the right ideas come together, the novelty of the endless possibilities materials offer is revealed.”
Boise State Vice President for Research Mark Rudin is fond of saying that at Boise State, laboratories are classrooms. His point is that very few universities offer undergraduates the opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with top-flight researchers working on some of society’s most important questions and challenges.

Rudin selected his undergraduate alma mater for that very reason, and he thinks Boise State is becoming a similar school of choice for high-achieving students who crave the hands-on learning and achievement that only research experience can offer.

Novel materials research is one of the cornerstones Boise State is building that growing reputation around, and it is attracting the attention of more than undergraduates looking for something extra from their college education.

As the university’s reputation for high-quality research grows, Rudin says, its ability to attract more funding, build better facilities, hire bench researchers into the faculty and foster advanced degree programs that further contribute to its mission will grow, too.

And its good for local business, Rudin says. Local companies and agencies are benefactors and beneficiaries of the work being done in Boise State labs. In fiscal year 2009, the Department of Materials Science and Engineering alone accounted for $5.9 million in research investments by a number of interested entities, including federal funding agencies such as the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, NASA and others.

And as Boise State’s newly created Office of Technology Transfer ramps up, more and more Boise State research will contribute to the local, state and national economy’s bottom line, Rudin says.

“As Boise State’s stature grows,” Rudin says, “we’ll continue our success at bringing in more and more talent – faculty, students and staff.”
UNDERSTANDING THE STORY INITIATIVE
Clay Morgan never thought he’d learn the meaning of life from a cocktail napkin. He was a graduate student sharing a beer in a Missoula bar with his mentor, the distinguished American writer William Kittredge. Kittredge, who was teaching at the University of Montana, had just sold the film rights for “A River Runs Through It” to Robert Redford. As Morgan jokingly puts it, “He had been charmed.”

“So we were crying in our beers,” Morgan says. “Then Bill pulled out a napkin and started outlining Aristotle’s Poetics, what a story is and how it works in a screenplay — the beginning, middle and end. I realized that in six years of higher education I had learned a lot about writing, but nobody had told me about story.”
CHAPTER 1

Many years later, Morgan is a successful novelist and creative writing professor at Boise State. He still has the napkin, and the insight he gained from it is partly to thank for The Story Initiative, a new project of the university founded and directed by Morgan. Its mission is to teach, explore and celebrate story as a simulation of life, a system of communication, a means to insight and a distinct way of remembering.

While storytelling is ancient and inherent in the lives of all people, Morgan says the basic concept and elements of craft too often are left out of discussions about writing. “Writing is simple to teach because it involves technique. Story, which everyone grasps intuitively, is harder to get across. How do you teach art versus brushstrokes, music versus a succession of notes?” Morgan says. “What I’m trying to do with The Story Initiative is help Boise State engage the community in an exploration and realization of what story really is.”

The exploration began in May when the Initiative partnered with The Cabin, Idaho Writers Guild, Idaho Media Professionals, Idaho Screenwriters Association and SilverDraft Studios to bring veteran Hollywood director Donald Petrie to Boise’s Egyptian Theatre for a benefit screening of his romantic comedy, “My Life in Ruins.” In front of a packed house, Petrie expressed his support for the Initiative. “The Story Initiative will increase people’s awareness of how stories work and what we try to do in our movies,” he says.

While The Story Initiative includes all media, from the page to the screen, Morgan thinks film is especially relevant in the 21st century. “When I was in college, I wanted to be the next great novelist, a Faulkner or a Hemingway. My own kids want me to be the next Spielberg,” Morgan says. “Film is the dominant literature of our time, and the cool thing is, most people are very film literate.”

What they may not be is story conscious. According to Morgan, movies seldom fail because of actors, effects or subject matter. He asserts that if the action is not rooted firmly in story, it lacks what most people call “heart.”

CHAPTER 2

Michael Hoffman agrees. The Rhodes Scholar and Boise State graduate is an inspired storyteller who wrote and directed his first movie while a student at Oxford. “Privileged” starred classmate Hugh Grant and sparked Hoffman’s career in film. A trained stage actor known and respected now as a writer, producer and director, Hoffman’s directorial credits include “Soapdish,” “Restoration” and “The Emperor’s Club,” among other popular films. He says his mother loved books and movies and exposed him to narrative constantly in his youth. But even after becoming a successful director, he had doubts about his purpose. “Some part of me felt it was indulgent,” Hoffman says. “I asked myself, does making movies matter? And I was not convinced that it did.”

Then he had dinner with Robert Redford, the very same who played an indirect role in Morgan’s awakening about story. Hoffman confided that he wasn’t sure he was living a “real life.” Redford told him to spend a few days at his house in Santa Fe — that something would happen that would change his life. While there, Hoffman stumbled on a tape of the epic interview between journalist Bill Moyers and mythologist Joseph Campbell. “It was six hours on the function of narrative in human drama. Campbell said that for all cultures, there are four ways to get to God: singing, dancing, storytelling and silence. It occurred to me that maybe I was a storyteller,” Hoffman says. “Story stems from something fundamental, biological. It touches every part of our lives, and the study of it is basically a study of the human soul.”

Like Petrie, Hoffman plans to screen his new film in Boise to benefit The Story Initiative. Called “The Last Station,” it examines the end of iconic Russian writer Leo Tolstoy’s life. The screenplay is an adaptation of the novel by Jay Parini, and...
the cast includes Christopher Plummer, Helen Mirren, Paul Giamatti and James McAvoy. The film is scheduled for release in select U.S. cities early next year, but it already has generated Oscar buzz and been honored with several major awards in Europe. Hoffman credits much of that success to the graceful construction of the underlying story.

“Hard to tell a great one?”

