The Economics of Creativity

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE:
Research shows that creativity and innovation lead to business success. To find out just how creative Boise’s economy is, Boise State student Ryan Cooper devised a creativity index that ranks Boise, Seattle and Portland in a number of key areas that are believed to contribute to their economic success. Find out how Boise stacks up to its neighbors. Cover photo of Cooper (right) and business professor Nancy Napier, director of Boise State’s Centre for Creativity and Innovation, by John Kelly.

DEPARTMENTS
FIRST WORD 5
CAMPUS NEWS 6
SPORTS 11
DISCOVERY 12
PHILANTHROPY 26
ALUMNOTES 28
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FOCUS can be found online at news.boisestate.edu/focus/index.html
Boise State University is truly blessed.

Ours is the largest university in Idaho and growing. The rigor of our academic programs and quality of our student body reach greater heights with each new semester. Our research is gaining an institutional focus and momentum that will shape our direction for decades to come. Many of our alums can be counted among the most influential people in the state. And Bronco supporters are known as some of the most passionate in the nation.

Most universities can only dream of having such a lineup of resources upon which to draw. But imagine the positive impact our university could have on the quality of life, education, economy and administration of the region if we were to harness and direct all of the positive energy of our supporters.

Well, there’s a growing coalition of volunteers — a combination of alumni, current and former employees, students and supportive community members — who intend to do just that in the public policy arena.

The Bronco Advocacy Network, recently launched by the Boise State Alumni Association, is envisioned as a new tool for informing, organizing and empowering alumni and friends of Boise State as advocates for the university with policymakers. Using strength in numbers and a singular voice, Bronco advocates will be able to assist Boise State in sharing the university’s agenda with key lawmakers and other officials.

It’s a formula that has had a significant impact on higher education public policy in other states. Higher education advocacy groups are usually created to support the vision of their university. Since their members are voters and not paid lobbyists, their message is more likely to be heard.

Friends and alumni interested in joining the Bronco Advocacy Network can sign up at alumni.boisestate.edu. Members will receive special e-mail messages with details about legislative issues and other topics that affect Boise State and higher education in Idaho. Network members are then asked to contact legislators and other political leaders and urge support for the university.

The Alumni Association will send Bronco News Flashes or time-sensitive announcements when critical legislative action is pending, with the hope that Bronco advocates will spring into action and voice their opinion with legislators across the state.

Simply by reading through the materials provided, advocates will have all the information they need to talk effectively and intelligently with their representatives in government about the needs of higher education and Boise State, whether through phone calls, e-mails, letters or face-to-face visits.

It’s important to note that the Bronco Advocacy Network is not asking alumni to become official lobbyists for the university, but instead to simply share their passion for the university and help educate our policymakers and leaders about the needs and issues facing Boise State.

One of the first topics I’ll ask the network to tackle is our plan for the new Center for Environmental Science and Economic Development (CESED). This winter we are asking for the Legislature’s help to partially fund this interdisciplinary academic and research center. With proper funding, CESED could become a crucial hothouse of new ideas for some of our community’s most pressing challenges and opportunities in the areas of environment and economic development.

Ultimately, statewide support of Boise State and higher education in Idaho is vital to the future of our state. By building a cadre of educated alumni and supporters who are willing to contact their own representatives, we believe we’ll more effectively reach legislators across the state with a pro-Boise State University message.

I can’t think of a better way for Bronco alumni across the state to be involved with their university and support the vision to be a metropolitan research university of distinction.

— Bob Kustra, President
Private support fuels campaign’s public phase

As Boise State’s comprehensive campaign begins the first full year of its public phase, Boise State Foundation officials announced that the university is already approaching the halfway mark of its goal.

As of Dec. 31, 2007, the university has raised $83,197,748, or 47.54 percent of its $175 million objective.

In August 2007, Boise State formally kicked off the public phase of “Destination Distinction: The Campaign for Boise State University” during an outdoor gala that celebrated the university’s 75th anniversary. At the time, President Bob Kustra said it was “without a doubt the most important announcement of my presidency.”

The campaign’s aim, Kustra said, is to strengthen Boise State’s current reputation as an excellent undergraduate teaching university while also helping it transform itself into a metropolitan research university of distinction, with a campus that includes state-of-the-art buildings and facilities, professors engaged in relevant research and creative scholarship, enhanced undergraduate opportunities, and new graduate and Ph.D. programs (“Join Our Journey to Distinction,” FOCUS Fall 2007).

“Boise State has long been regarded as a driving force for education in southwest Idaho,” said Kustra, “but we cannot afford to rest on our excellent reputation. The needs of our students and the community we serve are changing, and Boise State must change with it in order to not only meet the increased needs of Idaho residents, but those of the Northwest region and beyond.”

Kustra said the campaign will provide “critical resources for student scholarships and continue the long-established tradition of teaching excellence at Boise State.” More information on the campaign is available at www.boisestate.edu/foundation/campaign/index.html.

A gift of $500,000 from the late Hilda Elliott in the fall provided a key boost to the total. Elliott and her husband, who died this past summer, owned Elliott Lumber in Boise and Payette for many years. Four days after she made her gift, Elliott died from a fall and subsequent heart attack. She was 87.

Elliott donated $200,000 to support biology professor Julia Oxford’s biomedical research, $150,000 for a business management scholarship, and $150,000 for a business accounting scholarship. (For more fundraising news, see the Philanthropy section that begins on page 26.)

Michener honored at Commencement

About 600 Boise State students attended the Dec. 21 Winter Commencement ceremony in Taco Bell Arena before an audience packed with family and friends. In all, 1,295 students were eligible for 1,363 degrees and certificates. The event included the hooding of Carlyle Miller, who earned a doctorate in geophysics.

President Bob Kustra presented a Silver Medallion to Roger Michener, an alum who served on the BSU Foundation Board from 1990-2005, acting as president from 1999-2001. The Silver Medallion, Boise State’s highest recognition of service to the university, was previously awarded to former Idaho Gov. Phil Batt, former Boise State President Eugene Chaffee and Idaho Court of Appeals Judge Sergio Gutierrez, among others.

Michener said the honor should be shared with his wife, Barbara, whom he met as a BJC student many years ago. It was their common goal to someday be able to “pay back” the scholarships given to them. In 1991, the couple established a scholarship to benefit students in the College of Business and Economics and the College of Education.

“We all have a chance to do just a little bit of good for someone every now and then,” he said.

The student speaker was Brian Honan, a former U.S. Marine who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in computer science after returning to school at the age of 31. Honan used his story to encourage others to work toward a college degree or pursue other dreams. “You can succeed at everything, but you have to try,” he said.

Honan told fellow graduates to allow their life experience to shape who they are. “Cherish your past, be proud of who you’ve become, take lots of pictures and be truly happy,” he said.
Two faculty members in Boise State’s Department of Art were recently recognized for their creative work with national honors. Bill Carman, a professor of illustration and drawing, received a gold medal from the Society of Illustrators for his illustration “Fine Dining,” and Larry McNeil, an associate professor of photography, was selected to contribute his work to the federal government’s Art in Embassies program.

The Society of Illustrators, based in New York, holds one of the top illustration exhibitions in the country. Carman received his award after “Fine Dining” was included in the society’s 50th anniversary exhibition. Carman has been invited to the Society of Illustrators’ awards presentation this March in New York. His work has been exhibited extensively around the country and is regularly featured at the Basement Gallery in Boise. His illustrations have appeared on CD covers, in magazines — including eight FOCUS covers — and on numerous posters. Carman is also the author and illustrator of a children’s book What’s That Noise? that was published by Random House Books.

The Art in Embassies program places works by American artists in embassies around the world. McNeil was selected as one of five artists nationwide to contribute to the program. This past fall, he attended a reception that honored the contributing artists and met first lady Laura Bush. Established by the U.S. Department of State in 1964, the Art In Embassies program is a global museum that exhibits original works of art by U.S. citizens in the public rooms of approximately 180 American diplomatic residences worldwide.

In 2006, McNeil was given a National Geographic All Roads Award, which recognizes select indigenous artists from around the world.

A memorable year at Boise State finished on a high note as The Idaho Statesman selected two members of the university community for inclusion on a list of five of the Treasure Valley’s most “Extraordinary People of 2007.”

President Bob Kustra was named the Treasure Valley’s Most Influential person of 2007 and Will Rainford, a social work professor and activist for the rights of the homeless, was selected as the Most Devoted person of the year.

They were among the five Boise-area residents selected by the Statesman’s editorial board “who showed extraordinary leadership or positive influence over the past year on issues we care about.”

Kustra was lauded for “leading the state’s largest university to unprecedented growth and expansion” and as someone who “reshaped higher education in the valley” in 2007. He was praised by the paper for launching Boise State's $175 million fundraising drive, leading the university during a period of profound growth in enrollment and campus construction projects, and improving the school’s overall reputation by enhancing and developing its research profile and graduate programs.

Rainford, the legislative advocate for the Catholic Diocese of Boise, was recognized for his efforts to rally leaders from various faiths to address Boise’s homeless problem. One result was the creation of Interfaith Sanctuary, a service for the homeless that today has a permanent building staffed by full-time employees and volunteers.

Rainford, who teaches Boise State graduate students about welfare and poverty in America, was recognized by the Statesman as the driving force to secure the Interfaith Sanctuary building, develop working relationships with neighbors and police, and organize a massive amount of volunteers. “His commitment has not wavered … his expertise matches his charity and church work,” the Statesman said.
Students and visitors alike will have considerably more elbow room when the expansion and renovation of the Student Union is completed next year. The 67,000-square-foot addition is scheduled for completion in January 2009, and the renovation of 27,000 square feet of the existing part of the SUB should be done in May of next year. Major changes include the moving of Table Rock Café to the main floor and new student government offices. In addition, the Boise State Bookstore will double in size when the project is completed. The construction of the new skyboxes and press box in Bronco Stadium is also on schedule and the project is expected to be finished when the 2008 season opens.

