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ABOUT THIS ISSUE: From prehistoric wonders to the latest research on violence-prone youth, Boise State authors are penning books, manuscripts and technical articles that not only influence research in their fields but also sway public opinion. In this issue of FOCUS, we take a look at the difficult writing process and how it can affect an author’s perspective on life and his or her performance in the classroom. Cover illustration by William Carman.

IDAHO’S TOP PROFESSOR
For the fifth year in a row, Idaho’s top professor hails from Boise State.

BASICALY BASQUE
A firsthand look at the Basque people and their culture.

DEFYING DEATH
Psychology professor Jamie Goldenberg looks at the surprising ways we react to our own mortality.

SMALL PACKAGES
Nanoscale research proves that bigger isn’t always better.

THE BARD IN BOISE
Boise State’s long-standing collaboration with the Idaho Shakespeare Festival is a boon for both entities.

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FIRST WORD 3
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BODY WORKS
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The challenge of managed enrollment

As reported on the following pages in this issue of FOCUS, Boise State again set a new enrollment record. This fall we enrolled a record 17,714 students, or 12,737 full-time equivalent (FTE) students.

This is a head count increase of 3 percent over last year and caps an 18 percent increase over the past seven years. Our 1995 Strategic Plan argued for a 2 percent per year growth rate. Up to last year we were on track. During the last four semesters we have seen our growth exceed this rate. When juxtaposed with our decline in resources (a 10 percent decrease for fiscal year '03 over FY '02), this growth rate is way too fast.

Doing more with less has its limits, and we are at that point. Our growth this fall was across the board. We recorded increases from applied technology through graduate level and across every aspect of our distributed campus: main campus, off-campus sites, Canyon County and through our electronic campus (Internet and television). Here are the numbers:

- Our 17,714 students are taking a whopping 188,816 credit hours, or a 4.3 percent increase. We enrolled 1.3 percent more undergraduates despite practically running out of classroom seats before part-time students even got a chance to register. Full-time undergraduate enrollment increased 4.3 percent.

- Graduate enrollment was up 17 percent; applied technology was up 12 percent.

- Enrollment on the Boise campus was up 2 percent while growth in Canyon County was up 15 percent. Gowen Field, Mountain Home and our Micron sites also posted increased enrollments.

- More than 1,550 students took one or more courses through our electronic campus, a 26 percent increase.

Our success in meeting the enrollment challenges of this fall is due in no small way to several strategies suggested by our Enrollment Management Committee, ably led by Mark Wheeler, dean of Enrollment Services. Anticipating the fall crunch, this group encouraged continuing students to make use of summer school and to increase their flexibility in building a fall schedule. As a result, the number of continuing students registering for summer classes was up 19 percent.

Additionally, our ever-expanding use of BroncoWeb provides students with information about class schedules and availability. Students are able to make changes in their schedules instantly across the total range of offerings throughout the distributed campus. Consequently, students were able to build full schedules by using several locations, time slots, and/or the electronic campus.

While these enrollment management strategies were most successful in building our fall enrollment, they alone will not help to bring us back to the desired 2 percent per year growth target. To help us achieve this goal, the Enrollment Management Committee has recommended and the university community concurred with two changes in our procedures for first-time undergraduate admission.

First, we are modifying our current admission index (which places two-thirds weight on high school grade-point average and one-third weight on ACT/SAT test scores) to include a new, middle category — "possible candidate for admission." Adding this band to the index will do two things: 1) identify a group of students who are currently being admitted but who are struggling academically; and 2) allow the Admissions Office to admit from this group only the number of students we have the resources to support and help be successful in a given year. Current estimates suggest that an additional 400-700 students could be denied degree-seeking admission to academic programs next fall because of the changes (see Pages 4-5).

Second, those students who do not qualify for regular admission into academic programs will be given several options, including participating in a new program we are very excited about. This program is an intensive eight-week summer "bridge" program, which will help students be successful in their academic work in subsequent semesters. This program is possible because it will be self-supporting and will occur during the summer months when we have extra space. Students will also have the option of exploring one of the 38 degree or certificate programs in the Selland College of Applied Technology, which practices an open-admissions policy. And for others, admission as a part-time nondegree-seeking student will allow them to get started in college classes.

We believe that these additional enrollment management strategies will permit the university to continue to provide quality programs consistent with available resources to the most academically prepared students while continuing our mission of providing access to post-secondary education for the citizens of the Treasure Valley.

Boise State is not alone in facing this enrollment dilemma. One of my colleagues from another metropolitan university reported to his faculty on this issue, noting the following: "We realized that we needed to manage our growth if we wanted to provide the best education possible to our students and maintain the optimum work environment for our faculty and staff. In short, we were growing too fast.