“If it’s so easy,” he says, “why is it so
no further examination, Morgan smiles.
When asked what he says to those who
traditional lectures on how story works.
We would weave films and readings with
Web site and designing classes that
resources for the Initiative’s forthcoming
history to finance to screenwriting. He
will provide a performance venue and
prizes, and The Story Initiative will offer
direction and support as the project evolves. Established talent will be given 10-minute blocks to tell their tales, and
new voices can enter a lottery for five
minutes on stage at the Visual Arts
Collective, where ART is housed.
“We’re hoping for stories across the
spectrum, from cab drivers to mountain climbers,” says Holmes. “They have to be true stories, and there are no notes, no props, no music allowed — just raw
storytelling.”

“For some participants, that will involve
helping them recognize that they do have a story to tell and that it has value,”
Shaffer adds. “Story is about making
sense of experience, finding meaning in
the moments that change us and sharing
it.”

CHAPTER 3

Conveying the power of story has long been the charge of The Cabin, Idaho’s award-winning literary center. Founded in 1995, it is known for programs such as Readings and Conversations, an annual lecture series that brings literary heavies to Boise, from Michael Pollan to Joan Didion and Richard Ford. Its Idaho Writing Camps program was named one of 10 model arts education programs in the U.S. by the National Endowment for the Arts, and with Writers in the Schools, it sends world-class writing teachers throughout the state.

“Our mission has always been about
helping people engage with language and the power of story, to become literate about their own lives,” says Paul Shaffer, The Cabin’s artistic and executive director.

Crucial to that mission are The Cabin’s workshops, and a new workshop focused on storytelling will anchor a developing partnership with The Story Initiative and Garden City’s Alley Repertory Theater (ART). The collaboration grew from a conversation between Morgan and Shaffer, who have known each other for 20 years. Both had a hand in Boise State’s annual Writers and Readers Rendezvous, which happened in McCall back when Boise was, as Shaffer puts it, “a literary desert.” They were discussing a storytelling event when ART’s marketing director Jessica Holmes called and said she and ART’s artistic
director Hollis Welsh were dreaming the same dream.

It took shape as Story Story Night, an
innovative performance series that will kick off next year. The Cabin’s workshops will help participants polish materials and techniques, ART will provide a performance venue and prizes, and The Story Initiative will offer direction and support as the project evolves. Established talent will be given 10-minute blocks to tell their tales, and new voices can enter a lottery for five
minutes on stage at the Visual Arts
Collective, where ART is housed.
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Shaffer adds. “Story is about making
sense of experience, finding meaning in
the moments that change us and sharing
it.”

EPILOGUE

For Morgan, the story doesn’t end with the
Initiative.

“I want to create a Center for Story at
Boise State,” he says. “As far as I know, it would be the first one anywhere.”

His vision includes an undergraduate film degree covering everything from
history to finance to screenwriting. He is building a story archive and other
resources for the Initiative’s forthcoming
Web site and designing classes that
would weave films and readings with
traditional lectures on how story works.
When asked what he says to those who
believe story is understood and requires
no further examination, Morgan smiles.

“If it’s so easy,” he says, “why is it so
hard to tell a great one?”

Boise State alumnus Michael Hoffman is a
venerable writer, producer and director in
the film industry whose credits range from
Hollywood hits to small-scale projects close to his heart. He has worked with dozens of
celebrated actors, and his forthcoming film,
“The Last Station,” explores Leo Tolstoy’s
life through the inspired performances of
Christopher Plummer, Helen Mirren, Paul
Giamatti and James McAvoy.

The film premiered in September at the
Telluride Film Festival, where the Los Angeles Times called it “the darling” of the event.
Mirren won the Rome Film Festival’s Best
Actress award for her portrayal of Tolstoy’s
wife, and Hoffman received the award for Best
Adapted Screenplay at Germany’s Frankfurt
Book Fair. Distributor Sony Pictures Classics plans to release the film in Los Angeles and
New York City in January, making it eligible for
the Academy Awards.

While Hoffman’s work takes him around the
world, he makes his home in Boise with his
wife, fellow Boise State grad Samantha Silva,
and their children, Atticus, Phoebe and Olivia.
Hoffman graduated from Boise State with a
B.A. in theater arts in 1979. While earning his
degree, he co-founded the Idaho Shakespeare
Festival, was student body president and a
Top Ten Scholar. At his own commencement,
he was given a Silver Medallion Award, Boise
State’s highest recognition of service.

Hoffman then attended England’s Oxford
University as a Rhodes Scholar. It was there
that he directed his first film, “Privileged,”
starring classmate Hugh Grant. That project
was the beginning of a distinguished career,
recognized in 1989 with Boise State’s
Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2004,
Hoffman accepted the university’s first-ever
honorary doctorate.

“Boise State has been a huge part of my
life,” he says. “It’s where I began my directing
career.”
It was a spectacle of blue, orange and white at Bronco Stadium for the highly-anticipated football season-opener against the University of Oregon Sept. 3. A record crowd of 34,127 fans witnessed the 14th-ranked Bronco’s 19-8 victory over the No. 16 Ducks, with quarterback Kellen Moore throwing for 197 yards and a touchdown. Boise State’s defense held Oregon to 152 yards and six first downs, to defeat the Ducks for a second consecutive season.
HOT IDEA: BOISE STATE TAKES THE LEAD ON NATIONAL GEOTHERMAL DATA SYSTEM

By Erin Ryan

Trapped within Earth’s crust, extreme heat holds the key to an important source of alternative energy — geothermal. Unlike wind and solar, it is an unconditional constant, a base-load source that never goes offline. Existing direct and hydrothermal methods of tapping that renewable source produce no emissions and recycle all byproducts, leaving a carbon footprint so small it is almost immeasurable. Unfortunately, the International Energy Agency recently found that less than 1 percent of the world’s energy is supplied by geothermal power.

The crux of the problem is data. Data are the underpinnings of science and engineering, the basis for investment decisions and crucial indicators for land and natural resource management. Plenty of geothermal data exists, but it has yet to be funneled into a system that would provide organized, widespread access.

Boise State geosciences professor Walter Snyder (bottom left) is helping address that need as director of the Geothermal Data Consortium, an innovative partnership of research institutions dedicated to establishing a national data system for geothermal energy. Boise State is the managing body and received a $4.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to build a National Geothermal Data System (NGDS).

