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BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
FALL 2005, VOL. XXXI, NO. 1

MAPPING OUR FUTURE
Boise State’s master plan reflects its march toward becoming a metropolitan research university of distinction.

RECORD RESEARCH
Research grants reached an all-time high of $24.2 million, boosting not only scholarly activity but also BSU’s reputation.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE:
From freshmen right out of high school to doctoral candidates, Boise State’s students contribute to the university’s stature and reputational currency, while profiting from its award-winning faculty, innovative programs and groundbreaking research. This issue of FOCUS takes a brief look at the student experience at Boise State. Cover photo of freshman Ryan Smith and student-athlete Lee Marks (below) by John Kelly.

COURTING SUCCESS
Former Bronco Wesley Moodie and his doubles partner win big at Wimbledon.

LEWIS & CLARK SLEPT HERE
Archaeologist Christopher Hill is part of a team tracking the Corps of Discovery’s campsites.

A LONG WAY FROM HOME
Korean educators visit Boise State for a taste of the American experience.

A GIFTED PROF
Biology professor Julia Oxford is the first recipient of a genetics research award funded by Duane and Lori Stueckle.

SIBLING STARS
For brothers and BSU alums Ravi and Gopal Gupta, the future is an open book.

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If you live in the Treasure Valley, you almost certainly have heard and read about the ambitious plans Boise State University is undertaking to transform our campus and our mission.

At the October meeting of the State Board of Education, the university unveiled its blueprint for the future—a long-range master plan designed to transform Boise State into a metropolitan research university of distinction.

In brief, the big picture includes (a) additional science and engineering facilities, (b) a gateway at the corner of University Drive and Capitol Boulevard that would feature a building for the College of Business and Economics, (c) a four-story Interactive Learning Center, (d) a centralized student services building and a student wellness center, (e) five parking garages along the campus perimeter, (f) more student housing, and (g) other significant expansion and renovation to the overall campus (page 6). When all is said and done, the plan would add 25 new buildings and Boise State’s main campus would nearly double in size.

These are just a few of the highlights to a vision that—if approved and supported by the state’s powers that be and implemented with a thorough and prudent (yet entrepreneurial) funding strategy—will take a decade or two to be realized. But I have no doubt that it will place BSU in a position to become a major player in the sphere of metropolitan universities by the end of the 21st century’s second decade.

These are exciting times at Boise State, and we are prepared for the challenges ahead. But we are also mindful that the success of these plans will require significant public and private support.

While it’s true that Boise State’s enhanced research agenda has served as the catalyst for much of our master plan, it is important to remember that the advances we propose will not come at the expense of the university’s core values, which include providing our students with a quality learning experience. Indeed, our master plan will only enhance that experience.

And as the university has ratcheted up its standards in the area of research, we have also raised the bar for our students with the toughest admissions standards among Idaho’s public institutions. These heightened standards are borne out by the freshman class of 2,262 — with five National Merit Scholars, above-national-average ACT scores, and an average high school GPA of 3.34 — that matriculated at Boise State this fall (page 7). All of these developments send a clear signal that Boise State stands for academic quality, which makes it easier to recruit highly qualified and motivated students.

And as the university grows in size and sophistication, so does our student body. This issue of FOCUS takes a look at eight of our students in the context of a typical day for each one during the current semester (page 18).

With a state-record enrollment of 18,599 that continues to grow in size and diversity, it isn’t easy to provide a representative cross-section of each and every group on our campus, but I think these people embody the kind of quality student we are attracting to Boise State: graduate student Katey Irwin (a member of the first cohort of our Graduate Resident Scholars Program), non-traditional student Janet George (a Nampa resident who is student teaching), newcomer Ryan Smith (a freshman from eastern Idaho), international student Saud Al-Madani (a native of Saudi Arabia), student-athlete Lee Marks (a running back on the Bronco football team), art major Elyse Panzella (a sophomore who is working three jobs while carrying a full load of classes), ROTC student Nick Allex (who has committed to an eight-year hitch in the Army after he graduates), and business major A.J. McGillis (director of BSU’s Student Programs Board).

I found their accounts to be interesting and, in a couple of cases, inspiring. I’m sure you will, too. Their stories exemplify the characteristics that will enable Boise State to continue along the path of excellence.

— Bob Kustra, President
Imagine several years into the future; you are a pedestrian entering the east side of Boise State’s campus at the corner of Broadway Avenue and University Drive.

A familiar landmark, Bronco Stadium, looms to the right. But as you stroll down University Drive you are no longer on the city street that for decades served as the physical and symbolic boundary between Boise State and the businesses and neighborhoods to the south.

Now you are on a tree-lined walkway in the middle of campus; on your left is the university’s state-of-the-art science and engineering research complex. A similar gateway welcomes those who enter the west end of campus where Capitol Boulevard intersects with University Drive. Like the east gateway, University Drive is no longer a border street but a scenic and pedestrian-friendly passageway into the heart of campus.

The University Drive entryways are just two examples of the significant changes listed in Boise State’s 2005 Campus Master Plan, which was approved by the State Board of Education in October. The blueprint for the future is part of the university’s vision and strategic direction to transform itself into a metropolitan research university of distinction.

The Master Plan accounts for Boise State’s expansion of graduate programming to meet the needs of a more sophisticated work force in the Treasure Valley, says President Bob Kustra. It is designed to focus on “increasing residential living and learning and an increased emphasis on faculty who come here to teach and do research and need facilities to do that,” he adds.

Kustra says the blueprint builds on the existing institutional values and core beliefs and creates opportunities for students and their future, developing partnerships, prioritizing academic programs, building research potential, and defining Boise State’s identity.

How will Boise State pay for all this?

“The campus master plan is a 10-15 year time frame. This is not going to be done overnight,” Kustra told The Idaho Statesman.

“Some buildings like parking garages you pay for by fees you collect. … We are doing major gift and donor solicitations like we’ve never done before. We are getting ready for the comprehensive campaign. When the day comes, we will expect to find donors who will build some of these buildings.”

— Bob Evancho
ith the completion of the classroom building at Boise State West and the ongoing construction of the Caven-Williams Sports Complex next to Bronco Stadium, the university continues to grow. And there’s more construction to come.

The classroom building on the Nampa campus opened in June and was officially dedicated in August, and the $9.5 million sports complex is on schedule to be completed in February ("$7 million donation kicks off construction of indoor facility," FOCUS, Summer 2005).

Here’s an update on two more major upcoming construction projects:

**INTERACTIVE LEARNING CENTER** — Construction on the $13.5 million, 54,000-square-foot addition to the Multipurpose Classroom Building is scheduled to begin this fall and will take approximately 16 months to complete. The four-story structure will include a 200-seat lecture hall and 12 standard classrooms in addition to a multi-media lab, multi-purpose/distance learning classroom, visualization classroom, experimental classroom, teaching and learning center and numerous study lounges.

**STUDENT HEALTH, WELLNESS AND COUNSELING CENTER** — The $12.3 million center is in the early stages of planning. The building will be approximately 45,000 square feet and will be located directly south of the Student Recreation Center. The 45,000-square-foot center will include classroom and laboratory spaces for the College of Health Sciences and is envisioned as the first building of a future “health park” that will merge the College of Health Sciences with the Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Services programs. It is expected to be completed in late 2007 or early 2008.

**BSU sets enrollment record of 18,599**

Bolstered by a growing number of minority students and an academically impressive freshman class, Boise State’s enrollment grew by 1 percent and set a state record this fall with a headcount of 18,599 — a gain of 181 students from the previous fall.

The number of credit hours students are taking is up as well, leading to a 1.5 percent increase in full-time equivalent students.

Boise State’s fall enrollment also reflects a continuing trend toward a more culturally diverse campus. The number of minority students increased 4.8 percent. Fourteen percent of the freshman class describe themselves as students of color. In addition, for the first time, the number of Hispanic students at Boise State surpassed the 1,000 mark with 1,056 enrolled.

Since 1997 the university’s student body has grown from 15,422 to the current 18,599, an increase of 20.6 percent. Over that same span Boise State has been raising its admissions standards — now the highest among Idaho’s public institutions — to manage growth.

According to President Bob Kustra, the number of students attending Boise State continues to grow, but within the university’s plan to do so at a manageable pace.

“Boise State’s enhanced reputation as a high-quality institution of higher learning has attracted yet another record number of students,” he says, “but to provide those students with a quality learning experience, it is imperative that we continue to proceed with manageable growth that reflects our institutional resources.”

Mark Wheeler, interim vice president for student affairs, noted that Boise State’s incoming freshman class of 2,262 is particularly impressive. “Not only is it our largest and most diverse freshman class ever,” he says, “but with five National Merit Scholars, above-national-average ACT scores, and an average high school GPA of 3.34, this is an academically talented group as well.”

From left, State Board of Education member Milford Terrell, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, President Bob Kustra, Boise City Council member Elaine Clegg and donor Linda Yanke celebrate the opening of Boise State West.
Howard L. Smith, a longtime administrator at the University of New Mexico, has been named dean of Boise State’s College of Business and Economics.

Smith (below) served as dean of the Anderson Schools of Management and School of Public Administration at New Mexico for 10 years and associate dean for four years before returning to the UNM faculty and serving as director of the Anderson Schools’ Program for Creative Enterprise. During his tenure as dean at the University of New Mexico, he increased the Schools of Management endowment five-fold, increased tenure-track faculty teaching productivity while reducing teaching loads, and led the school to be considered one of the top business schools in the nation. He is also a recognized scholar in the areas of health-care finance and health-systems management.

“I am delighted that Howard will become part of the Boise State University leadership team,” says Boise State Provost Sona Andrews. “His experiences, enthusiasm and expertise ensure the continued growth and development of a College of Business and Economics that has distinguished itself in its service to our students, community, region and state.”

Smith takes over as dean on June 1, 2006. He replaces Bill Lathen who has been dean since 1998.

Boise State receives record $24.2 million for research

Boise State received a record $24.2 million for research and sponsored projects for the fiscal year that ended June 30 — the highest one-year total in the university’s history.

The total is a 23 percent increase over the $19.6 million tallied in fiscal year 2004, and more than double the amount received in fiscal year 1999, when Boise State received $10.9 million.

BSU also set a new record for the total number of awards with 247 funded during fiscal year 2005. The awards include grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration.

“Universities are measured in part by their ability to obtain externally sponsored research grants and programs,” says Boise State President Bob Kustra. “The influx of research dollars to Boise State further enhances our growing stature as a metropolitan research university and reflects the excellent work of our faculty and students.”

The largest single award in fiscal year 2005 was $1.6 million from an organization that is part of the U.S. Department of Defense. The grant, “Advanced Processing Techniques for Fabrication of 3-D Microstructures for Future Electronic Devices,” was awarded to Amy Moll, chair of the Materials Science and Engineering Department, and to three co-principal investigators, engineering professors Peter Mullner, Bill Knowlton and Megan Frary.

The grant funds Moll’s research to develop and test microchips that can be stacked vertically in what might be termed a “skyscraper model,” instead of spread out in a single layer. The innovation would increase functionality and reduce size, and has many applications for the microelectronics industry.

Other awards ranged from biomedical, microelectronics and nanotechnology research to studies involving alcohol on campus, improving mathematics teaching, monitoring earthquake swarms and developing multi-purpose sensors. The awards also supported programs such as the College Assistance Migrant Program and instruction and training for Idaho teachers.

— Janelle Brown

On campus …

Jack Matlock
Former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union and author of Reagan and Gorbachev: How the Cold War Ended

Interview on Boise State Radio’s New Horizons in Education, aired Oct. 28, 2005

“They [Reagan and Gorbachev] shared an interest – they were both men of peace.”

