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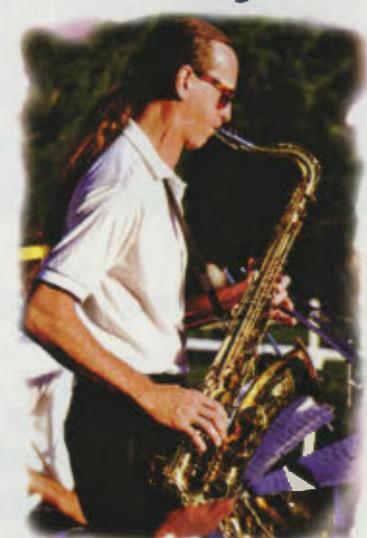


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NOT UPSET IN THE LEAST

Members of the UCLA basketball program celebrate their last-second win over Missouri in the second round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament earlier this spring in the BSU Pavilion. After surviving the Tigers' upset bid, the Bruins went on to win the national championship two weeks later in Seattle. Chuck Scheer photo.



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ABOUT THE COVER: Dipping into Boise State's talent pool of authors, teachers and literature experts, this issue of *FOCUS* looks at books. How books stack up against today's technology, the psyche of writers, and the perils of publishing are some of the topics we explore. Washable tattoo courtesy of Russ Myers, Electric Dragon Tattoo, Boise. Model, Joe O'Brien. Photo by Glenn Oakley.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE ON A COMMUTER CAMPUS

By Charles Ruch, President

Last month 32 families began moving into University Village, our new 66-unit apartment complex. The complex includes 66 two-bedroom units. Play yards, picnic areas and a central community center make the complex an ideal location for families in which at least one member is a BSU student.

The University Village complex cost \$4.1 million and is being financed by student fees and annual housing system revenues (residence hall room and board rates, plus apartment and house rentals).

By the opening of the fall semester a 65-room addition to Chaffee Hall will be ready for occupancy. This fourth wing to the dorm complex will provide housing for an additional 130 single students. The Chaffee addition cost \$3.5 million and is also being financed by student fees and annual housing system revenues.

With the completion of these two projects, Boise State University will have housing for 1,190 students — about 8 percent of our current full-time enrollment. While this is good news indeed, and will relieve some of the pressure for student housing which has built up over the past few years, the demand for resident housing will continue to build as the university continues to grow.

Why should a metropolitan university, serving primarily an urban clientele, worry about, let alone invest in, student housing? That is a fair question, to which I might offer at least three responses.

First is the simple observation that not all our students can live at home. Nor can they find suitable or affordable housing in the greater Boise area. Since I arrived more than two years ago, the cost of apartments in Boise has increased approximately 12 percent.

Of course, not all BSU students are from the immediate area, giving rise to additional needs for residential housing. And, as the parent of former college students, there is always the desire to have your son or daughter “live on campus.”

Many feel the most significant component of the collegiate experience is “going away to school” and learning to live on one’s own, at least at arm’s length from parental influence. All these reasons contribute to the demand for housing.



Second, beyond providing housing for interested students, university residence halls provide planned activities designed to extend and expand our academic programs. An active residential life program contributes directly to student academic success while providing opportunities for additional out-of-class learning. Living in residential housing, where we employ 65 staff, provides a balance to collegiate life. Being on one’s own, with minimal supervision, is the greatest difference between secondary education and college.

Other students and student residential life staff can provide thoughtful guidance to help make the transition a successful one. The opportunity to become involved with other students in campus activities is one of the strengths of a residential collegiate education.

Finally, a strong residential student body strengthens the overall educational climate of the institution. The development of a strong academic atmosphere begins in the classroom, but is reinforced through activities beyond the instructional program. The creation and maintenance of this campus feeling is built and reinforced by the residential student.

Combining ad hoc discussion of class is-

ues with club and departmental activities strengthens the academic agenda. Round-the-clock use of laboratories, computers and library resources further contributes to the creation of the campus culture and is one of the hallmarks of an outstanding, service-oriented institution.

Residential life is a key dimension of the Boise State experience. The more we can intertwine our commuter and residential students, the better we will become. In this regard I am pleased to report some potentially exciting plans.

When the Chaffee addition is complete, we will begin upgrading the two oldest residential halls. Morrison and Driscoll halls are scheduled for major renovations during 1995-1996. Our planning includes a small addition to Driscoll to make it an ideal location for an expanded honors center — bringing living and learning together in one facility for talented students.

In addition, the center will find ways to involve non-residential honors students with the residential program, further strengthening the links between the residential and commuter student. I look forward to reporting to you more about these exciting plans in the near future.

As always, I welcome your reaction and comments. I can be reached on the Internet at appruch@bsu.idbsu.edu or by phone at 208-385-1491. □



CHUCK SCHEER PHOTO

Art lovers of all ages attended a free program April 24 to celebrate the donation of a painting by Seattle artist Fay Jones, left, to BSU. The acrylic painting, titled "Haunts," was donated by Nan Rick, right, a Boise artist and former BSU graduate student in honor of a statewide volunteer art education program called Art Moms & Dads. The painting hangs at the top of the main stairway in the Student Union. Jones, an acclaimed Seattle artist, works in a naive figurative style. The Boise Art Museum has planned a retrospective of her work in fall 1996.

BSU SERVICES SPREAD TO MAGIC VALLEY

Boise State is setting up shop in Twin Falls.

Starting this fall, BSU's College of Business will begin offering classes in the Magic Valley. The new program will enable students to earn bachelor's degrees in business with majors in management or accounting — all without leaving Twin Falls.

Earlier this spring, the State Board of Education in a surprise move gave BSU the opportunity to offer upper-division business classes to Twin Falls students.

BSU officials have met with business leaders, administrators, students and others in Twin Falls to get their input on classes. As a result of those discussions, BSU College of Business Dean Bill Ruud recently announced that four upper-division business classes —

Business Communication, Principles of Income Taxation, Management and Organizational Theory and Principles of Marketing — will be taught this fall at the College of Southern Idaho campus. Registration will begin in early June.

BSU will offer four classes next spring semester, too, and then add more classes in subsequent years. Classes will be taught on site by BSU professors, local adjunct instructors and via interactive television.

Admissions and registration will be handled by a new half-time year-round coordinator to be housed at CSI. The new coordinator, who will be hired in early June, also will make arrangements for financial aid and fee payments, which will be managed jointly by BSU and CSI. □

AUCTION '95 RAISES \$240,000

Student scholarship funds got a \$240,000 boost after enthusiastic bidders were finished at Auction '95. About 450 people attended the biennial auction on April 29 at Boise Centre on the Grove.

Proceeds from the auction, which is co-sponsored by the Bronco Athletic Association and the BSU Alumni Association, benefit academic and athletic scholarships.

On the auction block were about 500 do-

nated items, ranging in value from \$25 to \$14,000, including rent on an apartment for a year, car leases, construction packages and a dinner party at football coach Pokey Allen's house.

Co-chairs for Auction '95 were Ann Hester, alumni president, and Milford Terrell, BAA president. Since the first auction in 1983, the event has raised almost \$1.5 million for scholarships and the Library. □

BUDGET REACHES \$65 MILLION

Boise State received a budget from the 1995 Legislature that on one hand provides needed faculty in the sciences, but on the other leaves operating expenses at maintenance levels.

Legislators appropriated \$51.3 million for FY '96, which, when coupled with an estimated \$13.8 million from increased fees and tuition, gives BSU a total budget of \$65.1 million to begin the new fiscal year July 1.

University operating budgets will increase 2 percent, which means departments will lose ground to inflation. But it was necessary to keep those budgets down, says President Charles Ruch, in order to leave some money — less than \$1 million — to pay for expenses related to growth, such as new faculty and the costs to occupy the ITT facility that BSU purchased last year.

BSU did receive \$1 million to hire 14 additional faculty and staff — mostly in math and science — to ease the impact of increased enrollment in core courses required by engineering students. The funds were part of a special \$2 million appropriation the Legislature made to improve engineering education in Boise. The other \$1 million went to the University of Idaho to hire mechanical and civil engineering faculty.

"Students are not getting through the first two years of the program in a timely fashion. The additional faculty will allow us to offer more course sections to accommodate growth in engineering enrollment," says Ruch.

The new budget includes 5 percent raises for faculty and staff, the largest salary increases since 1990-91.

The Legislature also appropriated \$5 million to improve BSU's service to Canyon County — \$2 million will be used to renovate the current Canyon County Center in Nampa and \$3 million will be used to acquire land for an eventual branch campus near Nampa.

BSU also received \$730,000 for a telecommunications system in Canyon County, \$333,500 to improve technology education in the public schools and \$50,000 for geography education.

"This is a tight budget in some areas. But on the plus side, it allows us to give needed salary increases, hire new faculty in high demand disciplines and improve our services to Canyon County," says Ruch. □

BOISE STATE HIRES NEW SSPA DEAN

Dr. Jane Ollenburger, an associate dean at the University of Minnesota at Duluth (UMD), has been named dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State University. Ollenburger is the first woman to head a college at BSU.

BSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Daryl Jones says Ollenburger "has broad administrative experience, including leadership posts at the department, college and university levels. She has an outstanding record as a teacher and research sociologist."

The appointment was approval by the Idaho Board of Education. Ollenburger will replace Dr. Warren Vinz, former BSU history department chair, who has been interim dean since July 1994.

Ollenburger, 40, says she is impressed with the BSU faculty and the university's reputation for serving the needs of students. She plans to continue strengthening the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs' partnership with the community. "The college is ideally suited to be one of the major links between the university and the community," she says.

There are about 2,500 majors in the college, which includes the departments of anthropology, communication, criminal justice administration, history, military science, political science, psychology, social work and sociology. The college also houses the master's program in public affairs, Canadian studies, certificate programs in dispute resolution and legal assistant, and the Survey Research Center.

Ollenburger, who is currently associate dean of academic administration at UMD's College of Liberal Arts, has served as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, coordinator for the University of Minnesota's Program for Preventing Violence and Harassment at the University, and as head of the department of sociology-anthropology at UMD. In 1992-93 she was an American Council on Education fellow at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

She has taught at UMD, East Carolina University, University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Penitentiary and Reformatory. She received a Fulbright Research Award in 1980-81 to study at Edinburgh University in Scotland.

Ollenburger received her doctoral and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska and her bachelor's degree from UMD.

She is married to Mark Nicholas, a bank manager with Norwest Bank in Minneapolis. The couple plans to move to Boise this summer; Ollenburger will start her new position July 1. □

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The BSU forensics team at a reception honoring its third-place finish at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament, from left to right: Dan Gus, Tiffany Seeley, Kendra Hopper-Sermon, Elissa Morrison, John LeVering, Greg Lyon, Tom King, Erin Jensen, Jaime Thompson, Ryan Jensen and coach Marty Most. Missing are Corey Winn, Aimee Stauffer, Susan Baker-Carsell and assistant coach Julie Underwood.

BSU FORENSICS TEAM PLACES THIRD IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

By Bob Evancho

To borrow from a sports cliché, the Boise State debate and speech team peaked at the right time.

And because it did, the 13-student squad posted its best showing ever by capturing third place at the nation's oldest and largest college forensics competition earlier this year.

Dubbed the Talking Broncos by their coach, communication professor Marty Most, Boise State finished behind defending champion Central Missouri State and Southwest Baptist of Oklahoma at the Pi Kappa Delta National Collegiate Forensics Tournament in Shreveport, La. Nearly 100 four-year institutions competed in the tournament.

Most, a former BSU debater himself, has built a forensics powerhouse during his seven years as coach and program director. But the 1995 squad, to borrow another cliché, seemed a year or two away from national prominence. "We didn't come together as a team

very quickly," says Most of the early part of the season. "We had five freshmen and a couple others who had never competed in forensics. We were really young and it showed early on. But we had pretty good success throughout [the rest of] the season and clearly put together our best tournament of the year at nationals."

Despite his team's slow start, Most says he was not surprised by its strong showing in Louisiana, even though a few weeks earlier BSU had failed to win the Northwest Forensics Conference Division II title for the first time since 1990. "At the beginning of the year, one of the goals we set was to finish in the top five at nationals," he says. "I thought that we could do it even after the conference meet, which was disappointing because we finished second for the first time in years."

Following the NFC tournament, Most told his students he still thought they would be the best team BSU had ever taken to nation-

als. "Fortunately, they believed me," he says with a laugh. "Realistically, I thought we could be competitive somewhere from fourth to eighth, so third place was kind of a pleasant surprise."

Most's recipe for success? "We have established a culture within the forensics program that demands a lot of hard work and sets really high standards," he answers.

Another reason is the program's growing reputation as one of the nation's best. "Because of it, we have been able to recruit a lot of high-caliber students, not just forensics students, but all-around, first-class students," Most remarks.

At the national tournament, BSU scored ahead of Wichita State, Old Dominion, Georgetown, Texas A&M and LSU.

The third-place finish is BSU's second consecutive top 10 showing at the biannual Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament. In 1993 BSU finished sixth overall. □

MASTER'S PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WORK RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

The master's degree program in social work at Boise State University has received national accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education. BSU joins seven other schools in the Northwest with accredited graduate social work programs.

In Idaho, as in many other states, licensure for social workers is granted only to graduates of accredited programs.

The accreditation follows a lengthy self-study and a three-day site visit in November by a national team of educators with the Council on Social Work Education. All facets of the program were evaluated, including faculty research and experience, student success and placement, institutional support and other areas.

As with the master's of public administration program and the baccalaureate degree

in computer science, BSU received accreditation in the minimum time period possible.

"Accreditation shows that BSU's program compares favorably to other social work programs across the nation. Boise State fared very well under intense scrutiny by the site evaluation team," says Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Daryl Jones.

The team commended BSU's program, among other things, for its talented and committed faculty, outstanding leadership, high academic caliber of its students, and wide community support and respect.

"Another strength is the availability of the faculty to advise students," the team reported. "Students have described them as open, helpful and excellent role models."

In addition to developing a reputation for excellence in teaching, the department of

social work has successfully competed for several federal and state grants. Presently it administers \$250,000 in research and training grants dealing with child welfare.

"The accreditation reflects a team effort on the part of faculty, staff and administrators at BSU," says Mark Lusk, chair of the social work department. "But it would not have been possible without strong support from the community."

The master's of social work program was started at BSU in fall 1991 to provide training for child welfare, mental health and medical social workers. About 50 students have graduated from the program; 32 currently are enrolled.

BSU's four-year baccalaureate program in social work has been accredited continuously since it was begun in 1972. □

MAILBOX

DEAR EDITOR:

We have read with interest the article in the Winter issue of *FOCUS* entitled "Future Forecaster?" by Amy Stahl. It is a well-written article, and presents serious issues, but lacks two major considerations. One is that the reduction in the flow of wells in the Bruneau area may very well be a result of the prolonged drought this area has suffered. Even wells here in the Nampa area have reduced in flow considerably because of this drought. The second consideration is that the welfare of individual property owners, and the economy of the whole area, are more important than some tiny snail, which has no economic importance whatsoever. Certainly, if farmers were forced to shut down their wells, they should be justly compensated for their loss. I think a follow-up article should appear in your magazine, pointing out these facts.

John H. Brandt, Nampa

DEAR EDITOR:

The reason for this brief note is to thank you and encourage you in your endeavor to bring relevant and thought-provoking articles to your readers. During the time in which "Teens and Turmoil" was being circulated, I had many people tell me this was one issue they read "cover to cover." Many parents of our youth, who attended BSU, appreciated your tackling such a relevant topic. Thanks for the work your staff did in presenting this material.

Dennis Dickson, Boise

DEAR EDITOR:

I am writing to let you know how much I enjoyed the *FOCUS* issue that was centered on teenagers. I thought it was very informative. I am an alumni of BSU and most of the time I just scan *FOCUS*. I found myself reading all of this issue and recommending it to others. Please consider continuing these types of articles as part of *FOCUS* magazine. Thank you.

Jill Winschell, Meridian

SNAKE RIVER BOOK RECEIVES HONOR

Snake: The Plain and Its People, a book published by Boise State University, was one of three books to receive an award from the Idaho Library Association.

Edited by BSU history professor Todd Shallat, *Snake* is 232 pages long and examines the geology, ecology, prehistory, history and politics of the Snake River Plain.

The Idaho Library Association's award is given annually to encourage excellence in writing and to recognize books that have made an outstanding contribution to materials about Idaho. □

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ED PETKUS PHOTO

The first class of Vietnamese MBA students took time from their classes in Hanoi to pose for this picture by professor Ed Petkus. The students will be in Boise for internships this summer.

MBA PROGRAM IN VIETNAM TAKES SHAPE

The Communist Party may control the government but capitalism has taken over the streets of Vietnam. From tiny curbside stalls, budding entrepreneurs sell everything from soap and Coke to fruit, newspapers and imported beers. Billboards shout out ads for American Express, Hewlett-Packard, Motorola and Pepsi.

The students in BSU's new master's in business administration program in Vietnam are watching closely as the old Marxist economy gives way to a market-oriented philosophy. They are learning about Western economics as they witness it firsthand.

The economic shift has been remarkable. Twenty years ago, the Vietnamese people were starving, says Nancy Napier of BSU's College of Business. In 1986, the government started "doi moi," or market liberalization. Now the economy is flourishing and Vietnam is the third largest rice exporter behind the United States and Thailand.

A keen observer of the Far East, Napier has traveled there for years and closely studied several business issues. BSU's involvement in the program began through contacts developed by Napier and management department chair William Wines with the University of Hong Kong.

Thirty students are currently enrolled in the unique program, which is offered at National Economics University (NEU) in Hanoi. NEU is the largest and most prestigious university specializing in business and economics in Vietnam. Most of the first MBA graduates will comprise the core faculty of

Vietnam's first school of business and market-oriented enterprise.

This summer the students, many of whom have never flown before, will travel around the world to begin internships at Idaho companies, including Boise Cascade Corp., Harmon Travel and a regional bank.

