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**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**VOL. XXII, NO. 1 FALL 1996**

**ROOMS WITH A VIEW:**
This view of the Boise City Depot won’t be so clear once the walls go up on the new classroom building currently under construction. Completion of the building is expected in May 1997. Chuck Scher photo.
ABOUT THE COVER: We all get old — if we’re lucky. But all too often it seems those who grow old are the unlucky ones. For some of our senior citizens, the declining years can be fraught with sadness and isolation. Happily, many elderly people continue to have active and busy lives by working, attending college classes and engaging in a variety of other activities. In this issue of FOCUS, we look at some of the aspects of aging — and profile some BSU alumni who don’t act their age. Shawn Records photo.
DON'T LET THE 1 PERCENT INITIATIVE HINDER HIGHER EDUCATION IN IDAHO

By Charles Ruch, President

This Nov. 5 will be a defining moment in the 65-year history of Boise State University. On this election day, the voters of Idaho will decide on the 1 Percent Property Tax Initiative. Should the initiative pass, it would trigger a series of events that would shape our institution for years to come. All Idaho alumni have a stake in the outcome of this matter and a role to play in its resolution.

In sum, the initiative, if passed, would:
- Limit property taxes to 1 percent of assessed value.
- Limit annual budgets of cities, counties and taxing districts to Social Security cost-of-living increases.
- Require cities, counties and taxing districts to maintain fire, police and emergency medical services.
- Require the state legislature to fund all public education. All other state programs shall be reduced (higher education, corrections, etc.).
- Disallow the state legislature to repeal the 50/50 homeowner’s exemption, the agriculture and timber production exemptions and senior citizens’ circuit breaker.
- Mandate that cities, counties and taxing districts may impose special taxes in excess of 1 percent by a two-thirds super majority only.

Should the initiative pass, only two alternatives to balance the state budget would be available — a significant tax shift to make up for the lost revenues or a significant reduction in state governmental services. In either case, or some combination of the two, Boise State University would be seriously affected.

The magnitude of this initiative is significant. The Associated Taxpayers of Idaho reports that more than $300 million would need to be shifted to other revenue sources (i.e., sales or income taxes) or reductions in state spending would be required should the initiative pass. Of course, some combination of both is possible.

However, given no tax shift, necessitating the maximum reduction to the state budget, the impact on Boise State University would be a $16.1 million reduction.

At this juncture, BSU has several alternatives to accommodate a $16.1 million budget reduction, each as unattractive as the next. The following is a summary of several alternatives. Each has its own particular impact. It should be noted that these potential impacts are a worst-case scenario based on no tax shift to cover the loss.

ALTERNATIVE 1
MAINTAIN CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND INCREASE FEES

This would require an immediate increase of more than $1,600 (78 percent over current fees) per year in the fees and/or tuition per student, thus impacting the opportunity of a college education for many students. This option maintains current staffing and class offerings.

ALTERNATIVE 2
MAINTAIN CURRENT FEE STRUCTURE AND REDUCE ENROLLMENT

This would require an immediate enrollment reduction of approximately 4,000 students (25 percent of current enrollment), thus eliminating access and the opportunity for a college education for many of our citizens. This option would also require cutting some faculty and staff positions.

ALTERNATIVE 3
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

If there were a reduction of $16.1 million in educational programs at BSU, between 3,500 and 4,000 students could be denied educational access and opportunity, and hundreds of faculty and staff could be terminated.

ALTERNATIVE 4
ELIMINATE MAJOR UNITS AND COLLEGES

As an example, a reduction of $16.1 million could require all the general account budget for intercollegiate athletics plus the budgets for three of our seven academic colleges be eliminated.

Under any circumstances, access would be reduced and quality diminished. This would occur just when we are entering a period when increased postsecondary educational opportunities are most critical to a strong economy and a vibrant quality of life.

The initiative has consequences beyond Boise State University. It is unclear how such a change in public policy would assist in attracting new business or industry to Idaho, and could even slow down our economic potential.

Public schools fully funded by state appropriations would argue for more state control at the expense of local control of area schools. Needed public services in areas of health, welfare, recreation and job development would be reduced.

One need only look to Oregon or California to examine the impact of such a draconian shift in tax policy. And all this in the face of Idaho being recognized as having one of the most well-balanced tax structures in the nation.

The 1 Percent Initiative would have a chilling effect on Idaho’s higher education system, currently one of the best buys in the country. Its effect on your alma mater would be dramatic and devastating. I urge your thoughtful consideration of this most important issue. As I stated earlier, Nov. 5 1996, will be a defining moment in the life of this university. You will play a role in determining our future.

As always I welcome your comments and thoughts. I can be reached at 208 385-1491 or by Internet: apruch@bsu.idbsu.edu.

FOCUS/FALL 1996
Boise jazz great Gene Harris, Gov. Phil Batt and President Charles Ruch announced last month that the university would establish an endowment in Harris' name. In late September Harris and his All-Star Big Band, along with Batt on the clarinet, performed in front of 2,000 fans in the Morrison Center to kick off the endowment drive. The endowment will fund scholarships, an annual jazz festival and a visiting artist series. The endowment campaign is chaired by community leaders William Campbell of Sedgwick James of Idaho Inc. and Jim Nelson of Nelson Construction Co.

UNIVERSITY GRAPPLES WITH HOLDBACK

How do you serve more students with less funds?

That is the question BSU faculty and staff face this fall as they try to balance the university's third-highest enrollment — 15,088 students — with a holdback that will reduce BSU's budget by $1.3 million.

In mid-September Gov. Phil Batt ordered state agencies to reduce their budgets by 2.5 percent because tax revenues were running behind projections.

This is the second consecutive year Idaho universities have reduced their budgets because of revenue shortfalls. The combined cuts over the last two years have permanently reduced BSU's budget base by 5.5 percent, or $2.8 million.

"We will manage our way through this, but it is inevitable that there will be a price to pay in terms of reduced services," says BSU President Charles Ruch.

As FOCUS went to press the university's Executive Budget Committee and central administration were determining how to implement the latest holdback order.

"As we did last year we will adopt a short-term plan to get us through this year and then develop a long-term plan for the permanent reduction," Ruch says.

"As always we will focus our reductions in areas that impact students the least."

But that may be more difficult to do this year because of the first enrollment increase since 1993, when BSU hit its peak of 15,300.

"This year we will be cutting our budget at a time when there is a high demand for our services. Something has to give."

"We would like to add more full-time faculty, but new positions are difficult to come by when we face such a large reduction," Ruch says.

Ruch adds that the university anticipated the reduction and already has sliced operating budgets by 5 percent and instituted a partial hiring freeze.

Budget cuts aside, Ruch says BSU is now better prepared to cope with enrollment increases than it was a few years ago.

Two buildings will open soon to ease the classroom shortage: A health science building will be renovated by spring and a classroom building will be complete by next fall.

BSU ENGINEERING IN FULL SWING

It's not often that a professor gets the opportunity to help create a new engineering program.

In fact, it's so unusual that applicants for faculty positions came calling by the hundreds — make that 700 — when BSU advertised just 11 openings in its new civil, mechanical and electrical engineering programs.

"Most of them were attracted to the idea that they can help build a program from the ground up," says College of Technology Dean Tom MacGregor. "We feel fortunate to have attracted some top-notch faculty members who are very innovative in the way they approach engineering."

Several of the newly hired faculty bring research projects with them; all have doctorate degrees and most have extensive private-sector experience with such companies as Boeing, Texas Instruments, IBM and others.

Student response also has been exceptionally strong, says MacGregor. More than 360 students are enrolled as majors in the three programs. Fifty-nine students received scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $25,000.

The engineering curriculum, designed to meet accreditation standards, is being refined with input from a team of regional business leaders. An advisory committee led by Ray Smelek of Extended Systems is working closely with BSU to craft innovative programs that are responsive to industry needs.

Advisory board members are: Charles Bergman, Amalgamated Sugar Co.; Tom Blomstrom, Idaho Power; Michael J. Bradshaw, Zilog; Joseph Canning, B&A Engineering; Doug Clifford, Hewlett-Packard Co.; Norman Dahm, BSU emeritus faculty; Patrick House, Felts-House Engineering; Donald Hubble, Hubble Engineering; Joe Karniewicz, Micron Technology; Jack Robertson, SCP Global Technology; and Dennis Zattiero, J.R. Simplot Co.

As the programs gear up, BSU President Charles Ruch and the BSU Foundation continue their efforts to raise funds for a new building. Micron Technology has already pledged $6 million over three years toward construction of a state-of-the-art structure.

Space is expected to be at a premium in just a few years. The programs now use offices and classrooms that were once occupied by the University of Idaho cooperative engineering program. The BSU geosciences department and the Idaho Department of Transportation are providing lab space.
AD STUDENTS HELP NON-PROFIT GROUPS

Non-profit organizations are famous for their lean budgets. But some local groups are getting first-rate advice from a low-budget source this fall—BSU senior advertising students.

Students in professor Ed Petkus' upper-division marketing class are providing expertise to 24 non-profit groups this semester. Eight "clients" are on a waiting list.

Projects range from a radio commercial for an upcoming exhibit at the Discovery Center to direct-mail pieces for a March of Dimes fund-raiser and a marketing plan for the Log Cabin Literary Center. Other clients include the Payette Chamber of Commerce, Planned Parenthood of Idaho and the Idaho Shakespeare Festival.

This is the first year Petkus has required all of his students to work one-on-one with a non-profit client on a long-term project. Previously, students worked in teams or individually on short-term projects. Last year, a student designed a billboard for the Idaho Foodbank Warehouse and the class brainstormed promotional ideas for the Animals in Distress Association.

This semester, however, the students are on their own. "Initially they were a little nervous," said Petkus. "Now I think they feel a sense of pride."

As part of the class, the students also are working on a campaign for Pizza Hut that they'll submit to the National Student Advertising competition in the spring.

Petkus isn't the only professor whose students help out local organizations. For his business policies class, professor Kevin Learned requires students to complete 10 hours of volunteer service for an educational or charitable organization. The intent, says Learned, is to give students wider exposure to the world in which they live. "It's important the business students be exposed to the needs of the community and develop their expertise," says Learned.

Social work and other departments regularly require volunteer work for credit. And BSU students can also participate in the student government-sponsored Volunteer Services Board.

Petkus says his class projects give students valuable experience working with a client and an opportunity to network within the community. They also fill an obvious need for cash-strapped non-profit groups that can't afford spendy advertising agencies.

"The opportunity for a student to serve his or her community is as much a part of higher education as is classroom work," says Bill Ruud, dean of the College of Business and Economics. "It's an excellent added dimension to the degree they receive from the university."
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Boise State students worried about proposed cuts to federal financial aid held a rally in front of the university’s Business Building in September. Led by ASBSU president Dan Nabors and three senators, approximately 150 students voiced their concerns.

NEW GUIDE FEATURES HISTORIC BOISE

The cultural landmarks that make Boise a unique place to live and work are featured in a new map and guide that includes walking tours of seven historic neighborhoods.

“Historic Boise: A Neighborhood Guide” includes a birds-eye view watercolor map of the city and historic information about the people and places of Boise. The walking tours cover downtown, Warm Springs Avenue, North End and the 8th Street Marketplace/Warehouse District.

The guide is sponsored by the BSU history department, with support from John Bertram of Planmakers, Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau and the BSU Foundation.

The publication was coordinated by BSU history professor Todd Shallat with Pam Pacotti, researcher; Karen Woods, illustrator; Bertram, consultant; and Meggan Laxalt, graphic design.

“Historic Boise: A Neighborhood Guide” is available for $4.95 at The Book Shop in downtown Boise, the Boise Art Museum and other area museums and bookstores. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Log Cabin Literary Center in Boise.