“More than a database, it will be a data system,” Snyder says. “It requires an incredibly broad range of data types and has to deliver information in a format that’s useful to the public, schools, researchers, industry, financial institutions and state and federal agencies and lawmakers.”

The project was proposed in response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in February 2009. Based largely on proposals made by the Obama administration, it created new funding opportunities for diversifying the nation’s energy portfolio. A comprehensive geothermal data system is essential to such a diversification, but building one will require considerable creativity, cooperation and work.

That’s why Boise State will lead the GDC’s team of major partners, including the Energy and Geosciences Institute (University of Utah), Geo-Heat Center (Oregon Institute of Technology), Stanford Geothermal Program (Stanford University), Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy (University of Nevada, Reno), and Geoscience Information Network (led by the Arizona Geological Survey). The team will use the DOE funding over the next five years to establish a core database and services developed and housed at Boise State and a network that will link partner data sites through secure and strict protocols, facilitate the exchange of data and increase access by all interested parties. At the same time, the Intermountain West Geothermal Consortium, also led by Boise State and including several other GDC members, is working to reduce the risks of identifying geothermal resources, creating new energy jobs and educational pipelines, and improving public outreach.

“Boise State continues to play a leadership role nationally in geothermal energy development research,” said Boise State Vice President for Research Mark Rudin, adding that U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson and U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo were instrumental in building awareness and support for the NGDS project on Capitol Hill. “The project recognizes Boise State’s prominence in this research area and will impact the development and use of geothermal energy across the country.”

“The interest in geothermal is just ratcheting up,” Snyder says, “and Boise State is a national leader.”

To learn more about the NGDS, visit www.geothermaldata.org.
Investigate Boise
Field School for Urban Affairs

By Mike Journee

The success of a summer workshop for students interested in the wide swath of Boise’s history and the city’s inner workings could lead to similar offerings for Boise State’s College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs (SSPA).

“Investigate Boise,” a two-part, 10-day class billed as “a field school for urban affairs,” was so well-received by students that SSPA Dean Melissa Lavitt (below) is using it as a prototype for the kinds of partnerships and programs the college would like to offer the community.

“Downtown Boise’s place as the center of our civic, commercial and cultural life, and its fascinating and colorful history, make these kinds of partnerships a natural for our college, our students and the community,” says Lavitt. “I want us to be seen more and more as a force and a resource within the community.”

Led by Boise State history professor Todd Shallat and Boise City Councilman David Eberle, a doctoral-level economist, “Investigate Boise” was a first-of-its-kind program. The workshop featured a slate of expert guests from Boise State, governmental agencies and elected officials, as well as tours of the city’s historical, cultural and institutional landmarks.

Boise State senior and lifelong Boise resident Hayley Perkins says the unique class caught her attention because of her interest in city planning and the insight it offered into little known things about her hometown.

“I had no idea about all of the old buildings that were razed in downtown Boise during the ’60s and the ’70s,” says Perkins, a communication major. Partly because of the class, she may pursue a master’s degree in community and regional planning, a planned master’s degree program at Boise State that could be up and running by the fall of 2010.

Plans to offer the workshop again are developing. Taught in a donated storefront in June and July, the class was “designed to be a place-based approach to a study of Boise in all its facets,” says Shallat.

Creating awareness about Boise’s past and an understanding of how today’s decisions impact the city’s future are at the heart of the lesson in citizenship that Shallat and Eberle hope to impart.

“My favorite buildings downtown are the old ones,” says Perkins. “It breaks my heart to know that we could have had so many more.”
They have different areas of interest, varying techniques and a range of artistic styles. But in the end, they all have one thing in common — dirty hands.

Since 1994, art professors Ron Taylor and Jim Budde have invited dozens of ceramists to the Boise State campus from across the nation to present hands-on workshops for students and community artists as part of the Visiting Artists in Ceramics program. The popular program was the brainchild of art professor John Takehara, who died in April at the age of 80.

Funded by proceeds from the semiannual Clay and Fire ceramics sale, the program fills a vital need in the community.

"The arts community in Boise is great for the size of the town, but it's not large enough to sustain a lot of ceramics shows," Budde says. "It's important that students see all the different ways you can handle clay and create different types of work."

The two-day interactive workshops are offered free to faculty, staff, students and alumni, and for a minimal charge of about $25 to community members. Comparable programs outside the university typically charge $400-$500.

The ceramists usually create unique pieces of art during their workshops, and often they are willing to sell or donate them to the university. The pieces are kept either in the Art Department for student reference or displayed elsewhere on campus.

In addition to attending the workshop, students have a chance for one-on-one visits with the artists over lunch or at an evening potluck.

The program, which is unusual in its size, scope and access to campus and the community, has garnered enthusiastic responses from students over the years.

Patricia Breidenbach, who attended a 2003 workshop, wrote the following in her evaluation: "Through this workshop with John Balistreri, I found myself facing some creative issues that had been repressed. He opened a can of worms, so to speak, that is now making me think on a deeper level when approaching clay."

For Joy Fingerlos, who attended a 2001 workshop, the experience was liberating: "The Robert Brady workshop gave me new inspiration. I am determined to play more and fear less. I'm going to force myself to work until it doesn't feel like work anymore."

Budde hopes the program will thrive and continue to inspire students for years to come.

"This has always been rewarding for me," he says, "and it's great in what it brings to Boise."
**Steinway Play**

Members of the Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band take to the field of Bronco Stadium to recognize the gift of an elegant blue Steinway piano in memory of longtime band director David Wells, who passed away in May. The piano, presented by the Keith Stein family, is one of three purchased so far in the university’s effort to raise $2 million to upgrade most of the university’s pianos and thereby become one of the elite “All-Steinway” colleges and universities in the world. The piano, named “Rhapsody,” is used at high profile campus events to highlight the ongoing campaign. To contribute, contact Sunny Wallace at (208) 426-2124.