FOCUS FALL 2005
Ensuring the Health of Active and Athletic Girls and Women
Edited by Lynda Ransdell and Linda Petlichkoff

This textbook, edited by Boise State kinesiology professors Ransdell and Petlichkoff, details the physical and psychological factors affecting girls’ and women’s participation in athletics. It also looks at the factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport in the United States, as well as the physiological and psychological issues related to healthy sport and physical activity participation.

No Wrong Notes
By Norman Weinstein

In his seventh book of poetry, adjunct Canadian studies instructor Weinstein uses his prose to create a dexterous musical composition, with each of the 73 selections forming a single sentence. Years spent listening to and writing about jazz and Afro-Caribbean music led the author to an awareness of poetry’s alignment with music, culminating in No Wrong Notes. The theme of the book deals with different spiritual and musical cultures interacting with each other in the author’s personal life and in 21st century America.

Comprehensive Nursing Care
By Mary Ann Towle, et al

This textbook by nursing professor Towle and two co-authors looks at the practice of nursing from the LPN/LVN point of view. Comprehensive Nursing Care covers content areas including fundamentals, medical-surgical, mental health, maternal-newborn, pediatrics and leadership. It also outlines what students need to know and do in order to deliver safe and effective nursing care in a variety of settings.

The Star Sailors
By Gary L. Bennett

BJC alumnus and retired NASA physicist Bennett spins an adult sci-fi tale of suspense in his novel. Published in paperback by Choice Press, The Star Sailors follows an intrepid group of star travelers in a Galactic Federation without war. In their quest to seek out the source of a violent attack, the group faces more destruction than any could have imagined.

Entertaining Strangers: Boise’s World War II Love Affair with the Soldiers of Gowen Field
By Rachel Smythe

Smythe introduces the soldiers of World War II as a backdrop, Smythe introduces readers to those who adopted the strangers in their midst, and tells how those soldiers gave back to the community, offering everything from musical talent to heroic acts of courage.

Western Writers Series
Boise State’s Western Writers Series has released two new biographies: Josephine Miles and James Stevens. Miles was a poet and professor whose poems show influences ranging from Robinson Jeffers to Emily Dickinson. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1983. Stevens is an Iowa-born fiction writer whose short stories are based on the legend of Paul Bunyan. He also wrote about his experience as a laborer in the Northwest before World War I.
Sanchez, Haris to perform at 2006 Gene Harris Jazz Festival

The 2006 Gene Harris Jazz Festival will feature the return of one of Latin music’s top performers.

Poncho Sanchez (right) and his Latin Jazz Band will be the headliner at the 2006 festival, which will be from April 6-9. Niki Haris, the daughter of Gene Harris, also will be featured.

Other performers include Paul Tillotson, Frank Potenza, Marvin Stamm, and Angela Hagenbach. Sanchez, a conga player, is the leader of the most popular group in Latin music today. He started out with the legendary Cal Tjader as part of his ensemble, but has been leading his own band for more than 20 years. The Jazz Times has dubbed him the “new king of Latin jazz.”

Haris is a multi-faceted performer; she’s a singer, dancer and backing vocalist. She has a solo career now, but spent many years touring with Madonna as a backup singer.

For more on the Gene Harris Jazz Festival, which is named after the late jazz piano great who lived in Boise the last 23 years of his life, visit www.geneharris.org.

Tunnel of Oppression seeks to enlighten

The day after Halloween, an interactive exhibit went up in Boise State’s Student Union that was just as ugly and frightening as the spooky imagery from the night before.

And that’s exactly what the Boise State Cultural Center wanted.

The center’s exhibit, the Tunnel of Oppression, forced visitors to encounter issues such as stereotyping and discrimination.

The idea, says Ro Parker, Cultural Center coordinator, was to get people talking about those problems, and then think of ways to solve them. The tunnel has been used on college and university campuses since it began in the residence halls of Western Illinois University in the early 1990s.

“It’s a really effective tool in creating dialogue on campus,” Parker says.

Boise State’s tunnel incorporated media, video, print and actors. The entire project was constructed and run by volunteers and students who participate in service-learning.

The tunnel was a darkened, mazelike structure. Visitors to the tunnel were led by a guide, and experienced firsthand what it’s like to be subjected to racism, sexism, ableism and other forms of discrimination. Visitors encountered actors holding signs, protesting, talking to them and sometimes shouting at them or insulting them. Boise State counselors were available after the “tours” so that visitors could talk about how the tunnel affected them.

The event, which the Cultural Center hopes to hold annually, is meant to be thought-provoking. A lot of students think that discrimination is a thing of the past, Parker says, so the Cultural Center would like to raise awareness and help provide solutions to the problem.

— Julie Hahn
Newsmakers

Boise State professors in the national media spotlight include the following:

• **JOHN FREEMUTH**, political science professor and Andrus Center fellow, wrote a story for *Headwater News* detailing the Andrus Center Conference on Western Water.

• **ROSS BURKHART**, political science, was quoted in the July/August issue of *Diplomat and International Canada* magazine. Burkhart, who teaches courses on Canadian politics, outlined the advice he would give to the new U.S. ambassador to Canada.

• **GREG HAMPIKIAN**, biology, was quoted in an article in the *Hartford (Conn.) Courant* on crime-scene techniques being taught in a four-day workshop for teachers. He was also mentioned in an article in the *Meriden (Conn.) Record-Journal*. Hampikian was in Connecticut to teach a forensics workshop for schoolteachers.

• **JON BUSACK**, Center for Professional Development, was quoted in an article on management-issues.com out of London about one-day training seminars and the promises they make.

• **GARY MONCRIEF**, political science, was featured on an Oregon Public Broadcasting program on the Legislature.

• **JEFF NEBERMAN**, adjunct professor of European history, was quoted in an article posted at the Citizens for Legitimate Government Web site. Neberman was commenting on homeland security.

• **BARTON BARBOUR**, history, was a featured historian on a documentary on the History Channel titled “Taming the Wild West: The Legend of Jedediah Smith.”

• **MICHAEL BLANKENSHIP**, dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, was quoted in an article in the *Casper (Wyo.) Star Tribune* on Idaho’s death row and the pressure jurors may face in a recent child-abduction case.

• **JASON MACDONALD**, marketing, was quoted in the *Indianapolis Star* in a story on Indiana University’s attempts to better position itself in the market.

• **TODD SHALLAT**, history, was featured in news reports on Boise’s four TV stations and interviewed by The Washington Post, NPR and Pacific Radio in Houston on Hurricane Katrina. Shallat has extensively studied the “sinking” of the New Orleans area.

An article written by the Associated Press on the earthquakes felt around Cascade quoted **JIM ZOLLWEG**, a geosciences research professor who is a seismology expert. The story ran in The Idaho Statesman and was also picked up by the San Francisco Chronicle. Zollweg was also quoted in the Portland Oregonian about the earthquakes.

• **ERIC LANDRUM**, psychology, was quoted in a Chicago Tribune story on reports of Bigfoot sightings in rural Illinois. Landrum commented on why people believe in such things.

Pioneer journalist, economist to speak at Boise State

A ward-winning journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz will be among the guest speakers who will come to Boise State in 2006.

Hunter-Gault (right) will be the featured speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr./Human Rights Celebration at 8 p.m. Jan. 20 and Stiglitz will speak at 7 p.m. April 12, as part of Boise State’s Distinguished Lecture Series. Both speeches will be in the Student Union Jordan Ballroom.

Hunter-Gault’s speech is titled, “Making a Global Dream: From Jim Crow America to Apartheid South Africa and Beyond.” Gault is CNN’s Johannesburg bureau chief and correspondent. She joined CNN in 1999 from National Public Radio, where she worked as the network’s chief correspondent in Africa. She joined NPR after 20 years with the Public Broadcasting Service, where she was a national correspondent on *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*. During that time she also anchored the award-winning television newsmagazine *Rights and Wrongs*, which focused on human rights.

She began her career as a reporter for The New Yorker then worked as a local news anchor in Washington, D.C. She also worked at the New York Times for 10 years, including two years as Harlem bureau chief.

Hunter-Gault’s awards include two Emmy awards and two Peabody awards, among others.

On campus …

Karen Armstrong
Religious scholar and author

“The Battle for God,” Distinguished Lecture Series, Oct. 4, 2005

“Every fundamentalist movement I’ve studied in Judaism, Islam and Christianity is rooted in a profound fear of annihilation.”
Students brew up business experience with 4.0 Coffee

Students of the College of Business and Economics residential college have brewed up a way to gain some practical experience this school year. They opened 4.0 Coffee, an entirely student-owned and operated coffee shop in the first floor lobby area of Keiser Hall.

From the initial design of the logo and ordering inventory to sales and scheduling, students are in charge of all aspects of 4.0 Coffee.

“They’re business students, and the best way to learn is hands-on,” says Rob Anson, a professor of networking, operations and information systems and faculty-in-residence in the COBE residential college.

The housing office at Boise State made the space for the coffee shop available and loaned the student business $4,000 to get started. After the start-up loan is repaid, all 4.0 Coffee proceeds will go toward a COBE residential college scholarship.

Each COBE resident works two hours per week at 4.0 Coffee. They are not paid, but will receive internship credit. They have taken advantage of the expertise of the Boise State faculty and fellow students in designing their business plan. There is also a board of directors that includes Boise State faculty and administrators and members of the business community.

The COBE community is one of seven residential colleges at Boise State. They include the Honors College and residential colleges in the areas of health professions, music, Renaissance, engineering and civic leadership (“New housing makes campus ‘home sweet home,’” FOCUS, Summer 2005).

Residential colleges are the bridge between living and learning, offering students opportunities for personal and academic enrichment beyond the classroom.

— Sherry Squires

Unique program helps keep employees healthy

Boise State employees are getting perks that usually come along with being a member of a top-notch health club.

During the past two years, Health, Wellness and Counseling Services has updated and improved the employee wellness program at Boise State. Faculty and staff now can enjoy health screenings, a release-time exercise program, classes about healthy cooking, massage and first aid/CPR, mobile mammograms and more. The services staff hopes that these programs will help make employees — and, by extension, the people they work with and their families — healthier.

“Many private companies have recognized that these programs result in greater staff productivity, higher morale and lower health care costs; however, few public employers have made this connection and resource commitment,” says Ferdinand Schlapper, executive director of Health, Wellness and Counseling Services.

“It is rare — there aren’t too many comparable programs,” Schlapper says, adding that Boise State’s investment in its faculty and staff complements its vision as a university of distinction.

One of the ideas his staff is especially proud of is the exercise release time program. The plan requires employees to fill out their exercise goals and submit them to their supervisors and Kate Fitzgerald-Guerrero, who oversees the program.

After they are enrolled, Fitzgerald-Guerrero checks in periodically to make sure that they haven’t hit plateaus. If they have, she offers advice to achieve better results. Seventy-six employees are using the program to lose weight or get in shape.

One of those employees is Francie Loveall, a technical support specialist with Computing Services. Loveall has used the release time program for three or four years, she says. She usually leaves 20 minutes early twice a week to get to the gym. “It’s worth it,” Loveall says.

In the future, the Health, Wellness and Counseling Services staff would like to offer one-on-one nutritional counseling for employees and their families, says Christina Berg, director of health promotion.

The overall health of the university includes the families of those who work here, Berg says.

— Julie Hahn
Wimbledon winner joins elite group of former Broncos

Boise State can boast a handful of athletes who have entered the professional ranks and then have gone on to reach the pinnacle of their sport.

In 1984 Dee Pickett, who played quarterback for the Bronco football team in 1976 and ’77, captured the world title in team roping and was named the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association all-around world champion. And in 1995 Troy Kemp, a two-time track All-American who competed for BSU from 1984 to ’88, won the men’s high jump at the World Track and Field Championships. In football there’s Markus Koch, a three-time All-America defensive lineman for BSU from 1982 to ’85 who was a member of the Washington Redskins’ Super Bowl XXII championship team in 1988.