New Gene Harris Jazz Festival format features Jazz in June

Under a new format that began last fall, Boise State’s Gene Harris Jazz Festival will hold its educational program in April and feature its primary concerts in June.

Since its inception in 1998, the Gene Harris Jazz Festival — named after the jazz piano great who lived in Boise the last 23 years of his life and passed away in 2000 — was held over three or four days in early April. But the new three-part format will now include the Jazz Bash educational program April 3-4 and Jazz in June this summer. Separating the educational and entertainment portions of the event allows students to enjoy the spotlight during the Jazz Bash. The festival’s revamped format began last November with Endowment Night, which starred vocalist Barbara Morrison.

The Jazz Bash will host students from across the Northwest for clinics and workshops on the Boise State campus. Guest artists and jazz educators will work with the students over two days, helping them learn about the art of jazz improvisation and the skills needed for their instruments.

The Jazz Bash instructors will include trumpeter Lew Soloff, an original member of Blood Sweat & Tears, and award-winning pianist Andy Nevala, who will teach master classes and perform. The public is invited to hear some of the best young talent from around the Northwest during this event.

Jazz in June will include the popular Club Night in downtown Boise June 19 and the headline concert June 20 in the Morrison Center featuring legendary drummer Roy Haynes. Haynes will be accompanied by the Birds of a Feather combo featuring Nicholas Payton on trumpet, Kenny Garrett on saxophone, Christian McBride on bass and Dave Kikoski on piano.

Jazz in June will also offer public concerts in the Gene Harris Band Shell in Julia Davis Park June 20 and 21 and a jazz camp on the Boise State campus June 16-20. For more information, visit geneharris.org.

Welcome home speech in the Morrison Center following her summer flight aboard the space shuttle Endeavor, Dec. 10, 2007

“We went from 0 mph to 17,500 mph in minutes — don’t try that in your car!”
The spring Distinguished Lecture Series at Boise State will feature William McDonough, internationally renowned “green” designer and winner of the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development. He will speak at 7 p.m. April 17 in the Morrison Center on “The Next Industrial Revolution.” The lecture is free and no tickets are required; limited seating is available on a first-come basis. Doors open at 6 p.m. and parking is free.

In 1999, Time magazine recognized McDonough as a “Hero for the Planet.” In addition to receiving the Presidential Award in 1996, the nation’s highest environmental honor, McDonough has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award as a member of the EcoWorx development team for Shaw Industries.

McDonough is principal of MBDC, a product and system development firm involved in designing profitable and environmentally intelligent solutions. He is also the founding principal of William McDonough+Partners, an alumni research professor at the University of Virginia’s Darden Graduate School of Business Administration, and a consulting professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University.

Since 2001, the Distinguished Lecture Series has brought to campus speakers who have had a major impact in politics, the arts, science, business or in another realm of contemporary significance. More information on the series is at boisestate.edu/distinguishedlectures/.

Designer McDonough’s Distinguished Lecture scheduled for April 17

Daryl Jones, Boise State’s former provost and arts and sciences dean, was honored by the university in October when the main lecture hall in the new Interactive Learning Center was named the Daryl E. Jones Lecture Hall. Jones joined Boise State in 1986 as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He was appointed interim executive vice president in 1991 and ultimately served as provost and vice president for academic affairs from 1994-2004.

“I am pleased to dedicate our newest lecture hall in grateful recognition of Dr. Jones’ vision and leadership in guiding Boise State from an undergraduate teaching institution to a comprehensive university dedicated to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research and scholarship,” said President Bob Kustra during the ceremony in Jones’ honor.

As provost, Jones, who now serves as director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, played a major role in the expansion of graduate programs and the university’s enhanced research agenda.

“While I believe in the power of leadership, I want to make clear that in this business there are no individual heroes,” Jones said during the ceremony. “For every achievement attributed to me, there are other people — unacknowledged champions — who deserve the credit. I accept this honor today on their behalf.”

Among his many accomplishments at Boise State, Jones was responsible for the approval and establishment of more than a dozen baccalaureate programs, a score of master’s programs, and the university’s first two doctoral programs — the Ed.D. in education and the Ph.D. in geophysics. He also established the first faculty recognition awards for teaching, research and service; hired the university’s first woman dean; and helped lead the way to Boise State’s first international development project — the creation of Vietnam’s first market-oriented business school.

His efforts also led to the approval and establishment of a number of academic departments, and he was instrumental in the approval and establishment of the College of Engineering and in acquiring and developing the Boise State West campus.

Daryl Jones and his wife, Ann, hold the plaque that will hang in the Interactive Learning Center’s Daryl E. Jones Lecture Hall. Posing with the Joneses are (from left) President Bob Kustra; Lynn Russell, former engineering dean; Stacy Pearson, vice president for finance and administration; Phil Eastman, former arts and sciences dean; and business professor Nancy Napier.

LOUIS SULLIVAN
Former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services

“There is no silver bullet [for solving the nation’s health-care crisis]. What we have a need for is silver buckshot — many approaches that involve all of us.”

New associate VP to lead on-campus green efforts

John Gardner, the former chair of Boise State’s Department of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, was named the university’s associate vice president for energy research, policy and campus sustainability this past fall.

In his new position, Gardner is responsible for coordinating the university’s environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts. He will also be in charge of guiding and promoting university research related to sustainability and coordinating outreach to state agencies and citizens related to sustainability and energy.

“As Boise State rapidly advances and grows as a research university of distinction, we must ensure that we do so with mindful focus on creating a campus with an environmentally neutral footprint while advancing research in sustainability,” says President Bob Kustra. “With John’s leadership, Boise State will become a model of low-impact development for other universities and organizations.”

“With Boise State on the cusp of unprecedented growth, we have an amazing opportunity to use our campus expansion as a laboratory for the development of best practices in sustainability and low-impact construction,” Gardner says. “In addition to creating new standards for sustainable development, we will create an entirely new platform for a wide range of interdisciplinary research and funding opportunities for the university.”

Gardner’s focus will build on previous Boise State initiatives and accomplishments in sustainability and stewardship including building design; campus energy management; transportation; a campuswide recycling program; landscape/grounds maintenance; and research in areas such as wind energy, energy policy, geothermal energy and global warming.

Annual survey highlights top political issues

Getting a finger on the pulse of the voters has long been a challenge for state policymakers. What public policy issues are Idaho citizens concerned about, and how does that differ from one region to the next?

In an attempt to answer these and other questions, Boise State’s Social Science Research Center has administered the Idaho Public Policy Survey for the last 19 years. The annual survey taps into Idahoans’ opinions about things such as the state’s general direction; their thoughts on property, state, sales and federal taxes; their political ideology and party affiliation; and how they feel about a variety of issues ranging from breaching dams to constructing nuclear power plants.

“The Public Policy Survey facilitates policy discussion and education,” says Stephanie Witt, director of the Public Policy Center, which houses the Social Science Research Center. “Another key benefit is the opportunity for graduate students to work on developing and analyzing the survey, making the connection between citizen input, policy preference and agency implementation ‘real’ to students.”

Boise State released the 2008 survey in January with Witt providing commentary and analysis on the results during an on-campus press conference.

The yearly report is a significant source of information on public policy concerns for Idaho policymakers, state agency personnel and the public at large. The report is also used extensively by local media outlets to add perspective on issues of statewide interest.

Survey results are archived online at ppa.boisestate.edu/ssrc.

— Kathleen Craven

Lavitt selected new dean of SSPA

Boise State has named Melissa R. Lavitt as dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. Lavitt has served as the associate dean and director of the master’s of social work program at Eastern Washington University since 2004 and most recently as the interim vice provost for graduate education, research, and academic planning and evaluation.

Prior to her positions at EWU, she served for five years as chair of the Department of Social Work at Arizona State University West. She earned her Ph.D. from Tulane.

While at Eastern Washington, Lavitt provided leadership for the implementation of a collaborative JD/MSW program with Gonzaga University, the redesign of the social work curriculum, and the development of a sophisticated community engagement initiative. At Arizona State West, she led her department established the MSW program, and coordinated a collaborative program with Northern Arizona University for outreach to Native American and Hispanic students.

Lavitt formally takes over as dean on July 1. She will replace Shelton Woods who is currently serving as interim dean.
Clady receives consensus All-America honors, opts to leave school for NFL draft

Following its 13-0 season and Fiesta Bowl win in 2006, the Boise State Football team’s 10-3 campaign in 2007 was a bit anticlimactic for some of its supporters. But for offensive tackle Ryan Clady, it was all good.

After earning consensus All-America recognition at the conclusion of the ’07 season, Clady announced that he would forgo his senior year with the Broncos and enter this spring’s NFL draft.

Clady was named a first-team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association and The Sporting News and to the Associated Press and Walter Camp second-team All-America squads. The junior from Rialto, Calif., began the season as a first-team Playboy All-America selection.

Clady, a three-year starter, was also named first-team All-Western Athletic Conference along with wide receiver Jeremy Childs, running back Ian Johnson, defensive lineman Nick Schlekeway and defensive back Marty Tadman. Childs set a school single-season record for receptions with 82.

Clady and Johnson are repeat first-team selections from the 2006 squad while Tadman received all-league honors for the third time, having earned second-team recognition in 2005 and 2006. Broncos selected to the All-WAC second team were guard Tad Miller, quarterback Taylor Tharp, defensive back Kyle Wilson and kicker Kyle Brotzman.

In December Clady and defensive back Orlando Scandrick decided to leave school early and make themselves eligible for the NFL draft. The 6-foot-6, 317-pound Clady is widely projected to be a first-round pick.

As a team, Boise State’s domination of the WAC ended after five straight league titles, and the Broncos fell to East Carolina 41-38 in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl.