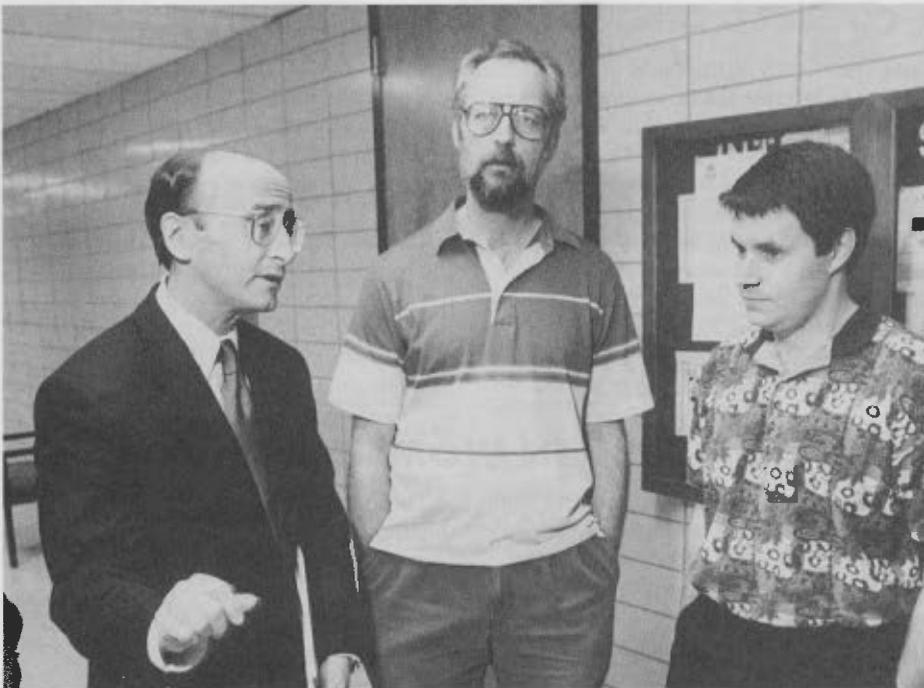
Not surprisingly, the internships are international in scope. For example, the interns for Boise Cascade are investigating new sources of wood products in Southeast Asia and identifying potential production sites.

The MBA program is funded by a \$1.5 million grant from the Swedish International Development Authority that is administered through the Poon Kam Kai Institute of Management at the University of Hong Kong. The University of Calgary offered the first year of the degree. BSU will complete the second year of the program and serve as the degree-granting institution.

Boise State is the only American university to offer an MBA degree in the Southeast Asia nation.

Upon completion of the internships, the students will return to Vietnam for a graduation ceremony Aug. 4 in Hanoi. BSU alumni and friends who would like to attend the commencement ceremony and see the country are invited to join a tour group coordinated by Harmon Travel.

A delegation of BSU administrators, business leaders and others also will attend the graduation ceremonies after touring the Hanoi area and meeting with Vietnamese trade, industry and education officials. □



New York Stock Exchange president Richard Grasso, left, shares some insights on the market with BSU students. Grasso was among the high-powered executives to appear at BSU as "guest resources" for professor Tom Stitzel's Contemporary Topics in Finance.

FOUR BSU PROFS AWARDED SBOE GRANTS

Boise State professors will complete a feature film, study the aftermath of the Borah Peak earthquake and help businesses understand the Asian market with funds provided by the State Board of Education's 1996 Specific Research Grant Program. BSU grant winners and their departments are: Phil Atlakson, theatre arts; Clifford LeMaster, chemistry; Mohan Limaye, marketing and finance; and Charles Waag, geosciences.

The State Board awarded a total of \$468,354.74 in grants. University of Idaho faculty received five grants, Idaho State was given four, and Lewis Clark State College was awarded one.

Atlakson's grant will provide money to complete a film *Not This Part of the World*, which was written and directed by Atlakson and shot in the summer of 1994 by a volunteer crew of local professionals, faculty and

students.

LeMaster's project is designed to develop new methods for understanding the complexity of molecules, which includes learning their three-dimensional structure and developing an understanding of the factors that cause parts of these molecules to move and change this structure.

The goal of Limaye's research is to generate a coherent model of Asian concepts about human nature and social organization to help American business managers become more aware of the world views of Asians.

Waag will study sinkhole-like depressions in eastern Idaho formed by groundwater and sediment eruptions after by the 1983 Borah Peak earthquake and prehistoric earthquakes in the region. Results of the study will be useful in evaluating INEL as a waste-storage facility. □

'FOCUS' WINS WRITING, PHOTO HONORS

FOCUS has been recognized as one of the best alumni magazines in the Northwest by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The BSU magazine received a silver medal at CASE's annual district meeting in Seattle in February. The Oregon Health Sciences University won the gold and the University of Washington and the University of Portland won bronzes.

FOCUS writers also won three of five awards for feature writing. Bob Evancho

won a silver medal, while Glenn Oakley and Edie Jeffers won bronze medals. Those writers also won a silver medal in the periodical team category for their work on the summer 1994 issue.

In addition, *FOCUS* received an award for general excellence in the magazine competition of the 1994 Idaho Press Club awards. Evancho, Oakley and photographer Chuck Scheer also won individual honors from the press club, which presented the awards in May. □

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FOOD STORES

BOISE STATE'S CANYON COUNTY CENTER TO EXPAND SERVICES

In its continuing effort to remain flexible and responsive to the needs of both its students and the employers in its service area, BSU's Canyon County Center has received the green light to expand its facilities — with both long- and short-range plans — and distance-learning course offerings.

With \$5 million from the state, BSU will spend \$2 million on remodeling its current facility on Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa and \$3 million on land acquisition for a new Canyon County campus.

According to Sharon Cook, College of Technology associate dean, the plans to relocate are a few years down the road, but the long-range focus will be from a community college perspective.

"Once the land is acquired, President Ruch is looking into developing a fully distributed campus site for delivery of programs through the associate [degree] level, with some baccalaureate courses and probably [examining] the need for some graduate courses," Cook says.

According to Cook, three sites in the Nampa area are being considered for the land acquisition. Until then, the university will focus on renovation to the current 5-acre facility.

Dennis Griffin, manager of the Canyon County Center, says the renovation "will be

done specifically with resale in mind," he says. "The interior can be redone to make a manufacturing complex, a medical arts building or even another school. The work will also be done with the [required] parameters of Idaho high schools in mind."

Part of the renovation will include the facilities for a distance-learning network. With the financial assistance of the Economic Development Administration and the state Legislature, the center will be designed to deliver job-specific vocational and ap-

plied technology education programs to 10 communities located within the seven most economically disadvantaged counties of southwest Idaho. Cooks says it is hoped that work on the program will begin later this year.

The \$1.8 million project, using the latest fiber-optic and compressed video technology, will significantly increase the educational opportunities for the non-traditional, place-bound students in that area, says Tom MacGregor, College of Technology dean. □

MINOR OFFERED IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Women's experiences and gender concepts are the focus of a new minor in women's studies offered by Boise State University.

The multicultural, interdisciplinary program seeks to recognize the diversity of human experience by preparing students for a future that is affected by changing gender concepts.

Course requirements include nine credit hours in Introduction to Women's Studies, Feminist Sociological Theory and Feminist Research Methods. An additional 12 credit hours in departments such as history, English, communication, sociology, psychology, political science or economics also are required.

The first course to be offered will be Introduction to Women's Studies taught by history professor Phoebe Lundy during the summer session June 5-July 7.

BSU administrators and students have explored the possibility of a multidisciplinary program for several years, said sociology professor Pat Dorman, co-chair of the Women's Studies steering committee.

Women's Studies programs have been offered for several decades at other universities. The field was created in the mid 1960s with the rise of the women's movement.

For information about the minor in women's studies, call Dorman at 385-3409 or co-chair Beverly Miller at 385-1626. □

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PETERSONS DONATE FUNDING FOR PLAZA

Boise inventor and entrepreneur Ed Peterson and his wife, Penny, have donated \$100,000 to build a plaza between the Pavilion and Bronco Gym.

The landscaped area will be used to recognize student-athletes who have graduated from Boise State.

This is the second donation the BSU athletic department has received from the Petersons.

In 1992 they donated \$275,000 for the construction of the Peterson Learning Center in the Pavilion. The center includes study rooms, computers and office for the athletic department's academic counselors. □

SCHOLARSHIP SET TO HELP NURSES

In the fall of 1973 Sharon Crim, a 39-year-old mother of three, decided to return to school and pursue her love of nursing. After graduating from BSU in 1976 with an associate's degree in nursing, she went to work for two years at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center before spending 10 years at the Boise Medical Center.



Sharon Crim

"She didn't have to work, but did so because nursing was a vocation to her. Sharon was very compassionate and she enjoyed her interaction with patients," says her husband John, a retired West One banker.

In 1988 Crim retired from nursing to devote more time to her grandchildren.

John Crim describes his late wife as a strongly opinionated person who supported many causes. One of those was education.

When Sharon was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer, they thoughtfully discussed what to do with her retirement fund. "She saw a need to assist non-traditional students struggling to complete their education," John says. "Sharon was always concerned about others and she herself had been the recipient of a nursing scholarship while attending BSU."

Sharon died in November 1994. The scholarship in her name provides funding for a non-traditional student pursuing a career in nursing, just like Sharon did. □

GIVING NOTES

- California Community Foundation, \$3,000 for the Student Support Program and \$3000 for radiological sciences.

- The J. R. Simplot Foundation, \$1,000 to SummerFest.

- First Interstate Bank of Washington, \$5,000 to the business college classroom remodeling.

- Douglas Payne, \$1,500 to the Anna B. Payne Memorial Nursing Scholarship.

- Jordan-Wilcomb Construction, \$1,000 to the McCain Challenge.

- Women of BSU, \$5,000 to the Pat Bullington/Women of BSU Scholarship.

- The American Quarter Horse Foundation, \$5,000 to Writers for Racing.

- The Thoroughbred Racing Commission, \$10,000 to Writers for Racing.

- West One Bank of Idaho, \$20,505 to the McCain Challenge and \$1,900 to the Sharon Crim Nursing Scholarship.

- Hewlett-Packard, \$2,381 to KBSU.

- The J.R. Simplot Co., \$2,500 to the McCain Challenge.

- David Ewy, \$1,000 to the Ruth Ewy Memorial Scholarship.

- John Piccitto, \$1,000 to the Idaho Archeological Undergraduate Project.

- The First Security Foundation, \$3,300 to the scholarship in its name.

- Fred Humphreys, \$1,000 to the Sharon Crim Nursing Scholarship.

- Boise Tuesday Musicale, \$1,821 to the James Cook Endowment Scholarship.

- Ted Hopfenbeck, \$4,000 to the scholarship in his name.

- S.S.I. Foods, \$2,000 to the accounting endowed scholarship.

- Beth Nolan, \$1,000 for unrestricted use.

- An anonymous donor, \$3,000 to the graphic design program.

- Carol Seddon, \$5,000 to the Victor Duke/Diet Center Scholarship.

- Roy Ellsworth, \$1,000 to Phonathon.

- John Crim, \$2,500 to the Sharon Crim Nursing Scholarship.

- Wendell Phillips, \$10,000 to the W.M. Phillips Endowed Scholarship.

- McCaslin Management Trust, \$2,586 to McCaslin Memorial Graduate Assistantship Fund.

- Gladys Langroise, \$1,547 to the Langroise Business Scholarship.

- Alistair MacMillan, \$3,500 to the Executive in Residence Accounting Scholarship.

- Samuel Cotterell, \$2,500 to the Executive in Residence Accounting Scholarship.

- Timothy Schlindwein, \$1,000 to the finance administrative account.

- MRI Center of Idaho, \$1,500 to radiological sciences.

- Joel Klingensmith, \$15,000 to the Madeleine Hsu Pianist Account.

- Robert White, \$1,000 to the accounting endowed scholarship.

- The US WEST Foundation, \$2,250 each to the business college remodel and the Elorriaga Visiting Professor Endowment.

- The H.J. Heinz Co. Foundation, \$2,000 to the accounting endowed scholarship.

- The Presser Foundation, \$1,500 to the scholarship fund in its name.

- The Larry Barnes Foundation, \$1,500 to the business scholarship account.

- An anonymous donor, \$4,000 to the Mike & Tammy Greiner Construction Management Scholarship. □

BOARD REVAMPS MEMBERSHIP FORMAT

The BSU Foundation board of directors has reorganized its membership and meeting structure.

The designation of BSU Foundation trustee will be phased out and the number of directors will be expanded to 24.

The Boise State Alumni and Bronco Athletic associations also have representatives serving as directors under the new restructuring.

The board's meetings, which in the past have been monthly, are now held quarterly. Four standing committees meet frequently to oversee the Foundation's major activities

and functions and will report on those activities to the full board during the quarterly meetings.

The four committees are: real estate, chaired by Roger Michener; investment, chaired by Fred Thompson; marketing, chaired by Bob Krueger and Barbara Wilson; and executive, chaired by Foundation president Charlie Wilson.

"The goal of the restructuring is to provide greater efficiencies for the administration of the Foundation and its activities," says BSU Foundation executive director Bob Fritsch. □

Books: Bound, but not out

Remembering Books —

The printed word under siege?

At one time, writers relied

exclusively on a pad and paper, a

typewriter and a dictionary. Now

they're faced with computer

screens, CD-ROMs and other state-

of-the-art technology. Some

bibliophiles worry that books will

get left in the dust as more people

make a mad dash for the informa-

tion superhighway. Are books

obsolete? FOCUS takes a fresh look

at the definition of a book, the

pitfalls of publishing and the nature

of writers. We also explore the

many award-winning publications

produced at Boise State University.

By Melanie Threlkeld

Imagine yourself on a cold, snowy day curled up on the couch beside a roaring fire ready to read your favorite novel. A cup of hot chocolate at hand, a warm wooly afghan tucked in around your feet. "Ooooh yeah, this is good," you think. Now for that novel.

You flip open your laptop computer balancing it on the arm of the couch. Slip in a disk, punch a few keys and, voilà — *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

A likely scenario? Yes, experts say, as painful as it may be to most bibliophiles. And it's already happening. But not to worry, they add. Books are not about to be tossed aside forever in favor of CD-ROMs or whatever the next technological advancement will be.

"Radio didn't knock out books, TV didn't knock out radio as everybody thought," says BSU English professor Tom Trusky and director of the Hemingway Western Studies Center. Besides, there's just something about a book.

"Typography has a psychological effect on a reader," Trusky says. "Colored paper, white space have an effect on a reader. Sometimes they're subtle, sometimes they're not."

Don Sower, a volunteer at the BSU library and an avid reader and book collector, agrees.



"There's something about reading a book that's a private affair," he says. "I'm not so sure that's true about sitting at a screen on a monitor in CD-ROM."

What's happening, experts say, is technology is enhancing our ability to read and write, and in some cases, replacing books where it makes sense.

Dan Lester, network information coordinator for the BSU Library, says the Library is gradually making changes to accommodate more computer-accessed information. The Library has computerized the periodical index, a reference section students use to find information on topics for term papers and reports. It made sense to computerize the section, Lester says, because compact discs are faster and easier to use than the traditional publications, and they don't take up as much shelf space.

So far most of the information on CD-ROM in the BSU Library is either governmental reports or statistical data used primarily by business students and faculty members.

The Library is working on installing multimedia CD-ROM equipment to provide educational support materials to secondary and elementary teachers. Encyclopedias on CD-ROM could be next. "There's no question things are moving more and more to the technical world, like it or not," Lester says.

Resource and reference materials are what most people request when looking for a CD-ROM disc at the Book Shop, says Dan Wilson, who owns the downtown book store with his wife Merritt, a BSU grad.

Wilson added CDs to the store's inventory to meet the demands of its customers, whom he describes as either "consciousness expanders" or "information seekers." And there's a difference between the two, he adds. "The information seekers want it now."

Wilson, who has spent his life around books, has a multimedia computer at home. "Purely as a reference tool, I think the CD-ROM is more valuable," he says. "You can get more information in there." And as grandparents of a toddler, the Wilsons have come to respect the educational value of CD-ROM, which includes computer programs to help children read.

"A hundred years ago, more people read to improve their minds. It was the best way other than getting out there and traveling," he says. "Any tool ... that stimulates a person to want to know more about their world is positive. [Computers] are just another way for someone to know more about their world."

For Sower, a retired Episcopal priest, reading has been his life's work and pleasure and an interest shared by his wife.

"For a person with 6,000 books I don't have a great love of books," he says. "I do like the things I find in them. They've brought a tremendous amount of joy to my life."

But he adds, "I can't imagine reading Fyodor Dostoyevski on a CD-ROM, but I bet it's there."

Many books in his collection are reference and theology books, but his interests are eclectic. As a public speaker for many years, Sower says he relied on his growing personal library to recall favorite sayings, passages and quotes to get him through his speeches. "I didn't use library books much because I got in the habit of marking up my books," he says.

Whether it's reading or writing on a computer, technology can make our lives a little easier if we let it, experts say.

"Writing is so laborious," Trusky says, who confesses he's weaning himself from a legal pad and pen and learning to compose his writings on a computer. "It's incredible the editing you can do [on a word processor]. Talk about liberating! I no longer fear the revision process. It's wonderful."