Now you can add Wesley Moodie to that short but illustrious list.

Earlier this year Moodie, an All-American on the Bronco tennis team in 1999 and 2000, and his doubles partner Stephen Huss surprised the tennis world when they captured the Wimbledon men’s doubles championship, defeating second-seeded Americans Bob and Mike Bryan in four sets (7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3).

Playing in only their second tournament together, the pair began their march to tennis’ most prestigious double title with wins in two qualifying matches just to get into Wimbledon’s opening round. They then went on to upset four ranked teams in the five rounds in which they played to reach the finals. In the semifinals Moodie and Huss beat the world’s top-ranked doubles team of Max Mirnyi and Jonas Bjorkman to advance to the championship match. Their triumph in the finals marked the first time in the tournament’s long history that a men’s doubles team came from the qualifying rounds to claim the championship.

“We went into each match saying, ‘How far can we go in this tournament?’ Moodie told the media after the title match. “I guess we can go pretty far.”

Moodie, a native of South Africa, competed for the Boise State tennis team from fall 1998 through spring 2000 after transferring from Auburn. During his junior and senior years at Boise State, he helped lead the Broncos to back-to-back Big West championships and into the first round of the NCAA Tournament each year.

He began playing professionally after completing his eligibility at Boise State and became the first Bronco to play at Wimbledon, qualifying for the singles competition in 2003 and ’04. He failed to qualify for Wimbledon’s 2005 singles draw, but teamed with Huss, a former teammate at Auburn, in a bid to qualify for the doubles bracket after they won a minor circuit event earlier in the year.

Since his improbable win at Wimbledon, Moodie, 26, has rapidly ascended the Association of Tennis Professionals singles rankings. A victory in the Japan Open finals in October rocketed him up 41 places on the ATP rankings to a career-high of 57.

Pickett, Kemp and Koch would no doubt be impressed.

— Bob Evancho

Korey Hall helps build football program in more ways than one

Construction management student and Bronco starting linebacker Korey Hall spent his summer vacation working on a project that is very close to his heart.

As an intern for McAlvain Construction, Hall helped build the Caven-Williams Sports Complex. The new indoor practice facility, located next to Bronco Stadium, is expected to be completed in February.

Hall, the Broncos’ co-captain and leading tackler at the mid-point of the season, says his summer job has made him the resident expert on the indoor field, and that he’s fielded many questions from his teammates on the progress of the facility.

“It was pretty neat to be able to be a part of something like that,” Hall says. “All my teammates kept asking me how it was going. It’s unusual to get work experience on a project that is so personal.”

Hall said his first internship gave him a wide range of experiences. He worked as an assistant to project superintendent Mike Wilson, doing everything from analyzing plans to setting forms and pouring concrete. “I guess I did a little bit of everything,” he says.

— Margaret Scott

More than 200 years after the Corps of Discovery set out to chart the vast new Louisiana Territory, these and similar artifacts are helping researchers identify some of the explorers’ campsites along the route. Specifically, they’re looking for places where the corps spent weeks or months, such as Fort Mandan, Fort Clatsop and the Lower Portage site where they prepared to carry their gear 18 miles around the Great Falls of Missouri in Montana.

For Boise State archaeologist Christopher Hill, finding those sites will add another dimension to the vast scientific record Meriwether Lewis and William Clark left behind. How have river channels changed since Clark navigated and mapped them? What places show signs of erosion or burial? How and where were campsites organized?

“That information is potentially preserved in the archaeological evidence and will complement and add to the story of Lewis and Clark,” Hill says.

Hill is part of a team headed by Ken Karsmizki, a former colleague at Montana State University and a historical archaeologist now in charge of the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in Oregon. The team is searching for physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition; as the group’s geoarchaeologist, Hill looks to land formations for clues to the past. The team’s research, which spans more than a decade, was chronicled in a 2002 documentary for the Discovery Channel.

While rivers change course and forests burn, landmarks such as rock outcroppings, cliffs and mineral springs tend to be more stable, providing a way to track specific sites. To find the likely site of Fort Mandan in North Dakota, where Lewis and Clark spent the long, bitterly cold winter of 1804-05, Hill compared Clark’s detailed maps with the current landscape. By overlaying historical and current diagrams, he was able to estimate the fort’s most likely location.

Excavations in that area uncovered a layer of charred soil 4 to 6 feet beneath the surface, dated to around the time Fort Mandan burned to the ground. The group hopes that further excavation will uncover artifacts that can be tied to the explorers, such as remnants of the blacksmith shop where metal was fashioned in trade for corn.

“Archaeology is like looking for a needle in a haystack,” Hill says. “Except there may be several needles in several haystacks. It’s important to figure out which artifacts might be from the time of Lewis and Clark.”

This is especially true at the Lower Portage site, where about a dozen historic campfires have been found but only three lie in the formation common to the military in 1805.

Excavations near those sites have uncovered a wooden stake used for cooking and bison bones bearing the marks of iron tools, both dating to the early 1800s.

What they have yet to uncover is the buried cache of supplies the men chose to leave behind, or the iron boat frame buried at the nearby Upper Portage site.

At the end of the trail where a reproduction of Fort Clatsop was built in 1958 (and was recently destroyed by fire), Hill believes that Clark’s maps, known for their accuracy, place the fort’s actual site to the northwest. Although forests can change greatly over time, a nearby bluff adds weight to his premise.

Whatever the outcome, Clark’s maps have allowed Hill a unique glimpse at how the landscape has changed over two centuries and how cultures continue to have an impact on the world around them.
Grad receives Fulbright to conduct research in Mongolia

Ben Linhoff (BS, geology, ’05) has been fascinated with Mongolia ever since he wrote a report on Genghis Khan in the fourth grade. Now, after years of studying the remote country in central Asia from a distance, Linhoff will travel there early next year as a Fulbright Scholar.

“My mouth dropped. I was pretty shocked,” Linhoff said after being notified he had won the prestigious Fulbright award. The award covers travel and living expenses for up to 10 months and also includes a research allowance.

Linhoff (right) will conduct research under the sponsorship of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology in the capital city of Ulaan Baatar. He’s interested in looking at water quality issues associated with untreated sewage and from runoff from a mine in the area. Because Mongolia is largely nomadic, there aren’t many water treatment facilities in the country, Linhoff explains. In addition, he may study the microbiology of saline lakes in the Gobi Desert.

Linhoff, who is now a graduate student at the University of Texas, applied for the Fulbright while at Boise State after being urged to do so by his faculty adviser, geosciences professor Mark Schmitz.

Schmitz says he’s thrilled for Linhoff, and is confident his former student will take full advantage of the opportunity. “Beyond his academic ability and potential as a scientist, Ben has an avid curiosity and sincere respect for other peoples and cultures,” Schmitz says.

— Janelle Brown

State Board approves Center for Environmental Sensing

A new center for sensor research will provide opportunities for collaboration and support for university scientists and engineers who are pursuing a broad range of funded projects, from studying air quality during inversions in the Treasure Valley to using ground penetrating radar to study Arctic stream channels.

The Center for Environmental Sensing at Boise State was recently approved by the State Board of Education, and began operations this fall under the direction of Boise State civil engineering professor Molly Gribb.

“There are a growing number of research projects at Boise State that involve sensors, including projects in the environmental sciences, health sciences, engineering, chemistry, physics and geophysics,” Gribb says. “The center will allow us to more easily share information, use our laboratories more efficiently and increase our visibility.”

The grant, which received EPA approval for funding in fiscal year 2005, builds on nearly $2 million in EPA grants awarded to the College of Engineering since 2002 for sensor research.

‘MILLION DOLLAR BABY’ ENHANCES RESEARCH AT BOISE STATE

A grant for a new scientific instrument, nicknamed the “Million Dollar Baby,” has been awarded to Boise State by the National Science Foundation and will benefit research in materials science, electrical engineering, computer engineering, physics, biology, chemistry and geosciences.

The $691,910 NSF award for an analytical transmission electron microscope was matched by a $125,000 grant from the Micron Technology Foundation and $180,000 from Boise State, for a total funding level of $996,910. In addition to supporting a wide range of research, the instrument will provide new training and educational opportunities for Boise State students.

The instrument will be used for studies of magnetic materials that could lead to the development of sensor devices to improve combustion in engines and reduce pollution, or to developing positioning devices for microsurgery.

PHYSICS PROF RECEIVES $400,000 SCIENCE FOUNDATION CAREER GRANT

Boise State physics professor Alex Punnoose has received the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious award for early career faculty — a $400,000 grant that recognizes his effectiveness at integrating education and research.

The CAREER award, given to outstanding faculty from across the nation who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century, will support Punnoose’s research.

Punnoose has more than $2.1 million in current funding from various agencies, including four NSF awards. His research involves two of the hottest fields in science and technology today, nanotechnology and spintronics.

GRANT HELPS SET UP GEOLOGY LAB

The National Science Foundation has awarded Boise State a $620,000 grant to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for a new Isotope Geology Laboratory.

The grant will fund a thermal ionization mass spectrometer, or TIMS. The instrument measures the products of radioactive decay in microscopic minerals and can be used to determine the age of geologic materials such as rocks or fossils, and the composition of environmental samples such as dissolved minerals in water or lead contaminants in soil.

The TIMS equipment will be the centerpiece of a new ultra-clean laboratory now under construction at Boise State, says Mark Schmitz, a Boise State geosciences professor who procured the grant. The new facility will enable Boise State faculty and students to collaborate with scientists at similar labs as part of an NSF program.
Ed McLuskie’s recent year as a senior Fulbright scholar in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, was pretty typical, if a bit hectic. Originally slated to teach two seminars critiquing American-style journalism at Tbilisi State University (TSU) and the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, the Boise State communication professor taught two additional seminars — sociology at the TSU Institute of Language and Culture and philosophical pragmatism at the TSU American Studies department.

If that wasn’t enough, he also managed to cram in public lectures and one more assignment — providing key evidence used to capture an attempted assassin.

Photos taken by McLuskie at a May 10 rally featuring President George Bush and Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili captured clear images of the man who has admitted tossing a Soviet-era grenade within 100 feet of the two heads of state. The grenade, allegedly intended to kill Bush, malfunctioned and did not detonate. Had it done so, hundreds in the crowd of more than 100,000 would have been killed or injured.

McLuskie was near the front and above the crowd, thanks to a press pass provided by Georgian authorities through The Arbiter, Boise State’s student newspaper. Unaware a grenade had been tossed, he returned to Boise shortly after the rally to find phone and e-mail messages from the FBI inquiring about the photos he had taken that day. One of his students who was in the crowd had identified him as the man with the camera.

“They said the photos may be useful and told me what to look for — a guy next to a Soviet veteran dressed in a four-star general’s uniform,” McLuskie says. After sending several photos off to Washington, D.C., he thought no more about it until July while attending a Fulbright conference in D.C. There he saw four photos of the grenade suspect splashed across the screen by Fox News and Georgian Web sites — all four were from his crowd shots.

The suspect, Vladimir Arutyunian, was captured two days later in a village just outside Tbilisi in a bloody shootout that left one officer dead. Now facing terrorism and murder charges in Georgia, he has also been indicted by a U.S. grand jury for trying to assassinate the president.

While some Georgians are calling him a hero, McLuskie downplays his role and says he’s just looking forward to returning to Georgia in the future. “I have friends and colleagues over there now,” he says.
Korean educators learn about United States through Boise State

BY JULIE HAHN

Faculty members and graduate students from Korea are getting an education in the American experience at Boise State.