In other fall sports, Boise State’s Breanna Sande was named the WAC women’s CROSS COUNTRY Athlete of the Year after she captured the individual title at the league championships this fall with a time of 17:01.32 in the 5,000-meter race in Logan, Utah. Sande led the women’s team to a fourth-place finish in the conference meet.

The men’s cross country team finished third at the WAC meet. The Broncos were led by first-team all-conference performers Cody Eaton and Sawyer Bosch, who finished sixth and seventh, respectively. At NCAA West Regional in Eugene, Ore., Eaton finished 61st and Bosch was 83rd as the Broncos finished in 17th place.

In SOCCER, the Broncos reached the WAC semifinals before losing 4-1 to Fresno State. Boise State finished 9-6-3 overall and 5-2-1 in league play. Shannon Saxton was named the WAC’s Freshman of the Year and was a first-team all-conference selection. Seniors Brittney Dugger and Erin Wofford were named to the second team.

In VOLLEYBALL, the Broncos finished 6-23 overall and 3-15 in the WAC.
When the place you call home is miles from the nearest medical center, finding a doctor to treat your family’s illnesses or injuries can be a challenge.

While many family physicians do practice in rural areas, recent estimates suggest that if population growth continues at its current pace, by 2020 the number of family doctors will need to increase by about 50 percent to keep up with demand.

Currently, one of every three Idahoans lives in a rural county, in communities such as Inkom, Kooskia, Castleford and Yellow Pine. While many find the slower pace of rural living appealing, the isolation often raises concerns among doctors, especially if they are just beginning their practice.

Who will they turn to if they have a question about a complicated case? What resources are available in geographically remote areas? How many other doctors are practicing nearby to balance out the workload? What services are available at the community hospital? Is there any sort of program to help pay off medical school debt that can total $100,000 or more?

To help address physicians’ concerns, Boise State’s Center for Health Policy (CHP) has teamed up with the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho (FMRI) to help assess the challenges of recruiting and retaining family medicine physicians in rural areas of Idaho. The project is being funded by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care.

“Rural health-care issues are among the most pressing issues facing Idaho health care today,” says Ed Baker, director of the CHP and co-principal investigator for the project. “Making sure that we have an adequate physician supply in rural areas is critical.”

Dr. David Schmitz, rural director for FMRI, is co-principal investigator with Baker. Following his family medicine residency at FMRI, Schmitz spent six years practicing in St. Maries, population about 2,800, where he felt he truly made a difference. “I learned that communities like St. Maries give more to us as a physician than we can hope to give back,” he says.

Although he loved working in a small town, he returned to Boise when he was actively recruited by FMRI to serve as the residency’s rural director.

His assignment was to help shape the program’s ability to provide excellently trained, caring family physicians for Idaho’s rural and underserved population.
"Who else can deliver your baby, care for a loved one in a local nursing home, be in the emergency room when help is needed for a sick child or a trauma victim, and treat the ‘Christmas blues,’ sometimes all in the same day?” he asks.

Schmitz soon realized that he not only had to train new residents, he also had to figure out how to help maintain happy physicians in healthy rural communities.

To address this issue, he teamed up with Boise State and several other organizations in 2007 for the Idaho Rural Family Physician Workforce Pilot Study.

That project, in turn, led to new questions, necessitating the need for a second project to assess rural communities — what makes them special and what resources they lack to attract family physicians.

“Access is really the key,” Baker says. “If you live in Boise, you have access to all kinds of physicians and all kinds of medical services.” Outside of urban areas, however, the story is different. Because Idaho is a large state with rugged terrain and a dispersed population, providing health care to rural areas is a challenge.

Baker says that challenge is what made this project so attractive. “The Center for Health Policy is particularly interested in addressing real needs on a statewide level in Idaho,” he says. “One of FMRI’s educational missions is to train highly qualified family physicians in rural areas of Idaho, so this is an ideal match.”

The Center for Health Policy has teamed with Family Medicine Residency of Idaho on a number of issues in the past, such as the health care safety net, HIV in Nicaragua and Canyon County and even carbon monoxide exposure in high-altitude mountaineering.

“We have a very productive history of working together,” Baker says.

When it comes to rural physicians, Schmitz says he is dedicated to being part of the solution.

“As the population of Idaho both grows and ages, we will need more primary care physicians and more teams of care providers in rural Idaho, often ‘quarterbacked’ by a family physician,” Schmitz says. “It is my hope that our research and cooperation with BSU, the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, and medical educators involved with the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho will help us do this in the best and most effective way.”
EMBA program goes south of the border to gain international skills

Participants in one of Boise State’s most unique programs had a most unique experience this past fall.

The university’s first class of Executive MBA students spent a week at IPADE University in Mexico City to learn international business by immersion.

In the world of Executive MBA programs, it was like getting an invitation to the ball; Boise State was one of only two American universities to be invited to attend. IPADE is focused entirely on executive business education.

Kirk Smith, associate dean for executive education in the College of Business and Economics and director of the EMBA program, says the international business simulation is as close as you can get to the real thing. It teams students with eight or nine counterparts from other countries and challenges them to work through ethics issues, laws and cultural variances to arrive at business solutions. More than 500 students from universities in Canada, Europe and South America participated.

Tac Anderson, an EMBA student who works at Hewlett-Packard as the LaserJet Web 2.0 strategic lead, says the program gave him new insight into business perspectives held by people outside of the United States. Prior to the Mexico City trip, Anderson had not traveled internationally.

The week’s discussions were focused primarily on corporate social responsibility.

“We truly are in a global economy and being the largest economically, everything we do has huge impact on the rest of the world,” Anderson says. “After hearing the struggles that Central and South American companies had running a business, I understand why we have regulations. They aren’t all bad.”

Boise State’s Executive MBA program is helping to shape the Treasure Valley’s current and future leaders, Anderson notes, and the international experience was one that will stay with him.

Students in the EMBA program are predominantly executives from Treasure Valley small businesses and companies who have at least five years of managerial experience. They will be the first graduates of Boise State’s EMBA program when they complete the two-year program in May.

Boise State’s EMBA program is the only of its kind, Smith says, given that it was developed in partnership with a consortium of local companies including Albertsons, IdaCorp, J.R. Simplot, Hewlett-Packard, Micron Technology, Woodgrain Millwork, and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The companies also weigh in on curriculum and lend their expertise to the program.

The EMBA program is now accepting applications for its second class of students who will complete the nearly two-year program together. Classes begin in September 2008.

— Sherry Squires

Campus joins effort to Focus the Nation on climate change

An unprecedented national discussion about climate change recently took place on campus as Boise State and more than 1,400 other colleges and universities joined forces to “Focus the Nation” on global warming.

On Jan. 30 and 31, students, faculty, staff and community members gathered on the Boise State campus for this two-day event.

Designed to jump-start a national discussion on “stabilizing the climate in the 21st century,” Focus the Nation included a series of classes and seminars on various topics as well as discussions with local government and business leaders about solutions to the challenges it presents.

Dozens of high school and junior high students from Boise-area public schools also participated and Boise State planners are already making arrangements for next year’s event.

Boise State’s Focus the Nation activities culminated with a roundtable discussion between community leaders concerning Idaho solutions and the top climate concerns voiced by Boise State students and community.

Other events included a business symposium to help businesses create successful climate change strategies, a free, live national webcast discussing global warming solutions, a research symposium where participants learned about new climate change research being conducted by Idaho’s top scientists and researchers and a juried art show titled “Greener Solutions.”
Rising land values within Boise city limits are leading not only to increased property tax bills, but also to a disturbing crisis in affordable housing for the one in 25 residents who live in mobile homes.

On the heels of several mobile home park closures, Boise State researchers launched a policy study in fall 2006 to consider plausible solutions. Social science professors Todd Shallat, Susan Mason and Roy Rodenhiser teamed with graduate students and the city of Boise’s housing manager to survey mobile home park residents, examine the history and economics of manufactured housing, and identify the best policy options being used by other cities.

The result is “Mobile Home Living in Boise: Its Uncertain Future and Alarming Decline.” The report puts a human face on the problem of affordable housing, while outlining several strategies for the Boise City Council’s consideration.

In the early 1970s, Boise was the second-largest mobile home manufacturing hub west of the Mississippi, says Shallat, a history professor and director of the Center for Idaho History and Politics. For thousands of Boiseans, mobile homes offered a shot at the American dream of homeownership.

“The mobile home was once the nation’s most reliable source of unsubsidized low-income housing,” Shallat says. “Today the equation has changed.”

Two-thirds of mobile home occupants own their home, but lease the land it sits on. With wages growing at much slower rates than land values, homeowners are often forced from their homes because they can’t afford to purchase or rent new lots elsewhere. Even if they are able to find a new lot, the $10,000 cost of relocating a mobile home is prohibitive. Added to these concerns is the lack of a provision in state law requiring mobile home park owners to maintain mobile home units or pay relocation expenses should the park close.

“We don’t want to burden society,” Thunderbird Park resident Bob McCuster told researchers. “We’re independent. We don’t want to apply for subsidies or public assistance, but we can’t walk away from our homes.”

Despite the issues, many mobile home dwellers defend their choice of housing as an affordable and less regulated alternative to an apartment, which also typically does not offer a yard or garden space. Still others report that they purchased a mobile home as a step toward eventually owning a site-built home, but then found that finances or the difficulty of selling a manufactured home prevented them from achieving that goal.

Researchers hope the report will be the first of a series of interdisciplinary investigations on metropolitan issues. Future topics could include transportation, land-use zoning, homelessness, policing, tourism, regional governance, water quality and foothills conservation.