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Faces of the Campaign

PEOPLE

Focused — Josu Zubizarreta
Josu Zubizarreta works with Boise State biology professor Greg Hampikian on genetic studies involving the Basque population in southwest Idaho in an effort to trace immigration patterns. He also collaborates with researchers in the Basque Country to study the population’s health risks, including the increased risk for Alzheimer’s disease. Thanks to a Minority at Risk scholarship, Zubizarreta graduated in May with degrees in both biology and Spanish. He currently is applying to medical schools and hopes to become a physician, possibly doing clinical research.

Motivated — Martha Mendoza
Martha Mendoza has big plans to positively impact the lives of children. A bilingual education major, she is studying to be a schoolteacher — with a twist. Not content with the materials now available, she intends to create a new curriculum that will help teachers explore issues of social inequity and injustice portrayed in Spanish-language children’s literature. Her dreams would be impossible without a scholarship from the McNair Scholars Program through the Center for Multicultural Education. “The scholarship provided me with support to continue my studies and [eventually] pursue a graduate degree,” she says.

Passionate — Julia McCoy and Nicole Frane
For Julia McCoy and Nicole Frane, music is a passion. Both young women play flute and piccolo in the Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band and both rely on scholarships. Despite the enormous time commitment, they feel deep satisfaction in performing for Bronco fans, mentoring high school students and representing the university. Off the field, they’re just as passionate about the doors an education will open for them. McCoy, who is majoring in Spanish and biology, plans to use her education to help preserve the environment in South America. Frane, who is working toward a degree in chemistry, wants to become a forensic scientist to help ensure that the innocent are not unjustly convicted.

PLACES

COBE Building
A new building for the College of Business and Economics, planned for the corner of Capitol Boulevard and University Drive, will provide a world-class facility for a world-class college. In addition to focusing on graduate and undergraduate programs that enjoy a national reputation for quality and innovation, it also will serve as a gateway to campus representing the thriving partnership between the business school, state government and the business community.

By Kathleen Tuck
At 65 percent of goal, the $175 million Destination Distinction campaign already is benefiting Boise State’s people, places and programs. New and enhanced scholarships, new doctoral and master’s level programs, increased research opportunities and state-of-the-art buildings are lasting legacies to the generosity of university alumni and friends across the nation and beyond.

To celebrate the campaign’s success to date, a series of oversized banners hung from buildings across campus trumpet the very real impact of gifts to the university. Here are the stories of those featured on the banners.

For more details, visit www.boisestate.edu/campaign./
Norco Building

When it opens this winter, the spacious new Norco Building will allow the university to educate more nursing students and turn away fewer highly qualified candidates. This is especially important in light of the severe nursing shortage predicted by the year 2020. In addition, integrating the academic Department of Nursing with the Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center, which will share the building, will enhance the quality of the learning environment.

Stueckle Sky Center

The Stueckle Sky Center offers Boise’s grandest view of the downtown skyline, the Boise foothills, the Boise State campus and Bronco Stadium’s famous blue turf. But there’s more to the popular new sky suites than meets the eye. Not only do the facility’s suites, loge boxes and club seats add to the viewing pleasure of the university’s football fans, they also provide spectacular event venues for community organizations. The state-of-the-art facility opened in fall 2008 and is named for Boise State benefactors Duane and Lori Stueckle.

PROGRAMS

Innovator — Peter Müllner

Using high-tech instruments in the Boise State Center for Materials Characterization, including the Analytical Transmission Electron Microscope or the X-ray Diffractometer, both academic and industry researchers are able to study the atomic structure of substances on a scale well below that registered by the human eye. Center director Peter Müllner says this is a vital tool for industry, especially when for problems like a newly developed solar cell that’s responding oddly or a computer chip that is failing. Many small to mid-size businesses rely on Boise State as a vital partner in their research and development processes. In addition, undergraduate students get hands-on experience often reserved only for graduate students at other universities.

Inventor — Dale Russell

Nuclear waste is nasty stuff — hazardous to humanity and the environment. If Dale Russell, a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has her way, disposing of it will be a thing of the past. Russell is working with the Idaho National Laboratory to develop and optimize a closed fuel cycle for nuclear energy production. That means waste will be eliminated as everything generated in the course of production is reused, recycled or processed to be non-hazardous. This is just the latest of Russell’s inventions. She currently holds 17 patents — three for which Boise State is the assignee.

Mentor — Anika Smulovitz

Since coming to Boise State in 2003, associate art metals professor Anika Smulovitz has resurrected the Idaho Metal Arts Guild, encouraged service-learning projects, established an annual auction of student work at a local jewelry gallery and created a visiting artists program. “All of these activities affect students and create passion and interest in the field,” she says. “To see a student who has very little self-esteem learn to use power equipment and create amazing objects filled with content and thought, to see them grow and develop self-confidence — that is why I love to teach.”
Alumni and friends can elect to make financial contributions to Boise State in many ways. A gift of life insurance is one option that can enable individuals to make a larger contribution than otherwise possible. Danny Richards and Dennis Ward are two alumni who have chosen to make a difference for the future through gifts of life insurance.

Who knew that young alumnus Richards, at the ripe old age of 26, could make a gift commitment of more than $100,000? His gift of life insurance allowed him to do just that. Richards, who received his B.A. in history in December 2008, is a financial representative with The Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Boise. He and Jennifer Neil, CFRE, at the Boise State Office of Gift Planning, designed a plan whereby Richards establised a life insurance policy and made the Boise State University Foundation the owner and 100 percent beneficiary. He makes annual tax-deductible gifts of about $500 directly to the Foundation, and the Foundation pays the premiums. As an additional bonus, Northwestern Mutual matches his $500 gift annually.

Ward, who received his B.A. in elementary education in 1973, is owner and principal of D & DW Associates in Olympia, Wash. An active volunteer with the Boise State Alumni Association, Ward has been a significant leader in establishing the Puget Sound Alumni Chapter. As a business insurance consultant, he also is keenly aware of the many advantages life insurance can have for families and charities. He established his life insurance planned gift for Boise State many years ago and is now working with Neil to give presentations to alumni and friends of Boise State. The presentation addresses the benefits, rationale and choices individuals have when considering a life insurance policy with their alma mater as the ultimate beneficiary.