Professors Sae Hoon Park, Sang Woo Roo, Dong Ro Shin and In Tak Kwon, as well as Eun Kyoung Yu, a graduate student, have visited Boise from Chonju, South Korea, where they all work or attend Chonbuk National University. Their visits are the result of an agreement signed three years ago between the colleges of education at Chonbuk and Boise State.

The two universities plan to exchange faculty and are working on developing collaborative research projects. The partnership has produced two research grants so far, and the colleges are hoping for more work in the future.

Park (above), who has been here on sabbatical since August 2004, relocated his family to Boise while he researches the differences between the education systems of Korea and the United States. Park has plenty of research material to work with; the educational differences between the two countries are profound. In Korea, Park says, students go to school from early in the morning, around 7 or 8 a.m., and stay up as late as 10 p.m. That’s in sharp contrast to the United States, where some school districts are considering starting school later in the morning to coincide with children’s natural need for more sleep than adults.

Park is getting a firsthand look at the United States’ school system: his children, ages 13, 10 and 7, all attend Boise schools.

“How Boise is a nice place to live in. It’s the right size and is a safe place,” he says.

Boise State literacy professor Stan Steiner has helped Park and the other Korean visitors get settled. He’s introduced them to yard sales, which they don’t have back home, and he’s helped them get drivers licenses. Steiner and his wife, Joy, traveled with College of Education Dean Diane Boothe to Chonbuk in late October.

“We are extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity to engage in partnerships and welcome visiting professors and families from Korea,” Boothe said before she departed. “We have a formal agreement to exchange educators and students. They have been kind enough to visit our university and now it is our turn to be their guests.”
On its path toward greater excellence in research and teaching, Boise State continues to be enhanced by the depth and breadth of its diverse student body. From brand new freshmen right out of high school to doctoral candidates, students contribute to the university’s stature and reputational currency, while profiting from its award-winning faculty, innovative programs and groundbreaking research. This issue of FOCUS takes a brief look at the student experience at Boise State.


Photos by John Kelly and Carrie Quinney
Name: Katey Irwin
Year in school: Graduate student
Major: Master’s of science in bioinformatics through the Interdisciplinary Studies Program
Resides: University Square Apartments
Quick Glance: Irwin is one of 20 outstanding graduate students named to the first cohort of the university’s new Graduate Residential Scholars Program. The scholars live in campus housing and work within an academic unit as a teaching, research or service assistant. Based on current lodging fees, graduate school fee rates and stipends, the total annual value of each award exceeds $26,000.

8:20 A.M.
Hair pulled back in a no-nonsense ponytail, sleep still lingering in her brown eyes, Katey Irwin greets fellow graduate student Amanda Bruesch outside the Student Recreation Center. They head inside for some semi-serious sweating. It’s a routine Irwin follows most days.

“I have to get here in the morning, even though it’s hard, because if I wait until the afternoon I’m too tired or busy and I don’t come,” says Irwin, striding in place on the elliptical trainer.

Irwin (BS, biology, ’05) knows a bit about perseverance. The first person in her family to graduate from college, she then won a prestigious scholarship from Boise State to pursue graduate studies. Irwin is crafting her own interdisciplinary master’s program in the cutting-edge field of bioinformatics, the science of using data analysis to understand biology. Someday she’d like to earn a Ph.D. and teach at a university.

9:40 A.M.
After a quick dash back to her apartment to change her clothes and shower, Irwin heads to the Micron Engineering Center for her first class of the day, Introduction to Computer Science. It’s an undergraduate course, but Irwin enrolled to beef up her computer skills, an important component of bioinformatics.

12:15 P.M.
Lunch is a quesadilla with salsa, prepared inside her apartment. Irwin shares the living space with two roommates who are also graduate residential scholars, but she has a private bedroom. The apartments are brand new and show it. Irwin, who commuted daily from Kuna during the four years she worked on her bachelor’s degree, relishes living on campus.

“I finally get to just be a student. I’m just a few minutes away from my classes, I can go to all the activities on campus in the evening and downtown Boise is right here,” she says. “It makes everything so easy.”

1:40 P.M.
Irwin and about a dozen other students in Advanced Topics in Molecular Biology class listen as Bruesch discusses an article “Mitochondrial DNA Mutations,” published in a scientific journal. During the semester each student will give a similar presentation. Irwin likes the class. “There are so many different topics, it keeps you on your toes,” she says. “It gives you a sense of how much research is going on.”
Irwin and Noriko Hazeki-Taylor, a postdoctoral researcher, peer over an ultra centrifuge in the lab of biology professor Julia Oxford. Hazeki-Taylor is teaching Irwin how to prepare samples for sequencing by mass spectrometry so she can take over the task later this fall when Hazeki-Taylor takes maternity leave.

The lab, crowded with instruments, computers and the low hum of conversation, is Irwin’s sanctuary. She spends about 30 hours a week here running tests that are part of Oxford’s research studies on collagen XI, a protein found in tendon, bone, cartilage and connective tissue.

For Irwin, the colleagues she works with and the work itself are intertwined. “These are the people you talk to about your life,” she says. “They’re so supportive.”

Irwin unwinds with a bike ride down the Greenbelt. Sometimes she stops along the way and pulls out her personal journal. It’s a nice respite from the hectic pace of her day.

Irwin likes to cook, but tonight she meets her mom, Linda Irwin, at a downtown Chinese restaurant.

Irwin hangs out in the apartment with her roommate Amy Douglas. Irwin enjoys the conversation, but before long she’s ready for bed. Her upcoming day will be a busy one; she’ll work in Oxford’s lab, teach the lab portion of an Introduction to Biology course, do some studying, and then head to her Biologist’s Conundrum: Ethics, Work, & Global Context evening class.

Irwin looks back on the past four years, when her university life and her home life in Kuna were clearly separated, and knows that this year of living on campus will be very different.

“Living in Kuna, I was a little isolated,” she says. “I feel like now I’m getting to express that part of myself that likes to get out and do lots of different things and be involved. I feel very fortunate to have gotten this scholarship and to be here at Boise State.”
A.J. McGillis, left, and fellow student A.J. Newman show their true Boise State colors while preparing for a student-sponsored concert in Taco Bell Arena. McGillis calls his involvement in student affairs “an amazing learning experience.”

As the university grows, there's a greater challenge to provide better events for students. Part of his crash course in training this year has involved booking and organizing concerts, and although he describes concert planning as “frustrating and time-consuming,” he's thinking about a career in the industry. McGillis says that he comes from a business-minded family (he's taking 12 credits this semester toward his double major in business and marketing), and the competitive aspects of the business intrigue him.

In the meantime, McGillis is trying to absorb as many lessons as he can from his time with SPB. “It's an amazing learning experience,” he says. — Julie Hahn

The Organizer

Name: A.J. McGillis
Year in School: Sophomore
Majors: Business and marketing
Resides: University Square Apartments
Quick Glance: Director of Student Programs Board

A.J. McGILLIS KNEW that he didn’t want the typical college experience. He was interested in more than just books and studying; he wanted to be a part of something. That’s why in the spring he applied to be the director of Boise State’s Student Programs Board (SPB).

The Student Programs Board does “a little bit of everything,” McGillis says. SPB is the organizer of several big concerts on campus, including the Homecoming concert and the Spring Fling. SPB also puts on dozens of on-campus student-oriented events throughout the year — anything to help students feel more comfortable and connected to the campus community.

McGillis was raised in California, but Boise State seemed like a natural fit. His mom is “a Burley girl,” and his dad went to Capital High School in Boise (you can find him in the hall of fame there). McGillis wanted the chance to be part of an expanding university.

“I like how it’s growing, how they let students take part in growth — that was really attractive to me,” McGillis says.

As the university grows, there's a greater challenge to provide better events for students. Part of his crash course in training this year has involved booking and organizing concerts, and although he describes concert planning as “frustrating and time-consuming,” he’s thinking about a career in the industry. McGillis says that he comes from a business-minded family (he’s taking 12 credits this semester toward his double major in business and marketing), and the competitive aspects of the business intrigue him.

In the meantime, McGillis is trying to absorb as many lessons as he can from his time with SPB. “It’s an amazing learning experience,” he says.

— Julie Hahn

The Student-Athlete

Name: Lee Marks
Year in School: Senior
Major: Psychology
Resides: Off-campus apartment
Quick Glance: Honorable mention All-WAC running back in 2004

A STANDOUT TAILBACK on the Boise State football team, Lee Marks believes every player on every team should work in unity toward a common goal. However, it quickly becomes obvious that he is an individual apart from the collective.

The Reseda, Calif., native balances a tough academic load with the demands of playing Bronco football, which includes daily practices and meetings from 2-6 p.m. during the season. When his schedule allows, Marks also works the door at The Funny Bone Comedy Club in Boise.

But where Marks, who led the Broncos in rushing last season, truly distinguishes himself is in the time he spends in the service of children. He commits himself to organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and is involved in coaching youth athletics in the summer.

By working with children, Marks says he hopes to help them become better people. “If all that means is that I can help a child have just a little better day, that changes my whole world,” he says.

Marks’ involvement doesn't stop at the organizational level. Recently, at the Make-A-Wish Foundation’s dinner in September, a parent whose child idolizes him approached Marks. Marks gave the parent his phone number and volunteered his time and money to take the child out to lunch. “I like to lead by example,” he says.

Whether on or off the field, he does just that.

— Bill Schnupp
The Newcomer

BY KATHLEEN CRAVEN

Name: Ryan Smith
Year in school: Freshman
Major: Pre-med
Resides: Towers Hall
Quick Glance: Smith is an 18-year-old from Ammon, in eastern Idaho. Although he spends summers working on his grandparents’ farm in Monteview, this is his first time living away from family. He chose Boise State because of its reputation and proximity to home, but a nearby resort where he could snowboard didn’t hurt. He’s on the Towers Residence Hall council and will soon start work as a desk assistant 10 hours per week.

8:30 A.M.
Ryan Smith reluctantly rolls out of bed, showers and pulls on a T-shirt and oversized shorts. Taking advantage of being on his own for the first time, Smith and his buddies “noshed” into the wee hours the previous night on food from their favorite drive-through restaurant, Del Taco, making this morning a bit tough. Grabbing breakfast – a granola bar – from his mini-fridge, he heads to the Education Building for class.

9:15 A.M.
Smith greets a few classmates and settles in for University 101, an introduction to campus life. Today’s activities begin with a quiz – summarize a story you read in this week’s campus newspaper, The Arbiter. Smith reports on an interview with a porn star. Although he didn’t actually read the story, he overheard someone talking about it and hopes he can slide. The rest of class is devoted to tips on how to get the most from textbook reading assignments.

11 A.M.
Smith loads a few friends into his 1999 Oldsmobile Alero for a short trip to the Biomat USA plasma center. The plasma is used in the fabrication of life-saving medications. Smith donates twice a week to earn a few extra dollars. In addition to the $25 he earns that day, the center offers a $10 bonus for each new recruit; Smith has brought two. Money saved after expenses is earmarked for a longboard skateboard.

1 P.M.
Lunch is at the Subway in the Education Building. His other choice is the Table Rock Café in the Student Union, where he’ll almost always opt for a chicken or grilled cheese sandwich. Smith bypasses the sodas in favor of healthier drinks.

A resident in Towers Hall, 18-year-old Ryan Smith exemplifies the traditional college freshman. Top, Smith takes notes in class. Left, for pocket money he makes regular trips to a Boise plasma donation center. Above, Smith waits to donate plasma with two fellow students. So far he’s been able to keep up with the studies without too much problem. “I’ve learned that if you just go to class and do your homework, you’ll be fine,” he says.

That means regular hours at the Student Recreation Center, rotating workouts on biceps, chest and legs. He’s also taking karate on Monday evenings.