A pdf version of the report can be found at http://www.boisestate.edu/history/idaho/MobileHomes_Boise.pdf.
CONGRESS FUNDS RESEARCH FOR WEST NILE VACCINE

The U.S. Congress allocated $940,000 to fund West Nile virus vaccine research at Boise State. In November, President George Bush signed the legislation that was supported by the entire Idaho congressional delegation.

The interdisciplinary team of researchers, led by Ken Cornell in Boise State’s Department of Chemistry, will work with the U.S. Department of Defense to finalize details and move forward with the research. He will work with biology professors Juliet Tinker, Denise Wingett and Gongxin Yu on the research. Cornell says that once Boise State demonstrates efficacy in its work for a West Nile vaccine, more research work on viral vaccines could come the university’s way.

Boise State’s cutting-edge research will enable the university to combine recent advances in biotechnology with emergent nanotechnologies. That combination should allow Boise State researchers to come up with a safe and effective vaccine to prevent West Nile in humans.

In 2006, 38 Idaho counties reported cases in horses, birds and mosquitoes, as well as in people. About 1,000 people were affected and 23 died from the virus. This past year, at least one death in Idaho was blamed on West Nile.

TRACKING TRACTION: RESEARCHERS HELP NFL SEEK ANSWERS TO TURF-RELATED INJURIES

Two Boise State professors are teaming up with the National Football League to research injuries related to the use of artificial turf on football fields.

Michelle Sabick, an assistant professor in mechanical engineering, and Ron Pfeiffer, a professor in kinesiology, are leading a one-year, $115,641 research contract with the NFL. Sabick and Pfeiffer are co-directors of Boise State’s Center for Orthopaedic and Biomechanics Research.

The goal of the project is to systematically evaluate the traction of shoes worn by NFL players on various turf surfaces used in the NFL, including natural grass, to understand how turf-related injuries may occur. A new traction-testing device will be designed and analyzed, allowing researchers to measure traction in dozens of shoe-turf combinations on real athletic fields throughout the country.

A recent proliferation of new types of artificial turf along with the wide array of footwear now available creates an overwhelming number of combinations of turf and shoes among players in the National Football League. Twelve of the 31 NFL stadiums (39 percent) currently feature artificial turf surfaces.

Ultimately, the study is geared toward helping football players avoid injuries — especially high ankle sprains and fractures and turf-toe — that could cut their careers short and be expensive to both the player and the team.

—Mike Journee
ART STUDENTS COMBINE ARTISTIC EXPRESSION WITH CIVIC-MINDEDNESS

Visitors to Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge in Nampa aren’t guaranteed a close encounter with the wildlife that lives there. But soon they will be able to peruse artistic representations of some of the area’s most popular creatures.

Last semester, students in Boise State art professor Anika Smulovitz’s Art 221 class completed more than a dozen pieces of metal art for the refuge that were inspired by the species that call it home.

Officials of the wildlife refuge plan to build an outdoor education auditorium at the refuge site this spring for educating children and community groups. The metal art pieces will be installed either in the auditorium or along a half-mile nature trail at the refuge, according to Amy Ulappa, environmental education and interpretive specialist for the refuge.

“We think the pieces are beautiful and will really add to the wildlife experience for our visitors,” Ulappa says.

Smulovitz’s art class focused on learning about the field of jewelry and metalsmithing through research, presentations and creating art pieces in metal that draw from the formats and history of the field. Making art for a good cause increased the students’ investment in the project and in their learning, Smulovitz says. The donation of artwork for charitable causes is a regular part of an artist’s career and this project was an introduction to that process.

The project was coordinated with the help of the Service-Learning program at Boise State. Service-learning is a teaching method that connects coursework to community issues, giving students real-world experience in their field while meeting pressing community needs. As part of their coursework, students work in community organizations to address issues of poverty, the environment, public health and more.

During the past academic year, 1,785 students from 89 Boise State classes engaged in service-learning, contributing 36,453 hours of service with 75 community organizations. In 2006, 23 percent of all graduating seniors had taken courses that included service-learning experiences.

For more information about Boise State’s Service-Learning program, visit http://servicelearning.boisestate.edu.

— Sherry Squires

DIVISION OF RESEARCH LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE TO HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AT BOISE STATE

Want to know the latest regarding research at Boise State?

The Division of Research has launched the first phase of its new Web site at www.boisestate.edu/research/. The new site includes information about research activities and programs, deadlines, events, contact information, and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

In addition, the new site features an “In the Spotlight” section that highlights faculty and students.

“Our goal is to provide easy-to-access information and resources for faculty, staff, students and the community on our Web site,” says Mark Rudin, vice president for research. “The launch of our new home page is an important first step toward attaining this goal.”

In the coming weeks, additional phases of the Web site will be developed and launched, including new Web pages for the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of Research Compliance and links for centers and other research-related activities at the university.

The Office of Sponsored Programs assists faculty in developing grant and contract proposals for financial support of research, instruction and creative activities. The Office of Research Compliance oversees compliance awareness and accountability within the research culture of the university through assistance, education and communication.

The Division of Research welcomes feedback on the new Web site as it continues to add new content and new links. Please send comments and questions to Janelle Brown at jbrown2@boisestate.edu.
Promotions coordinator Gribble says the Student Recreation Center is often a key reason why many students choose to attend Boise State.
Upstairs a group of people is swaying, carefully working out dance steps to a salsa beat. Downstairs a noisy, fast-paced pickup basketball game has started. And in between the two floors members are climbing the walls.

Welcome to an average weekday at Boise State’s Student Recreation Center.

It’s been 5½ years since the $12 million fitness center opened thanks to the demands of students who wanted a place to work out, meet friends, pick up new skills and stay healthy. Since its opening in August of 2002 it has become one of the gems on campus.

“It’s one of the biggest components for choosing Boise State,” says Heather Gribble (BFA, graphic design, ’05), promotions coordinator for Campus Rec, which oversees the Student Recreation Center. Students list the center in the top three reasons for picking Boise State over other schools, and visits to the center are must-dos for students on orientation tours or for athletes who are interested in spending their academic careers here.

In fact, the center is so popular that it counted more than 250,000 visits last year. And during the next few years, the center is scheduled to undergo some changes that are poised to make it an even more popular campus destination. A new indoor pool is scheduled to be added to the 86,000-square-foot complex, supplanting the current pool in the Kinesiology Annex and giving Student Recreation Center members a one-stop exercise spot.

The pool addition is part of the long-term plan for the center, which began as a grassroots project in the mid-1990s. “There was a need and a demand for it from students,” says Lisa Stuppy (MS, exercise and sports studies, ’97), assistant director of fitness programs.

The idea of physical fitness as an essential part of campus life started in the 1950s with intramural programs, Stuppy adds. By the time Boise State started construction on the Student Recreation Center, it was joining a number of universities around the country with similar facilities.

“There was this idea that it’s not just about athletics, and that it’s more accessible to all students,” says Geoff Harrison, director of the Outdoor Program.

The facility started out with a three-court gymnasium, two multipurpose rooms, a studio for group exercise, four racquetball courts, an equipment checkout counter, a running track, an outdoor rental center, cardio equipment and weight training areas. A two-story climbing wall was added later, and quickly became one of the main attractions in the facility. The state-of-the-art wall plays host to a number of climbing events, including the Women That Rock series for female rock climbers of all levels, the annual “Buck Off” climbing tournament,

Fun for Everyone

Campus Rec Open for Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff

BY JULIE HAHN
and dozens of training events for everyone from beginners to pros.

The climbing wall dovetails with the Outdoor Program, which was founded almost 25 years ago and is now housed under Campus Rec. The Outdoor Program is home to the rental equipment business that lets participants take advantage of Idaho’s vast wilderness and amazing landscapes. The Outdoor Program now provides the largest four-season rental operation in southwest Idaho, doling out rafts, kayaks, canoes, snowshoes, skis, climbing gear, backpacks and other equipment needs.

This year also marks the beginning of a new opportunity for students. For the past nine years, the Outdoor Program has offered Wilderness Quest, a chance for students to explore Idaho before the start of classes. This year, students will be able to take their pick between traditional orientation or wilderness orientation in the scenic backwoods of Idaho. Eventually, Harrison says, they would like to have “outgoing adventures” for recent graduates so that “the last thing they experience as they go out into the real world is a BSU event.”

The Outdoor Program is especially popular with alumni, who account for 30 percent of its rental business. The Outdoor Program and Campus Rec decided to take advantage of that participation this year with the creation of Alumni Adventures, which provides outdoor programming centered around Boise State football games.

“It was a natural place to try it out,” Harrison says about centering the program around Bronco football. “It gave us really good ideas for how to massage and tweak it.”

The first Alumni Adventures participants got to experience activities that they might not have been able to otherwise — at a discount. Alumni and their families who traveled to Boise State’s game against Hawaii last November could take advantage of surf lessons at Diamond Head in Waikiki, kayak in Kahana Bay or catch a brag-worthy fish in the deep waters off Honolulu.

“What’s unique is that this is an opportunity to create a long-term connection with other Boise State people,” Harrison says. In the future, he adds, Campus Rec plans to expand the program to include two-week trips to distant destinations such as Europe and Belize.

But there are plenty of options for people who want to stay closer to home. Campus Rec has been steadily expanding its fitness program options far beyond the standard spinning and
yoga classes. The instructional program series lets participants delve deeper into different types of fitness exercises, including belly dancing, hoop dancing (which mixes dance and hula hoop moves), masters swim training, Pilates, racquetball, salsa dancing, tai chi, yogassage (a combination of yoga moves and self-massage) and a fitness program for people over 50.

“You get the same 20 people to start together in one class and watch them progress,” Stuppy says. “We’ve found a really good group exercise system.”

The fitness program participation numbers have gone up every year, Stuppy says. “It brings fitness to the general public without having people lift weights or run on a track for three hours,” she says.