If you would like to learn more about supporting a Boise State program using life insurance as part of your estate planning, please contact one of the following:

Jennifer Neil, CFRE
Boise State University Advancement, Office of Gift Planning
(208) 426-2927
Jenniferneil1@boisestate.edu

Danny Richards
Northwestern Mutual, Boise
(208) 559-0665
Daniel.richards@NMFN.com

Dennis Ward
D & DW Associates, Olympia, Wash.
(360) 791-5518
dennis@ddwassociates.com
PLAYING WITH HEART

By Sherry Squires

There’s a whole other breed of Bronco athlete out there. They don’t play on the famous blue field, don’t draw scores of fans and aren’t awarded athletic scholarships. But their pride and passion run deep.

“I play purely because I love the sport,” says Dalton Smith, a member of the men’s ice hockey team and one of 400 student athletes at Boise State who participate in club sports.

Club sports fill a void between intramural sports and sanctioned collegiate sports, says program organizer Alain Rodrigue. Intramural sports are played in-house among Boise State students. Club sports athletes represent the blue and orange against other schools.

Dalton’s team plays as part of the west division of the American Collegiate Hockey Association. It includes 170 universities across the nation. There are 35-40 games per year with the possibility of advancing to regional or even national playoffs.

“Most of our club sports student athletes were very involved in high school sports,” Rodrigue says. “This is an opportunity for them to compete and still have that structure in their lives.”

Club sports require great dedication. The students develop and govern their own teams and must pay to play — sometimes hundreds of dollars. The program is partially funded by student fees, but student athletes fill in with fundraisers to cover travel and other expenses.

Ashley Goodell not only plays on the women’s club volleyball team, she also is president. The senior mass communication major spends about 15 hours a week running it, plus practice and play time. She helped launch the program two years ago after coming to Boise State from Pocatello High School.

“We’re paying a coach now and we come together every week and play our hearts out,” Goodell says. “I really care about the sport and want to see it grow here at Boise State for years to come.”

The 28 current club sports programs range from baseball and soccer to paintball and angling. Many have come online in the past few years — the newest sports under development include water polo, archery and, perhaps, women’s rugby.

“It’s an exciting time for club sports,” Rodrigue says. “There’s a whole family of Broncos out there and I don’t think a lot of people know they’re here.”
Andrea Evans became involved with the Boise State Alumni Association to help it grow both in the number of students it reaches and in nationwide prominence. “It’s a way for me to get involved with people who have this common goal.”

Since 2003, she has served as chair of the Bronco Advocacy Network committee, member of the executive committee and board secretary. She currently is president of the board of directors. Her degrees include a bachelor’s in political science in 1999 and an MPA in 2002.

As senior director of business development for Corrections Corporations of America, she has been actively involved with the Political Science Department, working with students who are interested in political jobs.

Evans serves for a very simple reason: “I felt like Boise State University had awarded me such a great future. This is one of the ways I could give back.”

**Alumni Profile**

**Andrea Evans**

**Favorite College Memory:** “I loved the Political Science Department – it was small and I knew all my professors personally. It felt like a family.”

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**BECOME A BRONCO FOR LIFE**

The privileges and benefits that come with being a Boise State Bronco need not end when your college experience does. As a member of the Alumni Association, you can maintain and rediscover enriching, meaningful connections that enhance your quality of life today and well into the future.

The Alumni Association’s new Bronco For Life membership program allows your alumni dues to accumulate toward a paid-up life membership. Bronco For Life levels start as low as $25, with full alumni benefits.

Whether you’re a diehard football fan or you’re interested in academic and scholarship programs, there’s something for every Bronco alum. Alumni membership opens the door to enjoying the Rec Center, Albertsons Library, discounts at the Bookstore and Outdoor Rental center, lunch at the Bronco Zone in the Stueckle Sky Center and much more. Go to alumni.boisestate.edu to learn more about membership benefits and the Bronco For Life membership levels.

Your membership dollars will help fund alumni programs and student scholarships that help ensure the success, honor the traditions and enrich the experience that is Boise State University. Be a part of something that is forever a part of you, and together we’ll shine.

Check alumni.boisestate.edu in December to see details of the new membership program.

**Join. Belong. Shine.**

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**Calendar of Events, 2009-2010**

**DECEMBER**

**Saturday, 5,** Bronco Bash before New Mexico State game, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**FEBRUARY**

**Wednesday, 3,** Alumni Association Annual Meeting of the members and board, 4-5:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, 16,** Alumni Legacy Scholarship applications due

**APRIL**

TBA, Top Ten Scholars Banquet

**MAY**

**Wednesday, 19,** Quarterly Alumni Association board meeting, 4-5:30 p.m.

**JUNE**

**Thursday, 24,** Magic Valley Alumni Chapter brings Bronco football coach Chris Petersen to Twin Falls
Bronco Advocacy Network

Founded by the Alumni Association in 2007 to inform and engage alumni and friends to advocate on behalf of Boise State University, the Bronco Advocacy Network (BAN) is turning to its membership to expand the reach of its network and power of its message.

For 2009 and 2010, BAN has taken up the cause of promoting the university’s policy and budget priorities to the Legislature and public officials through its member network. Filling this need is an essential mission of the Alumni Association, and it is for this purpose that BAN is increasing its outreach efforts to all Boise State alumni, with particular emphasis on recruiting new membership and drawing alumni members into the BAN sphere.

Recent news of continued state holdbacks, coupled with the reduction to Boise State's budget last year, draws attention to funding for public higher education in Idaho and the need to mitigate further reductions by whatever means necessary, including tapping the state’s rainy day accounts. State support for Boise State comprises approximately 22 percent of the university’s overall budget, and continued support is critical to serve the record number of students enrolling in recent years and to meet the educational and economic needs of a growing Treasure Valley, the region and nation. State support also is essential to ensure that the cost of tuition stays low so that future students have the same opportunity as previous generations for a high quality, life-changing experience at Boise State.