"It is, in some ways, a good problem to have. Students don't flock to bad universities! We are in demand because students perceive that this is an excellent place to get a good education and at the same time enjoy the college experience. In this case, as you surely know, perception is reality."

It is clearly a reality at Boise State University.

For more information about admission to Boise State, contact Wheeler at 208-426-2384 or mwheeler@boisestate.edu.

I appreciate your support and welcome your comments. I can be reached at 208-426-1491 or through e-mail at cruch@boisestate.edu.

—Charles Ruch, President
Enrollment increases despite fewer resources

State-mandated cutbacks, reduced class selection and limited on-campus parking have not significantly curtailed Boise State's growth pace as the university set a state enrollment record for the seventh consecutive fall semester.

Despite limited resources as a result of Idaho's current economic woes, Boise State's 2002 fall enrollment of 17,714 students was an increase of more than 3 percent over last year's fall total of 17,161. In fact, there were more students wanting to enroll, but the university could not accommodate all of them.

"While our ever-increasing enrollment numbers are an indication of the university's growing stature, there is no denying that — given the current economic climate — our situation can be viewed as a double-edged sword," says President Charles Ruch. "Quite simply, there were more students who wanted to enroll, but we ran out of class seats."

Mark Wheeler, dean of enrollment services, says one of the main challenges the university faces is to provide learning opportunities to as many people as possible without compromising the quality of their education. "I think we did an excellent job working to meet the needs of our students, especially since we're working with $5 million less in state-appropriated funding in the current fiscal year," he remarks.

Students are also taking heavier class loads, a total reflected in the number of full-time students, which increased by 5 percent.

"Growth brings with it a series of opportunities and challenges," says Ruch. "We are very pleased that so many students have selected Boise State. Nevertheless, we remain pressed for space and continue to seek solutions."

More students + less funding =

In response to the double whammy of further belt-tightening and continued high demand for classes, Boise State will ratchet up its admission standards for students applying for fall 2003.

However, the university's decision does not mean at-risk students will be on the outside looking in, says Daryl Jones, the university's provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"In light of rising enrollment, the budget reductions we have experienced, and the likelihood of continued budget constraints," says Jones, "we have decided to raise admissions standards in order to give highest priority to those most likely to succeed and then develop options for students who will benefit from more focused academic support."

The new admissions standards, says Jones, will allow the university to promote quality, better manage enrollment, and preserve student access while providing more structured support for academically at-risk students.

Statistics show that those students who fall in the lower ranges of the admissions index typically fail or drop out during their freshman year, notes Jones. Redirecting these academically at-risk students toward better options will improve their likelihood of success. Many students will be offered admission to an intensive summer "bridge" program, which will help them to succeed in subsequent semesters at the university. Others will be encouraged to explore admission to the Selland College of Applied Technology. Still others will be permitted to attend the university as part-time, nondegree-seeking students.

"We are doing two things here," comments Jones. "We are raising standards while providing structured support for those who don't meet those standards."

The tougher admissions standards come as Boise State continues to struggle with serious budget issues. Earlier this year the State Board of Education urged higher education leaders to spend at 95 percent of their budgets to have funds on reserve in case of an additional holdback.

"We continue to face the challenges of growth without adequate resources," says Jones.

"Unfortunately, turning away students and a faculty and staff hiring slowdown are among the by-prod-
In addition to dealing with stagnant funding, the university has had to grapple with rising demands due to this fall's increased enrollment. This semester Boise State received more than 9,000 applications for admission to its undergraduate programs as it set a state enrollment record for the seventh consecutive fall with more than 17,700 students (see Page 4).

Those numbers, says Jones, are expected to grow in future years. At the same time, the university is being asked to operate with less state-appropriated funding ($5 million less in the current fiscal year alone) and fewer teachers (22). By increasing admissions standards, Jones explains, Boise State can address the challenges of high demand and reduced funding while also making a long-term commitment to quality and improved student learning.

Boise State will continue to use an admissions index for traditional-age students that assigns two-thirds weight to students' high school grade-point average and one-third weight to ACT/SAT scores. But now the university will be raising the cutoff on the index, which will curb overcrowding by steering an additional 400-700 applicants to other options.

This change in standards will make degree-seeking admission to Boise State's academic programs among the most competitive in the state, says Jones.

"Providing access to education in the Treasure Valley is the key to fulfilling the aspirations of Idahoans and ensuring economic development and future prosperity in Idaho," he says.

—Bob Evancho

Reduced energy costs are one part of the university's plan to meet state-mandated budget cuts of 10.1 percent or approximately $9 million less than Boise State's 2001-2002 budget.

Boise State realized an 11.6 percent savings in energy consumption between December 2001 and August 2002 — despite the opening of the Extended Studies building and construction of the Student Recreation Center. That translates to an avoided cost of $217,605 ($150,091 for electricity and $67,514 for gas).