2:30 P.M.
Smith heads back to his room in Towers Hall, which is littered with piles of clothing. “It’s getting really close to laundry day,” he says. His mini-fridge is piled with snack foods and bright posters cover the walls. At his sleek new computer he focuses on Math 108, intermediate algebra. The class meets once a week; practice and additional help are delivered via Web and lab instruction. This week’s lesson deals with inequalities and applications.

3:30 P.M.
Ready for a break, he rounds up some friends for a pickup game of ultimate Frisbee. Sporting bright headbands, the group plays on the grassy hill outside the halls; for a more serious game they’ll head over to the intramural field behind the Student Union. When they tire of the game, they toss a football around until it lands in a tree, requiring a climb to retrieve it.

5:30 P.M.
Following dinner, Smith prepares for Wednesday’s classes – English and philosophy. Philosophy, taught by James Stockton, offers opportunities to examine his attitudes in a new light.

“My favorite quote from philosophy is, ‘Philosophy is not concerned with whether a king with a lot of money is happy. Rather, it’s concerned with what is kingship, and what is happiness?’ It makes you think.”

6:30 P.M.
Smith drives to the V.A. Medical Center in Boise for a service-learning orientation. Service-learning encourages students to explore the connection between what they’re learning in the classroom and its real-life applications. Smith’s assignment is to visit with the veterans in the hospital.

8 P.M.
“After 8 is usually a wild card,” Smith says. Some nights he listens to his four gigabytes of downloaded music, mostly reggae and punk, watches a movie or orders takeout food. Weekends might include a date. Mostly, he enjoys hanging with his friends.

“It’s funny,” he says. “Everyone told me how hard college would be before I got here, but I’ve learned that if you just go to class and do your homework, you’ll be fine.”
The Non-Traditional Student

BY SHERRY SQUIRES

Name: Janet George
Year in school: Senior
Major: Elementary education - endorsement in special education
Resides: Nampa, Idaho, with her family

Quick Glance: George is in her final year of education at Boise State pursuing her lifelong dream of teaching. She made the transition from homemaker to student four years ago, taking her first two years of classes in Nampa at the Canyon County Center where she felt more comfortable, and moved to the Boise campus in 2003.

4:30 A.M.
Janet George has much to attend to this morning before gathering her books, note taker and backpack for the commute from Nampa to Boise. While her teenage daughter Heidi sleeps, she showers and prepares to spend 30 minutes with Weeco, her 3-year-old seeing-eye dog. She’ll groom her, feed her, play with her and let the yellow Labrador work off excess energy before the two of them start their day.

6:15 A.M.
George “drags” Heidi out of bed, helps get her day started, and heads for the bus stop.

7 A.M.
The bus drops George off at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center where she waits for a cab to take her the rest of the way to Meridian’s River Valley Elementary School. Some mornings a friend can work it into her schedule to give George a ride. But today George and Weeco ride the bus. When she made the decision to go back to school four years ago, George knew it would mean adapting to being alone after years of relying on her two daughters to drive her and accompany her places.

Today she will stand in front of a classroom of fifth-graders for the second time as a student teacher. Last week during her classroom management class, she tried to picture herself filling out necessary school paperwork, getting the children safely out of the building for a fire drill and helping them learn not to distract Weeco while she is on duty.

“I’ve wanted to do this my whole life, so here I am,” she says.

7:30 A.M.
When George arrives at River Valley, she realizes that the
Nampa resident Janet George started student teaching fifth-graders this semester after dreaming of teaching since she was a child. Clockwise from lower left, George spends Mondays and Wednesdays in the classroom at River Valley Elementary School in Meridian. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, she relies on her seeing-eye dog, Weeco, to help her navigate the Boise State campus as she makes her way through her final year of coursework. Below, Weeco takes a break.

9 a.m.

When she addresses the students in her rich Jamaican accent, her voice is strong and steady with no hint of nerves. She gets right to the point. She asks the students to call out their names as they raise their hands so she knows who is talking. She takes attendance, then lunch count. During math, the homeroom teacher whispers to George that some of the students are fidgeting with items in their desks rather than paying attention to the problems being worked out on the board.

“I can’t see you playing with stuff,” she announces. “But I am asking you to respect each other and me enough not to play around. I’ll be listening for it.”

George is determined that her blindness won’t get in her way. Her father was born with polio that physically crippled him and her mother was also blind. “My father said people are the better for having a disability,” she says. “You just have to cope with whatever disability you have and find methods to deal with it.”

4 p.m.

George leaves the school and heads home. On the bus, Weeco curls up neatly at her feet and waits. As soon as the dog reaches home, her harness is removed and she runs circles around the back yard. George visits with Heidi about her day at Nampa High and encourages her to babysit for a friend to make some extra money.

She shares with her husband, Mike, a conversation she had with their oldest daughter, Michelle, 18 and a first-year graphic design student at Boise State. Her husband, also blind, is between jobs. He is often home before George and makes dinner for the family. “Sometimes it’s dreadfully hard for a blind person to find work,” she says.

Over dinner, mother, father and daughter talk about their plans to join with their congregation at church to help collect items for Hurricane Katrina victims and then plan a possible trip to walk the Boise Greenbelt this weekend, something they enjoy as a family but haven’t done lately with everyone’s busy schedules.

8 p.m.

George finishes a lesson plan that is due tomorrow and calls it a day. She’ll spend the next day on the Boise campus. She remembers how intimidated she was when she was first learning to navigate between buildings for classes and find her way to and from the library and bus stops. “The campus sounds so busy,” she says.

But she has built up great confidence. She has to because it’s in the cards. “My dream is to someday teach visually impaired kids,” she says. “The Lord had it all planned out.”
Name: Saud Al-Madani
Year in school: Senior
Major: Respiratory therapy
Resides: Off-campus apartment

Quick Glance: Al-Madani is a visiting student from Saudi Arabia. He came to Boise in 2003 after the hospital he worked at in Riyadh offered to send him to the United States to train in respiratory therapy. Al-Madani will return to his home country next year. In the meantime he’s taking classes using the Blackboard system, which allows students to do their studies online.

9:15 A.M.
Saud Al-Madani, 28, wakes up in his tidy apartment in a large complex close to the Boise State campus. It’s an early start for Al-Madani, who is a habitual night owl. “I usually go to sleep around 2, 3, 4,” he says. “So I sleep until about noon, around there.”

There’s no rush because Al-Madani is a Boise State student who doesn’t have to report to class, just to his computer. He is working toward his degree in respiratory therapy through an online curriculum, one of several international students who are in the same program.

10:30 A.M.
Although Al-Madani can take his classes anywhere, he gets out of the house and studies a lot at the Albertsons Library. He previously had to go to a classroom for his core classes, but his major studies now are online.

Al-Madani was working as an interpreter at a hospital in Riyadh, his hometown in Saudi Arabia, when he got the opportunity to come to Boise State on scholarship. The hospital he worked at was in need of respiratory therapists, so his bosses footed the bill. He arrived in 2003. “I could have taken the classes at home,” he said, “but this is better.”

11:30 A.M.
Al-Madani is a frequent visitor to the Student Union, where he fires up his laptop and enters the Blackboard program that lets him access his classes. The classes are interactive, and when he logs on dozens of names and e-mail address pop up in the “classroom.” Many of those names are Arabic.

Al-Madani is part of a small but vibrant Saudi community at Boise State. Most of his countrymen here are getting degrees in engineering, paid for by a corporation back home.

1:30 P.M.
A Muslim, Al-Madani visits the Islamic Center every Friday for prayers. He greets several friends outside in Arabic before slipping off his shoes and leaving them on the porch. Al-Madani rests on a rug on the floor and listens as the imam speaks for about 20 minutes about being humble and entering
heaven. After the speaker is done, Al-Madani says prayers with the group, bowing twice and prostrating twice.

Then he visits other worshippers outside after the service. Al-Madani has a car (license plate: “SAUD”), which makes him a hot commodity among his fellow students who need to return to classes at Boise State.

2:30 P.M.
Al-Madani sits down to lunch at his house. His family sends him spices from back home because some of his favorites aren’t available here.

3:30 P.M.
Al-Madani unwinds at Java, a coffee shop downtown. Later, he’ll catch up with some of his friends. The international students at Boise State are a tight-knit community, willing to help each other navigate the foreign education system. Al-Madani is a frequent visitor to the International Programs Office, and he’s just as curious about other people’s cultures as they are about his.

11 P.M.
Al-Madani has a late-night dinner. In October, he will observe Ramadan. He’ll be required to fast from sunup to sundown every day for about a month. Everyone asks him if he gets up early to eat a huge breakfast, he says. (He doesn’t.)

Saud Al-Madani is a respiratory therapy student from Saudi Arabia. Clockwise from far left, Al-Madani doesn’t have to attend class; instead, he takes online classes from his apartment on his computer. A big part of Al-Madani’s life in Boise is hanging out with his friends, including his fellow countrymen and other international students. Because Al-Madani’s classroom is portable, he often takes his work to Java, one of his favorite downtown coffee shops. Al-Madani greets a friend before stepping into the Islamic Center of Boise for Friday prayer services.

2 A.M.
Al-Madani heads to bed. He will head back to Saudi Arabia next year, probably at the end of spring. His friends back home are getting married and starting families, and he wants to get to know all of the new babies’ names. But he says that he will also remember his time in Boise.

“Coming to Boise was a good experience and I won’t forget it,” he says. “Getting exposed to a new culture is way different than hearing or reading about it. In Boise I made good friendships with some American faculty and students, and other international students, that I would love to keep. And I hope when I leave that I leave a good impression about myself and my country.”
The Worker

Name: Elyse Panzella
Year in School: Sophomore
Major: Visual art
Resides: At home in Boise with her parents and two younger siblings
Quick Glance: Budding artist who paints, draws and does interior design

B

OY, AM I TIRED,” says Elyse Panzella as she catches a ride with a neighbor for her morning math class at Boise State. “I tried to go to bed at 11 last night, but didn’t fall asleep until 1. That’s pretty tough when you have to get up at 6.”

Given her schedule, a full load at Boise State and three part-time jobs, the 20-year-old Boise resident’s fatigue is understandable. On this morning, her life is further complicated by car problems. “I have a meeting for work tonight at 6:30, and it’s at the Birds of Prey Center, which is really out of the way,” she says. “I hope I can find a ride.”

In this case “work” is her job as a teller for the Bank of America branch in West Boise. She works close to 30 hours a week Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays and Saturdays at the bank and a combined eight to 12 hours weekly for two retail outlets at Boise Towne Square.

Panzella’s work schedule, together with the 16 credit hours she is taking at Boise State, doesn’t leave much time for a social life these days. “Most days I leave the house around 7:30 a.m. and don’t get home until somewhere between 7 and 11 p.m.,” says the 2003 Capital High graduate. “With work, school and homework, sometimes I’ll go two or three weeks without having a day off.”

A standout student with a cheerful personality and a strong work ethic, Panzella has always maintained a busy pace. The current demands on her schedule are a bit unwieldy at times, but she says they aren’t anything she can’t handle. “One thing’s for sure,” she says. “I don’t have to worry about how I spend my time.”

The Soldier

Name: Nick Allex
Year in School: Junior
Major: German
Resides: Off-campus apartment
Quick Glance: Army ROTC scholarship student

F

ROM THE TIME HE WAS A KID, Nick Allex wanted to be a soldier like his dad, a Green Beret. By the time he reached high school, he knew he wanted to be an infantry officer.

So it was no surprise when he enlisted in the Army National Guard right after graduating from Meridian’s Centennial High School in 2003. After basic training, he enrolled at Boise State, where he was offered an ROTC scholarship. After he receives his commission as an officer in spring 2007, he’s committed to eight years with the Army.