People who want an even more personalized experience can help themselves — as well as kinesiology students — by hiring one of the Rec’s personal trainers. The personal trainers — a mix of trained kinesiology students and community members — offer custom workouts for a fraction of the price. At the same time, the students gain valuable experience or fulfill internship credits.

And this year, the Rec will offer one of its biggest challenges to date. It’s a little race they’re calling “Beat Pete,” and it’s something the staff has been planning for a long time.

Inspired by a race at UC San Diego that has raised about $1 million for the university, the staff at Campus Rec recruited Bronco football coach Chris Peterson for a 5-kilometer race. Participants from the campus and the community can race on April 5; if they beat Pete, they get T-shirts saying “I Beat Pete.” Even if they don’t, they’ll be raising money for the university.

Coach Pete, a fitness buff himself, “was so excited for something like this … He’s a competitive guy and I think he’ll bring his A game,” Stuppy says.

Full-time student membership costs are included in student fees paid to the university. Part-time students, faculty, staff, alumni and spouses or partners of members are eligible to purchase memberships. Emeriti and dependents of students, faculty and staff are also eligible to join.
To determine just how creatively a city is going about its business takes research savvy, thoughtful analysis and, well, a little creativity.

Boise State senior biology major and undergraduate research assistant Ryan Cooper put all three to the test. The result: a creativity index that ranks Boise, Seattle and Portland in a number of key areas that are believed to contribute to their economic success.

“This was my first significant research project, followed by an intensive biological research project,” Cooper says. “After years of studying about these concepts, research actually lets you see how they are applied. I don’t know how I would feel about my education without these experiences — it would be a lot of book knowledge. Research has completely made my undergraduate education.”

And it has given leaders in Boise’s government, businesses and arts groups a real tool to measure and pursue economic strength and growth. Nationally known expert Richard Florida popularized the idea of a city’s creativity being vital to its economic development. While numerous economic indicators and measures exist, none have been localized to Boise like Cooper’s creativity index.

Cooper’s research was done through Boise State’s Centre for Creativity and Innovation in the College of Business and Economics. Directed by international business professor Nancy Napier, the center promotes awareness of the value of creative enterprise as a driver of economic vitality for organizations, communities and countries.

“We’re looking at what cities and organizations can do to add value,” Napier says. “Many would say creativity is a resource. It can happen anywhere and it’s renewable.”

In his book, *The Rise of the Creative Class*, Florida ranked Boise No. 9 in the United States when it comes to attracting creative people. The danger was that it is easy to become complacent when a city seems to be riding high, Napier says. How Boise could continually improve was the starting point for the index.

“We wanted to know if it makes a difference that we are remote geographically,” Napier says. “At first we thought it could be a detractor, but it looks like remoteness could be an advantage. Having to be self-sufficient has fostered stronger and more entrepreneurial organizations and seems to draw people who think of themselves as pioneers.”

Boise is, in a sense, a test tube for a number of ideas. The research started about 18 months ago in an interdisciplinary class on creativity and innovation cooperatively taught by Napier and John Gardner, a professor of engineering who was recently named Boise State’s associate vice president for energy research, policy and campus sustainability (page 10). Fourteen Boise State students worked to devise measures of creativity and innovation at work in the city of Boise. Cooper stayed with the project as an undergraduate research assistant. He organized focus groups and pulled data from a variety of sources. He then looked at cities across the United States and isolated their strengths and weaknesses to set an upper and lower limit for the index. Finally he had to determine what criteria could be accurately and objectively measured and also were believed to be a factor in the economy.

His research found that Boise is neck and neck with Portland and Seattle when it comes to fostering creativity, which is believed to be an indicator of the economic success of a city.

Currently, Boise ranks 6.7 on a 10-point scale, with Seattle ranking 6.8 and Portland ranking 6.9 on the creativity index. Boise ranked high — with a score of 9 or 10 — and equal to or better than both Seattle and Portland in the categories of income per capita, crime rate, air quality, labor and living, commute time, and recreation sales and establishment. It ranked below both cities in commute type (alternative transportation methods), natural amenities, recreational...
opportunities, educational attainment, educational opportunities and green infrastructure.

Some of the results may surprise Boise residents, Cooper says, especially that Boise ranks below the other two cities when it comes to recreational opportunities, and that it scores very high in the air quality category. Seattle and Portland’s access to a variety of recreational opportunities is higher because of their direct access to water, among other things. Cooper says the research results represent an “extensive hypothesis” at this point meant to stimulate thought and elicit feedback. He and Napier are already collecting feedback and continuing to refine the index. They will also present it to a number of leaders in the valley in the coming months.

“It has created 10 to 20 more questions than it has answered and I think that’s what good research does,” Cooper says. “Instead of us generally asking what makes Boise tick, now we can ask specific questions such as, ‘Why is our educational opportunity so poor?’ or ‘Why don’t we have more green development in Boise?’”

One of the most unique measurements of the research was business churning — the birth and death rates for local businesses as an indicator of dynamism in the economy. Boise scored a 7 compared with a score of 6 for both Seattle and Portland.

“Who would have thought that the death of an outdated business could be a positive for an economy?” Cooper says, noting that it is a sign of a dynamic economy in action, with the strongest firms surviving.

The research suggests that Boise should work to develop or improve alternative forms of transportation, alternative forms of energy and development, offer a more diverse array of educational availability and increase affordable housing options, particularly in downtown Boise.

“Our research shows that Boise’s on the rise and doing some of the right things while still retaining the benefits of being smaller,” Cooper says. “Ten years ago Boise couldn’t compare itself to Portland and Seattle, but today it is very feasible.”

The project left a lasting mark on Cooper’s education, while Cooper has made an invaluable contribution to the center and the community.

“I’ve often said that our students are our greatest resource,” Napier says. “Getting them involved in research is vitally important.”
Professor Greg Hampikian describes himself as a storyteller.

It’s probably not how most forensic DNA scientists describe what they do. But Hampikian, who has a dual appointment in the Boise State Biology and Criminal Justice departments and a penchant for telling folks that “DNA can tell you where your genes have been the last 100,000 years,” isn’t an ordinary scientist.

His father was an MIT-trained physics professor who kept a laboratory in the basement of Hampikian’s childhood home. His grandfather was a poet who edited a daily newspaper and wrote the editorials in iambic pentameter.

“They never understood one another,” Hampikian says. It seems that Hampikian’s progenitors have made their peace in his genetic makeup.

A quick perusal of his online biography reveals the expected academic pursuits of his father’s son: research, teaching, community outreach and a long list of academic publications. But it’s certain that his late grandfather, whom Hampikian never met, would be proud of the entries that point to his grandson’s yen to write plays and poetry.

Two of his works were performed at Clayton State University in Georgia, where he taught before coming to Boise State in 2004, and his play, Your Name in Bold, won the Percolating Playwrights award in 2003 and was performed at Theater in the Round in Atlanta as a staged reading.

“There are few things more exciting to me than a blank piece of paper and
a pen,” Hampikian says. “But I rarely get a chance to really indulge that anymore.”

Instead, Hampikian scratches his storytelling itch by making the often esoteric details of his work and research in cell biology, DNA and forensics accessible to elementary school students, his undergraduate and graduate students, journalists, juries, potential supporters of the university, and just about anyone or any group who wants to tour his lab.

“Greg has a gift for talking in a way that allows those who don’t have formal training in science to understand it,” says Jim Belthoff, chairman of Boise State’s Biology Department. “It’s an important component of bringing science and research to the public and creating a scientifically literate society that understands what is science and what’s not.”

Hampikian is perhaps best known for his work with the Innocence Project, an organization dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted people through DNA testing and reforming the criminal justice system to prevent unjust convictions.

Nikki Gerhard, a volunteer intern for the Innocence Project in Idaho and a criminal justice graduate student, says it’s Hampikian’s passion for what he does that allows him to communicate so well.

“It’s rare to see someone with as much passion for their job as he has, and I think that comes through in the way he talks about it,” Gerhard says.

While it’s the proof of science that ultimately makes the case in his Innocence Project work, Hampikian says bringing that science to bear in an effective way is really “nothing but telling the story with data. You’re weaving a compelling narrative about someone who’s innocent but has been convicted and has already lost all of their appeals and has nowhere else to turn.”

Most recently, Hampikian was part of a team from the Georgia Innocence Project that overturned the 1979 rape conviction of John White, who was released from a Georgia prison in December. White was the fourth wrongfully convicted person Hampikian has helped exonerate.

Since joining Boise State, Hampikian has brought the Idaho Innocence Project (IIP) under the university’s umbrella as its director. With help from University Advancement, Hampikian recently secured $70,000 in funding for the IIP from the Angora Ridge Foundation and $25,000 from the Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts, which funds law-related public interest programs.

“A trial is really about the art of two combatants telling their side of the story in the courtroom,” Hampikian recently told a group of colleagues. “The winner is the one who tells the best story and tips the balance of confidence that their version is the right one. And that balance of confidence might not always reflect the truth. That’s where DNA can come in and correct the verdict years later.”

But it may be his description of how the spatters of Jackson Pollock’s abstract expressionist paintings were an inspiration for the study of blood spatters by forensic scientists, and other examples of art influencing science, that best sums up his philosophy on the power of mixing the creativity of art and the difficult minutia of science.

His point? Not only does art help non-scientists understand and develop an interest in science, it also helps scientists ask the questions that have not yet been answered.

“It turns out that novelty is the lifeblood of science,” Hampikian says. “Just as in art, no one’s really interested in your work if someone has already written the same story.”
Large turnout of scholars and donors gather on campus for annual luncheon

More than 460 participants gathered this fall for one of the Boise State Foundation’s largest Scholar-Donor Luncheons ever.

The annual event is designed to recognize student scholars and introduce them to the donors who provided the funding for their particular awards. The fall 2007 luncheon included comments by President Bob Kustra and a keynote address by Laura Bettis of the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation.