Tough times also force attention to the changes necessary to increase efficiency. A state system for higher education, under the governance of the State Board of Education, that treats all public universities the same in terms of state regulations for human resources, insurance, construction and capital equipment purchases is needed to create operating, administrative and financial efficiencies. Idaho’s current system contains unnecessary and excessive bureaucracy for Boise State, a burden that is not shared by the University of Idaho. A level playing field and consistent accountability to one governing authority for all public universities will set the stage for higher education in Idaho to grow and flourish in a manner that best serves the citizens of our state.

BAN leadership supports Boise State’s agenda and is asking for alumni members to be ready to contact their representatives when these issues are in front of the Legislature. For more information, visit the Bronco Advocacy Network at http://alumni.boisestate.edu.

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<td>8.37% Other Student Fees</td>
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<td>25.55% Federal Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
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Boise State University | Focus | Page 29
2009 Homecoming Award Recipients

The annual Presidential Recognition Gala, held Oct. 3, recognized the following alumni for their outstanding achievements, passion and vision.

Alumni Service Award Recipients

Tom Beltia, BBA, management, ’84; MBA, ’87, senior vice president/cash management for Banner Bank.

Susie Schumacher, AS, health information technology, ’85; BS, health information management, ’00; MHS, ’05, revenue integrity officer for Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

IN TOUCH 1950s

VERLENA ORR, AA, arts and sciences, ’59, who lives in Portland, Ore., produced a documentary film featuring her 75-year-old rancher cousin. Shot on location on the Camas Prairie, the film features many of Orr’s poems. The work premiered in April at the Blue Fox Theatre in Grangeville.

1960s

FRANK TUNING, diploma, ’62; BA, art education, ’67, judged the 2009 entries for the Nampa Art Guild’s 47th annual Spring Show held in May at the Nampa Civic Center.

1970s

MARK BEEBE, BA, accountancy, ’70, is a retired judge who served in the magistrate courts in Power County for 23 years and was awarded the Service to Education Award from the American Falls Education Foundation.

PAUL “Skip” BICKNESE, BM, music education, ’70, was named the 2008 Ontario Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. Bicknese has taught for 39 years and has been at Ontario High School for the past 15. In addition to serving as band director at OH5, he arranges music for Boise State’s Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band and is a member of two other bands.

STEVEN R. HILL, BA, art education, ’70, had two original paintings accepted into the prestigious 42nd annual Chelsea International Juried Fine Arts Competition in New York in July. Hill lives in the San Juan Islands of Washington State and is an artist and art workshop teacher.

LEON JENSEN, BBA, accountancy, ’71, was hired as the New Plymouth city clerk in April. Previously, he worked for the Canyon County Planning & Zoning Department.


Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Barbara Buchanan, BS, physical education, ’78, 2008 gold medalist, United States Paralympic team.

Trent Johnson, BS, physical education, ’86, head basketball coach at Louisiana State University.

James M. Kerns, BS, criminal justice, ’82, deputy chief of operations for the Boise Police Department.

Jennifer Williams, MA, secondary education-art, ’77, retired high school art teacher and adjunct professor of art for Boise State.

We didn’t invent potatoes. We reinvented them.

SMART SOLUTIONS, FOR ALMOST A CENTURY.

Simplot® has created a rich history of perfecting the potato from the first frozen french fry to today’s seasoned, coated and roasted potatoes. A deep commitment to connecting with our customers drives this passion and keeps us focused on providing versatile, quality products you need now and in the future. It’s what you’d expect from the original potato pioneer.

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JON UDA, BS, physical education, ’75, was named executive director of campus security and police services at Boise State. His responsibilities include leading a comprehensive security operation, working with the Boise Police Department as the contract administrator for campus services and acting as liaison with other law enforcement agencies and private security companies for campus events and venues.


ERWIN SONNENBERG, BS, medical technology, ’77, the Ada County coroner, was a featured forensics expert at a DNA conference for genealogists held in Boise in May.

CATHERINE CHERUTIDI, BS, environmental health, ’79 of Boise, received the 2009 American Public Works Association Jennings-Randolph Fellowship funded by the Eisenhower Institute to study water management issues in Australia. She also had a paper selected for presentation at the International Public Works Conference in Melbourne, Australia, in September.

JULIA COCHRAN, AS, nursing, ’79, a U.S. Army reservist, graduated from the Officer Basic Leadership Course in February. She is assigned at Fort Bragg, N.C., for Civilian Affairs School and will be deployed to Iraq with the 351st Civilian Affairs Group.

DON DRUM, BBA, accounting, ’79, was promoted to executive director of the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERS). Drum previously served as deputy director, where he oversaw day-to-day operations of PERS. He lives in Meridian.

1980s

GEORGE TOTORICA, BBA, management, ’80, designed and constructed the Freedom Course at Falcon Crest Golf Club in Boise. The 36-hole course opened in August and is named for the brave soldiers serving our country.

KAREN VAUK, BA, elementary education, ’80, MA education, ’85, was named president and CEO of the Idaho Foodbank in Boise. Vauk was a development director for Boise State and, prior to that, served as the executive director of the micron Technology Foundation.

ROBERT YERZY, BA, elementary education, ’80, is involved with Global Neighborhood Student Ambassadors, which launched the Just One Box Compassion in Action project to raise funds to ship boxes of books to local elementary school in the Philippines. Yerzy lives in Guangzhou, China.

SHANNON BLAINE, BBA, marketing, ’81, was promoted to human resources director for Stinker Stores and its affiliated companies. Blaine joined the Boise company in 2005 and is now responsible for staffing, organizational and employee development, benefits management, employment and labor relations, and safety and compliance management.

TERRY GARDNER, BM, music, ’82, directs the Emmett Multi-Church Choir, a group that puts on Christmas performances each season. Gardner has been leading the group since it started in 1995.