MAGIC VALLEY ENROLLMENT GROWS

Business is booming for Boise State University programs in the Magic Valley. This fall, 93 students are enrolled in nine business classes at the College of Southern Idaho (CSI). And starting this spring, BSU will begin offering upper-division classes in criminal justice administration in Twin Falls.

Both programs are managed by BSU’s Division of Continuing Education.

This is the second year business classes have been offered in Twin Falls by the College of Business and Economics. Qualified students can earn bachelor’s degrees in accounting or general business without leaving the Magic Valley.

A half-time coordinator working at CSI helps students with admissions, advising and registration. Financial aid, fee payments and registration are also handled on the Twin Falls campus.

The first class of Magic Valley business graduates is expected to receive their degrees in spring 1998.

The class schedule for criminal justice administration is still being arranged by BSU administrators.
BROKERAGE FIRM GIVES PORTFOLIO

Some Boise State students will be reading the stock market pages a little more closely this fall.

No longer mere observers of the ups and downs of Wall Street, they will be managing their own $50,000 portfolio, a gift that the regional brokerage firm D.A. Davidson & Co. provided to give students investment experience.

The students will invest the funds in the stock market during the current academic year. Then, returns of more than 5 percent will be shared by the BSU finance department and D.A. Davidson. Losses will be assumed by the company.

D.A. Davidson, which has established similar programs at five other schools, provided the funds so business students at BSU could have an opportunity to apply modern finance theory to actual market transactions.

Fall semester investment decisions will be made by students in an investment management course. In the spring, advanced finance majors in a security analysis seminar will manage the fund.

TECH COLLEGE NAMED TRAINING CENTER

Autodesk, the fourth-largest PC software company in the world, has selected Boise State's College of Technology as an authorized training center.

BSU instructors will provide certified training in Autodesk products, including AutoCAD, a design automation software package used extensively by engineers, architects, manufacturing designers and draftsmen.

The university has received 100 site licenses for Autodesk software, which is available to first-year BSU engineering students for use in design projects. Most engineering programs don't introduce design into the curriculum until a student's junior or senior year.

TAXATION MASTER'S PROGRAM BEGINS

A long-awaited master's of science degree in accounting with a taxation emphasis began this fall at BSU.

The degree was approved several years ago by the State Board of Education, but was put on hold due to a lack of funding, says Dave Koeppen, chair of the department of accounting.

BSU's College of Business and Economics reallocated existing resources in order to hire a new faculty member to help teach master's-level classes; an additional faculty position is sought for next year.
FOUR CONFERENCES SET AT BOISE STATE

Readers, writers, biologists and physical plant administrators will converge on Boise and the Treasure Valley this fall during four major conferences hosted or co-hosted by Boise State University.

**OCT. 12-16** — University physical plant administrators from the Pacific Coast region gathered in Boise for their 45th annual educational conference and annual meeting. This year’s conference, “The Season for Change,” reflected today’s world of constant change. Participants received information on safety and security issues, new and updated higher education programs and other issues.

**OCT. 18-20** — McCall will be the site of BSU’s fifth annual Writers and Readers Rendezvous, which will feature nationally renowned writers such as Judith Freeman, Gino Sky and Jim Heynen. A session titled “Writing of the Wilderness” is devoted to environmental writing and its political and personal relevance. The session will be presented by Doug Peacock, author of “Grizzly Years: In Search of the American Wilderness.”

**OCT. 29-30** — “The Ecology and Management of Microbiotic Soil Crusts in the Great Basin and Snake River Plain” is the topic of a workshop sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management and BSU. This conference holds special interest because of the fires that burned the Boise foothills in late August. Participants will survey rangeland vegetation and associated microbiotic crusts in the Boise foothills and south into salt desert shrub communities near the Snake River.

**NOV. 14** — “Troubled Waters: Preserving Life’s Most Essential Resource” is the topic of the 1996 Frank Church Conference on Public Affairs. This conference brings scholars, journalists, activists and former government and military leaders together to discuss pressing issues in the world today. An endowment for the conference series was established in 1981 to honor the ideals of the late Sen. Frank Church.

**CMA WINS ANOTHER NATIONAL AWARD**

For the second consecutive year BSU’s Construction Management Association has won second place in the national Outstanding Student Chapter competition sponsored by the Associated General Contractors of America.

The honor marks the 13th time in the last 15 years that CMA has been named among the nation’s best student associations in construction management. Iowa State took first place. The BSU chapter captured the award through hours of chapter, campus and community service.
Universities like to talk in theoretical terms about their impact on society. But what is a university like Boise State worth in plain old dollars and cents?

BSU economist Chuck Skoro has an answer: more than $600 million per year. And from that value comes an estimated increase of $69 million in state and local taxes paid.

"This study answers the question: What do taxpayers get for the money they spend on Boise State?" says Skoro.

"But it only deals with what we can measure. There are lots of intangibles, such as BSU's role in drawing new businesses and new residents to Idaho, that we just can't measure.

"I stuck with just the numbers, but they still are very impressive," says Skoro.

Skoro explains that BSU affects the state's economy in three major areas:

- The education BSU provides increases the future earnings of its students, which results in higher incomes for others and higher tax revenues.
- BSU draws dollars from out-of-state sources such as students, spectators and grants.
- BSU provides consulting, library resources and other business development services that enhance productivity.

The BSU impact statement, Skoro says, is one of the few in the country that places a value on the college education an institution provides. Most impact statements measure how much the university and its students spend.

"We didn't include tax dollars that would find their way into the economy regardless. Instead, we focused on money BSU brings to Idaho from outside the state, and more important, on how much a college education at BSU can add to a person's earning power and to the state's economic activity," he says.

Using Census Bureau and BSU data, Skoro estimated that over a 40-year career, BSU graduates with a bachelor's degree earn between $365,000 and $690,000 more than workers with only a high school diploma. From those income figures, Skoro then determined how much each BSU credit is worth in future earning power.

Adding the total credits taken by all BSU students during an academic year, Skoro estimates that BSU produces an asset worth $540 million in terms of future income it will produce for students.

Skoro says an additional $24 million is added to Idaho's economy from outside the state from a combination of tuition, grants, attendance at athletic events, and spending by non-resident students.

Finally, Skoro estimates that BSU's business development programs, most notably those of the Idaho Small Business Development Center, increase future business output in Idaho by $153 million.

But there is also a debit side to the ledger. Before arriving at a final impact figure, Skoro had to determine how much it costs to operate BSU in terms of tax support, fire and medical services and the opportunity costs for BSU's campus. Taken together, those represent a $66 million cost each year.

Those expenses balanced against the $69 million in tax revenues generated from BSU's economic impact result in a net annual $3 million return on the money invested in the university. 

---

**End Your Foot Pain**

Do you experience a sharp pain in your foot that will not go away? Numbness, tingling, weakness of the foot, and joint pain in the shoe can all be warning signs that there is a foot problem that needs expert attention.

Common foot problems include bunions, hammertoes, pinched nerves, ingrown toenails and heel pain. All can be successfully treated with outpatient care and minimal inconvenience.

Bunions are bony growths on the outside of the big toe joint which are unattractive and make wearing shoes crippling. Bunionettes occur on the outside of the little toe and can lead to increased friction and irritation that can be disabling.

Ingrown toenails are responsible for more than 1 million Americans suffering each year. Matrixectomy is a painless permanent procedure that restores a normal appearance to the nail and allows you to return to work the next day.

Heel pain is an often long term disabling condition with multiple manifestations which can be painful with the first step out of bed or increases by days end. We have revolutionized a non-surgical approach for treatment of this common problem.

Expert advice is available from one of the most advanced foot care programs in the western United States. The Foot Institute can provide you with treatment alternatives and relief for foot pain through its unmatched resources and total approach to foot care.

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DONOR NOTES

- Albertson's donated $40,000 to the Albertsons Scholarship/Capital Project Endowment Fund.
- Boise Cascade gave $4,500 to the International Business Account and $3,000 to the Raptor Migration Project.
- Robert and Trudi Bolinder contributed $1,000 to the accounting department.
- Joyce Harvey-Morgan donated $1,000 to the International Programs Scholarship Fund.
- J.C. Penney Co. gave $1,000 to the Business Scholarship Fund.
- Key Bank of Idaho contributed $20,000 to the Warren McCain Library Endowment, $3,500 for unrestricted use and $1,500 to the Business Scholarship Fund.
- The Les Bois Association of Professional Management Women donated $1,000 to the Business Scholarship Fund.
- The Live Foundation gave $2,050 to the Alternate Mobility Adventure Seekers (AMAS).
- The Neil and Elaine Clark Trust contributed $10,000 for nursing journals.
- Ronald and Brin O'Reilly donated $1,000 to the Frank Church Chair of Public Affairs.
- Ore-Ida Foods gave $6,000 to the International Business Fund.
- The Presser Foundation contributed $1,800 to the music scholarship in its name.
- Richard Stoops donated $1,000 to the business scholarship in his name.
- West One Bancorp gave $18,750 to the Warren McCain Library Endowment and $2,000 to AMAS.
- Women of BSU contributed $2,400 to the Pat Bullington/Women of BSU Scholarship Fund.
- Ada County Medical Society Alliance donated $1,380 to its nursing scholarship.
- Joseph and Deborah Ballenger gave $1,000 to the Dentists and Physicians Alumni Scholarship.
- John and Ruth Carver Jr. contributed $1,000 to the Frank Church Chair.
- John Crim donated $2,500 to the Sharon Crim Nursing Scholarship and US Bank matched the contribution.
- The Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation gave $95,000 for the general and nursing scholarships in its name.
- Golden Eagle Audubon Society contributed $1,000 to the Raptor Migration Project.
- Robert and Vera Gruber donated $1,000 for unrestricted use.
- Key Bank Corp. gave $50,000 to the Warren McCain Library Endowment.
- Ed Leach contributed $1,000 to the Leach Family Education Endowment.
- Carol Lynn MacGregor donated $3,000 to the Gordon MacGregor Construction Management Scholarship.
- Margaret Martin gave $1,000 to the Clyde Martin Memorial Scholarship.
- The Merrill Lynch and Co. Foundation contributed $1,000 to the Idaho Archeology Undergraduate Project.
- The John F. Nagel Foundation donated $14,750 for nursing scholarships in its name.
- Dale and Kathy Nagy gave $5,000 to the Kathy L. Nagy Endowed Scholarship.
- Harvey and Margo Neef contributed $25,000 to the Harvey Neef Maneline Dancers.
- Jim and Karin Nelson donated $2,000 to the Warren McCain Library Endowment.
- Donald and Doli Obbe gave $1,000 to the D. J. Obbe Biology Scholarship.
- Steven Ryals contributed $1,000 to the Horticulture Fund.
- US Bank donated $2,500 to the Jazz Festival Scholarship fund and $1,000 to theatre arts.
- Beverly Young gave $7,000 to the Jerry Young Memorial Scholarship for math students.
- Bill and Elaine Underkofler donated $10,000 to the G.W. Underkofler Accounting Scholarship Fund.

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS HONOR WASSLERS

When Fran Wassler's husband Ernest and son Ronald died within three months of each other, she felt the best way to honor their memory would be to establish scholarships in their names.

After attending Boise State for only one year because of financial considerations, Ernest started Wassler Sheet Metal, which became WASCO Sheet Metal.

"He was always a fan of education," Fran says. "A scholarship was one of the best things I could invest in as well as do something for young people who wanted to get ahead."

Fran has established two scholarships; the first, in both her son and husband's names, is for vocational education students; the second is in Ronald's name and is for pre-med majors.