Bettis spoke about the Cunningham Foundation’s commitment to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars to Boise State students and students at other institutions, and how that investment has changed lives. She urged other donors and potential donors to think of their contributions as investments for life.

For more information about scholarships, fellowships or other support to Boise State, contact the BSU Foundation office at (208) 426-3276.

Business alumnus makes $100,000 investment in finance program

A Boise State alum has given $100,000 to help current and future students apply investment management knowledge and to provide funds for scholarships and program support for the Finance Department in the College of Business and Economics.

Ryan Relyea (BBA, finance, ’00) has established the Boise State Student Managed Investment Fund, to be managed by finance professor Harry White and his students.

Students in upper-division financial portfolio management classes will research and recommend investment strategy and asset selections for the fund. White will make trades on the students’ behalf and the earnings on the investment will be used to fund scholarships and purchase investment tools for the department, as needed.

Relyea co-founded Harbor Capital Partners near Salt Lake City in 1999, where he currently oversees underwriting and portfolio allocation for Harbor and its related entities.

Two new employees join campaign team; Larabee promoted

Two new professionals have joined the Boise State Foundation team as key members of the “Destination Distinction” comprehensive campaign with the hiring of Karen Vauk (BA, elementary education,’80; MA, curriculum and instruction, ’85) as director of development for the College of Education and J.D. Davis as development director for athletics.

In addition, Cheryl Larabee, executive development director for the College of Business and Economics, was promoted to associate vice president of University Advancement.

Vauk comes to Boise State with close to 20 years of experience at Micron Technology, where she was organization and workforce development director, executive director of the Micron Technology Foundation and corporate training and education manager. Most recently, she worked as the assistant financial representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network.

Davis, a graduate of the University of Utah, has been in the fundraising field since 1990. He was the executive director of corporate and foundation programs for his alma mater for the past seven years prior to joining Boise State. He will work with the Bronco Athletic Association.

Before joining the Boise State Foundation Larabee served in senior leadership positions in the banking industry for 25 years and as a commercial real estate investment specialist for Colliers International.

Larabee also has served as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Business since 1988, teaching professional selling in the Marketing and Finance Department.
Volunteer Board Congress gets up-close look at new building

It was the perfect opportunity for Boise State to show off its newest building to some of its most ardent supporters when the university’s Volunteer Board Congress met in the Interactive Learning Center (above) in early December.

For many of the more than 50 participants, it was their first up-close look at the $14 million state-of-the-art ILC, which opened in August. The event marked the second formal session of the Volunteer Board Congress — a group comprised of leaders from the Boise State Foundation, Alumni Association, Bronco Athletic Association and various college and department advisory councils — which gathered to hear the latest on the university’s “Destination Distinction” comprehensive campaign and related information.

President Bob Kustra, Mark Rudin, vice president of research, and Bruce Matthews, Boise State’s consultant for the campaign, served as the speakers. Rudin discussed the impact and benefit of research on Boise State’s students and faculty as well as the state and region, and Matthews discussed best practices for advisory boards.

The Volunteer Board Congress then broke into small groups on the second floor of the ILC for discussions related to volunteer boards — and the next steps in Boise State’s goal to achieve distinction.

Phonathon successfully raises $228,394 in funds

Thanks to the generous support of university alumni and friends, the Boise State Foundation’s annual Phonathon raised $228,394 in pledges during the fall semester. The pledges came from 2,781 alumni and friends, including 594 new donors.

Alumni were asked to make a gift directly in support of their college. These gifts will provide Boise State’s colleges with the resources necessary to fund innovative programs, address urgent needs, support student scholarships, and help pay for improvements at the college level.

The Phonathon will resume in late February and run through the end of April. During the second phase, callers will continue to contact alumni and friends, asking them to pledge in support of the annual fund at Boise State.

Callers will also be contacting a select group of donors who gave during the fall Phonathon to thank them for their support and to ask them to consider making a second contribution to the annual fund.

The current renovation project in the Student Union has meant the loss of an on-campus Phonathon site. As a result, a company that specializes in managing phone campaigns for higher education will conduct the Phonathon from an off-site location. Boise State will benefit from working with one of the leaders in the field to raise much-needed funds for the university.

For more information about the annual Phonathon or annual giving at Boise State, contact James Brownson at (208) 426-2649 or jamesbrownson@boisestate.edu.
Bronco Network seeks to connect alumni nationwide

Whether you live in Denver, Washington, D.C., or anywhere in between, you can share your Bronco pride and your favorite Boise State-related activities with fellow alumni.

The new Bronco Network has been established to help you connect with the Alumni Association, Boise State and fellow Broncos in ways that fit your lifestyle.

The cornerstone of the Bronco Network is the new Bronco Contact program. A Bronco contact is a volunteer who works with the Alumni Association to organize at least one activity per year and is listed on the Alumni Association Web site as the key contact for a specific geographic region. While events held by Bronco contacts are less formal than gatherings sponsored by organized alumni chapters, the key to the Bronco Contact program is that you, as the contact, plan the Boise State-related activity that you think will work in your community.

Whether it’s watching a Bronco football game at a local pub, participating in a town service project, or hosting an arts or educational event, you work with alumni staff to create ways to get fellow Broncos together (page 29).

Other Bronco Network volunteer opportunities include:
• Working with Broncos Beyond Boise, the BSU Admissions Office recruitment assistance program, where you can help recruit outstanding future Broncos
• Joining the Bronco Advocacy Network (box)
• Helping to organize a formal alumni chapter for your geographic area, social group, or profession
• Supporting the Alumni Association by paying dues for your annual or lifetime membership

Anyone anywhere in the world can join the Bronco Network. If you want to become a Bronco contact, are interested in starting a formal alumni chapter, or want to help recruit new students to Boise State, visit www.alumni.boisestate.edu or contact Jennifer Wheeler, senior associate director, at jenniferwheeler@boisestate.edu.

Business alumni share their stories

The Alumni Association recently joined forces with the College of Business and Economics to offer Boise State business students a real-life career development experience.

“Lessons from Alumni — Linking Our Career Experience to Your Future,” held in early February, featured alumni as panelists. The industry experts shared their career development stories with the College of Business and Economics students. The panelists represented more than 20 companies where they serve as presidents, vice presidents, directors and managers. Each session concluded with an opportunity for students to pose questions.

“This event provided a unique opportunity for our students to hear firsthand the success stories of College of Business and Economics graduates,” says Diane Schooley-Pettis, the college’s interim dean. “We are very grateful to the participants and sponsors for the contribution they made to the future of our students.”

Event sponsors were MassMutual Financial and the Washington Division of URS Corporation.

The College of Business and Economics has offered students an increasing number and variety of career networking opportunities during the past year. Efforts continue with a networking reception March 4-5.

For information about future COBE events or opportunities, call Carlene Hansen at (208) 426-1361.
I would like to become a member of the Boise State Alumni Association.

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Class Year _______ Address _____________________________________________
City __________________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone __________ Email ____________________________
Spouse __________ Maiden Name __________________ Class Year ______

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Clip and mail membership form to: Boise State Alumni Association
1910 University Drive • Boise, ID 83725-1035
Ten years ago, Dr. Julie Kangas joined the American Business Women’s Association because she was drawn to its mission statement of providing opportunities for women in business and educational development.

Today the Boise State alumna is the organization’s sterling example of success. She has been named 2008 Business Woman of the Year, the association’s top recognition for professional achievement.

“I was very surprised to be selected,” says Kangas, a dentist with a practice in Escondido, Calif. “I have enjoyed networking with businesswomen in different occupations, which gives me a broader perspective on the dynamics of business management and the unique ways women can network through building relationships. Being involved in this organization has definitely had a positive affect on my success in my own profession.”

Headquartered in Kansas City, the national organization selected Kangas from more than 90 women business leaders nominated from among its 40,000 members in more than 800 chapters across the country. Kangas was first selected as one of the Top Ten Business Women for 2008 and was then interviewed and chosen as the top businesswoman of the year.

Kangas earned her bachelor’s degree in health sciences, pre-dental studies, in 1977 at Boise State and her DDS from the University of Southern California.

Kangas received the honor based on a combination of education, professional achievement, community activities and involvement in her local chapter, the Soaring Eagles. She is the co-owner of Citracado Dental Group with her husband and fellow dentist, Dr. William R. Jungman. They are the sponsors of Cub Scout Pack 659 in Escondido and active supporters of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater San Diego. Kangas also joined a Hurricane Katrina relief team in 2005 in Pascagoula, Miss.

— Sherry Squires
NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

The following members of the Boise State Alumni Association completed lifetime membership commitments between Aug. 1 and Oct. 31. Our thanks to these alumni and friends for showing a lasting interest in our university and its alumni association. For more information on becoming a lifetime member, contact the Alumni Association at (208) 426-1698 or join online at alumni.boisestate.edu.