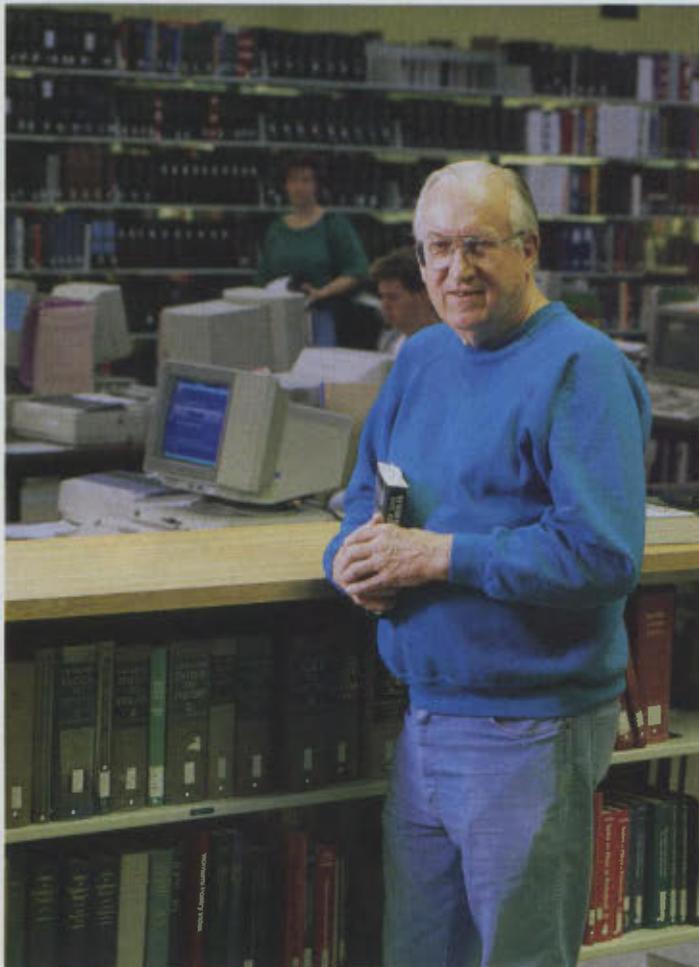
Lester, who can compose only on a keyboard, agrees that word processors give us the ability to make changes to our writing as quickly as we think of them. It may be good in the long run he says, but what about the process, the journey the writer takes to give us the finished product? "Very few writers who write electronically save first drafts, second drafts or even third drafts on a disk," he says. "Even if they do, they've probably not saved the manuscript corrections. Now is that vital to the world? Maybe not. Vital to the literary world, maybe."

A new book, *Silicon Snake Oil*, by Clifford Stoll, a self-described computer jock, raises questions about the social ramifications of relying too heavily on computers for information, in lieu of reading a book, the daily newspaper or chatting with friends.

In a recent interview in *USA Weekend*, Stoll says, "Now that I spend less time with a modem, I'm discovering wonders in my own neighborhood. ... As I push [my infant daughter], I wonder about the schools she'll attend. ... Will her classroom become an interactive video game?... Will her library be little more than a row of personal computers connected to CD-ROM readers? Or will Zoe discover real books and magazines, as well as a lively librarian who reads stories on Saturday mornings?"

Lester is thinking along the same lines. He pulls from his bookshelves a slightly tattered 1877 copy of *Conference of Librarians*. Its yellowed pages and faded green cover have a sticky, rough feel. It's signed by someone who has been dead for nearly 120 years. He reaches for another, *The Little Package*, by his favorite author Lawrence Clark Powell. It's an apricot color with big, dark lettering. "This is a well-made book," he says as he pats the book's binder and holds it to his nose. "It has a certain feel, a smell that CD-ROM doesn't."

And then he laughs at the symbolism. "That's what books are," he says. "Little packages." □



"There's something about reading a book that's a private affair," says Don Sower, a BSU Library volunteer and book collector.

The Write Stuff

From an award-winning magazine that “pushes the envelope” to a long-running series on Western writers to poetry posters, Boise State is involved in the promotion, publication and advancement of literature in Idaho and the American West. Here is a brief look at the university’s various programs, projects and publications:

WRITERS AND READERS RENDEZVOUS — The fourth annual conference will take place at McCall’s Shore Lodge Oct. 13-15. Sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education, the event features Idaho writers, major publishers and guest authors.

COLD-DRILL — Published annually by the department of English, *cold-drill* magazine has been a consistent winner in regional and national competitions. Compact discs, 3-D comics and glasses, movie poster reproductions, records, cassettes, photo portfolios, postcards and scratch ‘n sniff poems all have appeared alongside short stories, essays, poems and plays. The magazine was established in 1970.

WESTERN WRITERS SERIES — Founded in 1972 by the English department, the Western Writers Series was established to publish brief but authoritative introductions to the lives and works of authors who have written significant literature about the American West. The series has published more than 100 titles.

AHSAHTA PRESS — The English department’s Ahsahta Press is dedicated to publishing poets of the American West. Established in 1974, Ahsahta Press publishes up to three volumes each academic year. The press is particularly interested in publishing poems that draw on the history, culture or ecology of the West. A note of interest: The lyrics to rock singer Sheryl Crow’s hit song “All I Wanna Do” were gleaned from a poem in an Ahsahta Press publication.

WRITING CONTESTS — Boise State annually sponsors three writing contests for its students. The William Anderson Writing Awards contest is for fiction writing and awards cash prizes for first, second and third place. Anderson, a BSU alumnus, is the



Tom Trusky and students assemble another issue of cold-drill.

author of well-known novels *Bat-21* and *The Hurricane Hunter*. The Grace Jordan Poetry contest is held in honor of the late Idaho writer who wrote such books as *Home Below Hell’s Canyon* and *Idaho Reflections*. Cash awards are given for first through third places. The BSU President’s Writing Awards contest has five categories: personal, expository, critical, technical and special topics and presents cash awards to the winner and runner-up in each category.

NEW AMERICAN VOICES — Some of the latest voices of American literature have spoken directly to the Treasure Valley this school year thanks to a new reading series sponsored by the English department and others. New American Voices brought six renowned writers to the Boise area during the 1994-95 school year, beginning with a reading by Utah author Terry Tempest Williams.

WRITING CENTER — Administered by the English department, the university’s Writing Center, located on the second floor of the Liberal Arts Building, is designed to help students with writing assignments for courses across the curriculum. Among its services, the center provides a “second opinion” on work in progress, tips on how to copy-edit papers, and strategies for putting words in writing.

LITERATURE FOR LUNCH — Coordinated by associate vice president of academic affairs Carol Martin and English professor Jan Widmayer, Lit for Lunch is an informal book

club that meets monthly at the YWCA in Boise during the school year to discuss specific books. Started in 1981, the group focuses primarily on literature about and written by women.

POETRY IN PUBLIC PLACES — For the last 20 years, Poetry in Public Places has published an annual series of eight or nine posters featuring graphics and poems generally written by Boise State undergraduate students. Printed under the auspices of the English department, the posters are mailed free around the country to public places such as libraries and schools.

PORTALS — Published semiannually by the BSU College of Education, *Portals* is the journal of the Idaho Council, International Reading Association. BSU professor Stan Steiner, edits the publication with four colleagues from the teacher education faculty. The journal is intended to provide ICIRA members and others interested in literacy development with a forum for discussion of ideas, trends and issues related to literacy teaching and learning.

IDAHO CENTER FOR THE BOOK — Housed in BSU’s Hemingway Western Studies Center, the Idaho Center for the Book was established in 1993 and is directed by English professor Tom Trusky. The U.S. Library of Congress oversees the Center for the Book, of which each state is allowed one. Centers for the book promote literacy, reading and book arts.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REVIEW OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE — The journal of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association is headquartered at BSU. English professors Jan Widmayer, Rena Sanderson and Kent Anderson serve as editor, book review editor and fiction editor, respectively, for the *Review*, which publishes short stories, poetry and reviews.

SIGMA TAU DELTA — English professor Helen Lojek is the vice president of the national English honor society and serves as editor of its two publications, *The Rectangle* and the *Sigma Tau Delta Newsletter*. The BSU chapter of the organization has fared well in national competition over the past few years. □

CHUCK SCHIER PHOTO



BOOK

W H A
S A

You can't judge a book by its lack of a cover

By Glenn Oakley

"I've never been too concerned with definitions other than to destroy, alter or invert them," says Tom Trusky, BSU English professor, director of the Idaho Center for the Book and chief iconoclast-in-residence.

Thus, when Trusky produced a book exhibit last year at the Hemingway Center, one room was filled with a collection of . . . well, let's call them sculptures. Oregon artist Sandra Lopez's books included *Daybook*, a paper box divided into compartments, each one containing a found object from each day of a year in her life—flower petals, wasp nests, lichens, a pearl. Another piece, *Rain/Fall*, is a book where the pages, made of Japanese handmade paper and mylar, open to a sculpture of sorts that is 9 feet tall and 2 inches wide.

Are these books? "A book is any sort of structure that conveys information," responds Trusky, who acknowledges that such a broad definition opens a mighty wide door. "Is a bowl of Alpha-bits a book?" he asks rhetorically. "A book artist would say, 'Yes, and you can eat it, too.'" At this point he pauses to reconsider his offhand analogy. "Gosh, has anyone done this...?"

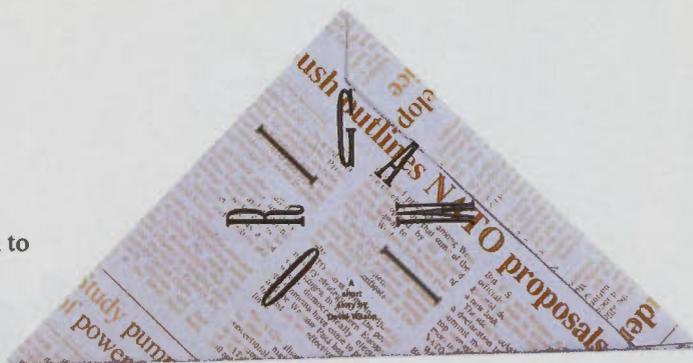
But his point is this: "Different cultures have always tried to record information, usually their history, on a wide variety of materials." Modern book artists are often simply salvaging ideas for books from the dustbin of history.

What we know as a book is a codex using paper upon which the text is printed. Two thousand years ago people were writing — or, rather, painting — on scrolls made of papyrus, parchment, silk and linen. Before that they were making impressions on clay. But when paper, a Chinese invention, started showing up, its advantages became readily apparent: It could be mass produced; both sides could be used, unlike parchment; and especially when bound along the edge, it was less bulky and more portable than scrolls. When Guttenberg invented moveable type, the dominance of paper was assured.

So, the book form we know today is a product of human evolution favoring convenience, portability and economics. None of those are characteristics that modern book artists particularly care about.

Housed in the BSU Library's special collections are an eclectic assortment of artists' and eccentric books. Artists' books are volumes created by artists; eccentric books are non-traditional in structure or material. They are in the special collections because they are unique and rare and because they often cannot be easily shelved like standard codex books. "Origami," for example, is a short story printed on a long paper scroll that has been folded into triangles. One reads the book one triangle at a time. Another work, "Vogue Patterns," is designed and packaged just like a, well, Vogue sewing pattern, complete with the blue tissue-paper template.

As for content, some is terribly glib, some deeply introspective



and some incredibly obscure. For example, there is *Robert Jacks Twelve Red Grids Hand Stamped New York 1973*. The book is exactly what the title says it is: a small book with 12 pages, each one bearing a simple red rubber-stamped grid.

Ideally, the form of the book is as much a part of the message as the text itself (assuming the piece contains text). "Origami" is about a paperboy who folds his newspapers into triangles. "Vogue Patterns" is a satire on women's "traditional" role in society.

"The medium is part of the message," says Trusky. "You can emphasize your book by how you package it. When I come to a publishing project I never start out with the assumption it's going to be a codex."

When Trusky decided to publish the diary of Sweet, Idaho, farm wife Evelyn Amos, he wanted to pay homage to her years of writing on whatever paper she could find: brown paper bags, movie flyers. So even though the published diary is in codex format, there are inserts recreating the paper she used, plus artifacts from the farm itself. Because Amos wrote about the botany of the area, Trusky and his students went to the old farmstead and picked and pressed lupine flowers that were then inserted into the book. Lace snowflakes were created and added to the pages of the book.

Trusky began collecting national awards for the BSU student literary magazine *cold-drill* immediately after becoming faculty adviser in 1971 — in no small part because he abandoned the codex format and published it in a box instead. He admits that the first editions, which were loose-leafed pages stacked in the cardboard boxes, were "hell to look at" since the pages were difficult for the reader to keep in order. On the other hand, Trusky doesn't believe in making books

too convenient to read. "The authors and artists in there are deserving of your respect and attention. You shouldn't be able to just flip through them."

Apparently a large number of people agree that artist books can be worth the extra effort. On the national publishing scene, Madonna's *SEX* became one of the hottest-selling large-format books in history. Whether its success can be attributed as much to the die-cut aluminum cover as to the erotic photos of America's favorite bad girl is probably beside the point. It's the whole package that sells.

Trusky, who teaches a course in book arts, adds that interest in the subject "is skyrocketing." In Idaho, Trusky's traveling eccentric book exhibit, sponsored by the Idaho Center for the Book, "Booker's Dozen" is reserved through 1996. □



Writers' Woes

By Bob Evancho

So you have this great idea for a book. Swell! Have at it. All you need is to write the manuscript, find a publisher, and ... voilà! In the words of poet Sidney Lanier, "Publish yourselves to the sky ..."

But before you do, listen to some writers in the BSU community. Because if they share one common message about writing a book, it's this: Writing is hard, but getting your work published is even harder.

Take it from English professor Kent Anderson, one of BSU's more successful writers: "I tell my students don't try to be writers, it's too hard. You have no idea how difficult it is and how disappointing it can be. Writing is the most difficult thing I know. Every time you sit down to write, you know you're going to fail. Because you know whatever you do is going to be imperfect; it can always be a little bit better."

But let's say you've ignored Anderson's warning and you've completed this dynamite book — a tour de force that's bound for the best-seller list. Great! The hard part is over. Right?

Wrong. More than likely, your ordeal is just beginning, warns Anderson. The author of *Sympathy for the Devil*, a novel based on his experiences as a member of the U.S. Special Forces during the Vietnam War, Anderson says "hustling your stuff" is part and parcel to the publishing process.

But isn't that what agents are hired to do?

"Agents really don't do that much," Anderson replies. "They know the editors and the [publishing] houses in New York, and they can make multiple submissions. But they don't really hustle your stuff; you've got to hustle it. It's a mistake to think, 'OK, I wrote the book, now it's [the agent's] job to sell it.' That's not a good attitude because they're not going to do that kind of work for you. ... I remember saying, 'Hey, I'll never be a salesman. I'm going to be some kind of pure artist.' There's no such thing. You've got to sell the stuff."

Writing is hard,
but getting your
work published
is often harder

In essence, it was Anderson's persistence that made *Sympathy for the Devil* a \$70,000 success. "If I hadn't done all that [promotional] work, it would have vanished without a trace," he says of his 1987 novel. In addition to asking well-known authors to write blurbs for the jacket of his book, Anderson wrote to book-review editors at major newspapers around the country, asking them to consider a review of *Sympathy*. "I'd ask them to please take my book out of the pile [of other submissions] and give it 15 minutes," he says. "If I hadn't done that, it wouldn't have gotten reviewed by the *Washington Post*."

While Anderson paints a rather bleak picture of the book business, there are writers like BSU education professor Norma Sadler, who approach the process with less need for entreatment. Sadler, whose writing "crosses a variety of genres," also preaches perseverance when it comes to getting published.

"But I can't assume that the product is always more important than the process of writing, unless, of course, people are writing for survival in the marketplace. Then, yes, those writers are extremely concerned about their product. But for those of us who are searching for understanding for ourselves as well as seeking to entertain, we have to say some of those monetary priorities at times will be further down the line in importance."

Still, Sadler's approach does not make her immune from the vagaries of the publishing business. "Writing is a difficult process that takes a tremendous amount of self-discipline," she says. And like Anderson, Sadler is quick to state that writing the manuscript is only half the battle. "One of the biggest difficulties a writer faces as he or she finishes a book is getting it out to a publisher, getting a good cover letter written, finding the appropriate market, and if it comes back [from a prospective publisher], determining the amount of work that needs to be done to revise it."

The bulk of Sadler's writing is for children and teenagers. She has written a book titled



Boise State English professor and novelist Kent Anderson says, "The most important qualities of a

Mirabelle's Country Club for Cats, several short stories and original scripts for children's plays. Her latest efforts include two books for young adults, but she is still in search of a publisher for both. And finding the right match is not easy. "When you get a manuscript back from a publisher with suggested revisions, part of my difficulty is determining whether or not the book is right for that publisher," she says.

So if you want to dispense with the hassles of dealing with a publisher, you can always self-publish like Boise free-lance writer Steve Stuebner. Right? After all, he saw a need for a guidebook to mountain-bike riding in

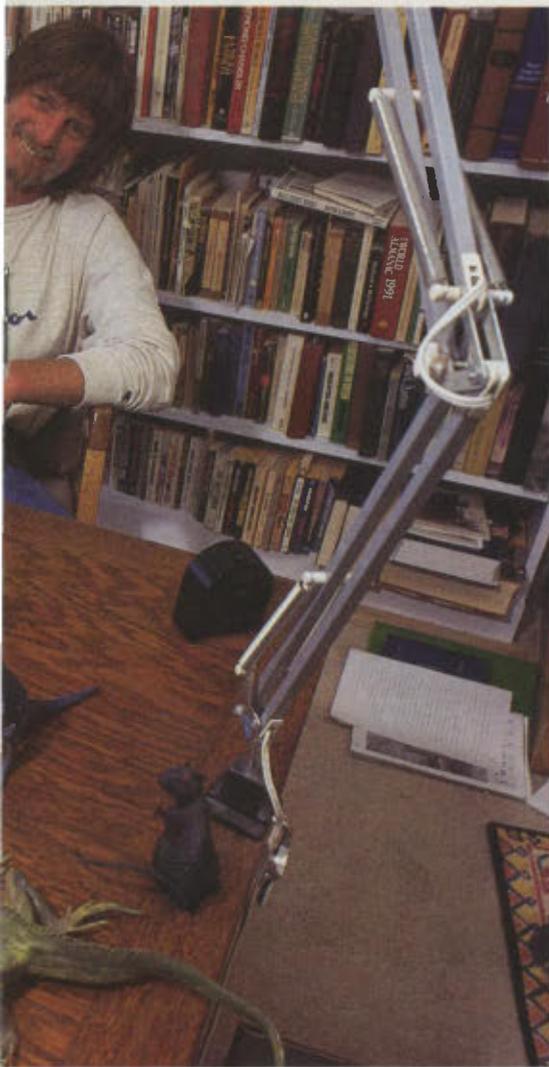
southwest Idaho, he wrote the darn thing — two, in fact — and he made a profit. Sounds pretty straightforward. Right?