"Our staff have been great team players and have put forth a strong effort in energy conservation," says Einar Norton, Boise State's mechanical engineer.

To reduce consumption, the university now only heats or cools buildings to human comfort levels during official business hours. Those hours have been reduced on weekends and classes have been consolidated to fewer buildings wherever possible. Building systems are programmed to go to "unoccupied" status during other times. Heating and cooling systems continue to be upgraded by installing computerized temperature controls in several buildings.

In addition, from May 20 through Aug. 16, the university cut back to a four and a half day work schedule, allowing air conditioning units to be shut off at 11:30 a.m. on Fridays. Most of the university's summer energy dollars are typically spent on afternoon cooling.

Boise State continues to grow in national recognition as the university earned second-tier status among master's universities in the West in the U.S. News & World Report's 2003 college-ranking issue.

Master's universities are categorized as schools that offer a full range of undergraduate degree and some master's degree programs but few doctoral programs.

Using the master's universities criteria on a national scale, the College of Engineering was also listed among the top 50 programs in the report.
BOISE STATE RADIO EARNs
U.S. SENATE RECOGNITION

Boise State Radio was cited by the U.S. Senate for its "creative application of wind power technology." The National Public Radio affiliate recently completed installation of what is believed to be the first public radio transmitter site to rely on the power of wind.

The transmitter, located at 8,600 feet atop Nevada's Ellen D. Mountain, was built by Boise State Radio's 24-hour news station KBSX-FM. Three state-of-the-art turbines help provide broadcast service to previously unreachable areas in southern Idaho and northeastern Nevada. U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo presented the station with the Spirit of Idaho award.

"In an age when just 3 percent of electricity in today's national mix comes from renewable sources, BSU Radio has committed to expanding [its] services while advancing the use of clean, efficient power sources," said the official U.S. Senate citation.

MANUFACTURING CENTER
CLAIMS AWARD FROM FEDS

TechHelp, the Boise State-based manufacturing extension center, received an award from the federal government's Economic Development Administration for its "dramatic increases in outreach assistance to rural Idaho" in the area of manufacturing design. (More on TechHelp, Page 11.)

During the awards ceremony at the 2002 EDA Western Region Conference in San Diego, it was noted that in the last two years, TechHelp has completed 259 projects in 34 Idaho counties, 23 of them rural. Of particular note is TechHelp's involvement in the area of rapid prototyping. Since the fall of 2000, when Boise State installed a rapid prototyping machine in the College of Engineering, TechHelp has forged a strong relationship with engineering staff and graduate-level students to deliver rapid prototyping parts to manufacturers and entrepreneurs throughout Idaho. To date, 44 Idaho companies from 15 counties have received rapid prototyping product development assistance from TechHelp.

EXTENDED STUDIES
DESIGNER WINS AWARD

Julie Erb, graphic designer for the Division of Extended Studies, received the first runner-up award for "Best Catalog Cover" for Boise State's Summer Programs 2002 Class Schedule from the Western Association of Summer Session Administrators. Erb was awarded a certificate of achievement for her cover design.

Erb's award marks the second time she has won a WASSA award. In 2000 she took first place in the "Best Use of Theme" category.

Ruch: No time to ponder impending retirement

The countdown, which started in an Evanston, Ill., high school more than 42 years ago, has accelerated for Charles and Sally Ruch.

Sometime in the summer of 2003 the couple will vacate the Langroise House — the official residence of Boise State's president and the Ruchs' abode for only a few short months — and move to their newly built home in Boise to begin the next phase of their lives.

When Boise State's venerable chief executive retires next summer, he will have passed his 65th birthday and have completed 43 years as an educator. The 2002-03 academic year at Boise State will be the culmination of a distinguished career Ruch began as a 22-year-old school counselor at Evanston Township High School in 1960 — the same year he married the former Sally Brandenburg and earned his master's in education from Northwestern.

By the time he was 28, Ruch had a Ph.D. from Northwestern and in 1966 joined the higher education ranks as a faculty member in the department of counselor education at the University of Pittsburgh, serving as chair from 1969-74.

In '74 he took a job at Virginia Commonwealth University as professor of education and associate dean of the School of Education. In 1979 he was promoted to VCU's education dean, and in 1985 to provost and vice president for academic affairs at the Richmond, Va., school.