Barbara Shimmin, Tracy, Calif., ’52
Allen Quintieri, Boise, ’55
Harry Tellmann, Boise, ’56
James Roberts, Cascade, ’71
Gary Yasuda, Eagle, ’71
John Turman, Cleburne, Texas, ’72, ’74
Karl Benson, Greenwood Village, Colo., ’75
Robert Hays, Boise, ’75
James Crawford, Lake Forest, Ill., ’78
Miren Crawford, Lake Forest, Ill., ’78
Ron Nuxoll, Caldwell, ’79
Linda Simmons, Boise, ’81
E. Potter, Avondale, Ariz., ’83, ’88
Donna Woody, Nampa, ’84
Keela Pollock, Boise, ’87
Rob Rydalch, Boise, ’87
Mary Ruzicka, Boise, ’89
Bryan Ruzicka, Boise, ’90
Debra Kaylor, Eagle, ’93
Jeffrey Langan, Boise, ’94
Sonja Langan, Boise, ’96
Nikki Ramsey, Scottsdale, Ariz., ’97
Sherri Potter, Boise, ’98
Raymond Mullenax, Boise, ’99
Jarrad Renner, Boise, ’99
Laura Stegner, Boise, ’99
Clayton Montgomery, Vancouver, Wash., ’00
Jonathan Payne, Edmond, Okla., ’00
Rick Sanchez, Round Rock, Texas, ’00
Karen Smith, Seabeck, Wash., ’00
George Woods, Boise, ’01
Lawrence Cook, Manassas, Va., ’02
Margaret Kent, Boise, ’02
Lisa Bravo, Spokane, Wash., ’03
David Estrada, Champaign, Ill., ’07
Shane Bengoechea, Boise, ’78
Steven Bolen, Boise
Bert Bradley, Eagle
Susan Clawson, Boise
Mark Clawson, Boise
Thyne Murdoch, Boise
June Quintieri, Boise
Billie Roberts, Cascade
Craig Yabuta, Torrance, Calif.
Shawna Yasuda, Eagle
1960s

NORMA DART, AS, arts and sciences, ’65; BA, elementary education, ’67, was a featured speaker at the First Thursday lectures at the Mountain Home Museum. Dart is a 38-year member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, holding offices at the local, district, state and national levels. Currently, Dart is affiliated with the Smith Prairie Historical Foundation, the Smith Prairie Historical Society and the Oregon-California Trail Association.

1970s

WILLIAM BRADDOCK, BA, criminal justice, ’76; MP A ’82, is the recently appointed Sheriff of Boise County. He brings 34 years of experience in law enforcement to the job. Since 2003, Braddock has served as chief deputy sheriff of Boise County and was responsible for day-to-day operations of the department. Braddock also was an adjunct professor at Boise State and taught classes in sex crime investigations and community policing.

ERWIN SONNENBERG, BS, health studies, ’77, was awarded the Idaho Association of Counties’ top honor — the Mills-Alder Award — for his service to both Ada County and the Idaho Association of Counties. Sonnenberg, Ada County’s coroner, received the award during the IAC annual conference in Moscow last September. The award is given to elected county officials who strive to improve local government. Sonnenberg assumed his current position in 1985 after serving as chief deputy coroner since 1979. He is also a member of the International Association of Coroner’s and Medical Examiners and previously served as the organization’s president.

ANN HEILMANN (GRATTON), BA, social work, ’78; MPA, ’87, has been appointed as executive director of the Learning Lab in Boise. Heilmann has worked 23 years for the state of Idaho. She worked as administrator of the Division of Human Resources from 1999-2006.

1980s

DON GROBER, MA, education and reading, ’81, is assuming duties as Owyhee County’s newest magistrate, which was recently announced by the Third District Court. Previously, he had a private law practice in Homedale and served as assistant bar counsel for the Idaho State Bar Association.

SUZ HUME, BFA, art education, ’81, is an artist and a local mural painter who displays her art on nearly any surface. Hume’s current projects are commercial, including many children’s murals. Hume teams up with Imagine Custom Design on home interior projects as well.

TAMARA “TAMMY” MARCINUK, BS, physical education, ’82, is a gold-medal winning athlete who carried the torch in the 2007 Deaf Winter Olympics in Utah. Marcinuk started skiing at the age of 6, competed in the Deaf Olympics for 24 years, and won five gold medals. Marcinuk retired from competitive skiing in 1991. She is in the USA Deaf Sports Federation Hall of Fame.

LARRY LAVERTY, BS, marketing and finance, ’84; BA, political science, ’85, returned to Boise from California this spring to perform in the locally produced independent film The Sanguinarian. Laverty has appeared in more than 90 films and numerous television shows.

WILLIAM “BILL” AUSGURGER, BS, criminal justice, ’86, recently took over as the new police chief of the Nampa Police Department. Augburger began working for the department as a teenager in 1978 as part of the Explorer program, where teenagers can learn how police business works. Three years later he was sworn in as a reserve officer. After a four-year stint with the Canyon County Sheriff’s Office as a patrol deputy, Augburger returned to the Nampa Police Department as a motorcycle patrolman, a position he held for 12 years.

DAVID BRUCE, BBA, marketing, ’86; MBA, ’95, has joined Farmers & Merchants Bank as vice president, senior commercial
lender. He has more than 21 years of banking experience. Bruce serves as a board member of the St. Alphonsus Foundation and is on the Bishop Kelly High School capital campaign committee.

JOHN LIEBENTHAL, BA, music, ’86, has been promoted to associate director at Oliver Russell, a Boise-based brand marketing agency. Liebenthal will be responsible for the day-to-day management of agency creative work. Liebenthal joined Oliver Russell in 2006 and was most recently a senior writer at the agency, helping manage client brands and leading creative development of projects from a copywriting perspective.

1990s

MARCUS ANDERSON, BBA, marketing, ’90, was hired as a financial consultant by CARICO Financial Services. He joined the Boise firm with seven years of experience in the financial services field.

VIRGINIA PELLEGRINI, BBA, management, ’90, is the director of corporate and foundation relations at the University of Idaho. She resigned her position as vice president of development at United Way to take her new job in Moscow. She also stepped down from her position as a Boise School Board trustee.

JEFF ENRICO, BA, anthropology, ’94, has joined Park Place Mortgage as a loan officer. Enrico has more than nine years of experience in residential mortgage lending in Boise and is a member of the Idaho Association of Mortgage Brokers. Enrico serves on the board of the Idaho Mortgage Lenders Association and volunteers as a committee member with the Idaho Make a Wish Foundation.

HOLLY MERCER, AS, nursing, ’94, was recently appointed executive director of the Oregon State Board of Nursing. Mercer was the assistant manager of the medical section of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services’ Workers’ Compensation Division. Her experience includes public sector medical dispute resolution, public health program management, and private sector safety and risk management. She also holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of New Mexico and a law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. She is a member of the Idaho and Oregon state bar associations and is a licensed RN in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

CINDY GONZALEZ, BBA, management, human resources, ’95, has been promoted at Wells Fargo Bank to vice president and manager for the region’s membership and military banking programs. She has been with the company for three years. In Gonzalez’s new role, she is also responsible for a number of community outreach programs for Wells Fargo, including financial awareness events designed to educate consumers about how to use finance products and services to become economically self-sufficient.

DAVID BOZBZEN, MPA, ’96, lives in Reno, Nev., and is a member of the Nevada Legislature. He was elected to the Nevada Assembly in November 2006 and currently serves on the state’s Council to Establish Academic Standards. For the 2007 session of the Nevada Legislature, Bobzien serves on the Government Affairs, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining, Education, and Transportation committees. He is a past member and chairman of the Reno Recreation & Parks Commission. In 2007 he was awarded the Pinecone Award for environmental excellence as a public servant by Nevada EcoNet.

REBECCA PRESCOTT, BA, theater arts and BA, general music, ’97, was a featured performer at the Twin Falls Music Club Scholarship Foundation’s “Music on a Summer Night” at the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Theater in August 2007. Most recently, Prescott sang the role of Josephine in H.M.S. Pinafore lor the Chicago Gilbert and Sullivan Society and portrayed Cassandra in Troilus and Cressida with Chicago Shakespeare.

MARK WILD, BBA, marketing, ’97, was promoted to assistant vice president/residential loan officer at Panhandle State Bank. Wild joined Panhandle State in 2004 as a residential loan originator. Wild is a member of the North Idaho Building Contractors Association.

KIM PEEL, BBA, business management, ’98, started Kim Peel Consulting in 2005 after 16 years’ experience in the nonprofit sector. As a consultant to nonprofit organizations, Peel specializes in operational management in areas such as process/policy improvement, asset development, grants seeking and grants management. Peel currently serves as vice president of the Idaho chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and is president of the Southwest Idaho Planned Giving Council. Peel was honored as one of the Idaho Business Review’s 2007 Women of the Year.

JOHN PAUL CLARK, BS, construction management, ’99, has joined McAlvain Construction as project manager. With 12 years of experience in the construction industry, Clark also holds an MBA in construction management. Clark is an adjunct faculty member in the Boise State construction management department and teaches concrete and formwork design.
LISA LEHTO, BA, communication, ’99, was recently promoted to customer service officer at the Farmers & Merchants Nampa branch.

NICK OLDHAM, BA, history, ’99, was awarded the U.S. Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service. Oldham was part of the Guantanamo Bay detainee litigation team that successfully defended the interests of the United States government in habeas corpus litigation brought on behalf of the detainees designated as enemy combatants. Oldham is a trial attorney in the Federal Programs Branch of the U.S. Justice Department’s civil division.

2000s

LESLEI METZGER, BA, visual art, ’00, is a self-proclaimed “gourdess.” Inspired by an outdoor market in California where an artist was selling gourds as art, Metzger came upon some unfinished gourds at the Capital City Market in downtown Boise and bought a couple to take home. Armed with a drill and a paintbrush, she went to work. Today, Metzger sells her gourds at the market and 255 gift stores and galleries across the country.

KIM BURTON BRACKETT, MA, education literacy, ’01, is the Idaho Beef Council chairman of Castleveld. Brackett leads Idaho’s beef producers in overseeing statewide beef promotion, information and research programs funded by the Beef Checkoff Program. Brackett is the youngest chairman in the organization’s 40-year history.

CEASAR PEREZ-GARCIA, BS, kinesiology, physical education, ’01, is the director of advising for the College of Southern Idaho. He earned a master’s degree in educational training and development from Idaho State University.

KELLY CONRAD, BFA, graphic design, ’03, has been hired by Oliver Russell as a graphic designer. As a member of the agency’s creative team, Conrad will design print materials, Web sites and other marketing tools for clients.