Well, not quite. Stuebner's response goes something like this: Sure, go ahead, but only if you can write well, if you know your subject extensively, if you have adequate desktop skills and the requisite software, if you are certain there's a market for your product, if you make sound business decisions, and if you are willing to take the financial gamble. ... maybe then.

A former environmental reporter for the *Idaho Statesman*, Stuebner says even those who have the talent, expertise and equipment are still taking a big risk. "I don't think you can make any assumptions [about self-publishing]," he says. So why were his two books, written in 1992 and '94, successful? "It was a unique combination of being a professional writer, an avid and experienced recreationist, and having some desktop skills, which allowed me to do most of the work myself," he responds.

And while Stuebner, who has taught journalism for BSU's communication depart-

"Writing is a difficult process that takes a tremendous amount of self-discipline."



CHUCK SCHEER PHOTO

writer are endurance and perseverance.”

ment, works on his third publication, a guidebook to rafting, kayaking and canoeing Idaho's Payette River, he supplements his income by free-lancing for a number of outdoor magazines and serving as the capitol correspondent for the Idaho Falls *Post Register*.

The free-lance writers who harbor “starry-eyed notions that they can sit around” and write a book had better keep their day jobs, Stuebner advises. “In a situation like mine, I’ve got to come up with revenue because I’m going to have expenses with the books,” he adds. “The free-lancing I do for magazines and newspapers creates the revenue I need until the [book] projects reach fruition.”

A writer like Stuebner may possess the wherewithal to do his own publishing, but Kellie Branson doesn't have those kinds of talents or resources. Yet she managed to get her self-help book published in 1992.

Branson, program manager of the BSU College of Technology's Outreach programs, doesn't consider herself a gifted writer. “What I *did* have,” she says, “was a lot of

information that could serve as a resource for people.”

Written with Meridian counselor Dale Babcock, Branson's book *I Don't Know Who You Are Anymore* describes her family's struggle with her ex-husband's depression. Like Stuebner, she had information to share. Like Anderson, she struggled to find a publisher. And like Sadler, money was not her primary objective.

“What I wanted to do is stir emotions and teach the reader something,” says Branson, whose book was published by Legendary Publishing of Boise. “I thought writing about my [family's] experience would be helpful to others. When you go with a small publisher, you often do it because you think what you have to tell is important. The book did not pad my checkbook; there was no lucrative-ness there.”

Branson is now about halfway through the manuscript of a second self-help book about balancing the responsibilities of the home and workplace. And again, she may struggle to find a publisher. “It's very intense out there,” she says of the competition to get books published. “What you have to do with publishers is tell them why what you have written is different from the others.”

For different reasons — and with different objectives in mind — Branson, Stuebner, Sadler and Anderson have enjoyed varying degrees of success in getting their books published. But for every writer who has reached that goal, there are hundreds who have not.

Still want to write that book? Anderson, whose sequel to *Sympathy for the Devil* is currently with an agent in New York City, suggests you rethink your plans. If you decide to forge ahead, you had better don your emotional armor.

“The rejection is endless,” he says. “You get your stuff rejected for reasons that just seem loony. The most important quality of a writer is endurance and perseverance. If you're going to write and you want to get published, you've got to be tough.” □

**“It's very intense
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Reasons for Writing

By Amy Stahl

What is it about writing that captivates so many people? Can just anyone be a writer or does it require some special gift? Is it a talent we are born with, or a skill that is nurtured over time?

W

hen dozens of people crowded into the Idaho Historical Library last winter to hear Idaho author Kathleen Hedberg, the sponsors of the presentation were surprised by the huge turnout.

Were the hundred or so people jammed into the room that interested in hearing Hedberg's tale of the Oakley flood? Hardly. More likely, the men and women listening raptly that evening were writers. Writers who want to see their work in print.

In 1993 Hedberg self-published a historical book, *A Flood Cannot Happen Here*, which won the prestigious Idaho Library Association Book of the Year award. She had, in the minds of many of her listeners at the Historical Library, achieved their idea of the American dream.

What is it about writing that so captivates so many people? Can just anyone be a writer or does it require some special gift? Is it a talent we are born with, or a skill that is nurtured over time?

An onerous task to some, writing is an almost mystical art form to others. Anne Morrow Lindbergh said in no uncertain terms: "I must write. I must write at all costs. For writing is more than living, it is being conscious of living."

John Grisham is another famous example of a writer with a near compulsion to practice his craft. Once a small-town Mississippi lawyer, Grisham has made a tidy fortune from his gripping thrillers. Disgruntled with his job and enamored with novels, Grisham spent three years working on his first blockbuster book, *A Time to Kill*. Waking at 5 a.m., he would spend a couple hours scribbling in a notebook before putting on his suit and heading to the office. After 25 rejection slips, he sold the novel for \$15,000 but it didn't sell well. Then came *The Firm*. Now Grisham is one of the crown princes of the literary world.



Allison

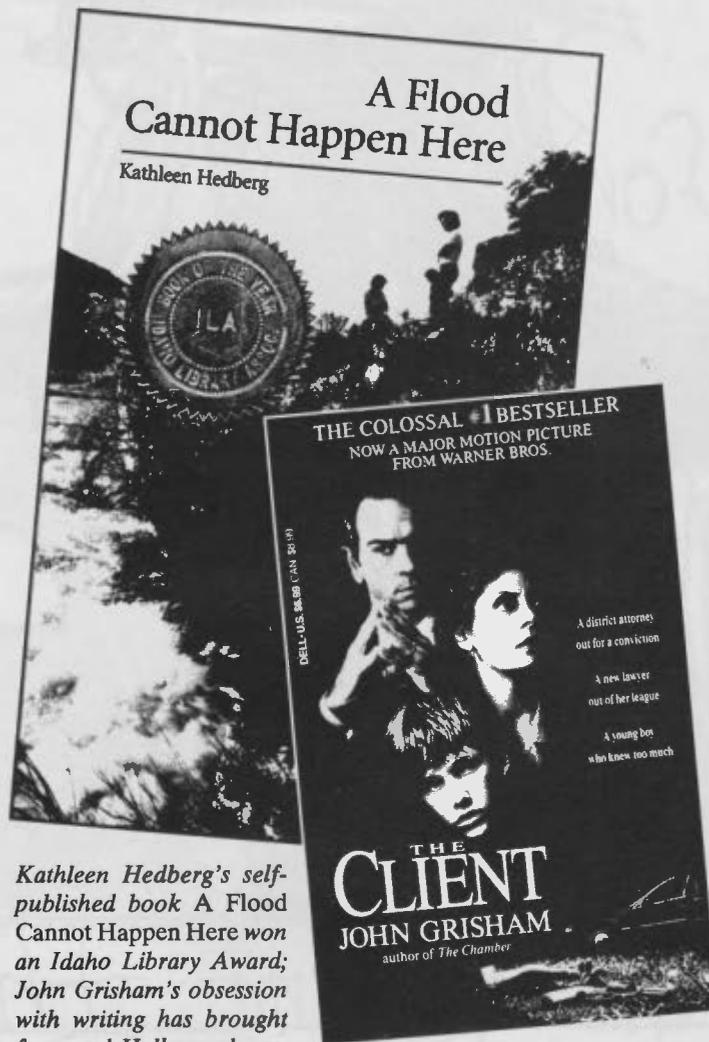
The girl and the monster
Part 1

One day the girl was

walking home from

school and she disappeared

But before she disappeared



True, he takes some shots from critics who sniff that his books are crass and commercial. Grisham doesn't seem to care. He's found his calling. And it's a passion he discovered at a tender age. As a child, Grisham's family moved frequently. "The first thing we'd do is join the local Baptist church, the second was go to the library and get our library cards and check out all the books we were allowed," Grisham said in a 1993 interview with *Newsweek* magazine.

Kathleen Hedberg's self-published book A Flood Cannot Happen Here won an Idaho Library Award; John Grisham's obsession with writing has brought fame and Hollywood contracts.

In Grisham's case, a passion for reading led to a passion for writing. But is that always the case? "I used to think they were two sides of the same coin," says BSU English professor Driek Zirinsky. "I no longer think it's that simple."

That's not to say that reading is not integral to a writer's development. Reading is an interactive process, she says, one that draws on a reader's personal history because "they need to create pictures in their own mind."

Writing requires a different set of building blocks. "You write based on what you have been able to write before," she says. "It's always been a common thought that writing is developmental and builds over time."

Zirinsky firmly believes that writers who are serious about their work are dedicated to improving their skills, a commitment that is made, not born. "It has to do with drive, determination and self-discipline," she says. Writers struggle constantly against self-doubt and the distractions of the world: the fax machine, fame, writer's block.

The muse that allows words to flow forth with beauty and grace is a myth, says Zirinsky, admitting that she sometimes faces "the loneliness of the writing desk."

It's the rare writer who has the luxury of empty hours spent at a comfortable desk. Free moments, for example, were few for Evelyn Amos, a ranchwife and mother who lived on a family farm in the 1940s and '50s near Sweet. She wrote hurriedly on scraps of paper bags, advertisements and the insides of used envelopes. Her diary, a

charming and revealing glimpse of life on a dry-land farm, has been published by BSU's *cold-drill* books.

As Amos' diary attests, writing is about more than poetry and Pulitzer-winning prose. Letters, memos and even grocery lists are part of the craft of writing.

For children, writing begins with pictures, says BSU education professor Stan Steiner.

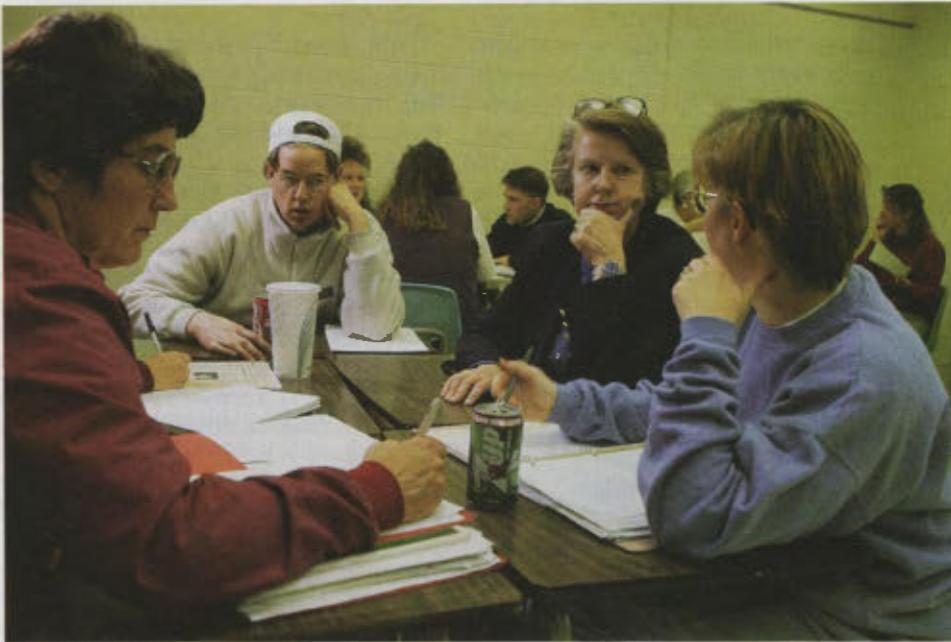
"All kids want to write, we just have to provide them with the opportunities," says Steiner, quoting writing guru Donald Graves. "It's not something we're born into."

Steiner stresses the importance of "modeling," in which parents and teachers write constantly and share the experience with their children. Kids see adults writing and inevitably want to mimic it, says Steiner, whose 3-year-old daughter recently tried to "write" him a note on the back of a cash register receipt.

Teachers, Steiner says, are taking a new look at writing. In recent years, the educational establishment hasn't paid much attention to writing other than to drill students in spelling and grammar. "We've missed out on bringing real-world examples to children," he notes. Creativity apparently has been lost in the schoolroom shuffle.

But that's changing, too. Connie Lyons' second-grade classroom at Hubbard Elementary School in Kuna illustrates the importance of writing and how to encourage self-expression in children. "I try to establish a classroom environment that supports writing in any way," says Lyons. Buckets of markers, scratch paper, colorful index cards and envelopes line the shelves of a classroom bookcase. A metal mailbox sits on the top. Lyons encourages her students to leave notes for one another in the box; the notes are then "delivered" daily. On a nearby table, handmade construction paper "briefcases" stuffed with students' writing samples fill a large box. The walls, too, are lined with illustrated stories.

"Kids need what writers in the real world need: to have time to write," says Lyons. Her pupils spend 30-40 minutes writing daily. They also devote time on Fridays to "author's chair," a specially



Good writing is about drive, determination and self-discipline, says English professor Driek Zirinsky, second from right.

designated rocking chair from which each student reads a sample of his or her writing while classmates make suggestions or comments.

"With all of this you're building a community of readers who are not competing so much as cooperating," says Lyons, who has a master's degree from BSU in education with an emphasis in reading.

At the start of the school year, Lyons outlines the steps in writing: choose a topic, write a first draft, revise, proofread and publish. The first step can be the most difficult for young writers. She guides the children, explaining carefully how she finds something to write about.

A 20-year teacher, Lyons has worked with hundreds of students, but she still marvels at their abilities. "They have their own ideas and the power of that comes through, the power of who they are," she says. "They have their stories, their things to say."

Self-expression is a need we all share, says Lucy McCormick Calkins, the author of one of Lyons' favorite writing texts. In *The Art of Teaching Writing*, Calkins says: "Human beings have a deep need to represent their experience through writing. We need to make our truths beautiful."

The writing process just comes more naturally for some than others, says Rick Leahy, director of the BSU Writing Center. He thinks that some writers are born with the inclination and blessed with the right environment. British novelist Jane Austen, for one, had no formal training in rhetoric, he says. But writing was in her blood. Even the children in Austen's family wrote "tremendous amounts together."

Some of Leahy's students are prolific journal writers and are "good largely just by sheer practice. They have a sharp ear for language and the effects of language." Most importantly perhaps they "have a lot of motivation and a lot to say." Nonetheless, he says, "there are a lot of ways to make people good writers."

Leahy recommends looking to the past — 2,500 years ago in fact — to get a perspective on writing today. He uses the works of Aristotle and the Sophists, Gorgias, Hermogenes, Cicero and

Quintilian as examples.

The ancients kept copious journals, imitated other writers, revised their work constantly, and toyed with sentence structures, says Leahy. "They really laid the foundation for the techniques that are being used today."

It's an ongoing process of rediscovery, says Donald Murray. Murray is a one-time journalist, Pulitzer winner and one of the nation's most highly respected writing teachers. Writing "is the result of a series of logical, cognitive, and affective activities that can be understood, and, therefore learned," he wrote in his 1982 book *Learning by Teaching*. Writing, he says, "isn't magic."

Maybe it's not magic but writing has a certain unmistakable power, says Boise State student Jackie Schnupp. When asked if she consciously picked writing as her field of interest, she is unequivocal. "Writing picks you," Schnupp says firmly.

An inveterate reader, she constantly scrutinizes other writers' work. A 33-year-old senior majoring in English with a writing minor, Schnupp is vice president of BSU's chapter of the Sigma Tau Delta international English honorary society. She also writes a humor column that runs in a monthly upstate New York newspaper.

Her interest in reading was cultivated at an early age. Even when she was a toddler, Schnupp's father, a Morrison Knudsen engineer, worked with her on words and spelling. Reading was a welcome diversion, she says. So is writing.

"People tell me how much they hate writing and that it's so hard," says Schnupp. "It's never been hard for me. It's almost like a game — playing with words. I love it."

Whether writers are born or made, no one really knows for sure. But most writers know that it's rarely easy. In fact, it's hard work. Most people agree that good writing requires patience, commitment and a willingness to fail. But Murray believes it's worth the struggle because it enables writers to reach deep within themselves. "For the writer, writing is a process, a way of seeing, of hearing what he has to say to himself, a means of discovering meaning," he says. □

Thanks for the Memories

Fifteen faculty and staff members will mark the end of their careers with BSU this spring and summer — and with them go hundreds of years of commitment to students and excellence in education.

The founder of the Boise State campus in Spain, BSU education professor **PATRICK BIETER** is calling it quits after 26 years of supporting and encouraging students. He has published several books and articles on the Basques and their culture. He has played a big role in advancing Basque studies at Boise State.

Bieter has served as editor of the *Idaho Council of the Social Studies Journal*, is a member of the Basque Studies Committee, and has received the BSU Distinguished Faculty Award in 1986 and an *Idaho Statesman* Distinguished Citizen Award in 1985.

He plans to teach through the summer and then work in the Basque country on a book about the Basque underground in World War II.

A grandmother of 11, **KAREN BOUNDS** concluded a 21-year career as a business and office education professor with the College of Technology in December.

Bounds taught accounting, bookkeeping and mathematics for BSU from 1973-1994. A world traveler, Bounds was on a trip abroad this spring and could not be reached for comment.

DORIS BUTLER, a word-processing instructor in the College of Technology's business and office education program, has been with the university since 1966. She started as a faculty secretary, and was the secretary to the director of vocational education from 1977-81 before assuming her current position as an instructor in '81.

Butler and her husband, Bill, plan to travel, primarily along the Oregon coast. She also hopes to do more quilting and oil painting.

During his 25 years at BSU, business communication professor **BOB CORNWELL** was known as a

demanding but fair teacher who was willing to pitch in where needed. At one time he was acting chair of the accounting and data processing department— even though it wasn't his department. In the late 1970s, he even pinch hit as coach of the BSU tennis team. Cornwell published widely, taught numerous seminars to area businesses, and was an evaluator for the English department's minimal competency exam. He also studied Spanish, became fluent, and occasionally taught introductory classes at BSU.