ALICE SCHENK, BS, physical education, ’83, completed her first year as adjunct faculty teaching health and fitness classes for the College of Southern Idaho at the Mini-Cassia Outreach Center in Burley. Schenk also completed the Ford Ironman in Tempe, Ariz., with a time of 13:39.

DAVE GRATTON, BA, political science, ’82, a partner in the Boise law firm of Evans Keane LLP was appointed as a regents member at Looc Elementary School in Nampa.

WILLIAM LARANCE, BS, biology, ’82, along with friend and fellow scientist Thomas Lovejoy, accepted one of the highest honors in the field of ecology, the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Ecology and Conservation Biology in Spain. The two were recognized for their work on a project designed to measure the impacts of deforestation on tropical forests in Brazil. The award is the largest of its kind internationally and includes a prize greater than $520,000. Lurance lives in Balboa, Panama.

JAKKI MOHR, BBA, marketing, ’82, published the third edition of her book, “Marketing of High-Technology Products and Innovations,” co-authored by Sanjit Sengupta and Stanley Slater. She also was appointed as a regents professor at the University of Montana in Missoula.

DENNIS BRADY, BBA, finance, ’83, is a special agent for the FBI in Dallas, Texas, and is assigned to the North Texas Joint Terrorism Task Force, SWAT and HMRT. He is a defensive tactics instructor and has been deployed internationally several times.

CAROL GARDNER, BM, music, ’83, assists and sings in the Emmett Multi-Church Choir, a group that puts on Christmas performances each season. Gardner has been singing with the group since it started in 1995.

MAUREEN BOYLE, BFA, visual art, ’84, was the featured guest artist at the Nano Art Project designed to measure the impacts of deforestation on tropical forests in Brazil. The award is the largest of its kind internationally and includes a prize greater than $520,000. Lurance lives in Balboa, Panama.

DIANA VOGT, BA, communication, ’84, is a new member of the law firm Sherrets Bruno & Vogt LLC in Omaha, Neb., and was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in connection with submitting a writ asking the court to review a Nebraska case on the law governing declarations of incapacity.

ROBERT M. MILLER, BA, criminal justice, ’85, was awarded the Legion of Merit at Camp Pendleton, Calif., after retiring from 32 years of service with the Marine Corps. The Legion of Merit is awarded to servicemen serving “an extremely difficult duty performed in an unprecedented and clearly exceptional manner.”
alumni

SHARON BROWN, BA, anthropology, ’86, had two poems published on cowbypasture.com, and one poem, “Hand on the Wheel,” published in an issue of L.M. Cowgirl magazine. Poetry for both these publications must be accepted by a reviewer. Brown is employed at Boise State in the Department of Communication.

STEVE JOHNSON, BS, biology/secondary education, ’86, was named the 2009 Nevada Teacher of the Year by the Nevada Department of Education on behalf of the U.S. Council of State School Superintendents. John has spent his entire 23-year teaching career teaching chemistry and AP chemistry. He works at Churchill County High School in Fallon, Nev. His thesis on fly pheromones featured him on all 270 ATMs in the state. He also has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching and the RadioShack National Teacher Award.

FRED BARTEL, BBA, management, ’88, joined the Nampa office of Silverhawk Realty. He has been an Idaho real estate broker for 16 years and specializes in new construction, new home communities, real estate finance and first-time homeowners.

MELANIE FALES, BA, visual art, ’89, MA, education, art, ’96, was promoted to executive director for the Boise Art Museum. Fales has been with the museum for 12 years and previously served as curator of education.

LTC ROBERT “Bob” SANCHEZ, BA, criminal justice, ’89, was promoted to battalion commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion in Baton Rouge. He is in command of eight U.S. Army recruiting companies covering the four states of Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee and Kentucky.

KEVIN KRAFT, BBA, marketing, ’90, was promoted to store director of Albertsons in Emmett. Kraft began as a courtesy clerk while attending classes at Boise State; after receiving his degree, he was approached by the area vice president about a career in the corporation.

KATHY MOORE, BBA, accountant, ’91, was named the Idaho Hospital Association’s chair-elect. Moore was the secretary-treasurer of IHA, a nonprofit trade association that units hospital and health-care leaders. She has been the CEO at West Valley Medical Center since 2006.

ALAN LLOYD, BS, geology, ’94, of Stan Lloyd Drilling LLC in Elba, was awarded a contract to drill Malad City’s new culinary well. He is one of two tested to drill for the city’s new water system.

WES POWELL, BBA, marketing/finance, ’94, is the director of customer experience for 1-800-Flowers. Powell is responsible for achieving the service level agreements of the various gourmet food and gift brands categories and manages all agents that interact with the group’s customers.

CHRISTINA MARTINEZ, BS, biology, ’95, received her DVM from Colorado State University and owns a veterinary hospital in Covina, Calif., where she works with small and exotic animals. Martinez lives in Azusa, Calif.

RICH STUPPY, BBA, management, ’95, was promoted to vice president of information technology operations at Keynetics Inc., a privately-held technology company in Boise. Stuppy’s responsibilities include leading the company’s local and wide area networks as well as telecommunication and information security operations.

DONNA HOOPES, BAS, applied science, ’96, BS, nursing, ’99, was recognized as an employee of the month at Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino. She has served as a discharge planner since June 2008, working with patients and family to ensure a smooth transition when they leave the hospital. Hoopes lives in Kamiah.

PETER TROY, AAS, culinary arts, ’96, was named chef manager at West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell.

COLLEEN PAXTON, BA, elementary education, ’97, received the Homedale School District Award of Excellence from the Homedale trustees for her dedication to teaching. Paxton started with the Canyon-Owyhee School Services Agency as a classroom assistant in 1976, continued to work for COSSA while she attained her degree, and eventually became the special education teacher for Homedale Middle School.

MICHAEL CONGER, BA, communication, ’98, attended the Ketchum Gallery Walk at the Boulder Mountain Clayworks Studio and Gallery, which featured his Raku ceramic pieces and images of the Raku process. Conger lives in Ketchum.