BSU SELECTS FIRST BROWN SCHOLARS

Eight Idaho students have been selected as the first Brown Presidential Scholars at Boise State. The students each received a full-fee, four-year scholarship of more than $8,000.

Winners of the prestigious award were among the top graduates of Idaho high schools in 1996. Each has a minimum 3.9 GPA with ACT scores in the 97-99 percentile.

The 1996-97 Brown Presidential Scholars are Cody Bill Barney, Janine E. Galvin, Daniel Alan Rogers, Natalie Kay Ward, all Boise; Penny Sue Lanning, Wilder; John Paul Malan, Nampa; Jeremy Thomas Murphy, Burley; and Carmen Marie Swanson, Meridian.

The Brown Presidential Scholars program was created with funds received from a $7.5 million bequest left to the BSU Foundation by the late Thelma and Dean Brown. Dean Brown was a former Albertson's bakery supervisor who joined the company in 1948 and retired in 1971. He died in 1982. His widow died in 1994.
BSU FOUNDATION AWARDS NINE GRANTS

Nine proposals by Boise State University faculty and staff members have been selected to receive grants from the BSU Foundation.

The grants total $35,500.

The foundation established the grants program in 1990 to fund special projects that will enrich the university and the general community but which are not traditionally covered by other funding sources. Projects are:

1. LAS MUJERES DE AMERICA LATINA: THE WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA — a lively two-semester, eight-part film series looks at Latin America and its women with facilitated discussion sessions and a follow-up guest speaker.

2. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FOR PROCESS EDUCATION: A FACULTY WORKSHOP ON TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR ACTIVE LEARNING — a three-day workshop to develop teaching strategies for students to develop skills and abilities in assessment, communication, teamwork, problem solving, information processing and management.

3. LITERACY DEVELOPMENT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS: COMBINING ORAL TRADITIONS WITH CYBERSPACE PUBLISHING — a collaborative literacy project linking diverse student groups on campus and Boise secondary school teachers through e-mail.

4. STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING WORKSHOP — a workshop at BSU on the necessary theoretical and analytical background to utilize and interpret structural equation models in research activities.

5. HOW DO THEATRE STUDENTS LEARN PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS? — a professional guest artist stage director will produce a play with Boise State students as well as teach and offer public lectures and specialized workshops for high school students.

6. INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN BIOLOGY; SEMINAR SERIES — experts in this field will provide seminars which will be open to the public, on the latest techniques in data collection and analysis.

7. SUMMERFEST — a series of community concerts held during the summer in the BSU Amphitheatre featuring a symphony orchestra and soloists.

8. CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES: MUTUAL VALUING IN THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY — brings nationally known speakers to Boise for workshops on mutual valuing and differentiated practice in the health-care community.

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You can’t run as fast as you used to can you? Or see or hear as well either, right? Well, don’t fret. It’s called aging. We all do it everyday, some better than others. Yeah, yeah, growing old is something only our parents and grandparents did, right? Well, in this issue of Focus we’ll show you how a number of folks of all ages have approached old age or are preparing for it. Some may surprise you while others will inspire you. Hey, aging is inevitable, so we might as well make the best of it. Now turn that music down.

Living With Longevity

By Bob Evancho

Francis Roundy has had plenty of company on her journey into old age. Her longevity has not been a solitary ordeal but a family affair. That’s because she lives with two of her sons, a daughter-in-law and four of her 24 grandchildren.

Unlike some people her age, the last thing the 78-year-old Boise resident needs to worry about is loneliness or isolation. “This place is like Grand Central Station sometimes,” she jokes as she describes her life in the home of her son Rex, a customer support technician for Hewlett-Packard, and his wife, Adell, a BSU elementary education student, and four of the couple’s five kids. “But I enjoy being with the children, they keep me young.”

Surrounded by her kin, Roundy enjoys a support system that gives her the respect and esteem someone her age deserves. But is Roundy’s place of honor in her family...
Boisean Frances Roundy, 78, who lives with sons Rex, back, and Frank, extreme right, and four of her 24 grandchildren, is one senior citizen who has plenty of family support.
Social work professor Goodrich Liley doesn’t believe America’s families are deserting their elders.

becoming the exception instead of the rule in American society? Are other senior citizens as fortunate these days?

In the opinion of some, a number of modern-day factors has led to the devaluation of the nation’s elderly. Wrong as it may seem, the nation’s senior citizens, it is argued, are less venerated and revered and thus more likely to be disengaged from their families if they become a “burden.”

“The Industrial Revolution had a profound effect on families,” notes Boise State sociologist Patricia Dorman. “The growth of urban communities played a role in establishing small, one-family households, especially among the more affluent white population, and moved us away from extended families and the inclusion of grandparents in the home. That created more isolation between children and parents.”

Fortunately, that wasn’t the case for Frances Roundy. After Rex and Adell bought their home in 1988, Frances and her husband, who had suffered a stroke and was confined to a wheelchair, sold their house and moved in with their son and his family.

“Part of the reason we bought the house was because it was already equipped for a person in a wheelchair,” says Rex, a former BSU student. “We thought it would just be easier for my parents.” When her husband died a year later, Frances opted to remain in Rex’s home.

Economics certainly played a role in the decision to have his parents move in, says Rex Roundy, 44, but it wasn’t the driving force. “Our parents brought us into this world; I think it’s only appropriate that they get the dignity and respect they deserve when they reach the point in their lives when they get older and need our help,” he says.

Although she admits she sometimes misses the autonomy of being in her own home, Frances, a great-grandmother of five, describes living with her son and his family as

GERONTOLOGY MINOR HELPS STUDENTS HELP THE ELDERLY

When he started his job at a Boise extended-care facility, nursing student Tobin Hill wasn’t sure that he’d like working with senior citizens.

Hill quickly found, however, that he enjoyed the residents. They were friendly and eager to share their life experiences, he says.

Now a senior in the baccalaureate nursing program, Hill decided to learn more about the elderly by pursuing a minor in gerontology at BSU. The interdisciplinary program is designed to teach students in a variety of majors about the many aspects of aging.

To earn a minor in gerontology, students are required to complete five upper-division courses plus a five-credit practicum and a one-credit seminar. Classes cover the biology, psychology and sociology of aging in addition to health and social policy issues such as the Older Americans Act and Social Security Act.

The gerontology minor is open to students in any major, says BSU social work professor Doug Yunker, adding that graduates can complete the program even after earning another degree.

About 400 students have completed course work in the minor, currently 15 students are formally enrolled in the gerontology minor. Yunker expects interest to increase as more and more baby boomers head into their golden years.

Hill says his gerontology classes are helping him to be more effective in his job at a hospital coronary care unit. Many of his patients are elderly. “I wanted to make sure I can provide the best care possible,” he says.
“a great arrangement,” that helps provide her with both financial and emotional security.

“I have friends who are my age who have moved into retirement homes; they are always telling me how lucky I am to be living with members of my family,” she says. “I don’t have a lot of money and I know it can be expensive for a family to have an elderly parent living alone or in a retirement home, so my living here works out well for both me and Rex.

“In addition, I don’t have to worry about property taxes, I don’t have to worry about being alone and someone breaking in, and I certainly don’t have to worry about being lonely.”

Rex Roundy acknowledges that his mother’s ability to care for herself, her monetary contributions — primarily through Social Security and a small retirement fund — and the size and configuration of his home make it possible for eight people to live comfortably under one roof. (The other occupant in the Roundy household is Frank, a mentally challenged 41-year-old and the second-youngest of Frances’ seven children, who, like his mother, has his own private living quarters within the house.) But not every family with an aging parent has the wherewithal to do the same.

Or the inclination, in some cases.

“My personal opinion is that in mainstream American culture, there has been a decline in respect for elders in comparison to other cultures,” says BSU nursing professor Barry Burleson. “And given the reduced respect for elders in our society, when the situation arises that requires a child, who is probably middle-aged, to reverse roles and become the ‘parent’ of an elderly parent, the child will sometimes not want to enter into that responsibility — for a variety of reasons, including that lack of respect — and will give that responsibility to an institution that specializes in elder care.”

When discussing treatment of the elderly, class, race and culture must be taken into account, says Dorman. But in general terms, she considers American society’s obsession with youth as a factor in its attitude toward the elderly. “You rarely see an elderly person portrayed in a primary setting in the media unless it’s for a laxative commercial or something similar,” she says.

Burleson agrees that America’s elderly get short shrift in the media. “Most advertising these days is geared toward the young,” he says. “It goes back to the notion that we have to have many [material possessions], which requires that we concentrate on our jobs and our income.”

And that preoccupation with making money, he adds, “often takes families away from giving respect to and meeting the needs of the elderly.”

“His Policy: Stay on the Job

By Janelle Brown

Oral Andrews isn’t your typical octogenarian.

At age 81, he still works six hours a day for the same insurance company he hired on with 59 years ago.

He drove the Alaska-Canada highway with a friend in August. He loves to downhill ski. He enjoys escorting his “lady friends” to social functions around Boise, and someday he wants to travel the Amazon River.

Then there’s golf. He recently won his handicap category in the Mercedes Dealer Championships in Boise, and will travel to Carmel, Calif., in December for regional playoffs.

“There are still a lot of things I want to do,” says Andrews, who attended Boise Junior College in 1932, the year it opened.

Continuing to work each day is high on his list. Though he officially retired from Equitable Life Assurance Society in 1980, Andrews still finds plenty at the office to keep him busy. He plans to work as long as he can, because it brings him tremendous satisfaction.

“I believe it keeps my mind keener,” he explains. “I don’t get lazy this way. Besides, I have policyholders, and they continue to need service.”

Andrews’ career with Equitable Life spans 11 U.S. presidents, the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall and the start of the space age. He hired on in 1937 at $100 per month plus commission. Except for a stint in the Army during World War II, he’s been there ever since.

He’s worked mostly in pension sales and estate planning, and he says he still gets excited when he talks with clients about how to best plan for their futures. “He is extremely loyal and dedicated,” says Conrad Stephens, an ’82 BSU graduate who works with Andrews at Equitable Life. “He takes great pride in what he does.”

Andrews’ age gives him a special rapport with older policyholders, Stephens adds. “He’s known some of these people for 40 or 50 years. They’ve developed a friendship,” he explains.

Andrews doesn’t look his age. He doesn’t act it, either. He looks back on his long career, and he’s mostly happy with the decisions he’s made.

“I’ve always tried to do the best job for my clients, regardless of the commission I would make,” he says. “That’s been the most important thing.”
Like Dorman, BSU anthropologist Virginia Cox says culture is a key factor in attitudes toward the elderly. "In societies in which change is relatively slow, unlike our predominantly Anglo society in America, the elderly are revered because they are considered the repositories of knowledge," she says.

"Cultures that place value on heritage, tradition and spirituality, such as most Native American tribes, have great respect for their elders because it is those elders who possess the knowledge and wisdom to pass on to the next generation.

"But look at [mainstream] American culture, especially since World War II, and you can see the tremendous gap between the knowledge of the parents and the knowledge of their children.

"We have become a technology-oriented society, and that has just widened the gap. What the growth of technology has done is make the knowledge of the older generation even more irrelevant and the elderly even less respected. I consider this a perception, not necessarily the truth, but it's there."

Burleson agrees. "As opposed to learning at the knee of a grandfather, kids today now go to the Internet for knowledge and information," he comments. "What the elders historically taught the younger generation is no longer relevant because things are changing so fast. That knowledge, now rendered irrelevant, was a great source of respect for elders. That's not to say what our elders tell us isn't relevant, but our society tends to want new information via technology as opposed to old knowledge via the elderly."

Along with technology, another aspect of contemporary American society is a possible factor in the perceived devaluation of our seniors: modern medicine.