With almost 37 years of service at Boise State, chemistry professor **JACK DALTON** says that he is most proud of the number of students he has taught who are in successful careers now.

Dalton has been a member of the Idaho Academy of Science for almost 31 years. During that time he has served as president, vice president, trustee and executive secretary of the association. He has received the Outstanding Faculty Award at Boise State College in 1970 and Outstanding Educator of America Award in 1971.

He plans to spend his retirement traveling to Australia, New Zealand, England, Germany and sites in the United States that he has never seen.

BILL JENSEN plans to move to McCall and relax after he retires this year as dean of the Division of Continuing Education. He began his career at BSU in August 1974 as director of off-campus programs. He says the highlight of his career has been working for three outstanding bosses: Larry Selland, Daryl Jones and Dick Bullington. "They were three great individuals to work for," he says. Jensen also watched BSU's Continuing Education program flourish into the biggest of its kind in the state.

Under Jensen's leadership, BSU offers courses at centers in Canyon County, Gowen Field, McCall and Mountain Home Air Force Base. Jensen also started Weekend University and evening programs at Centennial High School.

Retirement for BSU art professor **DAVID ORAVEZ** means time to indulge in his personal work. "I would like to exhibit and sell some of my art work that I have done over the years," he says. Oravez says he needs to mat and frame much of his work and that he and his wife plan to dabble in restoring and selling antiques. Oravez came to Boise State in 1964 and served in 1993-95 as acting department chair.



More than 220 years of service are represented in this group of faculty who will retire this year. They are, from left to right, top row, Richard Lane, Pat Bieter, Yozo Takeda and Jack Dalton; center, Briattha Lvkken; bottom, Ram Singh, Harvey Pitman and David Oravez.

WILLIAM KIRTLAND will divide his retirement days between Idaho and Minnesota. A professor of reading education and an author of a children's book, Kirtland retired last fall after 25 years at BSU. During his tenure he started the Reading Center and served as its director. He also served as outreach coordinator in the College of Education.

RICHARD LANE, associate professor of mid-management in the College of Technology, is stepping down after 26 years at BSU and nearly 40 years in higher education. Originally with the College of Business faculty, Lane helped establish the first microcomputer course in the marketing department in the late 1980s.

Lane came to BSU in 1969 and may teach part-time after his retirement.

To say sports has dominated **RAY LEWIS'** life is an understatement. You might say he dominated sports as a player and coach for BSU, as well as a star athlete at Malad High School. During his 38 years at Boise State, Lewis coached athletes in football, track and wrestling, many to national and regional championships. While track coach he led his teams to eight ICAC championships, and as a wrestling coach, he led two ICAC championship teams.

As an end on the Boise Junior College football team, Lewis served as co-captain for the squad that played in the 1950 Little Rose Bowl. He was also the first student-athlete to return to his alma mater to coach.

BRIATHA LVKKEN started teaching English at BSU in 1967. Nearly 28 years later she's decided to slow down a bit. She'll continue to teach two European literature classes. Known by most people as Mardie Cocotis, she changed back to her original name after a divorce about five years ago.

During her tenure at BSU, Lvkken says she's most proud of the interdisciplinary humanities program she conceived and launched. She authored and then directed the grant for the program for the first five years.

After 42 years, **HARVEY PITMAN** still gets a thrill out of his profession. Raised in Parma, Pitman decided as a high school senior that he wanted to be a teacher. He later earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Idaho and a master's at Washington State before joining the Boise College faculty in 1966. He has been an active part of the university, serving as debate coach for five years, two terms as president of the Faculty Senate and on numerous committees.

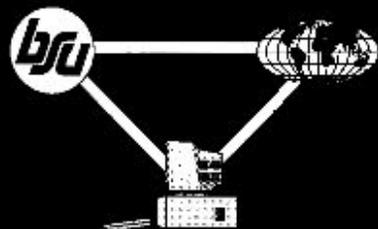
Slowing down is not on the mind of BSU professor of education **RAM SINGH**. After 20 years of service at BSU, Singh says he will move to Orlando, Fla., in July, do some traveling and part-time consulting for the Ministry of Education in the West Indies, and if he has time he may teach at the University of Florida.

"It has been a real challenge working with the community, school districts and other faculty as director of student teaching at BSU," says Singh.

He has helped develop instruments for evaluation of teachers' performance in public schools, conducted research in Guyana, South America, and was appointed to a two-year term on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of the National Association of Teacher Educators in Washington, D.C.

YOZO TAKEDA began his career with BSU's math department in 1969. The math professor will retire on July 1. A native of Japan, Takeda encouraged students to study math by examining its relationship to other disciplines.

When **JIM WILTERDING** joined BSU in 1976, finance and quantitative management were part of a single department and the largest major was real estate. Since then, the department has been reorganized and changed significantly. So too has Wilterding's field of human resources/conflict management. Laws pertaining to human resources are altered constantly, says Wilterding, who has been vigilant about monitoring legislation in order to provide students with current information. □



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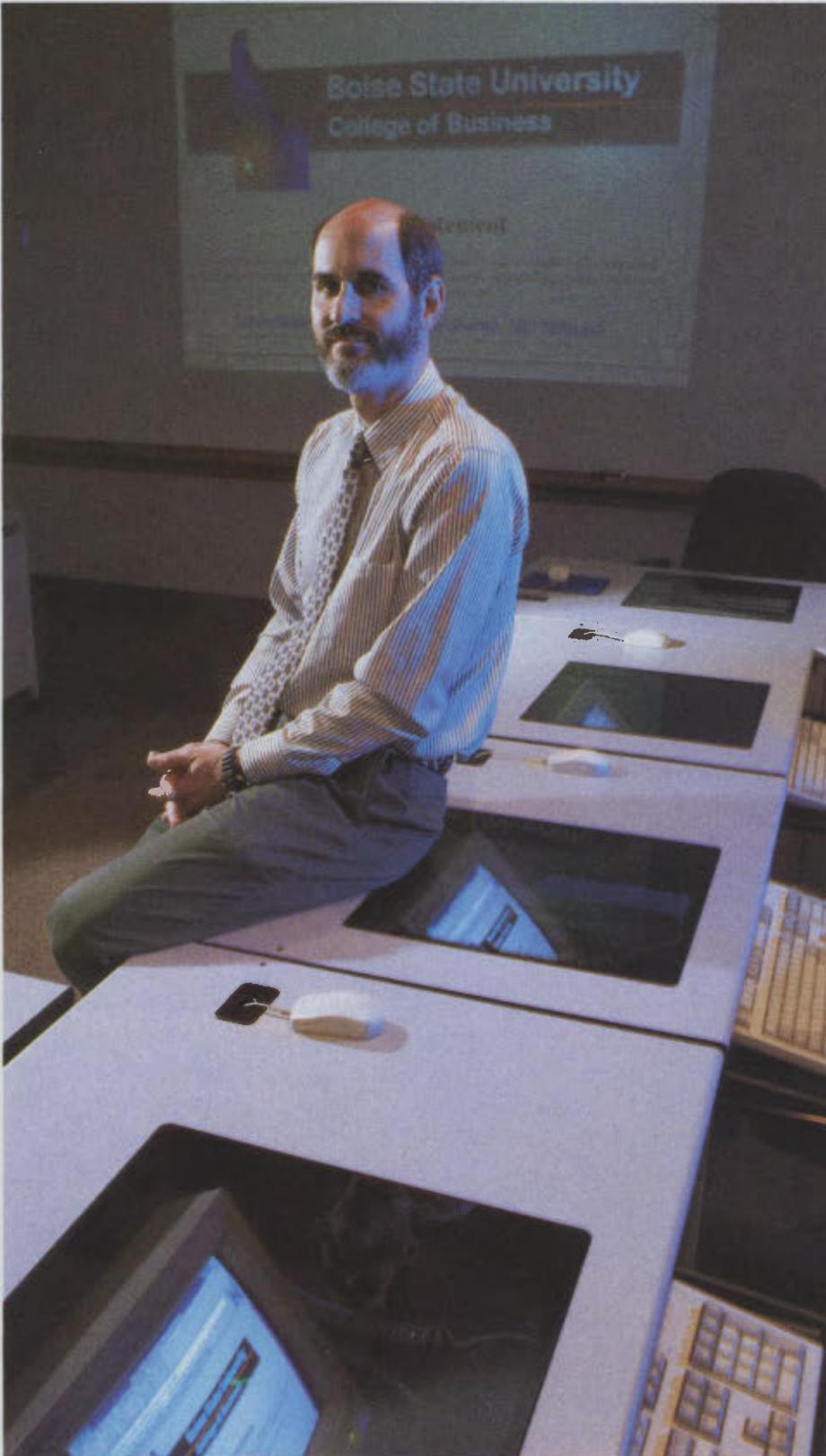
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BSU professor Robert Minch has helped build a training center to teach area executives, student and community members how to use the Internet.

WEAVING HIS WAY ON THE WORLD WEB

By Amy Stahl

Information technology is moving so fast the English language can't keep up. Dictionary editors were just mulling words like modem and facsimile when upstarts like Internet and World Wide Web came along.

Just 10 years ago, these basic tools were but visions of the future. Today they are fixtures found on computer screens in homes and offices around the world.

Robert Minch has watched with keen interest as the new technology has taken hold. Six years ago Minch, a BSU professor of computer information systems and production management, met the inventor of the World Wide Web at an academic conference on hypertext.

There was scant interest in the technology at the time. When they met again a couple years later, interest in the web was growing. By 1993 it had exploded.

Early on there were plenty of skeptics. "People thought it was a pie in the sky dream," Minch says. The Internet has grown faster than any communication system in history, says Minch. Faster even than the phone system.

Five years ago, he says, the Internet was "esoteric." Now anybody with a PC and modem can get software and a hookup.

He attributes the web's popularity to its vast warehouse of information and easy format as a point-and-click interface on the Internet.

Minch, who says he scopes the Internet for several hours a day, has helped BSU build a reputation as a training center for those interested in learning more about the Internet and World Wide Web.

Through BSU's Center for Management Development (CMD), he has taught classes to local CEOs and corporate presidents in the CMD's Internet Exec program, as well as many other non-credit workshops for businesses, community members, faculty, staff and students.

Before joining BSU in 1986, he taught at Purdue University and Texas Tech. Minch earned a bachelor's degree in business economics at North Dakota State University in 1978 and a doctorate in management information systems at Texas Tech in 1982.

Minch's current research interests relate to hypertext and hypermedia applications in business, knowledge-based systems and the

Internet. His most recent project, with fellow BSU professor Gary Green, examines how people use hypertext software while solving problems. Hypertext links pieces of information together so that a user can rapidly drill down, for instance to find out about a particular item.

This summer, Minch will put a grant from the College of Business to work on "An Empirical Study of the Use of Internet World Wide Web Pedagogical Materials."

Minch's students also are making a mark on the Internet. One has started a business developing Internet "presences" for local companies, another publishes an on-line magazine, and a third is the "webmaster" for the state of Idaho's new home page.

At BSU, Minch supports faculty members who integrate the Internet into their classes. In the College of Business, all students have e-mail addresses or access to them. Some retrieve their assignments on the Web, and they can exchange information and lecture materials through list servers on the Internet.

Minch says that the Internet provides virtually unlimited opportunities for faculty members. They can converse with colleagues around the world about research trends or topics. They also can swap notes on presentations. Minch says he sometimes shares slides and lecture notes over the Internet with a University of Minnesota professor.

About a year ago, Minch put a collection of materials related to his telecommunications course on the World Wide Web, and was surprised that hundreds of people were accessing the information from all over the world. He regularly receives e-mail from prospective students, alumni, colleagues and others who have visited his web pages.

BSU wouldn't be able to keep pace with these high-tech developments without contributions from local industry, Minch says. He credits Steve Appleton of Micron with seeing the need to provide \$250,000 in equipment for BSU's electronic classroom. Minch also coordinated a gift from AT&T for microcomputer workstations, network file servers, printers, software and other items totaling about \$300,000.

The donations are invaluable to faculty researchers, he says. "Some of us were developing all of these electronic proposals and had nowhere to show them."

Internet developments are moving so rapidly that it's difficult to predict what will happen next. But Minch is banking on a digi-cash system that will allow people to shop using the Internet.

He also expects to see the introduction of micro-payments, which will permit automated billing of very small fees for services such as on-line newspapers. "It's a very efficient billing system with tiny amounts," says Minch. "I think it's really going to be a revolutionary thing." □

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HISTORIAN EXAMINES POLITICAL WATERS

By Amy Stahl

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has changed the landscape more than any other organization in the world. The corps has built hundreds of dams, diverted water thousands of miles and otherwise altered all of our nation's major rivers.

Yet little is known about the massive agency and what drives its decisions, says BSU historian Todd Shallat. In a new book titled *Structures in the Stream: Water, Science, and the Rise of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* Shallat uses the corps as a window into the ideology of science and progress that transformed government and turned rivers into working machines.

Published by the University of Texas Press, *Structures in the Stream* recently earned Shallat the Henry Adams prize, a national award given annually to the best book on the history of the federal government.

Written in a lively style, the book tells the story of the Army Corps of Engineers' turbulent first century by delving into the boom years of river development and exposing the fiascoes and corruption that haunted monumental public works projects. The book, which has been reviewed in *Nature* and *Science* magazines, has been lauded as "a sweeping work of originality" that "brilliantly integrates technology and politics."



BSU Historian Todd Shallat

Water resource management in the U.S., Shallat says, is a combination of two philosophies. When the federal government got into the business in the 19th century it faced a choice between the English model of free-wheeling capitalism or the French model of centralized planning, he says. The U.S. government chose to compromise by giving engineers the authority to plan.

But the corps' plans don't always reflect the direction of the country as a whole. The

book, says Shallat, "is an attempt to explain why the United States is one of the few countries in the world that does not have a national plan."

Structures in the Stream also reflects the volatile nature of water resource policy. "Decisions are never made in a political vacuum," Shallat says. "There was never a time when engineers built things in water that didn't face enormous opposition."

A self-proclaimed "historian of rivers," Shallat has a Ph.D. in applied history and social science from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University. He co-wrote and edited *Snake: The Plain and Its People*, a book about the Snake River that was released in October by BSU. He also co-wrote and edited a book about Boise's historic Harrison Boulevard and directed a BSU class project on land-use planning that won the U.S. Department of Interior outstanding service award.

As an educator, Shallat is hopeful that *Structures in the Stream* will be eye-opening reading for young engineers. The book is being used as a textbook in classrooms at the University of Toronto, UCLA and other colleges. Praised for its brevity and readability, the book is not a typical history book. "I wrote it in an accessible prose for engineers — people who build things — to help them," says Shallat. "They are buying into a certain ideology about controlling nature. I want to help them understand the consequences of what they do." □

CHUCK SCHEER PHOTOS

McKINNON BRINGS ANCESTOR TO LIFE WITH ONE-WOMAN PLAY

By Jackie Schnupp

Sometimes, Ellie McKinnon can be a real character—"real" being the key word. And her character portrayals are inclined to travel across decades, merging the past with the present and uniting historical figures with future generations.

McKinnon, tutorial and freshman programs coordinator for Boise State's Student Special Services, is the author and performer of several historical plays that share a unique feature: they tell the story from a feminine point of view — a perspective that often isn't found in most history texts.

This "hole" in history was McKinnon's motivation for writing *The Uncivil War* several years ago. Her son's fifth-grade teacher felt the students' textbooks gave the impression that only men were alive during the Civil War.

With research from books and journals written by mothers, daughters, sisters and wives of that era, McKinnon re-enacts the war as it was experienced by women on both sides of the conflict.

In March, McKinnon performed *Elizabeth!: One Woman's Perspective* for BSU's Women's History Month. The play is based

on stories from the life of Elizabeth Graves, McKinnon's great-aunt, who was a homesteader in Montana and North Dakota in the late 1800s.

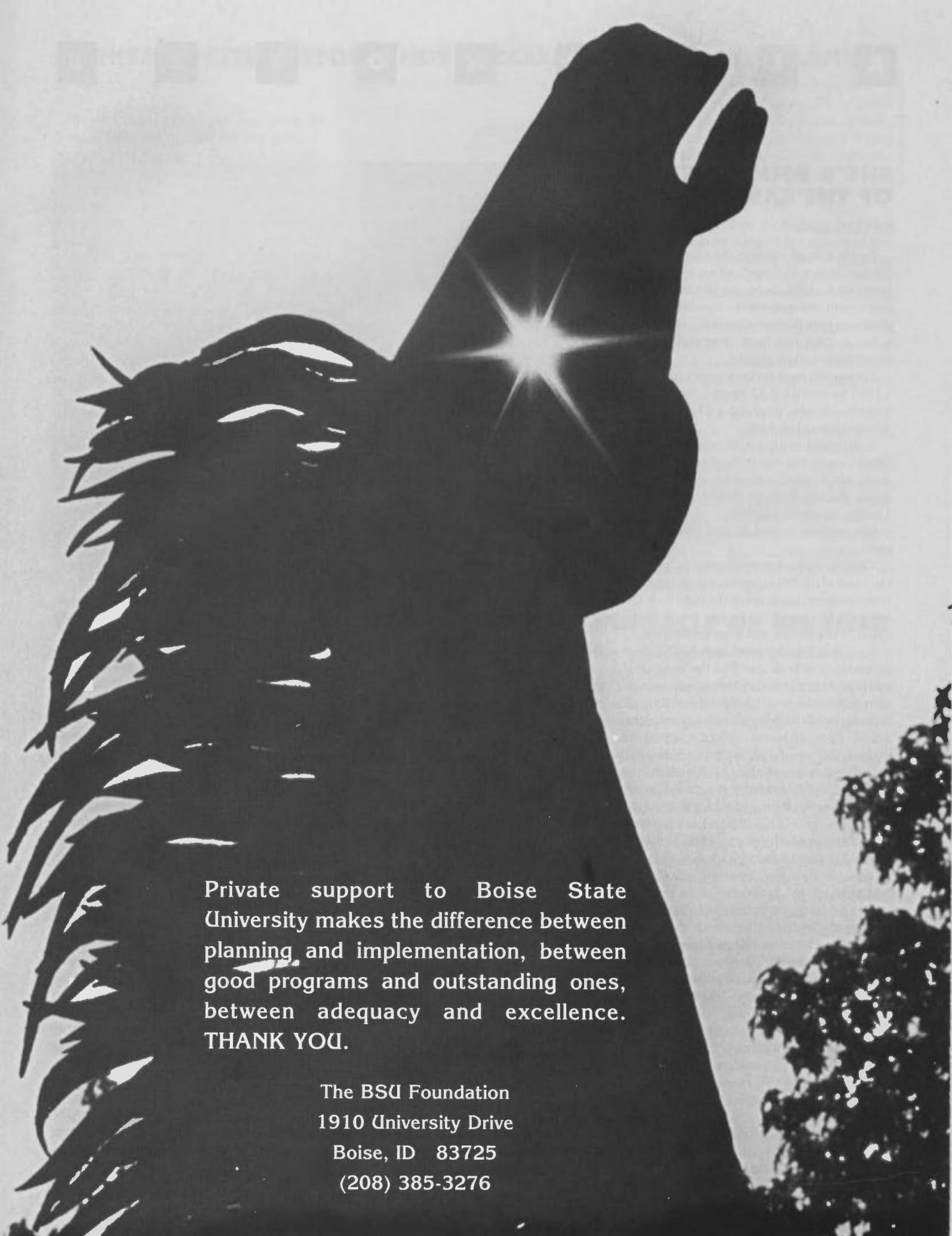
Elizabeth! relies on oral history from Graves, who "didn't consider herself to be the least bit interesting," says McKinnon. She lived to be 97 years old. Other family members plus official records provided McKinnon with additional information.