In addition to carrying 16-19 credits each semester, he’s also attended two highly demanding summer training schools – U.S. Army Airborne School in Ft. Benning, Ga., and Mountain Warfare School at Camp Jericho in Vermont. “It was the most stressful two weeks of my life,” he says of the latter. “I was pushed to my limits … it’s amazing what you can do when you are put in a situation like that and told what to do.”

He also maintains a rigorous physical schedule. Each day starts at 6 a.m. with a military fitness class entailing timed and long-distance runs, and runs with 35-pound packs. Following that he hits the gym for weight training, attends class and studies. For fun he’s treasurer of the Ranger Club, which focuses on paintball, whitewater rafting and other outdoor activities. Somehow he manages to maintain a 3.4 GPA and work at Costco.

“My whole goal in going to college is to commission,” he says. “It’s what I’ve known my whole life.”
Stueckles’ gift to benefit research

Boise State biology professor Julia Thom Oxford, who conducts research that may someday help scientists find cures for ailments ranging from early onset arthritis to fetal alcohol syndrome, retinal detachment, cleft palate and cartilage degeneration in knees, was named the inaugural recipient of the Dean’s Distinguished Professor Award.

The award, established this fall by Duane and Lori Stueckle of Boise, provides supplemental salary for an outstanding Boise State biology professor who is involved in research and teaching in areas with biomedical application, particularly in developmental biology, molecular biology, genomics, proteomics and cell biology. (The Stueckles, above, were honored as grand marshals during BSU’s 2005 Homecoming festivities.)

Duane Stueckle, a Boise businessman and entrepreneur, said he has long had an interest in the study of genes and proteins and the Human Genome Project, and believes that their applications could someday lead to breakthroughs that could relieve human suffering and disease.

“I’d had this idea of providing some support in this area for a long time, but I figured I’d have to go to MIT or Harvard to do it,” he says. “Then I found out what was going on right here at Boise State, and I decided, why go across the country when there are great things happening in my own back yard?”

Boise State has made impressive strides as a metropolitan research university, Stueckle adds. “I like to help at the start of things. Providing funds to keep talented faculty at Boise State falls is exactly with what I like to do.”

Foundation enjoys record fund-raising year

The Boise State Foundation had its best fund-raising year ever in the 2005 fiscal year with a 61 percent increase. The Foundation received $18,944,376 in gifts, donations and private grants, surpassing the previous best total of $11,647,346 in 2004.

“The record contributions for Boise State are a tangible sign of the momentum that is building for the university,” says Rick Frisch, Boise State vice president for university advancement. Foundation donations have increased 275 percent since 2003 when contributions totaled $6,875,066.

“This is by far the biggest fund-raising year we’ve had due to the generosity of many individuals, corporations and foundations that support Boise State’s academic and athletic endeavors,” Frisch says.

Significant gifts in fiscal year ‘05 included: $3.1 million for the Caven-Williams Sports Complex; $2.5 million from the estate of Jody DeMeyer for an endowed nursing chair; $1.7 million donation in laboratory equipment from Micron Technology; and $1.1 million from the Nampa Industrial Corporation to help fund a new Center for Transportation and Construction Technology building on the BSU West campus.

MICRON, KISSLER FOUNDATIONS WIN PHILANTHROPIST AWARDS

The Micron Technology Foundation has received the 2005 Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist Award from the Idaho Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The Kissler Family Foundation received the 2005 Outstanding Foundation Award.

The Boise State University Foundation nominated both foundations for the statewide honors. The Micron Foundation was cited for donating $2 million to Boise State to create a Materials Science and Engineering Department in the College of Engineering.

The Kissler Family Foundation, founded by Larry and Fran Kissler who built Norco Inc., annually donates to nearly 100 charities. Concerned about a projected nursing shortage, Jim Kissler and his foundation have pledged support of Boise State’s Department of Nursing.

LANGROISE HOUSE SALE BENEFITS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Langroise House, one of Boise’s most historic homes and owned by the Boise State Foundation, has been sold. The home was offered on the real estate market at $2.2 million with proceeds benefiting student scholarships.

An endowed fund for National Merit Scholars at Boise State will be established in the name of William and Gladys Langroise.

The two-story Tudor-style house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Warm Springs Historic District.

DONORS ADD TO BIF DONATION

A $1.5 million donation from the Boise Industrial Foundation more than two years ago is paying dividends for Boise State students.

The gift contained $516,589 earmarked for matching money for endowed scholarships. Since October 2003, donors have taken advantage of $430,000 of the BIF matching money.

The Foundation has until the end of this year to take advantage of the remaining money — $116,874. Because of a positive investment performance, the Foundation has more in the fund than was originally donated.

FALL PHON-A-THON ON NOW

The 19th annual BSU Foundation Phon-a-thon is ongoing through Nov. 22.

Every year more than 40 student callers contact 35,000 Boise State alumni and friends to ask for their financial support. Last year, more than 3,600 people made contributions. This year’s goal is $235,000.

Pledges are being made through the respective colleges.
A new tradition has been introduced this year at Boise State — an official ring endorsed by the university.

Official ring programs, where all students and alumni purchase and wear a ring with the same design, are not new. Many schools have retained their “class ring” programs for decades while others were dropped or never had a tradition to begin with. Many colleges and universities, like Boise State, had multiple ring designs offered by multiple vendors. Thus, the “tradition” became diluted and the rings, in many cases, became no more than pieces of customized jewelry.

But now the Alumni Association and Student Alumni Association have introduced the one-ring tradition to provide students and alumni with a true symbol of the university.

Some of Boise State’s most recognized landmarks are represented on the official ring. The top of the ring is an adaptation of the university’s seal, which is framed by a blue oval with the university name and the year of its founding, 1932. Optional side panels are also available. One side of the ring features the outline of the state of Idaho with the university logo placed in the southwest corner of the state. The other side features the well-known “Spirit of the Broncos” statue that has been part of the Boise State campus since the early 1970s.

Ring samples are on display at the Alumni Center and Bookstore. For more information call 1-866-BALFOUR (1-866-225-3687) and ask for reference code 5878-01.

**With this ring … Boise State makes it official**
Alumni tailgates experience growth, implement changes

Each year the Alumni Association supports and promotes Boise State by hosting tailgate parties before home and away football games. The 2005 season kicked off with road games at Georgia and Oregon State. Alumni and fans flocked to the games and tailgate parties, pushing both events to maximum capacity within an hour of their start. In response to the overwhelming level of interest, the Alumni Association adjusted the format for the remaining road tailgates at Hawaii, Utah State and Fresno State.

Unlike previous tailgate parties, advance registration is no longer required. All members of the Bronco community are encouraged to attend pregame festivities. A fee of $5 per person will be charged for admission to the events, which feature music, a no-host bar and food for purchase. The changes will help accommodate larger crowds while still providing a convenient location for the blue and orange to gather before the game.

Contact Renee White at (208) 426-1831 for more information.

‘Online Community’ helps alums connect with Boise State

The Alumni Association has launched an “online community” for its members. The service is free and commercial-free. Accessible through the association’s Web site, http://alumni.boisestate.edu, the online community features class notes, an alumni directory, calendar, bulletin boards and more.

Alumni will receive a user ID in the mail that will allow them access to the community for the initial logon. Once the Web site has been accessed, subscribers can create a username and password. Alumni are encouraged to bookmark the site and use it as a tool to help them remain connected with Boise State.

The online community is part of a new and improved online presence for alumni. In addition to the community, the association’s updated Web site features current alumni and Boise State news, links to other campus Web sites, and an improved navigation path for information about the association’s many programs and services. Both the Web site and the online community are a reflection of the association’s ongoing effort to improve alumni services.

Alumni Association Calendar of Events

November
19 — Idaho vs. BSU BroncoBash Tailgate Party, Alumni Center
29 — Boise State Day in Rupert, Idaho

December
16 — Winter Graduation Celebration, campus

January
16 — Alumni Awards nomination deadline
18 — Boise State Day at the Legislature, Boise
26 — Washington, D.C., alumni reception

February
15 — Board of directors meeting, Boise

For more information on events, visit our online calendar at alumni.boisestate.edu.
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP HITS RECORD LEVELS IN 2005

Membership in the Boise State Alumni Association continues its upward momentum.

At the end of fiscal year 2005, membership revenue was up 50 percent from the previous year. The growth was propelled by the more than 460 alumni who “beat the increase” and purchased a Lifetime Membership between February and June 2005.

Help continue the record growth by purchasing your alumni membership today. Membership revenue allows the association to continue to offer programs and activities in support of Boise State.

Call Rhiannon Horn, alumni membership coordinator, at (208) 426-1284 to discuss annual and lifetime membership options.

NEW GRADS RECEIVE COMMEMORATIVE DVDS

The Alumni Association provided Boise State's May 2005 graduates with a unique graduation gift — a commemorative graduation DVD. The DVDs included photos of all graduates who participated in spring commencement as well as other campus photos.

The 2005 commencement marked the first year that the association provided the gift to graduates. In addition, all graduates receive a one-year complimentary membership to the Alumni Association.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SEEKS UNIVERSITY MEMORABILIA

Do you have memorabilia from your days on campus? The Alumni Association is gathering items from Boise State's history to keep on display at the Alumni Center.

Items may include letter sweaters, uniforms, books, photos and more. If you have items that you would like to donate, call Donna Conner at (208) 426-1959.

COMMITTEE PLANS ’06 REUNION

Following a successful 50-year-plus reunion during Homecoming week that honored the class of 1955, the alumni office is working to assemble a committee to begin planning the 2006 event. All alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago are encouraged to participate.

Contact Donna Conner at (208) 426-1959 for more information about the reunion activities or to participate in planning.

First Legacy Scholarship winners named

A ttending Boise State is a family tradition for both Tyson Berg and Devin Laky. And the two 2005 Mountain View High School graduates have something else in common: They are the inaugural recipients of the Alumni Association’s Legacy Scholarship, which goes to eligible children or grandchildren of BSU alumni.

Berg (right) is the son of Meridian resident John Berg (BBA, accounting, ’83), an accountant with Ripley, Doorn and Co. Laky (far right) is the daughter of Boise resident Michael J. Laky (BA, art education, ’78), a captain with the Ada County Sheriff’s Department.

Enrolling at Boise State was a top priority for both students, who credits the Legacy Scholarship for helping to solidify their decision. In addition to class work and other campus commitments, Berg and Laky are both actively involved with the Student Alumni Association.

The Legacy Scholarship, introduced in 2005, is a four-year, renewable scholarship program. Scholarship selection is a rigorous process that is based on academic performance, extracurricular activities and community service.

Two incoming freshmen will be selected each year. The application deadline for the Class of 2006 is Feb. 15, 2006. Applications can be found on the Boise State scholarship Web site (http://financialaid.boisestate.edu/scholarships/) or the Alumni Association Web site (http://alumni.boisestate.edu/).

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Alumni Association will select up to four Distinguished Alumni Award winners who bring honor and glory to Boise State based on a record of outstanding accomplishments in their chosen profession. Awards will be presented at the Distinguished Alumni & Top Ten Scholars Banquet on April 18, 2006.

Requirements for both awards:

1. Nominee must have received a degree from Boise Junior College, Boise College, Boise State College or Boise State University. 2. Recipients must attend the ceremony to receive their award. 3. Nominations must be submitted no later than Jan. 16, 2006.

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

Nominators should include their own name, address and phone number(s).

Deadline: Jan. 16, 2006

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

More information: Call the Alumni Association at (208) 426-1698 or visit alumni.boisestate.edu for further information.
Boise State Day at the Legislature scheduled Jan. 18

Boise State Day at the Legislature will be held Jan. 18, 2006.

The Alumni Association coordinates legislative day each year to bring attention to Boise State’s far-reaching impact on the lives of all Idahoans, and to bring the state’s lawmakers up-to-date on issues that the university faces.