With the rapid scientific advances taking place in regard to extending life expectancy, people are living longer, but not necessarily better, observes BSU social work professor Denice Goodrich Liley.

"With increased years comes the increased possibility of Alzheimer's and other debilitating diseases and frailties," she says. "And people with those kinds of diseases require help, usually from their families — either directly or through institutionalization."

But in Goodrich Liley's opinion, that doesn't mean the elderly are being deserted by their families. On the contrary, most families do "everything they can" to help an elderly parent or in-law, she asserts. "But with all the other demands and responsibilities of today, it's darn near impossible physically and emotionally to care for an elderly person if that person is physically frail or cognitively impaired."

Goodrich Liley, who spent nearly 20 years working as a geriatric social worker in Utah before joining the BSU faculty this year, 20

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notes the use of a term that's been coined to describe many of today's baby boomers: the sandwich generation.

"Many people are faced with the dilemma of how to divide their time between their children and their aging parents," she says. "In addition, they have to think about. Realistically, we're all short of time; I don't know how the nuclear family can transcend itself in regard to the longevity factor."

And the toll can be enormous, Goodrich Liley adds. "It's a horrible thing families have to face when they have to consider institutionalizing a loved one. Most people don't want to go into a nursing home: after all, it's not like checking into a hotel. Some see it as a punitive measure, but it isn't; that kind of decision is usually made after [that person's] family has burned out its resources - both emotionally and financially."

Like Goodrich Liley, Boise State nursing professor Judy Murray, who teaches gerontology courses in the university's College of Health Science, refutes any commonly held beliefs that American families are quick to institutionalize an elderly parent.

"It's true that there are more people being placed in nursing homes," she says, "but that's because the older population is growing. Still, 85 percent of care for the elderly is done by the [senior's] family in a home setting and only 5 percent of those who grow old will ever see the inside of a nursing home; those percentages have stayed pretty stable for the last 20 years."

Perhaps the saddest factor to the entire debate is the damage done to the emotional well-being of the elderly parent. "Unfortunately, I think in many of these cases, the elderly person is not given a voice in the decision," comments Burselon. "Albeit limited, it's still their future that's being determined."

A specialist in psychiatric nursing, Burselon points out that such scenarios often lead to bouts of depression on the part of the elderly. "The hallmark of depression is feeling of helplessness, hopelessness and worthlessness," he says. "And that certainly can happen to elderly people who are transitioned into a long-term care environment."

Fortunately, that's not something Frances Roundy has to concern herself with.

"I don't suffer from depression at all," she states. "I'm healthy and I've got plenty to do. Every Friday I go to the Fort Boise Senior Center and manage the crafts store there. While I'm there I get to visit old friends and meet new people."

"Once a month I go to the meeting of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. When I'm home I'm with my grandchildren, I crochet, embroider and make quilts. When I get the chance I cook bread and cookies. Like my friends say, I'm lucky."
Back to School

Senior citizens at BSU pursue their never-ending education

How often do students in a history class get to hear the perspective of a classmate who has actually lived through many of the events being discussed? The BSU students who recently took an American history class with Ila Greenfield did.

Greenfield, who earned a master's degree in history from Boise State earlier this year, has lived through the Great Depression and World War II, watched Boise develop from a small town to a metropolitan area, and had a front-row seat as Idaho politics developed during the better part of this century.

All of those experiences made Greenfield, still discreet about her age, a primary source of insight and information for her younger classmates.

Many older adults like Greenfield are returning to campus, assisted with a special rate for senior citizens — those over 60 can take BSU classes for a $20 registration fee and $5 per credit hour.

They pursue higher education after lifetimes of careers, raising children, nurturing grandchildren and perhaps surviving a spouse. Their reasons for returning are as unique as their individual personalities, but they all seem to share the same attitude about knowledge: They can never get enough of it.

The assumption that seniors can't learn is a misnomer, says Steve Christensen, professor and director of student teaching in BSU's College of Education. Because of their advanced age, some older students might not automatically comprehend certain concepts during class discussions, but that's rarely a problem, he says.

"Most older students have developed good learning skills over the years and have determination and persistence," he comments. "Because of those qualities, any difficulties they might have in immediately grasping [in-class] materials are easily compensated.

"What older students bring into the classroom are new and broader perspectives that their younger fellow students haven't developed yet," he says. "They can also share personal experiences, giving the classroom discussion a whole new dimension."

Boise State history professor Todd Shallat, Greenfield's former adviser, says Greenfield and many other older adults who have taken his classes have had a tremendous influence on the younger students and how they learn. "Older students like Ila are not afraid to ask questions," says Shallat. "They know what they want out of their education and they teach the younger students how to be better students: when it's appropriate to ask questions, how much discussion is good, and that it's OK to have opinions. Their life experiences have taught them to be curious. That's what I love about Ila. She's so curious. She has such a personal need to learn."

Ken Loudermilk, left, and Ila Greenfield, opposite page, are but two of the many senior citizens enrolled at BSU. Loudermilk, with mentor George Thomason, enrolled to "delve deeper into the intricacies of music." Greenfield graduated last spring with a master's in history and is now taking art history.
Greenfield's curiosity and persistence helped get her through five years of night classes and intense research into her master's thesis topic, the 1924 presidential election with an emphasis on Canyon County's role.

"The academics didn't take that long," says Greenfield. "I put off writing that [thesis]. It was so hard. I thought, 'What am I doing this for?' But then I'd start again." Greenfield's desire to learn has not abated since she earned her graduate degree from BSU; she is taking an art history class this semester and plans to sign up for other courses after that.

Greenfield, who started her undergraduate career at an age after most people retire, acknowledges that many of her fellow senior citizens audit the classes they take because they don't want the pressure of worrying about a grade. But she says grades are important. "If you're going to a class every time, you should be prepared," says the 40-year veteran of the travel industry and former agency owner. "To get anything out of it, I have to take it for credit so I will be prepared for it. I need that kind of discipline.

"There is something exciting about being back on campus, mingling with the younger set," he says. "The college atmosphere ... I like it. It's just the excitement of learning and continual development."

Loudermilk says he is gratified when he sees fellow senior citizens strolling through campus, heading to class with books under their arms. "When I was an undergrad in the late '40s and early '50s, it looked kind of strange to us to see someone old enough to be the parent of an adolescent in class. Now it's called continuing education which implies it's never too late to learn. It continues for a lifetime."

Retired from the Department of Health and Welfare after a 24-year career as a clinical psychologist, Loudermilk plans to continue his music education at BSU.

And setting goals like that is vital to most elderly students. "Most older people I know consider goal setting very important," says BSU social work professor Doug Yunker. "There are two main reasons: First, it's a carryover from their days in the goal-oriented work world when they had certain objectives to meet. Second, it keeps them motivated and gives them something to look forward to."

At age 72 Mary Henderson has a long-range plan: She hopes to get her theatre arts degree before her 85th birthday. In the last year she has taken a couple of classes, and after she finishes writing her first mystery novel, she plans to enroll at BSU full time.

Henderson, a Pratt Institute engineering graduate, has held on to her dream to study acting and dance ever since high school, when she was voted the best actress in her class. "When I really had to decide what was important in my life, this was way at the top of the list. I've always taken courses, and I love studying, and my children encouraged me," says the mother of two lawyers. "Plus I like to be with young people."

And Henderson is certainly pursuing her dreams. In addition to working toward her theatre arts degree, writing, and hosting meetings of the Women's Investment Network, an investing club that she founded, Henderson is an accomplished figure skater and ballroom dancer.

Nursing professor JoAnn Vahey, gerontology expert, isn't surprised that these senior learners have achieved so much late in life because age makes no difference in learning, she says. "Of course they can learn and of course they do learn," she says. "Unless there is some kind of impairment such as a stroke, there's no reason why a senior citizen would learn any differently. Age does not change learning ability. Learning persists over time."

And ultimately, time has been a great teacher to these lifelong students.
Easing Into Aging

Are you fiscally or physically fit?

By Melanie Threlkeld McConnell

h oh, there's one. Pluck. And two more right back there. Pluck. Pluck. Weeds? No, gray hair, but its presence can be as distressful as pesky dandelions in the lawn for those who dread the telltale signs of aging.

But graying hair should be the least of your worries, experts on aging say, considering that the largest generation in human history, otherwise known as baby boomers, began turning 50 this year. Consider this: Seventy-eight million Americans were born between 1946-1964. About 10,000 will turn 50 every day for the next 10 years.

What does this mean? There's a serious threat to our country's social programs and we face the prospect of a large population of pensioners drawing resources from a shrinking base of taxpayers, says Gioia Frahm, a planner for the Idaho Commission on Aging.
Statistics show that by 2020 nearly 42.3 percent of the national population will be 55-64 years of age, while 22.4 percent will be 75 years old or older. In Idaho, nearly half of the 2.3 million population (mathematically projected) will be 55 or older while about 518,800 will be 75 years old or older. This influx of oldsters doesn't necessarily mean the retirement till will run dry or that a shortage of hospital beds will ensue. But experts do say that baby boomers are at risk of having a harder time financially and physically during old age than their parents because advanced technology has made us sedentary workers and hefty pensions from a 30-year career with one company have all but vanished. And Social Security — if it's still available — won't be enough. But don't panic about your retirement. Just plan it, and take a tip from your elders.

Financial fitness

First, start saving money to supplement your retirement plan, says Boise financial expert Anne Glass who owns her own investment company and is president of the BSU Alumni Association.

"In 1981-82 President Reagan recognized the baby boomers would overwhelm the government entitlement programs so they developed the 401(k)," she says. "That began the baby boomers' ability to save money for their retirement in addition to the traditional pension."

Glass recommends people start saving for retirement as soon as they can by simply investing $2,000 a year in an individual retirement account (IRA). "When you invest you don't have to hit a home run," she says. "You just have to invest in a conservative steady manner. You just need a normal, reasonable return. People think they have to make a killing and they don't.

"Corporations are cutting back and people are having two or three jobs in a career," she says. "This is the first generation where it is essential to plan for retirement. It looks like they will be in worse shape than their parents if they don't."

Judy Aitken, field services manager for the Public Employees Retirement System of Idaho, describes PERSI's retirement philosophy as a three-legged stool. "What can PERSI do for you, what can Social Security do for you and what can you do for you?" she explains. What PERSI offers for state employees, is a 401(k), established in July 1995 as a supplement to the traditional PERSI retirement package. The number of participants has grown from 200 to 1,400 during the past 14 months.

Yet, she says, younger workers rarely participate. "By about age 40 we see a real dramatic interest," she says. "They call asking, 'What do I do now and is it too late?'"

Pam Inlow, an English teacher at Borah High School and sometime BSU student, learned the benefits of supplementing a teacher's retirement early on from her parents who started investing when they were both high school teachers in a small town nearly 30 years ago. Their tips and financial guidance have helped the 32-year old establish her own financial independence. She

BSU ELDERHOSTEL PROVIDES COURSES FOR CURIOUS SENIORS

Elderhostel, an international learning program for those over 55, has brought curious seniors from as far as Florida and Maine to BSU to take courses such as Basque history and culture, the study of wines, fly tying and fly fishing.

In its short history, Boise's Elderhostel has greatly expanded its offerings. "It's growing by leaps and bounds," says Ellie McKinnon, coordinator of BSU's tutorial programs. She re-established Elderhostel at BSU after a 12-year lapse in the program.

"We instituted the first program three years ago and offered one class the first two summers. This past summer we offered three classes."

Last summer 110 people participated. In 1995, one course was offered and 37 people participated. Each weeklong course offers a combination of classroom instruction and related activities such as field trips. There are no homework assignments or grades for these non-credit university courses.