McKinnon wrote her first play, *Lincoln Legacy*, about 13 years ago while living in Nebraska. She also had written a book called *Looking at Lincoln*. When it was published, the editor excluded stories that McKinnon felt were important in bringing the history of Nebraska's capital to life. She created the play *Lincoln Legacy* from those stories.

Currently in the works is a play based on the lives of more than 60 Idaho women. McKinnon is working on the project with her friend Judy Fuller. For her thesis project, Fuller gathered oral histories from women across the state who share their memories of life on the farm, life in a mining town, life in the "big city." Presently unnamed, the play promises to share a fascinating glimpse into Idaho's past. □



Ellie McKinnon as Elizabeth



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SHE'S BSU'S KEEPER OF THE CASTLE

By Larry Burke

Jackie Cassell opened the door marked "Boise Junior College" when serendipity knocked in 1964. Now, on the eve of her retirement, the assistant to four BSU presidents can look back on a career — make that a life — that has been inseparable from Boise State and its people.

"I have just been fortunate enough to find a job I've loved for 32 years," she told the audience as she received a Distinguished Alumni Award in April.

A divorced mother with two young children, Cassell was simply looking for steady work when she heard from a friend that Boise Junior College President Eugene Chaffee needed a secretary.

She applied — and he hired her on the spot.

Chaffee, whose keen personnel judgement built one of the finest junior college faculties in the country, again made the right hire. He couldn't have picked anyone more dedicated to the school and what it stood for.

From her first day on the job, Cassell had an insider's role in some of the most dramatic moments in BSU's history as a succession of presidents — Chaffee, John Barnes, John Keiser and Charles Ruch — guided the school from its junior college roots to its status today as a major regional university.

Not unlike the Radar O'Riley character in the M*A*S*H television series, Cassell was the omnipresent — and sometime omnipotent — force behind the scenes who made things happen, who knew what the boss needed before he did, who was always the devil's advocate, and most important, who was always loyal ... always

Her personal touch reached deeply into the day-to-day life of the school. Every major event — commencements, inaugurations, State Board of Education meetings, legislative hearings and historic milestones like BSU's 50th anniversary — didn't happen without her involvement.

But, she says, what she will miss most is the daily contact with students. "I like seeing the accomplishments of our students and I've enjoyed trying to solve their problems ... it seems really empty during the breaks when they aren't here."

Cassell was already familiar with BJC when Chaffee hired her. A BJC student in 1947-48, she served as student body vice president



Jackie Cassell and former boss John Barnes swapped stories at the Top Ten Scholars banquet.

and played on the field hockey team.

Cassell got married, had two children and then held a series of jobs. But when she came to work at BJC, Cassell found more than a job ... she found a career that turned into a lifelong passion. After 32 years at the gatekeeper's post, she is the only person in the school's history who knew — really knew — and advised all four presidents.

"They were all human think tanks ... they had the ability to see the future, to see the broad picture. They could strike a balance ... they knew which projects were doable and which weren't."

Cassell also served three interim presidents — Willis Gottenberg, Richard Bullington and Larry Selland.

In many universities, presidential transitions are times of turmoil as the staff adjusts to the style of the new boss. That was never the case for Cassell.

"You never know if you are going to have rapport or not. I was very fortunate. I liked them all personally. I ... never compared them to their successors."

And from her unique perspective, Cassell can also evaluate the effectiveness of her bosses. She gives high marks to them all.

"They were all different. But I think we found the right president for the right time in our growth. That can't be said for other

institutions," she says.

And what do her ex-bosses say about her?

"Shortly after I arrived at Boise State in 1967, I realized I had extraordinarily good fortune" says Barnes. "Jackie had agreed to remain the secretary to a new young president at a decisive time for BSU. Sometime later I gave her the title she had long deserved — assistant to the president.

"Always more than a superb secretary, she helped faculty, staff, students, the public, the media and the state board develop a clear picture of a young university with limited funds and unlimited ambitions.

"Everyone knows she rose above the parade of presidents to be a solid, constant force at BSU — she's one fine lady."

Adds Keiser: "Jackie understood better than anyone what it meant to be a Bronco. She has loyalty to the institution and to the people who built it.

"I remember when we opened the Pavilion in 1982 ... Jackie was there setting up chairs. If anybody understands Boise State and the people it represents, it is Jackie."

Says Ruch: "Jackie has never looked at Boise State as a place where she works. To her, it is a place where she has lived her life. In my experience, I have seen few people who have given so much to make others successful." □

BANKER ODETTE SUTTON FINDS SUCCESS FAR FROM HOMETLAND

By Amy Stahl

When Odette Sutton left her home in India in 1974, she thought she was going to Nampa for a year as a Rotary Exchange student. A recent graduate of a Catholic boarding school, she hoped to broaden her horizons.

Twenty-one years later, she is a senior vice president at First Interstate Bank. An active community volunteer, Sutton also serves on several boards including the BSU Alumni Association, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise School Foundation and United Way.

Sutton hadn't planned to stay, but her close relationship with her host family convinced Sutton to remain in Idaho. She enrolled at Northwest Nazarene College, and in 1979 started working as a part-time teller at First Interstate.

After earning a business administration degree from NNC, she received a graduate assistantship for BSU's MBA program. Initially, she was intimidated. As a 21-year-old with little work experience, Sutton worried that she was in over her head. But assistance from faculty members Lyman Gallup, Jim Wilterding and others helped give her the confidence to graduate in 1981.

Then her career at First Interstate took



Odette Sutton's decision to stay in Idaho has paid off big.

off. Through the bank's management training program, she was sent to Sandpoint to work in operations and consumer lending at branches in north Idaho. Later she was transferred to Portland, where she worked for

four years in commercial lending. In 1991 she returned to Boise, where she is senior vice president/manager of commercial banking administration in the Treasure Valley District. She supervises about 20 employees working in commercial lending at First Interstate branches in Boise, Nampa, Caldwell and Ontario, Ore.

Sutton admits that she had no grand plan for a career in banking. "I just stumbled into it," she says. She makes a point of spending one day a week with customers — which often means heading out into barnyards and fields.

Even as a volunteer, customer satisfaction is important to Sutton. She is a member of the Alumni Association's student relations committee, which is trying to understand how to better serve students.

Thus far, the group has set up a pilot program that will give students more access to alumni who are successful in business.

Further strengthening her ties to BSU, Sutton worked with the College of Business earlier this year to present the first Idaho Small Business Awards. Sutton sees the awards as a positive step — and a good business move. "Every large business started as a small business," she says. "If they do well, we do well." □

CHUCK SCHERER PHOTOS

TOP COP BOB SOBBA PAYS DUE TO REACH PINNACLE OF HIS FIELD

By Melanie Threlkeld

Bob Sobba has a gentle, unassuming manner that makes it hard to believe he's spent the past 25 years as an Idaho law enforcement officer. No sign of a cynic nor a smooth-talking politico. Just a man who sees himself and those in his profession as problem solvers for the residents of Idaho's communities.

"We're the people who are there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and they rely on us," he says matter of factly.

And so it goes that at 48 years of age, Robert L. Sobba, a farm boy from Dodge City, Kan., and a member of the first graduating class of Boise State University ('74), would be appointed by Gov. Phil Batt to head Idaho's Department of Law Enforcement. "Every once in a while I have to pinch myself," he says grinning.

Sobba's journey to the top started as a 24-year-old student at BSU in 1970 when he was hired by the Boise Police Department. "I remember working the night shift and going to school during the day, and then working the day shift and going to night school."

Sobba spent 14 years with the Boise Police Department, and in 1984, was named Caldwell chief of police, where he served 10 years before his recent appointment as head of the state's law enforcement department. Today, he oversees a \$37 million budget and 485 employees. His biggest challenge, he says, is deciding which demands can be met. "Everyone expects you to have an answer

and take charge of everything and sometimes there's nothing you can do."

His experience — knowing the law enforcement field from the ground up — is something Sobba feels he can use to benefit the officers in the field. He knows what they're going through and sees the increasing demand on police services.

"We're getting a whole generation of people who rely on government to take care of their problems," he says. "People call police for things I'd be embarrassed to talk about." He's hoping to change that, to get people to share with police the responsibility of keeping law and order.



Bob Sobba's journey to the top started at Boise State.

Sobba had planned to join the military as a young man, but he injured his knee in an intramural basketball game as a student at Wichita State University in Kansas. He transferred to BSU at the urging of an uncle who lived in Caldwell. He found not only a career he loves, but a wife as well. He and his wife, Cheryl, a BSU nursing school graduate, have two daughters and 22 years of marriage. It's a milestone Sobba doesn't take lightly. "Policeman have one of the highest divorce rates of all professions," he says.

Sobba seems determined to stay close to those who have helped him climb to the top of his career—his co-workers, and his wife and daughters. While the view may be better at the top, Sobba believes the journey there was just as satisfying.

"Through my whole career, I've really just enjoyed my work." □

ALUMNI IN TOUCH...

Our policy is to print as much "In Touch" information as possible. Send your letters to the BSU Alumni Association, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725. In addition, if you know someone who would make a good feature story in our "Alumnnotes" section, contact the office of News Services at the same address.

50s

DONALD E. MAYPOLE, AA, general arts and sciences, '54, has been named co-chair of the 1996 Conference Planning Committee of the Inter-University Consortium for International Social Development. Maypole is a social work professor at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

NATHANIEL J. ADAMS, AA, general arts and sciences, '55, is celebrating his 40th year of continuous practice as a self-employed architect in Boise.

60s

LAWRENCE DAVID LUNDIN, diploma, general arts and sciences, '60, has been the chief pilot and property manager for 15 years at LB Industries in Boise.

SAMUEL V. LANG, AA, general arts and sciences, '61, is a reporter with the *Idaho Press-Tribune* in Nampa. Lang covers business and other issues for the *Tribune*, where he has worked since 1976.

THEODORE J. THORNTON, diploma, general arts and sciences, '67, is president and general manager of Park's Royal Body Works and Park's Westside Body Works in Boise.

JUDITH THERESA (HIMSL) HAROLD, BA, elementary education, '68, is a fifth-grade teacher at Washington Elementary in Pocatello.

MARY J. GAMEL, BA, elementary education, '69, has been named a recipient of the Hall of Fame Award by the Idaho Retired Teachers Association.

MELANIE S. HARRIS, AS, nursing, '69, is president of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Harris lives in Burns, Ore.

GEORGE MENDIOLA, BA, general business, '69, has been named Boise Region Branch Manager of the Year for 1994 by West One Bank. Mendiola manages the bank's Broadway branch in Boise. He also was elected to the 1995 Chairman's Council of Excellence. Council members are chosen based on performance and leadership abilities. Mendiola joined West One Bank, formerly Idaho First National Bank, as a teller 31 years ago.

70s

MICHAEL LEE BAXTER, BA, elementary education, '70, owns Realty One Baxter & Associates in Boise.

CHARLES R. DAVIS, BA, theatre arts/secondary education, '70, is vice president of the western region for Glenco Macmillan-McGraw-Hill in Boise.

GARY L. SLEE, BS, physical education/secondary education, '70, has been named principal of Boise High School. Slee currently is principal at Les Bois Junior High in Boise.

KAREN S. DUNN, BA, elementary education, '71, is office manager of the Northwest Power Planning Council based in Boise.

MICHAEL BURDETT VINSON, BA, art, '71, is an account executive and retail manager at the *Idaho Press-Tribune* in Nampa, where he has worked for 14 years. He previously was a curator for the Idaho Historical Society, a graphic designer for Mountain Bell and a part-time painting instructor for the College of Idaho and the University of Idaho.

STEVEN FULLER, AAS, drafting, '72, is a certified professional supermarket designer. Fuller lives in Overland Park, Kan.

GERALD E. ROSTI, BA, general business, '72, is a commercial real estate agent for BSI Realty Corp. in Boise.

RANDY G. TEAL, BA, social work, '72, is vice president of US Bank's North Idaho district. Teal oversees the bank's commercial and retail operations in north Idaho from his office at the Coeur d'Alene branch. He has worked in banking for 22 years.

LINDA L. (BEATTY) KASTNER, BA, English/secondary education, '73, is teaching English as a second language at The Hutch School in Seattle.

JOHN M. NEVINS, BS, industrial business, '73, is vice president and chief engineer with Arizona & California Railroad in Parker, Ariz.

ALLEN DALE DYKMAN, BA, economics, '74, recently was inducted into the athletic Hall of Fame at Highland High School in Pocatello. Dykman was a wide receiver during the 1968-69 season and went on to play football at BSU. He is owner of Dyke's Electric in Boise.

ARMAND M. ECKERT, BBA, accounting, '74, recently returned from a six-week Rotary Club cultural exchange to Brazil. Eckert works on a family farm in the Magic Valley, and previously was in the accounting field for 10 years.

CHARLES B. HERVEY, MBA, '74, is vice president of business development with Galco Leasing Co. in Boise.

MIKE D. ARNELL, BA, criminal justice administration, '74, is a certified fraud examiner with Boise Cascade Corp. in Boise. Arnell has been with BC for 23 years.

LARRY PHILLIP AUERBACH, BBA, marketing, '75, is a certified sex therapist in Pt. Lucie, Fla.

SPECIALIZING IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

By Edie Jeffers

Jean Hickam's tireless dedication to teaching has taken her from humble beginnings at Boise's Campus School, where she student taught as part of the Boise Junior College program in the 1950s, to the ivy-covered walls of Western Kentucky University. Now an assistant professor of teacher education at the Bowling Green school, the 1955 BJC graduate has published two books on special education and has authored many journal articles on the subject.

A textbook, *Exceptional Children: An Introduction for the Prospective Teacher* was published in 1992 under her former married name, Kately. She later co-authored a book titled *Activities for Special Preschoolers*, also under her former name.

The second book was especially significant because it outlined ideas to help parents work with their special preschoolers. Before this book was published, there wasn't much available in this area. Attainment Corp., publisher of materials for the developmentally delayed, has asked her to write a second book of activities for the special preschooler.

Now in her 40th year of teaching, Hickam received her bachelor of arts degree from Sacramento State University in 1960, then returned to BSU to work on her master's, which she received



KURT VINON/WKU PHOTO

in 1972. She remained in Idaho to teach at the Idaho State School and Hospital, where she became interested in special education. Hickam obtained her doctorate from the University of San Francisco in 1986.

Other achievements include a listing in *Who's Who in American Education* and *Who's Who in the Midwest*, and in 1991 she won the Western Illinois University Faculty Excellence award.

Hickam is perhaps most proud of having balanced her educational pursuits with raising children. She started college when her first child was out of diapers, and continued to juggle family with furthering her teaching career. "I had two children while working on the associate of arts degree and three while pursuing the master's degree," says Hickam. "That was a workout." □

PETER M. BOLZ, MA, elementary education, '74, is superintendent of the Arlington School District in Arlington, Ore.

ANNE G. (GRENKE) GLASS, BA, elementary education, '75, has been appointed to the board of the Public Employees Retirement System of Idaho. Glass is a financial consultant at Merrill Lynch in Boise. She also serves on the BSU Alumni Association board.

SUZANNE M. KNAPP, BS, environmental health, '76, is a fish and wildlife biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Knapp is working on salmon restoration in the Umatilla River.

DOROTHY M. (MOLLY) LAZOECHKO, BA, elementary education, '76, has been elected chair of the Ada County Democratic Party, secretary of the Epilepsy League of Idaho and is past president of the Boise Retired Educators' Association. Lazochko served as president from 1993-94.

STEPHEN R. DURMIL, CC, auto mechanic technology, '77 and **DARRELL LEE JOHNSON, CC**, surgical technology, '79, are owners of Boise Bavarian Inc. in Boise. Durmil is a certified service technician and Johnson is manager. The company specializes in European and Japanese auto repair.

RONALD J. WILPER, BA, communication/English, '77, is chief criminal deputy prosecutor in Canyon County. Wilper previously was in general practice with the firm of Gigray, Miller, Downen & Wilper for seven years. He received his law degree from the University of Idaho.

KELLY JAY BUCKLAND, BA, social work, '78, is executive director of the State Independent Living Council for the state of Idaho. Buckland previously was the director of Living Independence Network Corp. He lives in Boise.