PATTI ALLEN, AS, radiologic science, ’99, BS, radiologic science, general studies emphasis, ’04, received the 2008 Honored Alumni Award from the Boise State Department of Radiologic Sciences. Allen was recognized for her personal, professional and clinical contributions to the medical imaging profession. Allen lives in Gooding.

SUE VAHLBERG, BAS, applied science, ’99, was named Gem County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Month. She works as director of community and employee relations at Walter Knox Memorial Hospital in Emmett.

2000s

RICHARD STACEY, BA, philosophy, ’00, was elected partner in the firm Meulman Mollerup LLP in Boise. Stacey is a construction law attorney with experience representing general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, sureties and owners in all phases of litigation and in drafting and negotiating construction contacts.

CASEY TAYLOR, MBA, ’00, was hired by Home Federal Bank as a small business relationship manager in Nampa.

DUSTAN BRISTOL, AAS, culinary arts, ’01, won the top award in the Idaho Preferred Chef Contest. Bristol is a chef and owner at Brick 29 in Nampa.

JANELLE FINROCK, BS, political science, ’01 joined Zarian, Midgley and Johnson, PLLC as a litigation paralegal at the Boise patent and intellectual property law firm.

TAYLOR MURRAY, BS, criminal justice, ’01, joined the Bonners Ferry Police Department as the second person to serve full-time on the city police force. Murray spent five years with the Ada County Sheriff’s Department and one year with Nampa Police before returning to her hometown of Bonners Ferry.

BENJAMIN STEINER, MA, criminal justice, ’02, has been hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

1990s

KEVIN KRAFT, BBA, marketing, ’90, was promoted to store director of Albertsons in Emmett. Kraft began as a courtesy clerk while attending classes at Boise State; after receiving his degree, he was approached by the area vice president about a career in the corporation.

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BENJAMIN STEINER, MA, criminal justice, ’02, has been hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.
TORREY ROBERTS, BSM, mechanical engineering, ’05, returned to the engineering team of FDJ Engineering and Construction Inc. Roberts worked for FDJ from 2002-2006, then worked as an electrician in Hailey before returning to the Boise firm.

STEVE THOMETZ, BBA, management, ’05, has opened a Nampa branch of the family business, S&R Services, a Medicaid-certified company that specializes in wheelchair transport.

JED BRODBENT, BBA, accounting, ’06, joined Eide Bailly LLP, a regional certified public accounting and business advisory firm in Boise, as a tax associate.

ABRAHAM JACKSON, BA, communication, ’06, was appointed color analyst for the Peak Sports Radio Network. Jackson will provide stats, descriptions, and courtside commentary for Boise State men’s basketball games. JEFF JENSEN, BS, criminal justice, ’06, is employed by the Homedale Police Department. Jensen completed his field training officer program with the Boise Police Department. ERIC MOORE, BFA, visual art, ’06, designed the logo used in advertisements for the play, “The Importance of Being Earnest,” at the Emmett Community Playhouse. He also acted as Lane, the butler, in the performance. Moore owns and operates Hometown Studio and Foundry in Emmett.

SHAWN HUNTINGTON, BS, math, ’07, was hired as the wrestling coach for the Wood River High School Wolverine grapplers. Huntington worked as a paraprofessional at Hailey Elementary while coaching football and wrestling at Wood River High School and wrestling at Wood River Middle School. He also was the assistant coach for the Wood River Wrestling Club. KATRINA FISHER, BBA, marketing, ’08, graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruitment Training Center in Cape May, N.J. She currently is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard.

JOHNNY NUNEZ, BA, communication, ’08, was a participant on the reality dating show, “The Cougar.” Nunez is a mixed-martial arts fighter living in Las Vegas.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANNE GUNNER</td>
<td>BBA, marketing, '92; MS, Pullman, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. ROXANNE GUNNER</td>
<td>BBA, management, '89; MBA, '94, Boise</td>
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<td>MARYRUTH HOBSON</td>
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<td>WAYNE C. HOOPES</td>
<td>AS, arts and sciences, '68, Boise.</td>
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<td>DEBBIE HORNER</td>
<td>BA, advertising design, '84, Bainbridge Island, Wash.</td>
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<td>CRAIG HOWARD</td>
<td>BA, history, '06, Boise.</td>
<td>Boise</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAUL JANSSON</td>
<td>MS, instructional and performance technology, '95, St. Maries</td>
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<td>WILLIAM JOY</td>
<td>AA, arts and sciences, '51, Florence, Ore.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAYNE KECHUM</td>
<td>CER, practical nursing, '76, Elk River</td>
<td>Elk River</td>
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<td>GARY KURTZ</td>
<td>CER, auto body, '72, Nyssa, Ore.</td>
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<td>BEN E. LAPEYRE II</td>
<td>AA, arts and sciences, '57, Hillsboro, Ore.</td>
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<td>ROY LARSON</td>
<td>AS, arts and sciences, '65, Coeur d’Alene</td>
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<td>ARTABEE MARQUART</td>
<td>BA, elementary education, '74, Boise.</td>
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<td>HELEN MORTON</td>
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<td>BBA, accountancy, '83, Kuna.</td>
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Brenda Thorpe, ’01  My fondest memories of Boise State center on the many enduring relationships I formed during my time as a student — while living in Morrison Hall, studying in the Anthropology and Instructional and Performance Technology departments, and through the many dance classes and performances in which I participated.

The most significant relationship I formed at Boise State was with my now husband of eight years, Ben. We met while taking the same modern dance class. It was through our common interest in dance and also through the opportunities we were given as students to create our own choreography that we were able to develop our long-lasting relationship.

Since leaving Boise State and entering the “real world,” I am very fortunate to be involved in the Rainy City Bronco’s Alumni Chapter leadership team, through which I have formed new connections to people here in the greater Portland area. Our common background as Boise State alumni has opened the door to new friendships and business contacts that I anticipate will last for a very long time.
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