BSU Elderhostel coordinator Barbara Merrill says that year-round classes are likely in the future. "We're going to offer more Basque history and culture, botany, geology and birds of prey classes, and English professor Tom Trusky is going to teach a class on Neil Shipman. We've had good luck with our programs appealing to enough people."

Merrill says her biggest challenge is to get local folks to take advantage of their local program. "There are probably thousands in the Treasure Valley who get the Elderhostel catalog and are not aware that they can take advantage of the local program. They can actually attend for less money because area residents pay a reduced fee," she says. Merrill plans on speaking at area senior group meetings to encourage Boise-area residents to take advantage of local Elderhostel offerings.
erle Wells could be resting on his reputation as Idaho's pre-eminent historian. But that's just not his style. Instead, at 78, he's launched some new projects, plugs away at a few old ones and offers advice to any student who calls him with a question.

Retired as the state's archivist in 1986, Wells hasn't stopped working full time. "There are just things that need to be done," he says with characteristic understatement. "I have plenty going and get farther behind every day."

Wells writes historical books, consults at the state archives and serves as a walking encyclopedia to faculty and students. He's spending much of his time on an academic study of the Snake River drainage. He started the project with field biologist Lyle Stanford in 1942.

Wells attended high school in Boise and studied at Boise Junior College from 1937-39. Intending to go to law school, Wells shifted gears at BJC, where he was befriended by then-President Eugene Chaffee. Chaffee "took a special interest in everybody," says Wells, who was guided and encouraged by the junior college leader throughout his academic career.

Wells earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Idaho in 1941, studied at the University of California for a year, and then returned to Caldwell as a College of Idaho history instructor for four years. Then he returned to California to complete his Ph.D.,

He got a job teaching at a Pennsylvania college but ultimately returned to Idaho, where he is considered our foremost expert on Gem State history. As Idaho's state archivist , Wells began Idaho's state historic preservation program and oversaw the 1972 opening of the state historical library at State and Fourth streets.

Wells has written numerous books, including an illustrated guide to Boise and publications about anti-Mormonism in Idaho, gold camps, and an eclectic assortment of other topics. In 1956, he co-authored a multivolume history of Idaho with Merrill Beal.

Sharpened pencils in his pocket, Wells is constantly on the go, wheeling around town on a raspberry-colored two-speed bike.

"Retirement" it would seem is but a golden opportunity for the thoughtful and energetic Wells. Dismissing any thought of slowing down, he says, "You're a lot smarter to stay active in something you're interested in. It doesn't work a hoot to go somewhere just to sit."
many of which regular exercise could prevent.

"From a functional point of view, the typical sedentary American is about 25 years older than his or her chronological age indicates," Hoeger says. "We need to work with behavioral psychologists to change lifestyle patterns. That is the biggest challenge we face today."

Statistics show, he says, that people who are physically active have a lower number of health-care claims. And with 60 percent of today's adults inactive, that puts a "tremendous burden on our health-care system."

Staying strong is especially important, says Nancy Jensen (BS, '80) former director of Senior Life at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, because how we function in our environment really determines our age. "Aging is a process and getting old is a social concept. You don't want to judge aging strictly by chronologic age," she says. "You can't tell a lot of times how old people are by their physical appearance. The functional dimension is what sets the whole area of gerontology apart from other age groups. How do people function in their environment, how do they get up in the morning, get dressed, prepare a meal, and go and socialize?"

Well, ask Fred Reich, (AA '46). At 77 this former Boise Junior College student body president plays tennis three times a week, skis, grows gladiolus and is an active member of Boise's Senior Center. "I feel like a person who's 20 or 30 years younger," the former recreation director says.

He attributes his good health and strong body to a personal commitment. "People should find something they enjoy doing. Hopefully it's something that's socially accepted. Because money will not buy you the satisfaction of doing something you enjoy."

Marilee Haiyashi seconds that. Newly retired from teaching Japanese and physics at Borah High School, Haiyashi spends her days riding her Honda Goldwing motorcycle, teaching two classes at Bishop Kelly High School and taking a class at BSU.

"I've always been a rebel," the 59-year-old says. "I realized when I retired that I was in charge and could damn well do as I pleased."

But that was something she learned from her three grown children, she adds. And now, before their hair turns too gray, she's hoping to teach them something too.

"I want my kids to believe they can do what they didn't think they could do. I don't want them to think there's a recipe for life," she says. □
Talkin’ ’Bout My Generation

Author says ‘the kids’ are all right

By Milt Small

For a half century we have heard much about the World War II generation — those who were adults when the war began or became adults during the course of the war.

This is the generation to which I belong — probably the most clearly identified generation in United States history. It is the generation of Bob Dole and John Kennedy and Richard Nixon — of Bob Smylie and Frank Church. It is the generation that has been “in charge” for a half century — in government, business, the arts and education. It is the generation that produced and reared the baby boomers, who reached adulthood in the mid-60s, and who have furnished abundant material ever since for those who discuss and deplore the so-called “generation gap.”

The concept of a generation gap is not new. It can be found — indeed it is a major theme — in some of the world’s great literature — in the plays of Shakespeare and O’Neill, the novels of Hawthorne and Dreiser, Thomas Mann and Emile Zola — even playing a significant role in such an epic novel as Tolstoy’s War and Peace.

Until the ’60s most writers paid little attention to generation gaps. Why make a big thing about something that was a part of the normal evolution of mankind? But out of the apparent generational differences and conflicts of the ’60s and early ’70s has emerged the belief among many people that this was a new and inexplicable break by the younger group with the manners, morals, traditions and ideals of the older one — that is, a break with the World War II generation.

Besides their war experience, there is one other important experience shared by members of my generation: They had survived the worst depression in American history. A driving force in the lives of virtually all that generation, male and female, was to make certain that “the kids” should never have to suffer the same hardships and sacrifices they had endured for so long.

Even more than the wartime experience, perhaps, the Depression caused behavior patterns that often seemed illogical. The wartime generation became virtually obsessed with the postwar novelty of new technology — the countless new gadgets like television, jet airplanes, shiny new autos with high tail-fins and eventually, the computer. What we did not seem to realize along the way was that our children would assume these were essential parts of their rightful heritage and were for the most part appeased by indulgent parents. Someone once said, appropriately, in response to the charge that the boomers were a generation of spoiled brats, “OK, Who spoiled them?”

Actually the World War II generation had itself been set apart most remarkably from the generation of its parents by the technological revolution, and by a program adopted by the federal government toward the end of the war: the GI Bill of Rights, as it was commonly known. The GI Bill enabled veterans to return to school and to buy their own homes. It changed the face of America. People from the inner city who had never lived in, let alone owned, a home of their own now moved to the suburbs. And they went back to school — thousands who had never dreamed of going to college now enrolled.

Of course the impact of the new suburban homes and of the new education was transferred to the younger generation. Education was the path of upward mobility — and a nice home in the suburbs was the ultimate economic goal of many of the new generation as well as that of their parents.

So what went wrong? Many things.

Perhaps most important was that the members of my generation, however much they loved the new gadgets and the new technology, were determined to maintain the status quo — at least after they had attained some of the economic security which they had never known before. Even though women had successfully done “men’s work” during the war years, they had, for the most part, submissively returned home to make way for the returning male veterans — and of course, to raise children. The racial bias which permeated virtually all of white America — worst, of course, in the South, but widespread — now faced some new economic problems.

The same self-centered status quo mentality that marked behavior at home was even more explicit in relations with the people of other countries — a kind of arrogant “since-we-won-the-war-we’ll-tell-you-what-
to-do” attitude. That attitude was evident long before the war ended. Perhaps it is best illustrated by the famous British complaint about Americans: They’re overpaid, oversexed, and over here.

Members of the World War II generation could never seem to understand why our European allies and Latin American neighbors simply could not recognize that we were always right — to say nothing of the Russians who had to be restrained from spreading Communism all over the world. This arrogant attitude was epitomized by a reminiscence of one of the wartime generation who in the ’60s rose to an important position in the White House: “We were kids, captains and majors, telling the whole world what to do.”

So there was an element of hypocrisy in the behavior of my generation — tolerating, even supporting, racial practices in our own country that resembled the tactics used by Stalin against his own people. Political leaders of both parties pandered to the biases of my generation in carrying on a bloody, horrible, meaningless war in Vietnam, while systematically lying to the American people about what was really happening — until the lies were brought out in the open. Vietnam veterans returned home to an icy reception, presumably because they had lost the war. Even with the passing of time, these things leave a bad taste in one’s mouth.

The reaction against these hypocrisies by the boomer generation was often selfish, foolish and not without a degree of hypocrisy of its own. But for my generation to say that the messes of the ’60s and ’70s were all the fault of a bunch of damned fool kids who did not appreciate what my generation had done for them, and behaved without morals, ethics, or responsibility, is to ignore the self-centeredness and unbending self-righteousness of the leaders of my generation for nearly 50 years.

This in no way is meant to disparage or demean the achievements of the World War II generation — its courage in the face of depression and global war. It is simply an acknowledgement that times do change — always have changed — and that each generation must adjust to the change.

Moreover, each generation will have its own achievements and make its own mistakes. Just as it does no good to carp about the mistakes of the past, it is futile to think the clock can be turned back to a golden age when we made no mistakes.

The future is in the hands of two new generations — the children and grandchildren of the World War II generation. I hope the rest of my generation will join me in wishing them well.

Milt Small is the former executive director of the Idaho State Board of Education. He has taught history courses at BSU for several years.
People who live into old age, it seems, are rewarded with a long list of stereotypes, many of them negative. How often do we see Hollywood, Madison Avenue or the national media portray senior citizens as forlorn, forgetful and feeble? But aging is an individual process that can’t be defined by narrow stereotypes.

What are the common “myths” that shape our view of old age and our reaction to those we label “senior citizens?” Here are five:

**The Emotional Myth**

The Elderly Are Lonely

There is an assumption that the elderly withdraw from society. But studies have shown that if individuals take the initiative to develop social contacts when they are young, they will continue to do so as they grow older. That psychological dimension of one’s personality is not related to age.

True, social contact may not be as easy after a lifetime of on-the-job friends. Lack of transportation and poor health are two of the biggest reasons some seniors may be cut off from social contact.

Some people do experience depression after retirement, deaths of loved ones or friends, or financial problems. But depression is treatable and not the sole domain of the elderly.

Many senior citizens do live alone. But there is a big distinction between being alone and being lonely. Most seniors develop a social network of friends, just as any age group does. Many people turn to senior citizen centers, churches, volunteer organizations and other programs to develop friendships.

The majority of seniors — 65 percent — live in a family setting. Another 30 percent live alone. Only 5 percent live in nursing homes.

**The Economic Myth**

The Elderly Are Poor

It does not follow that if you grow old, you grow poor. Eleven percent of the senior population lives below the poverty line, compared to 13 percent for other age groups. Many of those are women 85 years and older who have never worked outside the home. True, most seniors’ income is lower than when they were at their peak earning years. But compared to all adults, the average income is about the same — approximately $15,000.

Those statistics are expected to improve in the coming years. The “new old” — people in their early 60s — have had more opportunity to save and invest. That generation, along with the baby boomers who follow, is expected to enter its senior citizen years in even better financial condition than the current generation.

**The Psychological Myth**

The Elderly Feel Unneeded

After a lifetime of productivity on the job or raising a family, seniors may feel unneeded. But most seniors are able to adjust to those role changes by finding other avenues for their time and energy.

More and more seniors are taking advantage of new opportunities to volunteer their time and experience to a variety of organizations.

Others turn lifelong interests into cottage industries. And others remain in the work...
force, where companies have come to appreciate their loyalty, low turnover rates and flexibility to work odd hours. Studies show that the absenteeism rate among workers older than 65 is significantly lower than their younger peers.