PAUL D. COURTRIGHT, BA, elementary education, '78, is director of the British Columbia Centre for Epidemiologic & International Ophthalmology. He also is on the faculty in Ophthalmology and Health Care & Epidemiology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. Courtright recently returned from five years in Africa as country director/Malawi for the International Eye Foundation.

PAMELA JOY KAUBFLEISCH, BA, communication, '78, is an associate professor at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

KATHLEEN M. BERG, AAS, child care and development, '79, is project coordinator with Idaho Parents Unlimited Inc. in Boise.

JAMES R. BOWES, BS, geology, '79, is a senior managing scientist with The Johnson Co. Inc. in Montpelier, Vt.

PAMELA S. GROVE, AS, marketing (mid-management)/fashion merchandising, '79, is owner of T&S Advertising Specialties in Boise.

MICHAEL LEROY KNOPP, BBA, general business, '79, is chief financial officer and controller of Manufacturing Sciences Corp. in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Knopp previously was administration director with MK-Ferguson in Oak Ridge.

RAYMOND G. KUGA, BBA, accounting, '79, is budget coordinator of Nissan Motor's technical support group in Los Angeles.

JERROLD BEAN SMITH, BBA, management/behavioral option, '79, was named Western Region Branch Manager of the Year for 1994 by West One Bank. Smith is manager of the bank's



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80s

WAYNE M. BAGAN, BS, geology, '80, is a staff geophysicist with Mobil Oil's Exploration & Producing Division in Dallas.

LOIS A. CRANS, BS, physical education/secondary education, '80, is a tutorial coordinator for the athletic department at BSU.

CHERYL L. GLENN, BFA, art, '80, is an account executive for KJOT/KGEM radio in Boise.

TIMOTHY A. KOHLER, BBA, marketing, '80, is director of materials research for Bayliner Marine Corp. in Arlington, Va. Kohler previously was purchasing manager for K2, Olin and Pre ski companies. He received his doctorate from LaSalle University in Philadelphia.

HELEN C. TAYLOR, BBA, computer information systems, '80, is a programmer for Micron Semiconductor in Boise.

ROBERT T. WATKINS, MBA, '80, is assistant director of BSU's bookstore.

BRAD L. BICKFORD, CC, refrigeration/heating/air conditioning, '81, owns Bickford Heat & Refrigeration in Gooding.

ROGER L. CHRISTENSEN, BBA, accounting, '81, is assistant vice president of the Bank of the Cascades in Bend, Ore.

MICHAEL D. MOON, CC, wastewater technology, '81, is project manager II for Operations

Management International Inc., a subsidiary of CH2M Hill. He lives in Payette.

BRYAN JONATHON MATSUOKA, BA, elementary education, '82, is a senior business counselor and incubator manager at the College of Southern Idaho's Small Business Development Center in Twin Falls. Matsuoka has 10 years' experience as a sales representative and general manager with a local corporation. He also taught elementary school in Jerome and Twin Falls for five years.

CRAIG DEAN THOMPSON, BA, history, '82, teaches Spanish and coaches basketball for the Meridian School District. Thompson will receive his master's degree in school counseling from Albertson College in May.

WILMA JEAN BARRY, BBA, accounting, '83, retired last year from Presnell Gage Accounting and Consulting in Boise. Barry is a volunteer for the Boise Philharmonic.

CURT BARRY HECKER, BBA, quantitative management, '83, was chosen Employee of the Year for 1994 by West One Bank. Hecker has been manager of the bank's Sandpoint branch since 1991, and has been with the bank since 1984. In addition, this is Hecker's third-year election to the 1995 Chairman's Council of Excellence.

ROBERT J. MALONEY, AS, marketing, '83, is a master craftsman photographer. Maloney owns and operates three portrait studios and lives in Twin Falls.

DAVID J. TERRELL, BBA, marketing, '83, is vice president and real estate production manager for West One Bank's Idaho Real Estate Administration department. Terrell previously was a commercial loan officer. He has been with the bank since 1989.

TAMMY N. (NAKAMURA) WHEELER, BBA, finance, '83, is vice president and manager of West One Bank's Overland and Five Mile branch in Boise. Wheeler previously was an assistant vice president and manager. She has been with the bank since 1983.

RENEE L. (CRAWFORD) BETTIS, BS, geology, '84, is an environmental geologist and GIS manager for Holloday Engineering Inc. in Payette.

WESLEY BETTIS, BS, construction management, '84, is chief operating officer for Thomas Development Co. in Boise.

LINDA LOU (GREGOR) DIXON, BA, elementary education, '84, is teaching at East Canyon Elementary in Nampa. Dixon has taught in the Vallivue School District for 11 years.

STEVEN C. EVERSMAYER, BS, environmental health, '84, is a safety and health manager/corporate industrial hygienist for Bioremediation Services Inc. in Portland, Ore.

JAMES BRADLEY (JAY) HYLISKY, BA, communication, '84, is a senior editor at *Satellite Orbit* and *Satellite Direct* magazines. Hylsky is also the publisher/editor of *Satellite Orbit Solo Mexico*. He lives in Rio Rancho, N.M.

MICHAEL D. MILLER, AAS, electronics technology, '84, is technical service manager with Pulsarr USA in Boise. Miller previously was a project leader and process researcher for J.R. Splot Co.

BOB TAYLOR, BA, political science/elementary education, '84, was selected teacher of the year by Junior Achievement. Taylor is an economics teacher at Meridian Academy, an alternative school for teen-agers.

MICHAEL KIRK QUILLIN, BA, economics/finance, '84, has been named to the Chairman's Council of Excellence at West One Bank. Quillin is manager of the bank's Chinden Boulevard branch in Boise. He joined the bank in 1984.

JOHN B. BELVILLE, BA, social work, '85, is a chemical dependency therapist at Mercy Medical Center in Nampa.

SYLVIA (CAESAR) BOYLE, MPA, '85, has been elected treasurer of the American Association of Dental Board Administrators. Boyle has been administrator of the Idaho State Board of Dentistry for the past seven years. She lives in Boise.

REBECCA ANN BROADBENT, BA, political science, '85, is an attorney with the litigation section of Elam & Burke (P.A.) in Boise. Broadbent's practice includes insurance law, insurance defense and worker's compensation defense. She previously was an attorney with Brady Lerma in Boise.

MICHELLE L. (SHAW) CAVES, BBA, finance, '85, is assistant vice president and private banking officer for West One Bank. Caves joined the bank in 1985.

KATHRYN W. FERGUSON, CC, practical nursing, '85, has been re-appointed to the State Board of Nursing advisory committee.

KEVIN W. HAWKINSON, BBA, economics, '85, is second vice president and senior financial consultant with Smith Barney in Boise.

PATRICIA A. HYLE, BA, sociology, '85, works for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare,

AUTHOR LOOKS 'BEYOND THE LIGHT'

By Edie Jeffers

Three near-death experiences have resulted in a lifelong quest for author P.M.H. "Phyllis" Atwater, who attended BSU in 1977-78.

Atwater, a Twin Falls native, who now lives in Charlottesville, Va., came close to death in 1977 when a miscarried pregnancy later resulted in severe hemorrhaging. Then she developed thrombosis and phlebitis. After all of this physical turmoil, she suffered a total mental, emotional and physical collapse.

Led by a desire to understand what had happened to her, Atwater began independent research that 16 years later has resulted in interviews with more than 3,000 near-death survivors and three books on the subject, *Coming Back to Life: The After-Effects of the Near-Death Experience*, *Beyond the Light: What Isn't Being Said About the Near-Death Experience* and the soon-to-be published *Future Memory*.

Her current work, *Beyond the Light*, is a comprehensive examination of the near-death phenomenon. In it, Atwater challenges the tunnel-of-light stereotype with discoveries of near-death anomalies such as hell-like and alien experiences. She draws out similarities and differences



between near-death occurrences and hallucinations, and she explores the experiences of people who were revived after being clinically dead for several days, and those who attempted suicide.

Atwater continues to broaden her audience for this subject. She plans to write two more books, including one on children's near-death experiences.

Her own experiences compel Atwater to continue in her quest to educate people about the near-death phenomenon. "I want to dedicate the rest of my life to educating people, especially the professional [medical] community," she says. □

Maternal & Child Health Division in Boise. Hyle was a 1985 Top Ten Scholar at BSU.

SUSAN L. (WEST) URQUIDI, BBA, administrative services, '85, is assistant vice president and manager of Voice Communications for West One Bancorp in Boise. Urquidi joined the bank in 1985.

SHAWN R. ATHAY, BBA, management/industrial relations option, '86, is division human resource manager for Simplot Dairy Products Inc., a division of the J.R. Simplot Co. in Nampa.

STEVEN L. HOFFHINE, BBA, economics/finance, '86, is a loan officer at West One Bank's McCall branch. Hoffhine previously worked with Security Pacific National Bank in San Francisco and the Bank of California in Palo Alto.

JIM W. HUI, BA, economics, '86, was inducted into the Investment Referral Board Top 5 Club at West One Bank. Hui is a loan officer at the bank's Payette branch. He has been with the bank since 1991.

DAVID B. HYLE, BS, political science, '86, works for BMC West in Boise. Hyle was transferred to Boise from the company's Seattle store.

JAMES MICHAEL MARIMAN, MBA, '86, is assistant vice president and manager in the credit department at Key Bank of Idaho. Mariman lives in Meridian.

SANDY MAROSTICA, BFA, art, '85, was April's featured artist at Galos Gallery in Boise. Marostica's photographs also were featured last fall in a one-person show at Richard Reyes Etc. Gallery in Boise.

BARBARA C. (LOUCKS) NEWELL, BBA, management/industrial relations option, '86, is contract administrator in the labor relations department at Albertson's in Boise. Newell works with distribution centers.

VICKIE L. (RUTLEDGE) SHIELDS, BA, communication, '86, is an assistant professor of communication at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

KIRK E. LEWIS, BBA, computer information systems, '87, is a senior programmer analyst for First Security Information Technology Inc. in Salt Lake City. Lewis previously was employed by West One Bancorp in Boise for six years.

GARRY C. MATTSON, BS, construction management, '87, is a project manager for Southern Constructors Inc. in Knoxville, Tenn.

SCOTT KARRY PETERSEN, BBA, marketing, '87, is a product coordinator in marketing at Micron Semiconductor.

DONNA GLENN PFEIFFER, BA, communication, '87, is a reporter for the *Columbus Dispatch* in Ohio.

JOANNE K. (LOSENSKY) CLEVELAND, BS, mathematics/secondary education option, '88, teaches math and is the head track coach at Central Davis Junior High School in Layton, Utah.

MARK D. MARY, BBA, management/human resource option, '88, is the human resource manager at Power Engineers in Hailey.

SANDRA JOAN (JENCKS) NEWMAN, BBA, real estate, '88, is a trust property management officer at West One Bank. Newman received the 1994 Distinguished Service Award from West One Bank's Capital Management Group.

BRAD G. WILLIAMSON, BBA, finance, '88, is a certified public accountant. Williamson is employed as a senior accountant with Presnell-Gage Accounting & Consulting in Boise.

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ARTIST DRAWS ON PAST EXPERIENCES

By Edie Jeffers

Like many artists, James Barsness has done every imaginable odd job to try to pay the bills. Although he still experiences the ups and downs of the art market, the 1979 BSU graduate now enjoys making a living from creating art.

Barsness says relative success came after he got his master's of fine arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1988. "Some collectors saw my work at an exhibit at the end of the program and that's how it happened," says the Los Angeles-based artist. "It seemed like an amazing amount of money because I had been doing various odd jobs to make ends meet. But it really is a hand-to-mouth way to live."

Even though there is no consistent paycheck, Barsness feels that his pursuit is a worthy one because there are always higher levels of excellence to achieve. He credits retired BSU art professor John Takehara with teaching him this difficult but important lesson. "He taught me something that turns out to be universally true—to be professional," says Barsness. "He wouldn't accept anything from me below the level of a professional. I think it took me two years to produce something that he felt was of a sufficient quality."

In the past, Barsness' work has had a more personal focus. "I was working with

really personal family themes, scenes from my childhood, and childhood in general, showing the connection between what we did as children and what we do as adults. We're all sort of still children with adult responsibilities."

One such work was in a recent exhibit at the Boise Art Museum. "North Bozeman Avenue," completed in 1990, is owned by his most famous patron, actor Robin Williams. In the piece Barsness weaves reflections of his teen-age years in Bozeman, Mont., with reflections of childhood in general, using his own children's drawings.

Living in L.A. caused a shift that is reflected in Barsness' more recent work. "A lot of what I do now is about how I see the world in the bigger picture, particularly how people in large groups in cities interact," says the artist. "It comes down to how politics relate to basic human behavior. In a way it's a shift, but in a way it's a broadening of what I've always done."

Painting will always drive Barsness toward achieving a higher level of excellence. "This is what John [Takehara] showed me: If you want to be a professional you always have to push for a higher standard," he says. "Because when you do reach a certain level, it's death for an artist to stay there. Every time you start a new painting, it's like starting all over again." □

KENNETH WAYNE WROTEN, BBA, finance, '88, is a loan officer at West One Bank in McCall. Wroten previously worked for Norwest Financial and First Interstate Bank in Boise.

CANDICE "CANDI" D. ALLPHIN, BBA, management/human resource option, '89, is vice president and loan officer VI at West One Bank's Boise Business Banking Center. Allphin joined the bank in 1991 as a credit approval officer. She also serves on the BSU Alumni Association board of directors.

CHARLOTTE G. ESHELMAN, BS, nursing, '89, is a family nurse practitioner and physician's assistant at New Plymouth Family Practice.

MELANIE JEAN PALMER, BBA, accounting, '89, is an administrative supervisor and sergeant first-class in the U.S. Army. Palmer recently received the Meritorious Service Medal, an award for outstanding non-combat meritorious achievement.

90s

STEVEN G. MARTIN, BA, English, general option, writing emphasis, '90, is copy editor and entertainment writer for the *Idaho Press-Tribune* in Nampa. Martin previously was an education reporter at the *Columbia Basin Herald* in Moses Lake, Wash., and also worked in the composing/press room at Caxton Printers in Caldwell.

JAMES ROBERT PHIPPS, BBA, finance, '90, is assistant vice president and district customer service manager for First Interstate Bank of Washington in Seattle.

CLAIRE A. RODKEY, MS, instructional/performance technology, '90, is an assistant vice president and senior training officer at West One Bancorp in Boise. Rodkey joined the bank in 1990.

KELLY L. STROUGH, MA, history, '90, has been awarded a stipend by the National Endowment of the Humanities to participate in the 1995 program of Summer Seminars for School Teachers. Strough will participate in a seminar entitled "The Making of a Nation: Emergence of German Nationalism in Symbols and Texts." She teaches in the Fruitland School District.

BETH A. TRAVIS, BA, elementary education, '90, is customer service manager and line service marketing with Wester Aircraft Inc., which is affiliated with Morrison-Knudsen Corp.

SUSAN GAYLEAN BLACKETER, BA, communication, '91, is an environmental analyst for Science Applications International Corp. Blacketer is evaluating impacts of the Idaho Training Range near Mountain Home.

CHRISTINA MARIE CHRONINGER, BBA, production management, '91, owns Boise-based Information Trackers Inc., a computer consulting and information retrieval firm.

MICHAEL HADDON, BA, political science, '91, is a research analyst with the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. Haddon received his master's of public administration degree from the University of Utah in 1993 and that same year received a national award for excellence in criminal justice policy analysis.

MARY HOLDEN-GRANT, BA, social work, '91, is executive director of the Idaho Ronald McDonald House in Boise.

BRAD J. NEW, BBA, management/human resource option, '91, is marketing director for Firebird Raceway near Emmett.

ANDERSON LEE (DREW) SEARGENT, BS, construction management, '91, is a project manager for Toothman-Orton Engineering Co. in Boise.

GALE A. SLAUGHTER, MBA, '91, is employed by Idaho Business Forms in Boise.

NEDRA L. ANGERMAN KELLOGG, BA, communication/English, '92, is a writer, editor and public involvement coordinator for the Boise National Forest in Boise.

STEPHANIE ANN COZINE, BBA, management/human resource option, '92, is a personnel representative at Hewlett-Packard in Boise.

CHRISTINE (LOWDER) JAYO, MBA, '92, is a vice president with First Security Bank of Idaho.

ROD RAMSEY JOHNSON, BBA, marketing, '92, is an account sales manager with Dr. Pepper Co. in Fullerton, Calif.

CHRISTINE O.L. MARIMAN, BS, computer information systems, '92, is a senior auditor in the internal audit department at Boise Cascade Corp. in Boise.

DEMISE RENEE' (FOSTER) MARTINEZ, BA, English, '92, is an assistant buyer at The Bon Marche in Seattle.

KIMBERLY A. PHILIPPS, MPA, '92, recently returned from a six-week Rotary Club cultural exchange in Brazil. Philipps, assistant director of the BSU Foundation, visited universities and gave presentations about BSU in Portuguese.

DELORIS P. SANCHEZ, CC, business and office education, '92, is a scanner operator and typist in the news room at the *Idaho Press-Tribune* in Nampa. Sanchez previously worked for Sears Credit Central.

TAMARA ANNE SANDMEYER, BA, social science, '92, is administrative assistant for Valley County. Sandmeyer is responsible for managing the country's personnel department. She will also administer the county's risk management program and provide research and development services for the county commissioners.

GINGER A. (JENSEN) STEED, AS, nursing, '92, is working in the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise.

ROBERT STEED, BS, geology, '92, is a senior water quality analyst with the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality.

JAMES DENTON STOCKTON, MA, English, '92, is a self-employed chef and freelance writer in Boise. His wife, **KATHLEEN LISANNE STOCKTON**, BBA, accounting, '92, is a senior tax auditor with the Idaho State Tax Commission.

GARY ERNEST BLACK, BBA, management/human resource option, '93, is a consumer loan officer at the Twin Falls Area Dealer Buy Center.

DERREK L GAFFORD, BBA, accounting, '93, is a corporate accountant with Albertson's in Boise. Gafford previously worked for Deloitte & Touche.