Morning events will be in the Statehouse rotunda and feature a continental breakfast for legislators and staff members, examples of student research, health screenings and Bronco giveaways.

An evening reception will be held at the Crystal Ballroom in downtown Boise. All members of the Idaho Legislature will be invited to meet with Boise State administrators, alumni and student leaders.

Educational Study Tours 2006

Sign up for an Educational Study Tour and meet new people and experience new cultures around the world.

Two trips planned at this time are:

• New York City – March 27 - April 2

• Paris – May 21 - May 28

Call Boise State University’s Division of Extended Studies to register for these trips. Enrollment limited.
(208) 426-3293

To add your name to our mailing list for future tours, call (208) 426-3293.

Renaissance Institute
A Spa For The Mind

Want to stretch your intellectual horizons? Enjoy college-level lectures and short courses through Renaissance Institute! In 2005/2006 members are exploring subjects such as:

• The Bill of Rights
• The Health Care System
• Bosnia
• Africa
• Astronomy
• Global Technology
• Idaho Bird Observatory
• DNA and Crime Prevention

Visit the Renaissance Institute website at www.boisestate.edu/extendedstudies/renaissance or call Boise State University’s Extended Studies for program details and a free brochure
(208) 426-1709
Approximately 500 Boise State football fans attended the Alumni Association’s pregame Bronco Bash at the Classic Center in downtown Athens, Ga., before the Broncos’ 2005 season opener earlier this fall. The social event featured a full Southern buffet, a speech by BSU President Bob Kustra, and a performance by the Bronco cheer squad. The Bronco Bash ended about an hour before the kickoff of the BSU-Georgia, which gave the visitors from Boise an opportunity to wander through the University of Georgia campus to check out the Bulldog fans’ tailgate parties. The only negative to the day was Boise State’s 48-13 loss to Georgia later that afternoon.
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Our policy is to print as much “In Touch” information as possible. Send your letters to the Boise State Alumni Association, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1035, or send e-mail to bsualum@boisestate.edu. In addition, if you know someone who would make a good feature story in our “Alumnotes” section, contact the office of University Communications at the same address.

40s

CORNELIA ROSE (HERZINGER) ROBISON, AA, arts and sciences, ’41, has published her autobiography, titled There Was a Czech Girl. The book is about her life from infancy to marriage and includes extensive research into her Czech background.

70s

RICK LYNN ALDINGER, BBA, general business, ’75, was awarded an Outstanding Alumni award for 2005 by the College of Business and Economics. Aldinger founded Vision Technology in 1992 and is currently the worldwide business development manager for Hewlett-Packard. He is a volunteer coach for Babe Ruth baseball and high school basketball.

BRIAN L. BALLARD, BA, English teaching, ’75, a partner with the Boise law firm of Hawley Troxell Ennis and Hawley, received high rankings in The Best Lawyers in America, an annual guide to leading lawyers published by the London firm Chambers & Partners. Ballard, chair of Hawley Troxell Ennis and Hawley’s real estate practice group, was founding counsel for the Idaho Association of Realtors Legal Hotline and has served as president of the Fifth District Bar Association. He has also served as president of the Boise chapter of the Building Owners and Managers Association, chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Ada Planning Association, and as a member of the Boise City Development Impact Fee Advisory Committee and the Regional Public Transportation Committee. Ballard has lectured extensively on Section 1231 tax-deferred real estate exchanges. He holds a law degree from the University of Idaho, where he was lead articles editor of the University of Idaho Law Review.

JOHN “JACK” MEECHAN PRECHT, BA, finance, ’77, joined Mountain West Bank as the vice president and relationship manager at the bank’s Nampa office. Precht has more than 27 years of banking experience.

Marilyn Shuler, MPA, ’77, former director of the Idaho Human Rights Commission, was one of six volunteer women highlighted in the October edition of Traditional Home magazine, which features classic, upscale homes and has a readership of women who are “connected and involved,” according to its editor.

Jeffery L. Nelson, AS, radiologic sciences, ’78, has completed classes and training to become an accredited appraiser with the International Society of Appraisers. Nelson has also added antiques and residential content appraisals to Le Stuff Antiques & Appraisal, a business he owns with his wife.

80s

GAIL F. NUSSBAUM, BBA, marketing, ’81, has joined Coldwell Banker/Aspen Realty as a full-time sales
FOCUS FALL 2005

associate. Nussbaum has 10 years of banking experience; her focus will be residential real estate.

STEVEN R. APPLETON, BBA, management, behavior operations, ‘82, was named Idaho’s top manager by the Sales and Marketing Executives of Boise. The honor has been given annually since 1964. Appleton, the CEO of Micron Technology in Boise, received a Distinguished Alumni Award and a Silver Medallion from Boise State in 1995 and 2001, respectively.

DOUGLAS L. BURR, BS, political science, ‘82, is the director of the Northern Idaho Center for Higher Education. NICHE advocated for the collaborative interests of the four colleges and universities that offer educational programs in the five northern counties of Idaho: North Idaho College, Lewis Clark State College, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho.

GLEN VERNON GARDINER, BS, geology, ‘82, has been promoted to information technology manager for the Idaho Department of Water Resources in Boise. He is currently enrolled in the certified public manager program developed by the Idaho Division of Human Resources and Boise State. The three-year program is a nationally accredited training and development program for public sector managers and supervisors.

DAVID J. TERRELL, BBA, marketing, ‘83, is southern Idaho’s regional president of Washington Trust Bank. Terrell joined the bank in 2000 as senior vice president. He has more than 21 years of banking experience and is active in numerous community activities. Terrell is chairman of the board for the Idaho Chapter of the March of Dimes, an advisory council member for the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce, a New Business Attraction Committee member for the Economic Development Council, and a member of Robert Morris & Associates.

LESLIE TEEGARDEN, BA, communication, ‘84, was named director of marketing for HealthONE’s North Suburban Medical Center in Colorado. Previously, she held key account management positions with top international public relations firms, including Hill & Knowlton PR and Fleishman-Hillard Communications. Most recently, she managed public relations and marketing initiatives for Mid-Columbia Medical Center in Oregon.

ROBERT L. CLARK, AAS, electronics service technology, ’85, is a real estate agent for Idaho Mountain Properties in Donnelly. Previously Clark worked for Idaho Mountain Properties as its office manager.

CARLA ANN DAMIANO, BA, English education, ’85, was recognized as a distinguished faculty member at Eastern Michigan University. After graduating from Boise State she taught high school in Oregon and played basketball professionally for a German club team. She received her master’s degree from Portland State and a doctorate from the University of Oregon.

CRAIG DEAN HUNTSMAN, BA, criminal justice administration, ’85, is the new global account manager for Securitas Security Services.

LISA D. (JONES) McCLAIN, BBA, management, ’85, is a home consultant and builder specialist with Countrywide Home Loans. She has more than two years of experience in mortgage lending and eight years of experience in the construction industry. McClain also is the treasurer for the Filer High School Rodeo Booster Club and serves as director of the Sixth District Filer High School Rodeo.

DONELLE R. RUWE, BA, English, ’86; MA, English, ’90, is an assistant English professor at Northern Arizona University. She recently edited Culturing the Child, 1690–1914, a collection of essays about children’s literature. In 1998
she received the Kinloch Rivers Chapbook Award from the Poetry Society of South Carolina and in 2001 her poetry was republished in The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror collection.

Ruwe is on the governing board of the 18th and 19th Century British Women Writers Association.

VICKIE L. (RUTLEDGE) SHIELDS, BA, communication, '86, is dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Eastern Washington University. She was honored by Boise State’s College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs as a 2005 Outstanding Alumna.

CAROL ANN BRUGGENKAMP, CC, dental assisting, '87, is the new sales and marketing representative for Advantage Dental Plan Inc. for the Idaho region.

EDWARD R. HANSON, BA, elementary education, '87, is the president-elect for the American Society of Military Comptrollers Buckeye Chapter for 2005-2006. Hanson will be president for the 2006-2007 term.

KENNETH WAYNE WROten, BBA, finance, '88, is the new sales and marketing representative for LandAmerica Transnation Title & Escrow. Wroten has more than 15 years of experience in the title, lending and real estate industry. He has served on many boards including the Snake River Valley Building Contractors Association and the Nampa Optimists. Currently he serves on the board of directors of the Nampa Chamber of Commerce and the Healthy Nampa, Healthy Youth Coalition.

PETER THOMAS MELLABLOM, BA, elementary education, '91, is the new plant manager for the Delaware Trus Joist facility. Previously he was the technical director for Weyerhaeuser’s custom manufacturing in Boise.

JANELL LAUREEN STROS-NIDER-McGILL, BBA, finance, '91, has joined Milligan Events as director of global strategies. Her primary responsibilities include business development, contract negotiation and management, and organizational oversight.

CAROL JOAN BRIGGS, BA, elementary education, '92, was named Teacher of the Year for the Vallivue School District. She also was listed as runner-up for the Idaho Teacher of the Year Award. Briggs has taught for 13 years.

MATTHEW J. WILLIAMS, BS, physical education, '92, was recently promoted to director of athletic programs at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kan. He also retains the position of director of athletic training. He holds master’s degrees in athletic and business administration and a doctorate in sports management.

WILLIAM RICHARD BUFFINGTON, MBA, '93, is vice president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Boise. Buffington was previously a commercial loan officer for the downtown Boise office. In addition to his MBA from Boise State he earned a degree in finance from Arizona State.

VALERIE NICOLE CHARLES, BBA, management/human resources, '93, is an associate for Moffatt Thomas in Boise. She earned her law degree from Seton Hall University. Charles was vice president of the International Law Society and was nominated for Who’s Who Among American Law Students. She served as a law clerk for NASD Regulations Inc. in Woodbridge, N.J.

LAURA LYNN COBB, BBA, marketing and finance, '93, joined Gift Cards in Meridian as senior manager for site communications. She is responsible for the strategic development of employee communications, managing local media and government relations, and philanthropic programs and contributions. Cobb has served on the United Way of Treasure Valley board of directors since 2001, chaired the 2003 Marketing Committee and is currently the co-chair. She is a graduate of the Boise Metro Chamber’s Leadership Boise program and was awarded the Women’s and Children’s Alliance Tribute to Women and Industry Award in 2003.

KEVIN DALE MURPHY, BBA, accountancy, '93, is the new controller for the city of Nampa.

CHANDLER LUIS LEGARRETA, BBA, general business management, '95, is executive vice president for Source One Inc. Legarreta has worked with Source One since 1996 as a sales account manager. He earned an MBA from Northwest Nazarene University and he holds numerous manufacturer certificates.

KRISTEN “KRIS” LEE QUERY, BA, communication, '95, has opened a retail business in downtown Boise called Bucket O’ Brew. Targeted at women purchasing for men, Bucket O’ Brew delivers gift buckets of premium bottled beer or wine for any occasion.

TERESA “TERRI” KAREN STENKAMP, BBA, general business management, '96; BFA, graphic design, '04, is a graphic designer for Stoltz Marketing Group. Stenkamp previously spent...
several years in sales and marketing for food service companies such as Ore-Ida and Golbon.

**JONATHAN J. HOPKINS.**
BBA, finance, ’97, is the new owner of McCall Drug in downtown McCall. Hopkins previously co-founded a money management firm and held various management positions during his eight-year Wall Street tenure.

**STEPHANIE KATHLEEN NOE.**
BBA, marketing, ’00, joined McAlvain Construction Inc. as the director of marketing and business development. Noe works as a liaison between the McAlvain management team and the business community, as well as assisting the company in efforts to increase recognition and continue community involvement.