And seniors need other people, just as any age group does. Emotional needs for love and affection do not change with age. There is no data to support the common belief that sexual desire drops as one ages.

THE COGNITIVE MYTH

The Elderly Can’t Learn

Despite the common association with senility, only one in 10 seniors has any cognitive impairment.

And several studies have dispelled the bias that seniors shouldn’t be hired because they can’t learn new skills.

Research has shown that given equal familiarity with the material, seniors are just as able to learn as their younger counterparts. In fact, learning for some may be easier because they can associate new information with past experiences.

Many remain active learners who take college courses, enroll in the community schools program or Elderhostel, where senior citizens take short courses as part of their travels.

THE PHYSICAL MYTH

The Elderly Are in Poor Health

It is true that the body changes as we grow older. But not all health complications are a function of aging. Some ailments, such as disease, affect any age group. Two-thirds of senior citizen say their health is good or excellent ... and reflect that attitude in their behavior.

Seniors, like other age groups, benefit from the health awareness movement that has swept the country. Many belong to health clubs or exercise with friends to maintain their flexibility and strength.

A prime example is the Senior Olympics, a growing program nationwide.

Many seniors are taking preventative measures to maintain their health, rather than be resigned to the “pill for every ill” philosophy. And many of those seniors who have health problems learn to live with their condition and maintain active lives.

Information for this piece was furnished by Nancy Jensen of the Senior Life program at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center and Boise State University psychology professor Rob Turrisi.
LEARNING HOW KIDS COPE WITH HOMELESSNESS

By Amy Stahl

Most homeless parents are too worried about caring for their family's basic needs to spend much time thinking about improving their relationships with their children. But strong bonds with adults give homeless kids the foundation they need to build self-esteem and be successful at school, says BSU psychologist Anooshian.

For over a year, Anooshian has been studying the impact of homelessness on children, how they relate to their families and perform in school.

Thus far, Anooshian and her BSU student assistants have interviewed 50 families with children age 6-12. Their goal is to talk to 80 families by December. Most of the participants live at Boise's Community House and the Turning Point Shelter in Nampa.

Anooshian says there is no quick fix to the problems homeless kids face at school. However, building healthy relationships is a good place to start. "We need to address relationship problems first before addressing other problems," she says. "You can do all the tutoring you want, but if a kid is victimized it isn't going to have a lasting impact."

Gathering data for the study has been difficult because of the stigma of homelessness, says Anooshian. Many families avoid public services and prefer to keep their living arrangements secret. "I think that's one of the most difficult things about homelessness. There's such a taboo now. "It's difficult because many families aren't in shelters because they want privacy. Many have a history of abuse and violence that's led to a mistrust of other people," she says. Plus some parents are hesitant to talk for fear that their children will be taken away by social service agencies.

Anooshian identifies participants by walking in areas where they are known to live and through referrals from service providers. She depends heavily on carefully trained and supervised undergraduate assistants. They do most of the interviews in teams, questioning a mother and typically one or two children in a family.

The student researchers also analyze data, review the literature about homelessness and work as volunteers at the Community House, Boise Clinic, soup kitchens and other agencies.
In the interviews, children are asked about their siblings, hobbies, health, discipline, ability to communicate with their parents, and other issues. Parents answer similar questions but also discuss their feelings about their children, marital status, living situation, work habits and related topics.

The interview results have been surprising to Anooshian. For example, she says that homeless parents sometimes have friendships that interfere with quality time with their own children. And the quality of relationships kids have with their parents determines the quality of their friendships with their peers.

While some families are debilitated by homelessness, Anooshian says that others are able to work together to pull themselves out of poverty. Those parents typically are optimistic about the future and make time for their children. As a result, their kids have friends and do well at school.

On the other hand, if parents are depressed then the kids are too, says Anooshian.

Anooshian is focusing largely on families living in the Treasure Valley. But because Idaho’s homeless population is considered “very homogenous,” she also is incorporating interviews with approximately 20 Hartford, Conn., families. A colleague is interviewing mothers and children in the more racially diverse community.

She’s also working closely with area teachers who contribute in-class assessments of their homeless students.

“Kids who are social rejects, as are many of these kids, are doomed to academic failure,” she says. School can become a link in a vicious cycle of victimization.

Anooshian believes that the results of her study can be used to help homeless families—and most importantly children. Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Southwestern Idaho recently approved her proposal to begin a mentoring program at Boise’s Madison Elementary School. The new “school buddies” program will pair a child with a volunteer from Big Brothers-Big Sisters who is supervised by one of their case workers.

Upon completion of her research, Anooshian plans to publish her findings and write grants focusing on intervention. Thus far her work has been funded by a BSU Faculty Development Grant and the Idaho Department of Education.

Anooshian’s hopeful that her research will make a further dent in the stereotypes. “It worries me that we’ve gotten into a ‘blame the victim’ mentality. Many people think that the homeless have it easy or that ‘it’s their own fault.’” Nothing could be farther from the truth, she says.

Nevertheless, she’s optimistic about many of the families in the study. “You can survive homelessness alright if you’ve got a lot of support and family relationships,” she says.  

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MUSIC PROFESSOR REVIVES REAL OLDIES BUT GOODIES

By Edie Jeffers

When BSU music professor Joe Baldassarre wanted to start a new organization he had to go back 700 years for his material.

Baldassarre, it seems, has a passion for old music — really old music of the 13th-17th century variety. “It’s fabulous stuff and it deserves to be heard,” he says. So he formed the Boise Early Music Society in January.

“Today, we are oriented to the 19th century in our music listening,” he says. “There is so much pre-classical music that doesn’t get the attention it deserves.”

Through the Early Music Society, Baldassarre hopes music like madrigals and troubadour songs will get some deserved attention. The society, 60 strong, also provides a vehicle for people who play early music to network, because the music is rare enough that people who play it may not know about each other.

“What I wanted to do,” says Baldassarre, “was to provide a hub for information because there’s so little that goes on in early music around here.”

Until now. The group publishes a newsletter, sponsors several ensembles, stages performances and even offers two classes.

Baldassarre’s Early Music Society brings ancient music to life.

When asked to describe the music, Baldassarre draws parallels between it and his other musical passion, rock ‘n’ roll. “Rock and early music are really similar. You need improvisatory skills for both and you need to be able to do more than one thing at a time, like sing and play,” he says.

“You need to be able to arrange music and you need to be able to work from a sketch. Not all the notes are written down.”

The Early Music Society contains several groups, including the Darkwood Trio, made up of musicians who play bass clarinet, bassoon and cello; The Towne Waite, a recorder consort; Camerata, a guitar/lute and baroque flute duo; and the Amarillis Consort, a female vocal ensemble.

The groups perform locally at Borders Books and Music, Coffee-News, the Brick Oven Beanyery, Brown’s Galleries, and on the BSU campus. Many of the musicians perform on replicas of vintage instruments.

With so much activity coming from the Early Music Society, local music aficionados now have plenty of opportunities to expand their horizons by trying a new thing that’s really quite old.

RECOGNIZING EASTERN VALUES TO HELP WESTERN BUSINESSES

By Brad Carlson

Paying attention to the religious and cultural systems that dominate India and other East Asian countries can pay off for Western companies investing in these fast-growing economies.

Values influence behavior, says BSU business and international communications professor Mohan Limaye, who received a State Board of Education grant to study the connection between workers’ religious values and their job-related behavior — particularly in India.

Much has been written about the cultural values of economically successful Japan; now is the time to look at values prevalent in the other Asian countries whose economies are growing, says Limaye. India alone has about 800 million people who adhere to the Hindu belief system.

U.S. and other Western companies accustomed to their own way of operating will benefit in the long term if they adjust to local cultures, he says.

“You have to adapt. Importing the American style of management, in total, will not be effective,” he explains.

Through his study, Limaye hopes Western managers can better understand how Hindu values can impact employee motivation, negotiation, conflict management and other human resource issues.

Limaye’s study is especially timely as Western companies increase their direct investments in the rapidly growing economies of India and other East Asian countries.

Limaye: “East Asian workers will be loyal, but they need to feel cared for.”

Deeper reasons for the economic growth of these countries in the ’80s and ’90s can be found in the value systems and social organizations in the two principal religions — Hinduism and Buddhism, says Limaye.

These and other Eastern religions and philosophies such as Confucianism teach followers to be highly motivated, to work diligently and to value education. This presents an opportunity for Western companies to assemble excellent work forces, he says.

But the opportunity could be squandered, according to Limaye, if Western firms forget to heed a very important theme in Eastern cultures: saving face. Most East Asians are motivated by a desire to perform well and to serve. Money is not the only motivator, he says. “Workers will be loyal, but they also need to feel cared for.”

For the second phase of the study, Limaye hopes to extend his research of Hindu values and social organization to southeast Asia, where Buddhism is a major religion. Buddhist and Hindu religious values are similar, he says.

Limaye’s work helps fill the gap between management studies that have until recently ignored non-Western cultural perspectives and the large volume of research on Hindu and Buddhist cultures that was previously the domain of social sciences.

He’s convinced that his work can benefit companies like Hewlett-Packard, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Motorola and General Electric that maintain major facilities in India. It will help them better understand their employees, says Limaye.
YES, COMPUTERS AID LEARNING

Do computers in the classroom really help students learn? Yes, and more, declares a new landmark research study conducted by BSU's College of Education and the U.S. Army Research Institute.

The report concludes:
- The use of computer technology in education has a significant positive effect on student achievement as measured by test scores across subject areas and with all levels of students.
- Computers in education have positive effects on student attitudes, stimulate increased teacher/student interaction and encourage cooperative learning, collaboration, and problem-solving and inquiry skills.
- Students from computer-rich classrooms show better behavior, lower school absentee rates, lower drop-out rates, earn more college scholarships and attend college in greater numbers than do students from non-computer classrooms.
- Computer-based teaching is especially effective among populations of at-risk students.

The findings are enormously energizing, says College of Education Dean Bob Barr, because of the financial and personnel investment already made to ensure Idaho students have access to technology.

"The Idaho Legislature has invested $10.3 million a year for the past three years. Some schools have passed bonds to raise money to buy computers for their schools," Barr says. "And an increasing number of businesses and industries are donating equipment to schools to use.

"President Clinton even signed an executive order requiring all federal agencies to donate their replaced computers to schools," he says. "And the biggest challenge all across the country has been to retrain teachers to use computers in the classroom.

"So for years we could only answer the question of 'Do kids learn better with computers?' by saying, 'We think so, we think they will.' Finally with this research educators are able understand the influence of technology on K-12 student achievement."

The 13-month research study was conducted by BSU graduate students Dawn Stram Statham and Clark Torell, under the direction of Ruth Phelps of the U.S. Army Research Institute and BSU education professor Carolyn Thorsen.

The students conducted a worldwide online search for research on every core subject at each grade level. Such a comprehensive survey has not been conducted since 1986, Barr says.

The research findings were presented to Idaho legislators and educators during a press conference at BSU in September.

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AS IDAHO’S CHIEF KANE IS ON GUARD

By Janelle Brown

It looked like a recipe for disaster.

Ice jams blocked the Snake River near Weiser, flooding the adjacent farmland. Eleven horses stood on a muddy spit of ground, surrounded by a swift, bone-chilling torrent that would soon engulf them.

Rescue seemed dangerous, perhaps impossible. The water continued to rise. There was only one hope for the doomed horses, and the state authorities took it.

They called in the National Guard.

“It was complicated,” remembers Maj. Gen. John “Jack” Kane. “We flew a helicopter in, worked with a vet to tranquilize the animals, then hooked each horse to a harness and lifted them out one at a time.”

All but the last horse survived. By all rights, Kane should have flown his crew back to Gowen Field near Boise in a blaze of glory. Instead, fog set in, the chopper was grounded, and the weary airmen left the scene the most mundane way possible — by hitching a car ride with state troopers.