CALVIN W. GILLIS, BS, environmental health, '93, is an environmental health specialist with the Southwest District Health Department in Caldwell and Payette.

WENDY JOY (McWILLIAMS) GRAHAM, MA, education, curriculum and instruction, '93, is a training coordinator at Micron Semiconductor in Boise.

MICHAEL ERIC HOUDYSHELL, BBA, general business management, '93, is a credit analyst in the accounting department for Micron Computer in Nampa.

TODD ANDREW HUIZINGA, BA, communication, '93, is a PGA apprentice golf professional at Hillcrest Country Club in Boise.

PETER CHRISTOPHE KRAFT, BBA, finance, '93, is a credit analyst at Micron Computer in Nampa.

DIANNA K. LONGORIA, BA, social science/multi-ethnic studies, '93, is a tutor coordinator for the Student Support Program at BSU.

RUTH ANNE (SCOGGIN) MILLER, BA, social work, '93, is an intern at the Warm Springs Counseling Center and Training Institute in Boise. Miller is commuting weekly to Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash., while working on a master's degree.

MICHAEL JOSEPH MOORE, BBA, marketing, '93, is manager of the Famous Footwear store in Post Falls.

MELISSA J. OSGOOD, BA, advertising design, '93, is a graphic designer with Oliver, Russell & Associates in Boise. Osgood previously was a freelance designer and graphic designer for a Boise firm.

RICK OVERTON, BA, social science, '93, is a freelance writer for *Wired* magazine and works in the editorial department at *PC World* magazine. Overton earned a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and now lives in San Francisco.

JANE MARIE WARD, BS, geology, '93, is a staff geologist with EnviroSearch International, Idaho Department of Public Works, in Boise.

JENNIFER E. WILLIAMS, BBA, finance, '93, is an accommodation for Pioneer 1031 Co. in Boise.

DEBORAH LEE CALDWELL, BFA, advertising design, '94, is a graphic designer for the Apollo Group Inc. in Boise.

SHERI LYNN CARLSON, BBA, finance, '94, is a loan officer at West One Bank's Cherry Lane branch in Meridian. Carlson previously was a part-time teller at the Broadway branch in Boise.

JON C. HERENDEEN, BBA, finance, '94, is a lumber trader in the Southeast Division at Intermountain-Orient Inc.

DEBORAH J. KENNEDY, MA, history, '94, is a project archivist at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Kennedy works in the special collections department of the Davidson Library, processing records for the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions.

BYRON LEE McLEAN, BS, psychology, '94, is program director at KGEM/J-105 radio in Boise. McLean will be attending law school at Gonzaga University this fall.

GUY STEVEN PLAHN, AS, respiratory therapy, '94, is a respiratory therapist in the intensive care unit at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise.

KELLY A. REILLY, BS, social science, '94, is respite II coordinator for Senior Programs of Boise city and Ada County.

ALAN BLAKE ROWE, BA, political science, '94, is a second lieutenant with the 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, in Boise.

MARY THERESA (McCARTAN) SEROSKI, AAS, business technology, '94, is consumer affairs administrator for Ore-Ida in Boise.

PETER DEMORGO SINCLAIR III, BAS, '94, is an intern with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in Caldwell. Sinclair also is an applied scientist/early team volunteer. He was a Top Ten Scholar at BSU in 1994.

VAUGHN L. WARD, BS, political science, '94, is a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Ward worked as a legislative aide to U.S. Sen. Dirk Kempthorne until he was accepted to officer candidate school in Quantico, Va. As an

aide to Kempthorne he specialized in military, energy and trade issues, as well as constituent correspondence.

NOTE: The winter issue of *FOCUS* reported in error that Julie L. (Warmack) Taylor is director of public and governmental affairs for Blue Cross of Idaho. The person who holds that position is **JULIE (FIELDING) TAYLOR**.

WEDDINGS

DIANA LEIGH MILLER and Stacey John Mitchell, (Boise) Sept. 17

ANGELA MARIE OLSEN and London Allen Reiber, (Vale, Ore.) Sept. 24

ANGELA RAYE BLAIR and Craig Stephen Parham, (Boise) Dec. 28

CHARLES EVERETT HINKLE JR. and **TRISTA KAY ROSS**, (Eagle) Dec. 31

VICTORIA MARIE KORTOPATTIS and Jeff W. Gooch, (Jackson, Wyo.) Jan. 5

ROBERT "BEAU" PARENT and Rachel Sahut, (Boise) Feb. 24

OBITUARIES

BARBARA A. BARTON, MA, education, curriculum and instruction, '93, died March 8 in Boise at age 52. Barton wrote for the *Idaho Statesman's* Daybreak section, reviewing the accessibility of facilities to the physically challenged. She also worked as an English tutor for immigrant families.

FERRIS T. "DYNAMITE" BYINGTON, CC, auto mechanics, '76, died Feb. 25 in Boise at age 61. Byington worked for Riverside Automotive until he retired in 1984.

ERNEST "ERNEY" ALLEN COLEMAN, CC, small engine repair, '93, died March 23 in Sun Valley at age 40. He was the owner of Erney's Repair in Blaine County. Before moving to the Sun Valley area, Coleman received a degree in plant maintenance from the College of Southern Idaho and owned a construction company in Twin Falls.

JESSIE MAUREEN HADLEY, BA, social work, '82, died Jan. 12 in Chubbuck at age 47. Hadley was employed as a case worker for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare at the time of her death.

KIMBERLY ELLEN JORGENSEN, BBA, accounting, '87, died Jan. 27 in Salt Lake City at age 35. Jorgenson was employed with the Moran Eye Center at the time of her death. She worked Canteen Corp. in Boise for nine years before transferring to the company's Salt Lake City office. She also was employed in the financial departments of Host Marriott Corp., Delta Center and the Salt Lake Community Health Center.

LAMAR MATSEN, AAS, horticulture, '70, died Feb. 9 in Fruitland at age 56. Matsen worked for Weiser Products Inc. for 21 years.

JOANNE AVONNE CROMWELL SIMS, BBA, business education/administrative service option, '74, died Jan. 14 at age 57 in Duncan, Okla. Sims had taught business classes at Empire High School in Duncan for several years.

KATHLEEN MARGARET STOREY, CC, practical nursing, '83, died March 4 in New Plymouth at age 59. Storey had worked in various nursing homes in the area. □

NURSING GRADS ORGANIZE CLUB

With the support of the Boise State Alumni Association and the Friends of Nursing, a group of graduates from the department of nursing has established an alumni organization.

The group is known as the Nursing Alumni Affiliate.

"Not only will [the new affiliate] be beneficial for the individuals participating, but we hope the strength of the group will have synergies with our effort to get scholarships for future nurses," says Jolene Schow of Friends of Nursing, the primary fund-raising organization for the BSU nursing department. "These alumni nurses—some of whom were recipients of our scholarships efforts—are intricately embedded in the health-care community in Boise and throughout the state and continue to provide service in uncountable ways to citizens of all ages."

More than 2,000 students have graduated from the BSU nursing department with associate and baccalaureate degrees.

The Nursing Alumni Affiliate was formed to promote programs and coordinate activities with and for alumni, students and faculty of BSU's nursing department.

It is designed to serve as an extension of the BSU Alumni Association in addressing the needs and desires of the department.

"Many of [Friends of Nursing] board members are themselves BSU graduates—of the nursing program and of others," says Schow, "and many of our scholarships are honoring nurses who have been BSU students/graduates."

For more information on the new organization contact Anne Payne, nursing department chair, at 385-3845.

HOMECOMING SET FOR MID-OCTOBER

Former student body officers will gather for their first-ever reunion during Homecoming Oct. 20-21.

The Alumni Association is looking for former students who served as student body president, vice president, homecoming chair, judicial officer, newspaper editor and student programs board director.

The reunion will include registration on Friday and a luncheon, campus tour, wine tasting and the ISU football game on Saturday.

With BSU joining the Big West Conference in 1996, the October 21 game will be the final conference contest between the traditional rivals.

Former student body officers can contact the BSU Alumni Office at 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725 or call (208) 385-1698. □



CHUCK SCHEER PHOTO

Named Distinguished Alumni for 1995 were, from left, BSU presidential assistant Jackie Cassell, Micron CEO Steve Appleton, architect Hal Thiederman and actor Earl Boen.

FOUR NAMED DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Between them, they have built hospitals, starred in movies, led a Fortune 500 company and made BSU history.

They are recipients of the 1995 Distinguished Alumni Award given by the BSU Alumni Association. At the annual Top Ten Scholars and Distinguished Alumni banquet in April, they shared memories of their collegiate days and the faculty who helped them.

"The education I received takes a back seat to none," said **STEVE APPLETON** (BBA '82), who worked his way from the assembly line to become the CEO, chairman and president of Boise-based Micron Technology, Inc. "I've interacted with a lot of universities, and never found one better than my alma mater ... many of our employees [at Micron] are BSU graduates ... and we can compete anywhere in the world."

Appleton was a standout tennis player at BSU and won the Big Sky doubles title one year. He is currently a member of the BSU College of Business Advisory Committee and the BAA board of directors.

JACKIE CASSELL, (AA '48) served four presidents during her 32-year career at BSU. She began working for President Eugene Chaffee in 1964. During her years at BSU she has been a key participant in the school's transition from a junior college. She received a Silver Medallion in 1993 for her service to BSU. (See profile on Page 36.)

EARL BOEN (AA '61) is a familiar face—and voice—to millions of movie and television fans. Among Boen's 50 film appearances are roles in *Terminator 2*, *My Stepmother is an*

Alien and *9 to 5*. He has made over 400 television appearances on series such as *St. Elsewhere*, *Golden Girls*, *Three's Company*, *Seinfeld* and *L.A. Law*. He has also done thousands of radio and television voice-overs, ranging from commercials to cartoons.

"I can remember a faculty that really cared, that really wanted you to succeed. Elsie Buck, William Shankweiler, Lou Peck, Roy Schwartz ... they taught you how to learn," he said. "It is nice to know that some of the spirit I found here in those faculty still exists in a university this size."

"And I'll never forget poor Dr. [Robert] deNeufville trying to teach me German. He never could understand why my accent was so good and my syntax so bad. I could never speak a word, but I picked up one helluva an accent."

Retired architect **HAL THIEDERMAN** (AA '42) worked 44 years putting his design touch on buildings throughout the West. Some of his major projects include the Kaiser Foundation medical facilities in Walnut Creek, Los Angeles, San Rafael and Harbor City, Calif., medical buildings in Denver and San Francisco, office buildings in San Mateo and Berkeley and an alumni facility at the University of California at Berkeley.

He was a member of the first class that moved to the new campus built on the site of the municipal airport in 1941. "My first encounter with the campus was as a child flying from the Boise airfield," he noted. "I'll never forget professors like Elsie Buck ... she made calculus bearable." □

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ann Hester, President
BSU Alumni Association

As the academic year comes to a close, I am pleased to report that the Alumni Association continued to grow and strengthen its role with Boise State University. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort and involvement of the Alumni Association board of directors and Alumni Office staff. The board members and especially the committee chairs have been instrumental in making this a very productive year.

Membership chair Kip Moggridge and his committee members were instrumental in significantly expanding our association membership.

Scholarship chair Dr. Micheal Adcox led his committee in successfully establishing three new alumni scholarships: the Banking Professional Scholarship Fund for students choosing a career in banking; the Physicians and Dentists Scholarship Fund for students seeking a career in medicine; and the Patrick H. Davis Memorial Alumni Scholarship Fund for students in the legal profession.

Additional scholarships established this year include the Dyke Nally Scholarship, the Jackie Cassell Scholarship, and a large addition to the Marching Band Scholarship fund. The total alumni endowment devoted to scholarships has risen to approximately \$900,000. We hope our donor generosity continues and we encourage you to support these or any of the other alumni scholarship funds of your choice.

Student Relations chair Odette Sutton and Candi Allphin began our new program, "Alumni Career Talk, ACT Now," which links alumni with our students. The committee expended long hours to organize a program designed to effectively match our students with an alum who has volunteered to be a consultant in the Alumni Career Talk program. The program is designed to be a tool by which students can obtain information and explore career options. Any interested alumni are encouraged to contact the Alumni Office to receive more information about this great new program.

Governmental Affairs chair Pat Sullivan led his committee in establishing alumni representation in each legislative district throughout the state. The association rallied in support of a BSU-administered engineering program based on the needs of the students, local business, cost effectiveness and financial support from the private sector. Although the program will, for now, be administered by University of Idaho, we will continue efforts to bring about a BSU-administered engineering program.

We believe we have laid the groundwork for our alumni advocacy task force to champion the university's interests with local and state government.

Auction '95 chair Heidi Glaisyer successfully led her committee in putting together an excellent array of items that were auctioned for scholarship funds.

As your president I have enjoyed serving you and the university. It has been a year of many challenges and successes. As the year closes we say goodbye and thank you to our alumni director, Dyke Nally. Dyke has served as our director more than 20 years and has worked for the university for a total of 27 years. On behalf of all our alumni, we will miss him a great deal and wish him the best in his new position.

Thank you for all your support and again, a special thanks to a great board of directors and BSU President Charles Ruch for his continued support and direction. □



SULLIVAN NAMED ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Patrick Sullivan, a 1979 business administration graduate, was selected in May as president of the BSU Alumni Association for the 1995-96 academic year.

Sullivan succeeds Ann Hester as leader of the association, which includes more than 45,000 alumni and provides a variety of social, academic and fund-raising support to the university.

Sullivan, who is president of Sullivan and Associates, has served on the Alumni Association board of directors for eight years. Sullivan and Associates is a political consulting and issues management firm.

Sullivan, a native of Ontario, Ore., has been active in the Idaho and Washington, D.C., legislative arena for more than 15 years. During part of those years Sullivan served as chief of staff for U.S. Sen. James McClure.

Other officers selected were Anne Glass, 1st vice president, Jim Davis, 2nd vice president, Michelle Keller, treasurer, and Micheal Adcox, secretary. □

EX-BAND MEMBERS SCHEDULE REUNION

Band members from Boise College, Boise Junior College and Boise State University will reunite for Homecoming 1995 on Oct. 21 when the Broncos face off with the ISU Bengals. This gathering of former band members will mark the eighth annual reunion of the Alumni Band.

The band, which in past years has included alumni traveling from as far as Newport, Calif., and from classes as far back as the 1940s, will play in the Homecoming parade, at the wine tasting, during the game and at halftime with the Blue Thunder Marching Band.

If you are a former band member and have not previously received information about the Alumni Band reunions, or if you have any questions, call music professor John Baldwin at (208) 385-1955 or toll free at (800) 632-6586, ext. 1955.

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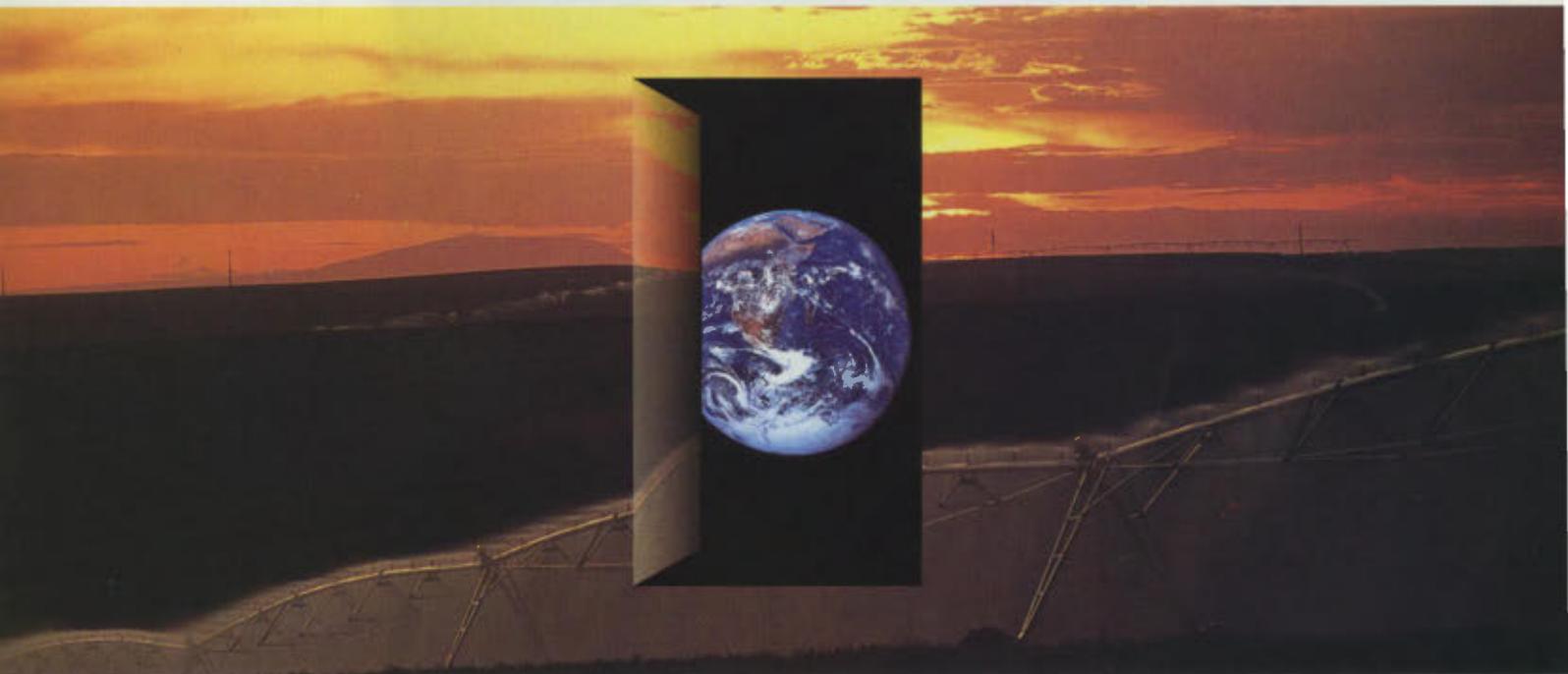
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