**RALPH WILLIAM POWELL.**
MPA, ’00, has joined the University of Phoenix Idaho campus as a criminal justice faculty member. Currently, Powell is the operations commander overseeing Idaho’s forensics laboratories. He earned his bachelor’s degree in government/justice administration from BYU and an associate’s degree in political science from Ricks College. He also serves as the chairman for the Idaho Safe & Drug Free Schools advisory board for the Idaho Department of Education as well as the Region IV area chairman for the FBI National Academy Associates.

**NATHAN AARON TIMOTHY.**
BBA, international business, ’00; MBA, ’04, is the industry specialist for Wells Fargo’s residential construction division in Boise. Timothy joined Wells Fargo in 2002 as a credit analyst for the residential construction department.

**ANTONIO PLASCENCIA.**
AAS, drafting technology, ’98, has joined the staff of Erstad Thornton Architects. He previously worked for Trout Architects and Lombard Conrad Architects.

**JENIFER JEAN BUSICK.**
AS, health information technology, ’99, is the new circulation director for the South Idaho Press. While attending Boise State, Busick worked at The Idaho Statesman in classified advertising.

**COURTNEY MICHELE BOHL.**
BA, theatre arts, ’00, was one of 27 actors from around the country to participate in the 28th annual Illinois Shakespeare Festival this summer at the Theatre at Ewing Manor in Bloomington, Ill. Bohl is currently a master of fine arts candidate in acting at Illinois State University.

**KENNY CHI NGUYEN.**
AAS, drafting technology; ’00, BAS, drafting technology, ’05, has joined Century 21 Realty as a new realtor/sales associate. While he attended Boise State he served as Vietnamese Student Association president in 2003 and was a member of the Association of Information Technology Professionals in 2001.

**AMBER MARIE VICKERS.**
BS, health science studies, ’00, is the new physician assistant for Horseshoe Bend Community Health Clinic. She has a master’s from Midwestern University and received the Midwestern Physician Assistant Directors Award.

**RYAN ERICH NITZ.**
BM, music performance, ’01; MM, music performance, ’03, has been appointed to a graduate teaching assis-
Jimmi Nicole Sommer, MPA, ’01, is the director of public and legislative affairs for Technology Law Groups. Prior to her promotion, she worked as the firm’s business intelligence analyst. In her new position Sommer will manage the firm’s public relations plan, including its Commitment to Community initiative. She will oversee Technology Law Group’s press relations and Web site and participate in state and regional technology forums. Sommer holds a BA in international studies from George Fox University.

Juliët Shari Pack Tietjen, BA, theatre arts, ’01, was named Mrs. Idaho earlier this year. She represented Idaho in the nationally televised Mrs. America Pageant in September. Tietjen is also a graduate of Ricks College.

Linda Marie Bucznyski, Boise, Idaho, may be a world away from Oxford, England, but brothers Ravi and Gopal Gupta have found university life at both locations to be both challenging and rewarding.

Ravi Gupta (BS mathematics, BS philosophy, ’99) earned one of the first two Ph.Ds awarded in Hindu Studies at Oxford University. He recently began a new job teaching at the University of Florida.

This fall, his younger brother Gopal (BS, MS, electrical engineering, ’05) enrolled in a doctoral program at Oxford after receiving a full Clarendon scholarship. Gopal will pursue a Ph.D. in science and religion. (“Gupta receives scholarship to Oxford,” FOCUS, Summer 2005).

The brothers, who as youngsters attended home school in Boise, enrolled at Boise State at age 13, and graduated with 4.0 GPAs while still in their teens, credit the university for preparing them for the rigors of an Oxford education. Says Ravi: “Boise State was a wonderful experience, and the professors really took the time to work with me.”

Adds Gopal: “Boise State has offered us everything that an Ivy League school would have offered but in a much more supportive environment.”

The Gupta brothers also credit their Indian culture and the support of their parents with helping them achieve extraordinary success. Practicing Hare Krishnas, they say their religion has taught them discipline and instilled in them a desire to learn, to be joyful, and to find balance in life.

— Janelle Brown
FOCUS FALL 2005

JONATHAN PETER CECIL, MPA, ’03, passed the American Institute of Certified Planners exam. The AICP is an association of 14,000 planners nationwide who are identified for their professionalism and commitment to ethical values in the practice of community planning.

MARK ANDREW CLEVERLEY, BBA, accountancy/market ing and finance, ’03, has joined Thornton Oliver Keller as an associate broker. Previously Cleverley was a commercial loan officer at Farmers & Merchants State Bank. He has been in the banking industry for more than seven years.

JASON RICHARD LOGAN, BSC, civil engineering, ’03, has joined the transportation business group of CH2M Hill as a civil engineer. Logan worked as an intern for the Idaho Transportation Department for three years and has experience in pavement evaluation and inspection, transportation design for highways and local roads, and storm water system design.

SCOTT EUGENE PLEW, BBA, accountancy, ’03, joined Cooper Norman as an associate. Plew specializes in dairy accounting and financial preparation.

CHRISTOPHER REED BATT, MBA, ’04, is the new commercial loan officer at Idaho Independent Bank’s Nampa branch. Batt worked as an intern for the Idaho Transportation Department for three years and has experience in pavement evaluation and inspection, transportation design for highways and local roads, and storm water system design.

ALICIA DEE JOHNSON, AS, ’02, BBA, marketing and finance, ’04, is the new small business officer at U.S. Bank’s Meridian branch. Johnson will be responsible for the delivery and service of a variety of small business deposit and credit products to the western Idaho region.

MICHELLE RICHMAN, BAS, ’02, is the production manager for Conservation Seeding & Restoration. Previously Richman worked at Jayker Wholesale Nursery where she created a native and xeric plant program. She also worked for the Bureau of Land Management where she researched propagation protocols and produced 5,000 native plants representing 55 species in an environmentally controlled greenhouse, enhanced a wildlife habitat demonstration garden, and developed an instructional guide on native plants.

RYAN WILLIAM CAPPS, BA, theatre arts, ’03, performed with Theatre West Virginia, a 45-year-old professional theater company. Capps played Rex Covington and the Sentry in Honey in the Rock, Cap Hatfield in Hatfields and McCoys, and an ensemble cast member in The Wizard of Oz.

SHYRA ELAINE SCOTT, BBA, international business, ’04, is a customer service representative for Metalcraft. Scott received a psychology degree from Central Wyoming College and worked abroad in Brazil.

IRENE R. RUIZ, BA, Spanish/Mexican American
studies, ’05, was inducted into the 2005 class of the Founders’ Leadership Society. Ruiz was a member of the Organización de Estudiantes Latinos Americanos and participated in Leadership Quest in 2003 and Latino Vote Idaho 2002. She served as a teacher’s aide at the BSU Children’s Center and a volunteer for Miranda Adelante and the Cultural Center mentoring program.

Weddings

Kimberly Ann Vocker and Bryan Wick (Lake Tahoe, Nev.) May 29.

Suzanne Michelle Lee and Patrick Semple Chetwood (Sawtooth Mountains) July 3.

Deaths

JOEY W. ACAITURRI, AA, arts and sciences, ’48, died in April at the age of 81. Acaiturri was born in Mountain Home in 1923 and served in the Army during World War II. Acaiturri held degrees from Boise Junior College and the Southern Idaho College of Education. He received a master’s degree in administration from the University of Oregon.

KAREN L. ANDREWS, BA, social work, ’79, died in August at the age of 53. She was born in 1951 in Twin Falls and attended Idaho State University for two years before completing her degree in social work at Boise State. Andrews later earned her master’s degree from Highlands University in New Mexico.

ROBERT “BO” JOHN BURNS, MBA, ’82, died in May. Burns attended the University of Idaho and was a member of the Fiji Fraternity. At the time of his death, he was the president/CEO of Boise Telco Credit Union.

KATHLEEN ELLEN (PREATOR) CARTER, RS, nursing, ’76, died in June. She was born in Salt Lake City in 1923 and graduated from the nursing program at Weber State College. She later received her second nursing degree from Boise State and worked many years in the nursing field.

DONALD L. DIETSCH, diploma, arts and sciences, ’51, died in July at the age of 74. He was born in Midwest, Wyo., in 1931. He graduated from Boise High School in 1949, Boise Junior College in 1951 and Albertson College of Idaho in 1960. Dietsch served in the 6th Army Signal Corps for two years. During his career he worked at Bank of Idaho, the Idaho State Department of Education, and the Nampa School District. For 24 years he was a member of the Boise Basin Ski Patrol where he served on local, regional, divisional and national levels.

ELEANOR J. (JANSEN) EDWARDS, BA, elementary education, ’67, died in May at the age of 91. She was born in 1924 in Kimberly and attended the University of Washington and Utah State College. Edwards retired from teaching in the Boise school system in the late 1970s and became an active member of the Retired Teachers of the State of Idaho. She was also involved in the St. Mary’s Guild of St. Michael’s Episcopal Cathedral, Delta Kappa Gamma Teachers’ Honor Society, General Federal Women’s Club, Knife and Fork Club, Boise Music Group and the Boise Little Theatre.

JOHN C. FUNDERBURG, BBA, accounting, ’92, died in May. He was born in Whittier, Calif., in 1954 and worked as an accountant in the Boise area until his death.

ODELL MONROE JOHNSON, BS, mathematics, ’84, died in April. Johnson was born in 1932 in Dell Rapids, S.D. He was a weather observer and forecaster with the U.S. Air Force and attended officers’ candidate school. In 1959 he was commissioned as an officer. Johnson earned a bache-
lor’s and master’s degree in meteorology from Texas A&M University. Following his retirement in 1980, he earned his mathematics degree and his teaching certificate from Boise State.

VALLI ANN KIRK, AS, nursing, ’72, died in May. She graduated from the Idaho State University nursing program in 1974 and was a registered nurse for 30 years at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

JAMES “JIM” MELVIN LUPHER, AA, general arts and sciences, ’61, died in June. Lupher was born in 1937 in Meadville, Pa., and enlisted in the Air Force in 1955, serving in the airborne radar electronics program. He then was assigned to the Strategic Air Command at Mountain Home AFB where he completed his enlistment in 1958. While attending Boise State, he was involved in the Boise State Esquires. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Idaho State University in 1963 and an MBA from the University of Utah in 1964. In 1964 he was hired by Idaho State as a faculty member in the College of Business Administration. He taught for three years and then became director of the Career Center until he retired in 1996. He was a founding member of the Idaho State Association of College Career Centers and served as president for seven years. He was an active member of the Bannock County Sheriff Mounted Posse, the Idaho State Riding Association, the Idaho Horse Council, and the Idaho Historic Murals, including a centennial mural in the Capitol Building.

TONYA MARTINE (HAAS) NORRIS, AS, health information technology, ’78, died in May. Norris was born in Payette in 1955 and attended Treasure Valley Community College and the College of Idaho in addition to Boise State. Norris was employed at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center for 27 years in both Boise and Meridian.

LOUIS A. PECK JR., diploma, arts and sciences, ’51, died in July. Peck, former chair of the Boise State art department, was born in Shoshone. He attended Boise Junior College, the University of Santa Barbara and the College of Idaho. He earned a master’s from Utah State and a doctorate from the University of Idaho. Peck joined the Boise State faculty as an art professor in 1955. He had many one-man shows, participated in several group shows, and created several Idaho historic murals, including a centennial mural in the Capitol Building.

BEN RAY SMITH, diploma, arts and sciences, ’55, died in August at the age of 79. Smith was born in Boise in 1926. He enlisted in the US Navy and served with the Pacific fleet. While attending Boise State he was involved with the Intercollegiate Knights. Smith was an electrical engineer and worked on hydroelectric dams along the Boise and Columbia rivers. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion, and a lifetime member of the NRA.

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* Programs are subject to change by IHFA at any time. Funds for programs are limited and may be discontinued at any time. Certain restrictions apply.