For the last decade he has served as Boise State's fifth president. On Aug. 19, at the conclusion of his annual State of the University address to faculty and staff, Ruch announced that he would step down upon the arrival of his successor next summer. In mid-October, he shared a few thoughts with FOCUS:

Q: The job of a college president is a hot seat; it's no popularity contest. As such, you've had your share of critics. The standing ovation you received at the end of your speech on Aug. 19 must have been touching. Can you
Charles and Sally Ruch welcomed members of the campus community during an open house at the newly renovated president’s home — the Langroise House — after taking up residency in September.

describe your feelings at that moment?
A: It was an emotional moment. I was touched and gratified that the university community was so warm. And everything that has transpired since then has been equally rewarding. I’ve received many phone calls, notes and e-mails that have expressed appreciation for the last 10 years. That has been very gratifying to both Sally and me.

Q: Now that it has been a few weeks since your announcement, have you had a chance to reflect on your decision?
A: To be honest, I haven’t really reflected yet. I have been focused on the present and the future. I want to make sure that there are as few loose ends as possible when I pass the presidency of this institution on to my successor. I’m sure I will take a moment sometime down the road, probably around the first of the year when [my departure] gets real.

Q: Because the renovation on the Langroise House took longer than expected, you and Sally will be residents for less than a year. Any regrets?
A: No. It has been a wonderful opportunity for us and we are enjoying it. It’s an old house, so we hope to have all the bugs worked out by the time the new president is ready to move in.

Q: What do you hope your legacy at Boise State will be?
A: The decade I have been here has been one of exciting changes and remarkable achievements for the institution. Different folks will view what has happened at Boise State during those years through different prisms. I hope that when folks look back most of them will say that I was able to hand off the institution in better shape than when I arrived.

Q: What is your biggest challenge in your final year as Boise State’s president?
A: To get us through this difficult [2003] budget year and to be able to continue to provide the resources to accomplish what the community expects us to accomplish. It’s a different environment than when I came. Folks are saying we are [anticipating] the most difficult, tax-oriented, revenue-oriented legislative session in the past 25 years. A major objective is to make sure that the importance of higher education is included in that conversation.

—Bob Evancho

Ten Years After

Charles Ruch was hired as president of Boise State in October 1992 and assumed those duties in January 1993. Here are some of Boise State’s numbers then and now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1992-93</th>
<th>2002-03</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment*</td>
<td>14,908</td>
<td>17,714</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student fees**</td>
<td>$678</td>
<td>$1,548.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic enrollment</td>
<td>2.7 percent</td>
<td>5.1 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degrees conferred***</td>
<td>2,083</td>
<td>2,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs offered</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget (all sources)</td>
<td>$91.8 million</td>
<td>$222.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSU Foundation assets</td>
<td>$27.7 million</td>
<td>$71.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Comparison figures are for fall 1992 and fall 2002.
** Amounts are per semester for a full-time state resident undergraduate and do not include optional health insurance.
*** Comparison figure for 2002-03 reflects graduates for winter 2003 and spring 2002.

CAMPUS NEWS

State Board of Education selects nine to serve on Screening Committee

According to Blake Hall, president of the State Board of Education, the board hopes to hire “an outstanding leader who will be able to continue our efforts to move Boise State University into the forefront of postsecondary education in the Pacific Northwest and beyond” and have him or her in place during the summer of 2003.

At its October meeting, the board appointed nine Boise-area residents to serve as the Screening Committee. Under the leadership of board member Rod Lewis, the committee’s main charge is to actively seek candidates, review applications and nominations and recommend to the board the names of three to five finalists whom the committee believes have the characteristics for the position. The board’s goal is to invite the finalists to Boise for an extensive series of interviews in March and make a selection during the summer.

The committee members are:
- Rod Lewis, State Board member and Micron Technology’s chief legal officer.
- Charles Wilson, Wilson Properties CEO and member of the Boise State Foundation board.
- Mark Dunham, vice president of the Idaho Association of Realtors, past president of the Boise State Alumni Association and member of Boise State Foundation board.
- Carol Martin, professor of English.
- Milford Terrell, DeBest Plumbing & Mechanical Inc. executive and Bronco Athletic Association past president.
- Lynn Russell, College of Engineering dean.
- Ed Dahlberg, St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center president and CEO.
- Chris Mathias, president, Associated Students of Boise State University.
- Sheila Sorensen, state senator.

FOCUS FALL 2002
In August of this year, Larry Burke retired as Boise State's director of University Relations. His myriad duties during nearly 28 years with the university included serving as editor of FOCUS. He was involved in approximately 200 issues of FOCUS since its inception in 1975, 64 of which were in magazine format. For FOCUS' entire existence he was the guiding force behind the magazine and the person most responsible for its content, look and reputation. In many respects, the editor of a periodical may view his or her publication as an offspring, an extension of his or her own persona. The editor is responsible for the publication's growth, development, health and public perception. The editor nurtures it like a child, protects it, watches it grow. We asked Larry to write a retrospective for this issue because this magazine was his baby. In many ways, it still is.