Kane, a ’70 BSU graduate who now commands the Idaho National Guard, still grins when he retells that story. Though it occurred fairly early in his 34-year career, he remembers it vividly. He sees it as an example of the difference the Guard makes in Idaho and around the world.

“They do a great job,” he says of the 5,000 soldiers and airmen he oversees. “They have tremendous dedication.”

The National Guard is Kane’s life. He’s worked his way through the ranks, enlisting right out of high school and starting his full-time career after graduating from BSU with a degree in business.

He’s sweated through weekend maneuvers, flown helicopters and driven tanks, and commanded both aviation and cavalry units. Along the way, he’s traveled much of the world, continued his education at military schools and won numerous medals.

“General Kane is the ideal person to lead the National Guard,” says Idaho Gov. Phil Batt, who appointed Kane in January 1995.

“He’s provided strong and capable leadership in dealing with Idaho’s floods and fires.” As commander of the Idaho National Guard and director of the state’s Bureau of Disaster Services, Kane oversees an annual federal and state budget of $125 million. He travels frequently to Washington, D.C., to American military bases in Europe and Asia and to meet with defense contractors around the country.

Kane says the Idaho Guard has changed dramatically in the years since he enlisted. Training is longer and more intense, the weaponry is increasingly sophisticated, and the Guard can respond more quickly to emergencies.

The job can resemble a pressure cooker. When disaster erupts in Idaho or conflict happens halfway around the globe, the National Guard has to be ready. It can be called on at any time — sometimes with very little warning.

“We’re deployed all over the world,” says Kane. That’s only fitting, considering the Guard’s twofold mission — to fight the nation’s wars at the discretion of the president, and on a state level, to respond to emergency situations.

“You run on adrenaline; things can get very tense quickly,” says Kane.

Kane’s days are invariably hectic. He sel-
dom has more than 15 minutes between meetings. Oftentimes, he has to sift through volumes of information, then make quick decisions.

“He has phenomenal recall and memory,” says Ret. Col. John Norris, when asked what Kane was like to work with. “He’s a proactive, get things-done-but-do-it-right kind of guy.”

Kane’s days start early enough to beat rush hour on the busy connector routes between his home and Gowen Field. On a recent morning, Kane arrived before 7:30, breezing into his comfortable office at the main headquarters building for his first briefing of the day. At 8:15 he was plowing through his list of phone messages, but he put the receiver down at 8:30 to open a meeting with his staff.

Mid-morning, Kane grabbed his briefcase and drove downtown to the state Capitol for his monthly meeting with Batt. Then it was back to Gowen Field for more meetings, an on-camera interview with a local TV station, a tour of construction projects at the base and more phone calls.

Rush hour was just ending when Kane headed for home. The next day, he flew to Washington, D.C., for several days of briefings.

“It’s always good to come back to Boise,” Kane says when asked about all the places he visits. He doesn’t have much time to relax, but when he does he enjoys playing a little golf and spending time with his wife, Sandra, and 12-year-old son Matthew. Another son, Scott, is a captain in the Army and stationed in Hawaii.

He downplays the awards he’s received over the years, but when prodded says the one he’s most proud of is the Master Aviator Badge he received for flying 3,000 hours in 15 years. “Just that badge represents a career,” he says.

A few of those 3,000 flying hours were spent rescuing a forlorn group of horses from an ice-clogged Snake River. The Guard hasn’t been called on for a similar mission since Kane took command, but he knows it could happen anytime. When it does, he plans to be ready.

“Working with the people of Idaho is my favorite part of the job,” Kane says. “That’s the heart and soul of it for me.”
HOYT FINDS HAPPINESS IN THE HINTERLAND
By Larry Burke

Almost three years ago 1991 nursing graduate Gretchen Hoyt experienced a textbook case of urban burnout. So she traded the hustle of Boise for a no-stoplight town in the Alaskan bush.

Now, comfortably settled in the Metlakatla Indian Community, she is on a daily voyage of discovery as she adapts to a new culture, probes the mysteries of the Alaskan rain forest and, perhaps most important, learns about herself.

Oh, yes. She also loves her job as supervisor of nursing at the island’s only medical clinic.

“This is general nursing at its best; we treat all generations, all diseases, all traumas,” says Hoyt, the only nurse among the 1,500-member community located on southeast Alaska’s Annette Island, 15 air miles from Ketchikan.

“I knew this would be a good nursing experience if I could blend in. I have it and it is,” she says.

While Hoyt was “extraordinarily nervous” during her early days with the Tsimpsean tribe, she didn’t remain a stranger for long. Within a matter of months, she was totally absorbed into the community and was even adopted by one of the tribe’s clans.

Hoyt has made cultural adjustments.

CHURCH GIVES GUIDANCE TO ISSUES ON IDAHO’S ECONOMY
By Amy Stahl

John Church knows that his profession doesn’t make for exciting dinnertime conversation. “It’s not as though you can go home and talk about economics to your kids. They’d be dozing off,” says Church, chief economist and strategic planner for Idaho Power. But Church doesn’t care. He thinks his job is fun.

“There’s always something new — especially now that the utility industry is being deregulated,” he says.

A native of Seattle, Church majored in civil engineering at the University of Washington at a time when Boeing laid off 5,000 engineers. Rather than stand in an unemployment line, Church headed to Boise State where he developed an interest in economics and an affinity for the teaching of Barry Asmus, John Mitchell, Dick Payne and Peter Lichtenstein.

He completed a bachelor’s degree in business with an emphasis in economics at BSU in 1979, earned a master’s at the University of Idaho, and joined Idaho Power.

Currently, he’s responsible for economic forecasting and research for the company, which supplies electricity to nearly 341,000 general business customers in a 20,000-square mile area encompassing parts of southern Idaho, eastern Oregon and northern Nevada.

In an annual economic forecast report he produces for Idaho Power, Church gathers information concerning nearly 80 economic series — population factors, employment figures, household size, wage rates and other data. The county-by-county results are then used within Idaho Power to make decisions about the anticipated distribution, generation and transmission of electricity.

Computers and the Internet have revolutionized his job. “It used to be painful to find the data you needed to do analysis or a model,” says Church. No more trudging to the library. Now Church can call up the Federal Reserve data base with the touch of a button.

Admittedly, his field is a narrow one. Church is among just a few regional macro economists. His opinions and those of his colleagues are followed closely by decision makers in the Pacific Northwest. Journalists call frequently, too, looking for quotes on housing starts or company developments.

Church takes it all in stride. He thrives on the challenges. “I’m almost too obsessive. I don’t even hear the phone ring,” he says, smiling.

When he’s not digging into data at his desk, Church enjoys teaching at BSU where his wife, Kathy, is a student.

Teaching is satisfying, he says. “You can talk about a subject you really like.” ©
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FAVORITE FOODS OF THE FAMOUS

By Edie Jeffers

What do you get when you mix celebrities, wolves, and food? In BSU grad Nancy Reid's experience, you get a recipe for success.

The 1988 communication/English major and co-author Sheila Liermann recently published their third cookbook together. The latest effort, Famous Friends of the Wolf Cookbook, serves up recipes from Candice Bergen, Shirley MacLaine, Robert Redford, Paul Newman, Tom Brokaw, Jimmy Buffett, Jamie Lee Curtis, Elizabeth Taylor and many others.

Reid began dishing up celebrity favorites in 1993 when she worked with Liermann to publish the Sun Valley Celebrity and Local Heroes Cookbook. The two cooked up the idea to combine stars, food and a cause while serving on the board of The Hailey Advocates for Survivors of Domestic Violence.

The proceeds from the first book benefitted that group. In 1995 they published Utah Celebrity and Local Heroes Cookbook, which benefitted the Park City Performing Arts Center.

The latest effort, published by Adams Media Corp., is the duo's first national release and will benefit wolf recovery efforts in the West.

The book is a mixture of wolf photography, field notes from a wolf biologist, celebrity bios and celebrity food. "It's a strange animal," says Reid, unaware of her pun. "It sounds like a crazy idea, but people should act on their instincts more often. I don't know why we thought we could sell the whole thing to a national publisher. There's never been anything like it before."

The former Idaho Statesman reporter left the traditional work force five years ago after the birth of her daughter, Sophia. Reid was two months pregnant with her 2-year-old son, Lucas when she began work on the just-released wolf cookbook. She says the latest effort "has been like a long pregnancy."

Reid and Liermann are working on their fourth cookbook, the Austin Celebrity Cookbook, which is scheduled for release this winter.
DENNIS EARL WHITE, BS, political science, '80, is a recruiting manager with Johnson Service Group in Woodstock, Ga.

RICHARD CHARLES "CHUCK" DEAVER JR., AAS, applied electronics, '82/BAS, '82, works for the Bureau of Land Management in the Division of Operations Branch of Wide Area Network Support in Denver. He provides support and guidance for the Bureau's e-mail and wide area network systems. Deaver previously was the telecommunications manager for the bureau's Washington, D.C., office for six years.

ANTHONY R. MEATTE, BBA, accounting, '82, has been designated a certified governmental financial manager by the Association of Governmental Accountants. Meatte is bureau chief of systems administration, Division of Statewide Accounting, at the Idaho State Controller's Office.

JULIE L. PARKE, BBA, general business, '82, is the community resource coordinator for the Boise River Festival in Boise.

JEAN A. (DONNEL) COMSTOCK, BBA, finance, '83, is vice president and senior credit review officer at First Security Bank in Boise. Comstock previously was an assistant vice president and credit review officer. She joined the bank in 1984 as a credit analyst.

ROBERT "BEAU" ABLE PARENT, MBA, '83, is director of marketing with Intermountain Outdoor Sports in Boise and Meridian. Parent has been in the recreation industry for 25 years and has won numerous awards for his promotional efforts, including best in the nation marketing award from the Ski Industries of America.

FERNANDO R. VELOZ, BBA, accounting, '83, is supervisor of financial accounting at Blue Cross of Idaho in Boise.

JOHN E. ZABALA, BBA, accounting, '84, is finance manager in the compensation and benefits department at Morrison Knudsen in Boise.

CHRISTOPHER DANIEL DEMPSEY, BA, English/secondary education, '84, is the recipient of the Idaho Commission on the Arts poetry fellowship. Dempsey's submission, "Letters to the Archaeologist," was runner-up among 800 entries in the Arkansas Poetry Prize competition. Last winter he won first prize at the National Council of Teachers of English Literary Festival. Dempsey is a teacher at Eagle High School in Eagle.

JAN B. PACKWOOD, MBA, '84, is executive vice president of Idaho Power Co. in Boise. Previously vice president of marketing Packwood joined the company in 1970.

JEAN J. (WROT) STEVENSON, BBA, accounting, '84, and KIM L. PICK, BBA, accounting, '88, are partners with the accounting firm of Grow, Rasmussen & Co. of Boise.

WILLIAM EDWARD DEAN, BBA, accounting, '85, is a member of the law firm of Hopkins, Roden, Crockett, Hansen & Hoopes in Boise.

MICHAEL ARTHUR STAVES, MPA, '86, is a major in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort DeRussy, Hawaii. Staves works with the Operations Division for Engineering at the 9th ARCOM.

TED F. TOTORICA JR., BM, music/secondary education, '86, was named Music Educator of the Year by the District Three Music Educators Association. Totorica is choir director at Borah High School in Boise.
RAMIREZ HEADS HISPANIC COMMISSION

By Janelle Brown

Dan Ramirez brings more than academic skills to his new job as executive director of the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

The '94 BSU graduate also brings a lifetime of experience. Ramirez spent 11 years — from ages 6 to 17 — working the dusty farm fields near Rupert with his parents and eight brothers and sisters.