JASON LOGAN, BS, civil engineering, ’03, recently received his Idaho state professional engineer license. He joined CSHQA, a Boise-based architecture/engineering firm, in 2006. His main areas of expertise include roadway and drainage design. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

ALISSA MINEGAR, BA, French, ’03, has been hired at Ron Minegar Real Estate Inc. Minegar’s responsibilities include direct sales, sales support and marketing coordination. She has experience in relocation and referral coordination and applicant recruitment and training. Minegar is also an active member of Boise’s Young Professionals sponsored by the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce.

ADAM NOBLE, BBA, marketing, ’03, has been hired by DNA Advertising Consulting as vice president of client services. Noble will be responsible for developing new business, managing and working with existing clients, and developing the non-traditional advertising department at DNA.

AUBREY B. (BRANDON) ARMSTRONG, MBA, ’05, joined Idaho TechConnect Inc. as vice president of business development, south, based in Jerome. For the past year and a half, Armstrong worked at the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor, most recently as the Idaho Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program coordinator. Twenty-four Idaho companies received state funds assisting with federal research and development grant applications under Armstrong’s supervision.

DREW ROBERTS, BA, graphic design, ’05, has been hired by Publicis West, Boise, as an art director. Roberts joined the creative team at Publicis after spending two years at Boise State as a graphic designer for University Advancement. Publicis is the fourth-largest marketing agency in the world and has had a presence in Boise for almost 20 years. Roberts will oversee both print and interactive design for the agency.

RANDY FORD, AS, ’06, has joined Park Place Mortgage as a loan officer. Ford has 10 years of customer service and planning experience, most recently with American Express Financial Advisors and Micron Technology.

JOHNNY REYES, AAS, wildfire management; BAS, wildfire management, ’06, completed his training at the Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tenn., and has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air National Guard. Reyes will be a pilot assigned to the 124th Wing in Boise.

DAVID RADER, BS, construction management, ’07, has joined McAlvain Construction as a project engineer. Rader’s responsibilities include contract administration, document management and commissioning phase management.

DAVID WEEKS, BS, civil engineering, ’07, joined W&H Pacific’s transportation team as transportation designer. W&H Pacific is a civil and structural engineering, planning, surveying and landscape architecture firm with a significant presence in Boise. The firm specializes in transportation and land development projects.

JOSEPH WIEGAND, BS, sociology, ’07, joined Windermere Real Estate/Capital Group, Inc. as a sales associate.

Weddings

TAMARA SANDS and DAVID JENKINS (Boise), April 2007

PENNI MOORE and J. SHANE ALLEN (Meridian), June 2007

AMBER BIRD and Chad Meservier (Boise), June 2007

CYNDIE BLUM and Jesse Lovitt (Kapaau, Hawaii), June 2007

JABIER PATINO and JENNIFER PRINCE (Caldwell), June 2007

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Deaths


JANET BANNON, BBA, marketing and finance, ’79, died Aug. 5 at the age of 50. Upon graduation from Boise State, Bannon worked for the Forest Service in Lowman and then in Cascade. She worked a total of 34 years with the federal government. Bannon often traveled with the fire teams throughout the United States to help provide relief to areas hit with disasters.

KEITH BORAH, BA, criminal justice, ’71, died Oct. 30 at the age of 60. Borah began his career in law enforcement with Canyon County in 1973, eventually becoming an Ada County deputy sheriff. Borah retired in September 2007. He was a member of the Mount Moriah Lodge No. 39 and El Korah Shrine Temple as well as the Idaho Police Officers Association, the Boise Rifle and Pistol Club and the National Rifle Association.

MAX CALLAO, former professor of psychology and director of the Boise State Counseling Center, died Nov. 20 at the age of 66. After graduating from Boise State, Callao enlisted in the United States Navy. He served for a number of years. McCormick was stationed both stateside and overseas. After several extended tours in Germany, the Air Force moved Knights back to the U.S. In 1994, his family was transferred to Mountain Home, AFB. He retired from the military in 1996 when he began his Boise State education.

MARGARET “KATHY” GREGORY, certificate, practical nursing, ’91, died Aug. 26 at the age of 56. Gregory worked for 16 years as a licensed practical nurse for Hill Haven Nursing Homes in Nampa and Weiser.

SANDRA HAARSAGER, MPA, ’82, died Oct. 6 at the age of 61. Haarsager worked for The Idaho Statesman as a reporter and later for the State Department of Education as an assistant to the superintendent. Through the years, she worked for three Idaho newspapers and managed Western Printing Company. Eventually Haarsager and her family moved to Moscow, where she became a professor of communication and served for a time as associate dean of the College of Social Sciences at the University of Idaho.

ED HEDGES, diploma, ’52, died Nov. 2 at the age of 75. Hedges served as vice president for the Boise Junior College freshman class during the 1950-51 academic year and as president of the Boise State Alumni Association in 1974-75. During his time as a student at BJC, he also served as president of the Pi Sigma Sigma fraternity and parade chairman of the Homecoming Committee. In 1968 he was elected to the Idaho House of Representatives and represented Ada County’s District 15 in the Legislature from 1969-72. In 1977 he was named Alumnus of the Year and in 2006 he was named one of the winners of the fourth annual Alumni Service Award.

RONALD HEFFNER, ’56, died Oct. 28 at the age of 69. Heffner joined the United States Army and spent two years with the 3rd Infantry Division. He was also a member of the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, D.C. He eventually moved back to Boise and built a successful career in life insurance and real estate services for more than 40 years.

LARRY HENRIKSEN, diploma, arts and sciences, ’65, died Oct. 31 at the age of 66. Henrikksen was a member of the Idaho High School Football Hall of Fame. He enlisted and served in the United States Army in Germany after graduating from Boise State. Graduate school was stationed in both stateside and overseas. After several extended tours in Germany, the Air Force moved Knights back to the U.S. In 1994, his family was transferred to Mountain Home, AFB. He retired from the military in 1996 when he began his Boise State education.

MICHAEL McCORMICK, BS, physical education, ’75, died Aug. 25 at the age of 56. He attended Boise State on a baseball scholarship and held the school record for strikeouts thrown by a pitcher for a number of years. McCormick taught and coached baseball for numerous years in Meridian and Nampa.

GARY MILES, BA, sociology, ’72, died Aug. 29 at the age of 57. Miles taught history and geography at Mountain Home AFB Junior High until 1990. While in Mountain Home, he also coached football, wrestling and girls' basketball and boys' junior varsity baseball. He and his wife went on to work overseas in England for a number of Air Force bases. Miles retired from the Department of Defense dependant school system in May 2007.

GARY PARENT, certificate, automotive technician, ’75, died Sept. 9 at the age of 71. Parent joined the Air Force shortly after high school and served as a jet engine mechanic during the Vietnam War. Parent served for a number of years with the 366th Fighter Squadron at Mountain Home AFB before retiring in May 1974.

DEBORAH RICHARDSON, certificate, surgical technology, ’90, died Oct. 16 at the age of 41. Richardson worked for Micron and Hewlett Packard.

EUGENE ROBERTSON, AA, arts and sciences, ’54, died Oct. 5 at the age of 79. After graduating from Boise State, Robertson enlisted in the Army and served during the Korean War. Robertson accepted a position at the Naval Ordnance Test Station, earning several awards during his 25 years of employment.

WILLIAM SHRIVER, AA, arts and sciences, ’60 and ’62, died Sept. 18 at the age of 67. Shriver began his career in banking in 1960. He worked in Buhl and Orofino and completed his career in St. Maries. He worked as a manager for Idaho First Bank.

NELLIE SIEGMANN, AA, arts and sciences, ’39, died Sept. 13 at the age of 90. Siegmann served as president of the Associated Women in 1939. After retiring, Siegmann wrote poetry.

LEONA SPENCE, BA, communications, ’82, died Sept. 19 at the age of 87. Spence worked for First Security while also attending Boise State. After Spence’s retirement from First Security, she attended Ernest Holmes College, graduating with a religious science ministerial degree in 1984. Spence moved to South Carolina and then to Georgia to minister at churches of Religious Science. She later transferred to work with Churches in Unity where she became a licensed unity teacher and returned to Boise in 1995.

WILLIAM SPROAT, BBA, marketing, ’71, died Oct. 23 at the age of 60. Sproat served in the Naval Reserves from 1950 to 1951 and in the Army 82nd Airborne from 1951-1954 as a staff sergeant and jump instructor at Fort Benning, Ga. In his years as a field archeologist and cultural resource manager, Yehle surveyed more than 150,000 acres and recorded 71,000 sites in the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau. He retired in 1997 from the Bureau of Land Management in Klamath Falls, Ore. Yehle was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International and was active in Disabled American Veterans and the Democratic Party.

KATHY WREN, BFA, art education, ’93, died Aug. 19 at the age of 55. Wren began her professional career as an artist in 1975, the same year she co-founded Growl Productions, a Boise fine arts cooperative that organized art auctions, street fairs and group exhibitions. Wren’s art has been exhibited in private and corporate collections throughout the United States. Since 1996, she owned and operated The Drawing Room, where she taught children and adults drawing and painting.

WINKLER, a CPA, began his 36-year career with the state of Idaho as an auditor. During the last 12 years of his career he was chief financial officer for the Idaho State Liquor Dispensary.

KATHY WREN, BFA, art education, ’93, died Aug. 19 at the age of 55. Wren began her professional career as an artist in 1975, the same year she co-founded Growl Productions, a Boise fine arts cooperative that organized art auctions, street fairs and group exhibitions. Wren’s art has been exhibited in private and corporate collections throughout the United States. Since 1996, she owned and operated The Drawing Room, where she taught children and adults drawing and painting. Wren’s art has been exhibited in private and corporate collections throughout the United States. Since 1996, she owned and operated The Drawing Room, where she taught children and adults drawing and painting. She also taught workshops in the corporate arena, taught painting and drawing classes for handi-capped individuals at the Fort Boise Community Center and at Human Resources of Idaho.
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