BY LARRY BURKE

At times it seems like only yesterday. At other times it seems more like an eternity of yesterdays when I first opened the door to a cubbyhole office in the Administration Building, grateful to boss Bob Hall for trusting such an important job to a novice.

That was Nov. 8, 1974. Almost 28 years later, on Aug. 9, 2002, I closed my office door for the last time and wandered into the world of the retired.

I've had the extraordinarily good fortune to meet and work with a Rolodex full of incredible people with vision, ambition and creativity. Step by step, I've watched them—and hopefully helped on occasion—transform what was virtually a new university in 1974 into the Boise State we see today.

Then, Boise State's enrollment was 9,350; add more than 8,000 to that today. Two master's programs, one in business and one in education, were just getting started. Today there are more than 35, along with a couple of doctorates. Biology, chemistry, math, physics and pre-engineering classes were all taught in what is now called the Math/Geosciences Building. The College of Education faculty was shoe-horned into the library, which, by the way, didn't look anything like it does today. The Morrison Center site was an expanse of grass; tennis courts occupied the space where The Pavilion now sits. Bronco Stadium seated 14,000—16,000 less than today, but big enough to handle the crowds that turned out to see the Broncos beat schools like Chico State and the College of Idaho.

My post-retirement mind is a kaleidoscope filled with so many memories that even a list of them both taxes a reader's patience and exceeds my allotted space. The first Frank Church Conference ... the first issue of FOCUS ... the graduation of the first doctoral student ... the first game on the blue turf ... the first performances in the Morrison Center and The Pavilion ... the first Rhodes Scholar, Michael Hoffman, and the second, Karl Knapp ... the first national championship in I-AA football ... the first NCAA basketball tournament in The Pavilion ... the first KBSU broadcast. The list could stretch for pages.

A favorite memory? That would have to be the State Board of Education's decision in 1995 to allow Boise State to offer its own four-year engineering program, thus ending an eight-year "cooperative" program operated in Boise by the University of Idaho. It was a hard-fought struggle that reached deep into Idaho's business and political power structure. In my view, it was the first time the board recognized that Boise State's market, led by its high-technology sector, simply couldn't be ignored any longer. The astonishing success of the program in such a short time bears out the wisdom of the board's decision.

Of course, the true story of any institution is written by its people. During my tenure three presidents have left their indelible marks on the university. John Barnes, John Keiser and Charles Ruch used their skills to push the university forward, often butting against political headwinds from northern Idaho. Each was masterful at building coalitions and enlisting community support. Each was right for his time.

If there has been one constant challenge in Boise State's history, it is this: to provide services with inadequate resources to a growing market and do so without making a political fuss about it.

Year after year, Boise State's faculty and staff have met that challenge with a can-do attitude that has been forged over decades of doing more with less. Their teaching, research and service are of the highest quality. They have opened the doors of opportunity for so many students and enriched our community in so many ways that I can't help but believe very deeply in them and the university that is their enabler.

That Boise State has progressed so far is a testament to their collective efforts. To see this unfold over the last 28 years has been an adventure, to say the least. It has been, to put the old John Keiser slogan in the past tense, a privilege to be a Bronco.
Jozwiak earns education award

Jim Jozwiak, an instructor in the semiconductor manufacturing technology program for the Selland College of Applied Technology at Boise State, was named the 2002 winner of the prestigious national Motorola Educator of the Year award.

Jozwiak was recognized for his innovation and excellence in teaching courses as well as for producing outstanding curriculum and teaching aids that are used nationally and internationally in semiconductor manufacturing training programs. He was also recognized for his collaborative efforts to partner with business and industry.

Motorola is a global leader in wireless communications and embedded semiconductor solutions for customers in wireless communications, computing and transportation markets. Motorola created the award to recognize an educator who has made significant contributions to the field of semiconductor manufacturing education both locally and nationally.

Before teaching at the Selland College, Jozwiak was a process engineer at Intel Corp. and a group leader in Intel fabrication in New Mexico and Oregon.

Forrest Church
Author and Unitarian minister

59th annual Frank Church Conference on Public Affairs
Sept. 27, 2002

"Politics must never be severed from morality or our nation will betray its own ideals."
Growth spurs building boom

Despite budget cuts, enrollment continues to grow at Boise State. In response, several building projects — most of them funded by users — are currently under way or in the bidding stages. The Division of Public Works is managing all projects.

Designs have been completed for two new Residence Halls that will accommodate 340 more students on campus. The larger of the two structures will be a three-story building north of Driscoll and Morrison Halls; the smaller will be a four-story building between Morrison Hall and the Appleton Tennis Center and will contain two classrooms, two faculty offices, a faculty apartment and a computer lab.