"We were typical migrant farm workers," he says of his family. "We were very poor, we were just trying to survive. Going to college was not something to even dream about."

But Ramirez wanted a better life for himself, and when he was offered a scholarship to Boise State through a program for migrant workers called the College Assistance Migrant Program, he jumped at the chance.

"I was very fortunate," he says. "The only way out for me was to get an education." He settled on political science as a major, and soon found opportunities for hands-on experience.

He worked for three years in the Caldwell office of Republican Sen. Dirk Kempthorne, a position he says brought him in contact with issues affecting the Hispanic community in Idaho, estimated to be about 60,000 people.

Substance abuse among the youth, immigration and civil rights issues, inadequate housing and language barriers are among the challenges Idaho's largest minority group face, Ramirez says.

"One of our biggest problems is the high dropout rate among our youth," the new director adds. "There are many of us in the Hispanic community who are working together," he says. "There is much we can do."
National Guard staff sergeant.

IAN DAVID SMYTHE, BS, political science, '94, is an Army intelligence officer assigned to the National Security Agency in Bad Aibling, Germany.

MARTHA A. STEVENS, BS, political science, '94, is program director for North Nampa Neighborhood Services in Nampa.

PATRICIA "KELLY" WESTON, BA, theatre arts/directing, '94, is an office manager and LAN administrator with Higgins & Rutledge Insurance in Boise. Weston also is business manager for Stage Coach Theatre in Boise.

USA A. BAIRD, BBA, finance, '95, is a statistical analyst with ECCO in Boise.

HELEN S. (FLEENOR) BROWN, MA, education/curriculum and instruction, '95, is the principal of Popplewell Elementary School in Buhl.

KEVIN J. BROCKE, BA, elementary education, '95, and JERRY MITCHEL ROSS, BBA, marketing, '95, are sales specialists at Fisher's Office Equipment in Boise. Brocke covers the Nampa and Caldwell area and Ross covers the Boise and Meridian area.

DAWN KRAMER, BA, political science and mass communication/journalism, '95, is an aide to Idaho Gov. Phil Batt. She previously was community editor for the Times-News in Twin Falls.

TONYA LYNN (MUNSEY) McFARLAND, AS, nursing, '95, is a registered nurse at Treasure Valley Subacute & Rehabilitation in Boise. Her husband TY WELDON SCOTT McFARLAND, BA, mass communication/journalism, '96, is program director for KTSY Radio in Caldwell.

STEPHEN CRAIG COMPTON, BAS, vocational technology, '96/BBA, marketing, '96, is a sales executive in the personal insurance department at Sedwick James of Idaho in Boise.

THAL WADE DIXON, BS, social science, '96, is a second lieutenant through the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

RONALD BRUCE DUNCAN, BBA, general business/management, '96, and his wife, DIANE F. DUNCAN, BBA, general business/management, '96, work at Hewlett-Packard's customer support center in Boise.

MELANIE M. HOFT, BA, mass communication/journalism, '96, is a reporter with The Challs Messenger in Challis.

PATTIE J. REYNOLDS, TC, dental assisting, '96, recently won a gold medal in dental assisting at the Skills USA championship in Kansas City, Mo. The competitions were sponsored by Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. She is employed by Dr. Scott Freeman in Boise.

SCOTT MARSHALL THOMPSON, BS, physical education/secondary education, '96, is a physical education teacher and wrestling coach for the Buhl School District in Buhl.

BRENDA LEA VELOZ, BS, psychology, '96, is a litigation assistant with the law firm of Hall, Farley, Oberrecht & Blandon in Boise.

WEDDINGS

LOGAN WILLIAM BRUDENELL and LAURA LYNN SMITH, (Boise) April 20

ROBERT EUGENE BROWNFIELD and SHARESE ANNETTE MUNSON, (Boise) April 20

RACHEL ESTHER BROLLER and Bryan Bolles, (Boise) April 26

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL ROGERS and Amber West, (Las Vegas, Nev.) April 28
RESOLUTION
ON THE ONE PERCENT INITIATIVE
BY THE
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS Idaho citizens will be voting Nov. 5, 1996, on the 1 Percent Initiative, a ballot measure which purports to limit property taxes; and,

WHEREAS Boise State University is a major contributor to the economy, education system, and quality of life of Idaho and the City of Boise; and,

WHEREAS the Boise State University Alumni Association recognizes the importance of a fair and balanced tax system to support the State of Idaho, Boise State University, a healthy economy, and Idaho’s quality of life; and,

WHEREAS the 1 Percent Initiative as drafted is flawed and will damage Idaho’s balanced tax system and education in general; and,

WHEREAS if the 1 Percent Initiative passes, Idaho’s Legislature will be confronted with funding an additional $300 million to make up for lost property tax revenues to K-12 education and local government; and,

WHEREAS the Legislature, if it does not raise additional revenues to replace the lost property tax revenues, will be forced to cut $16.1 million from the State’s financial support of Boise State University, and the following alternatives will be available to Boise State University:

- Immediately increase fees and/or tuition paid by students at least $1,600 (a 78% increase over current fees) and hope to maintain current enrollment;

- Immediately reduce student enrollment by 4,000 students (25% of the current enrollment) which would necessitate a general reduction in faculty and staff and eliminate access and the opportunity for a college education to many Idaho citizens;

- Immediately reduce the number of programs and services available to students to offset the anticipated $16.1 million reduction in revenues thus eliminating hundreds of faculty and staff and programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Boise State University Alumni Association does officially oppose the 1 Percent Initiative due to the devastating impact it will have on higher education and Boise State University in particular and the State of Idaho in general.

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CANCER CLAIMS
THREE LEADERS

Leaders in Boise State's Student Residential Life, Honors program and Counseling Center died recently from cancer.

DAVID BOERL, a 1974 BSU graduate, was assistant director of housing for 22 years. He died July 10 in Boise at age 47. Boerl played a key role in the development of BSU's residential life programs and supervised renovation and construction projects for the department. To honor his devotion to students, the university named a computer/study room in Chaffee Hall last fall.

WALLACE KAY served 10 years as associate director of BSU's Honors program. He died Sept. 1 in Boise at age 56. He was president of the National Collegiate Honors Council in 1984. An English professor, Kay was honored several times as an outstanding faculty member at BSU Alumni Association Top 10 Scholars awards banquets.

DAVID TORBET taught at BSU from 1966 until he retired in 1984. During that time he was instrumental in the development of BSU's Counseling and Testing Center. Torbet died Sept. 3 in Waldport, Ore., at age 78. His avid recycling efforts, which began more than 30 years ago, resulted in a $45,000 scholarship fund for BSU counseling students.

Boise State is well represented at Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine this fall with a graduate of the BSU biology program at each level. Pictured from left are third-year student Brady Renner, fourth-year student Roy Mausling and second-year student Dennis Johnson. First-year student Brett Bingham had not yet started classes when this photo was taken.

BSU SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

Boise State alumni are encouraged to submit nominations for the sixth annual University Foundation Scholar Awards.

Each spring, one BSU faculty member is named a BSU Foundation Scholar in each of the three categories of teaching, research/creative activity and service. Foundation Scholar winners receive a certificate of recognition and a monetary award and are honored at a luncheon and at the general convocation during commencement ceremonies.

In order to simplify the nomination process, BSU now requires only a brief letter that includes the name of the nominee, the category and the name and signature of the person making the nomination.

The 1996 winners were Edward Matjeka, chemistry, Teaching Award; Mike Samball, music, Service Award; and Marion Scheepers, mathematics, Research/Creative Activity Award.

Nominations should be submitted to the office of Alan Brinton, BSU associate vice president for academic affairs. The mailing address is B-307, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725; the phone number is (208) 385-4421; the e-mail address is abrinton@bsu.idbsu.edu.

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Next month the citizens of Idaho will be presented with an interesting dilemma that has considerable ramifications for your alma mater and education throughout the state. At the center of the discussion are the issues of taxes, government spending and local control.

The 1 Percent Initiative is a simple answer to our complex tax and governmental structure. The initiative will cap property taxes in Idaho to 1 percent of assessed value. Sure, we all want lower taxes. But at what price? That is the dilemma facing Idaho voters on Nov. 5.

Idaho, by many accounts, has a well-balanced tax structure. Property, sales and income taxes are at moderate levels when compared nationally. These taxes work together to support the economic growth and the needs of the citizens of Idaho. The 1 Percent Initiative will dramatically shift the burden of the tax structure to the other two sources, or force massive cuts in governmental funding. The initiative also could lead the state to assume control of many functions currently managed locally.

Yes, lower taxes are very appealing. But, does Idaho want to follow in the footsteps of California and Oregon? Both have passed similar laws. Oregon's Measure 5 phased in lower taxes over a five-year period. (The 1 Percent Initiative does not have the phase-in period.) One impact was that resident tuition at the University of Oregon went from $1,555.50 per year before Measure 5 to this year's rate of $3,381.

Do Idaho residents want their fees doubled for a minor savings in property tax? Oregon's K-12 programs are also in severe trouble. The costs of extracurricular programs are forcing many students not to participate. Furthermore, The Portland Oregonian reported that 43 percent of the top Oregon high school students leave the state to attend college because of the damage caused by Measure 5.

As for California, the state schools have doubled their tuition costs and continue to have double-digit increases yearly. The public K-12 schools are overcrowded and crime rates in the high schools are skyrocketing. Businesses leave California at unfathomable rates due to the increase of sales and other taxes.

Both states fell victim to a simple answer to a complex question. Does Idaho want to follow?

I urge you to do two things. First, know the issues surrounding the 1 Percent Initiative. Don't listen to the sound bites; find out the facts for yourself. And second, VOTE on Nov. 5. Vote on this issue; vote for the candidates that will work and fight for you. If you want government spending to decrease, I urge you to vote for the person who will fight for that— not for an arbitrary initiative that will hurt programs that serve the citizens of Idaho.
In August Boise State alumni employed at Albertson's corporate headquarters gathered at the Boise River Ram for a reception sponsored by the BSU Alumni Association. The group ended the evening by presenting a $4,500 check to the association to be used for scholarships. Shown accepting the check, left to right, are Alumni Association president Anne Glass, BSU President Charles Ruch and organizers Mike Bessent and Tom Blaine, both former association presidents. The scholarship fund now exceeds $5,000.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JOINS ALUMNI STAFF

Boise State's Alumni Association reached another stage in its development by hiring its first ever assistant alumni director.

Karen Jackson, Eagle, was selected from more than 170 applicants.

Jackson's duties include new chapter development, marketing, events planning and student relations.

She has extensive experience in public relations and gained alumni/development experience as a student.

Prior to moving to Idaho, she worked in the public affairs department of FHP Health Care in Riverside, Calif., where she developed strategic plans, managed staff and volunteers, and produced many newsletters.

Karen and her husband, Jeff, have two sons ages 2 and 3.

BSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| OCT. 1-31 | Alumni Art Show, BSU Student Union Gallery |
| OCT. 28-30 | University Presidents Tour to Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls. |
| OCT. 2 | Pre-game Party, Fresno State |
| NOV. 2  | Pre-game Party, New Mexico State |
| NOV. 16 | Alumni Piano Concert (Morrison Center, BSU campus) |
| NOV. 24 | Alumni Basketball Night/Men's Game (BSU Pavilion) |
| NOV. 30 | Alumni Basketball Night/Women's Game (BSU Pavilion) |
| DEC. 3  | President's Concert (Morrison Center, BSU campus) |
| DEC. 8  | Alumni Night at Cabaret (Morrison Center, BSU campus) |
| MAY 3   | Auction '97, Boise Centre on the Grove |
| MAY 17  | Graduation Celebration (BSU campus) |

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