In addition, a bid competition is under way to design and construct an Apartment Complex on the site now occupied by the old University Courts apartments and eight adjacent houses purchased by the university. The new complex will include 175 apartments — 75 two-bedroom units (for families) and 100 four-bedroom units. The project will also include space for a convenience store, a multi-purpose community space and leasing offices. Three semifinalist design-build teams will submit their proposals in early November. Both residence projects are expected to be completed by July 2004.

In addition, construction has begun on a second Parking Structure at University Drive and Brady Lane, adding an additional 618 cars on four levels. All four levels of the new structure will connect to the existing parking structure. The project is scheduled for completion before the start of fall classes in 2003.

A 4,600-square-foot addition to the Children's Center is being constructed north of the existing building at Beacon Street and Oakland Avenue. The project will be completed by February 2003.

At the Boise State University-West campus in Nampa, the 38,735-square-foot Tecenter is under construction. Funded by a $1.9 million grant from the Economic Development Administration, the business incubation center will provide 30,000-square-feet of lease space for start-up businesses.

Two infrastructure projects are also under way on the Nampa site.

Prize-winning science journalist speaks April 17

Award-winning journalist and public health expert Laurie Garrett will speak at Boise State on April 17 as part of the university's Distinguished Lecture Series. The lecture is free and open to the public. A medical and science writer for Newsday, Garrett is the only journalist to have won all three of her industry's top awards: the Polk, the Peabody and the Pulitzer. She is the author of The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance and Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health.

The lecture series brings to campus speakers who have had a significant impact in politics, the arts or the sciences. The most recent speaker was Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa.

December concerts set

A concert narrated by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne will highlight four musical performances at Boise State in December.

Kempthorne will narrate "Liberty Fanfare" during a Dec. 5 performance by the All Campus Concert Band in the Special Events Center. The piece was composed for the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. Tickets will be available at the door.

Three other concerts will ring in the holiday season: The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Dec. 3 at The Pavilion; the Boise State music department Family Holiday Concert, Dec. 8 at the Morrison Center; and Utah composer Kurt Bestor's Holiday Concert, Dec. 11 at the Morrison Center.

Tickets are available at the Morrison Center or Pavilion box offices, Select-a-Seat, (208) 426-1494 or www.idahotickets.com.

Lech Walesa
Former president of Poland

Boise State University Distinguished Lecture Series
Oct. 9, 2002

"The world needs the United States. The world needs you even more than you need yourselves."
Grants focus on outreach

Led by a grant totaling more than $3.2 million in funding for Boise State’s Educational Talent Search, three programs affiliated with the university received a major infusion of federal dollars while a fourth program was the recipient of a nationally competitive software grant.

**EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH** received two TRIO Talent Search grants totaling $646,023 a year for five years from the U.S. Department of Education. The ETS program identifies and assists students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the potential to succeed in higher education.

The grant includes a funding increase of $65,000 to a grant the ETS program received last year for a total of $456,023, plus a second grant appropriation of $190,000. With the additional funding, the program will be able to serve nine new schools in the Treasure Valley, benefiting approximately 700 students in grades six through 12.

**TECHHELP**, the Boise State-based manufacturing extension center, received a $110,000 Economic Development Administration grant to help stimulate business growth in Idaho. The funding is part of a nationwide program that enables higher education institutions to operate outreach programs that stimulate growth in economically distressed areas.

Boise State’s **NURSING DEPARTMENT** was part of a group led by the Boise-based Idaho Rural Health Education Center that received a federal grant worth more than $600,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources Administration to help support a Hispanic wellness initiative in Idaho.

The grant, titled “The Idaho Hispanic Wellness Initiative: La Buena Salud,” is for approximately $205,000 per year for three years.

Among its objectives, the grant is designed to educate Idaho students and practicing health professionals in an interdisciplinary approach to culturally appropriate wellness care and deliver wellness services to rural Hispanic families in nontraditional homes and community-based settings. The nursing department will use its portion of the grant, about $150,000 per year, to lease a mobile unit that will deliver health-screening supplies and educational materials to rural Hispanic farm-worker communities on a regular basis.

A nationally competitive software grant was awarded to the **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION** to provide both software and university support to help Marsing School District social studies teachers integrate spreadsheets and databases into the curriculum. Boise State is one of 10 institutions nationwide to receive awards in the first round of funding from the Innovative Teachers Program sponsored by Microsoft and the American Association of Colleges For Teacher Education. The grant provides $184,800 in Microsoft XP operating system and educational application licenses for computer labs in the school district and in the College of Education.

**Rec Center opens**

Current and former Associated Students of Boise State leaders gathered for the Aug. 31 ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the university’s new $12.5 million Student Recreation Center. Front row from left, former student body president Christine Starr; current student senator Aaron Calkins, who sits on the Campus Recreation board of governors; former student body president Jeff Klaus; and current ASBSU president Chris Mathias.

**Anne Frank Memorial opens**

The eyes of the world were on Boise during the recent dedication of the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. Several Boise State faculty and staff helped bring to life the dream of a place where people can gather to reflect on human rights.

Staff members involved with the project included Jill Gill (history), Dean Gunderson (facilities), Hy Kloc (BSU Radio), Wanda Lynn Riley (risk management) and Mary Rohlfing (communication).

**Danny Glover to speak in January**

Hollywood actor Danny Glover, chairman of the board of TransAfrica, and Bill Fletcher, president of TransAfrica, will be the keynote speakers at Boise State’s 2003 Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Celebration. They will speak at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, at The Pavilion.

TransAfrica is a research, educational and activist institution for the African American community focusing on U.S. policy as it affects Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Free tickets to the speech will be available at the Student Union Information Desk. For more information and a complete list of Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Week events call (208) 426-1223 or visit union.boisestate.edu.
DEBATERS NAMED ALL-CONFERENCE

Ten members of the Boise State debate and speech team were named to the 2001-02 Division I All-Conference team announced by the Northwest Forensic Conference.

Imran Ali, Christy Bowman and Misti Rutledge were named to the first team; Nancy Henke, Ken Rock, Patrick Connor, Kristin Davidson, Nancy Greenway, Blake Lingle and Nate Peterson were named to the second team.

The Talkin' Broncos' 10 all-conference selections are particularly impressive as only 17 members of the Boise State team were eligible for the honor, and because the team attended only two of the three NFC tournaments last season.

PI ALPHA ALPHA CHAPTER HONORED

The Boise State chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, a national honor society for public administration, received the 2002 Pi Alpha Alpha Award of Excellence. The award was presented to adviser Janet Mills and student leaders in October at the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration luncheon in Los Angeles.

The award recognizes excellence in programming and chapter management in pursuit of Pi Alpha Alpha's goals of scholarship, leadership, and excellence in graduate education in public affairs and administration.

Chapter officers for the 2001-2002 academic year were Janet Howard, president; Kelly Jennings, vice president; Brian Ashton, secretary; and Russ Eanes, treasurer.

Web site improved

Located on the World Wide Web at news.boise­state.edu, Boise State's news and events Web site is offering more up-to-date information about the university than ever before.

Partnering with Google.com, the Web's No. 1 search engine, news.boise­state.edu provides a quick and easy-to-use search vehicle to find information you can use.

Administered by the Office of News Services, the site is home to daily updates for the latest campus news as well as Web versions of Spotlight, the university's monthly entertainment publication; the Boise State faculty/staff newsletter; the Boise State Viewbook; letters from the president; the Speakers Bureau; and statistical information from the Facts About Boise State pamphlet.

The Web site also features an online version of FOCUS, allowing readers to keep up on the latest issues while traveling or at the office and allowing FOCUS advertisers to reach an expanded audience.

Designed to be a user-friendly site, news.boise­state.edu is your one-stop resource for everything going on at Boise State.

Newsmakers

Boise State faculty continued to offer the media expert advice and opinion on topics ranging from abstinence to psychology. Here are some national media members that have quoted or profiled Boise State faculty in recent months:

• Jamie Goldenberg, psychology, was quoted on how people cope with the fact that they have cancer in an April 9 article in the New York Times.

• Margaret Kemp, nursing, was quoted in NurseWeek in July about nursing's public image and in September about student recruitment efforts.

• Charles Honts, psychology, was quoted in a June 23 New York Times article about the unreliability of eyewitness accounts. The story centered on the Nov. 12, 2001, crash of American Airlines Flight 587 in New York.

• Jim Weatherby, public policy and administration, was quoted in the Aug. 11 New York Times about Alan Blinken's campaign for the U.S. Senate seat in Idaho.

• Charlotte Twight, economics, recently had a six-part article on medical privacy published on NewsMax.com.

• John Freemuth, political science, was interviewed on an ABC show with Peter Jennings Sept. 3. The show profiled the wolf reintroduction program.

• A book co-written by Gary Moncrief, political science, was cited in an article in Campaigns and Elections magazine. He was also quoted in the Oct. 1 Kansas City Star about term limits and Oct. 13 in The Oregonian on the lack of female political candidates.

• Anthony Walsh, criminal justice, was quoted in a story about the healing power of love in the Oct. 8 Family Circle. Walsh is a psychobiologist.

On campus ...

Ann Veneman
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

Meeting with Boise State students • Sept. 12, 2002

"There are some 800 million people starving in the world, and that's incomprehensible to me. We have to find a way to show these countries how to develop the capacity to grow their own food."
Great grad rate!

The term “dumb jock” doesn’t apply at Boise State. Just ask USA TODAY and the NCAA. In an announcement made by the NCAA, Bronco student-athletes have moved to the No. 1 position among NCAA Division I-A schools in regard to graduation rates above the average of the school’s student body.

Boise State was one of 12 schools receiving the 2002 USA TODAY-NCAA Academic Achievement Award. Along with the national recognition, the university also received $25,000.

Boise State’s 64 percent graduation rate of student-athletes was ranked No. 1 in the category “institutions with the highest student-athlete graduation rates above the average of the student body” with a plus-36 percent rate.

The announcement marks the second straight year Boise State has been ranked among the top five in that category. In 2001, Boise State was fifth with a plus-28 percent rate.

The USA TODAY-NCAA Academic Achievement Award recognizes colleges and universities with the highest student-athlete graduation rates above the average of the student body, institutions with the greatest increase in percentage of student-athletes graduating over the previous year and institutions graduating the highest percentage of student-athletes.

President Charles Ruch says while the award speaks volumes about the academic accomplishments of Bronco student-athletes, it should not be construed as an indictment of the university’s overall graduation rate.

Broncos on track with new world-class facility

The Bronco track team has a state-of-the-art indoor surface to compete on and a new building to compete in.

Thanks to a $250,000 donation by Idaho native John Jackson, founder and president of Jackson Food Stores, Boise State has purchased the indoor track that was previously used in Atlanta’s Georgia Dome for the USA Indoor Track and Field Championships. The Broncos’ track will be housed at the new Idaho Sports Center — a part of the Idaho Center entertainment complex in Nampa. Construction of the $2.2 million, 100,000-square-foot building was completed in September. Located near the Boise State-West site, the 4,500-seat facility will be suitable for world-class track and field events.

The banked, 200-meter track has been used approximately nine times in the Georgia Dome for the U.S. indoor nationals. It is six lanes wide and features the latest in synthetic surfaces.

The Idaho Sports Center will host equestrian events when the track is not in use.

The university and the Treasure Valley will now have the only championship-suitable indoor track facility west of the University of Nebraska. The NCAA and USA Track and Field, the governing body of non-collegiate track events, stipulate that only 200-meter, six-lane, banked synthetic surfaces can be used for championship meets.
Remember,” shouts a sign hanging from an ancient wall in San Sebastian, “you are not in Spain. You are not in France. This is Pais Vasco.” Seven provinces—four in Spain, three in France, covering 7,000 square kilometers in the Pyrenees Mountains—comprise Pais Vasco or the Basque Country. It is warm, and balcony doors are flung open. Euskera, the ancient language of the Basques, and Castellano, the official language of Spain, mingle in the air and trickle down from open windows. A breeze lifts small banners marking the homes of Basques who have a family member incarcerated as a political prisoner in a Spanish jail. The activities of some taken prisoner during the Generalissimo Francisco Franco regime have not yet been forgiven. Other prisoners have ties to the ultra-left wing ETA, whose terrorist activities have resulted in numerous violent confrontations within Spain.

The political issues are complex and the political agendas diverse. Some want the region to become independent; others argue that little would be gained through autonomy. Potentially, this issue could be decided by a vote of the people.

Halfway across the world, Idaho’s Legislature voiced its opinion in support of the right of self-determination for the people of the Basque Provinces. If a vote of self-determination will ever occur is uncertain. But on the thriving Iberian Peninsula that has experienced phenomenal social, political and economic changes since Franco’s death in 1975, anything seems possible.

The European Union has opened borders, changed the currency and reshaped cultural boundaries. Within Pais Vasco, Basque identity is thriving. High-kicking Basque dancers dance to the drumming of the Basque tabor and the whistling melodies of the txistu. In this region where—during Franco’s dictatorship—people were forcefully denied any sort of ethnic cultural expression, including the use of their own language, Euskera is heard on the streets and children may attend schools where all instruction is in the Basque language.

When the sun sets over the bay in San Sebastian, the streets come alive. Fishermen line up on the Nuevo Paseo casting huge poles, each with six baited hooks, into the bay below. Neighbors amble along the wide boulevard, stopping to greet friends and sip beverages at a sidewalk cafe or enjoy a street-musician’s performance. People crowd into the bars to sample pinchos, extravagant Basque appetizers, while tantalizing aromas spill from the windows.

On a particular corner in Boise, similar aromas emanate from Boise’s Gernika, a Basque pub and eatery. The restaurant bears the name of Boise’s sister city in the Basque country.

A street sign carrying the name and city seal of Boise hangs over a street in the quiet town of Gernika. But it has not always been so quiet.
Nazi bombers used unsuspecting Gernika for target practice, with Franco's permission, during the early stages of World War II. That scene of carnage and horror in the Saturday marketplace is permanently captured in Picasso's Gernika.

Near the market in Gernika stands the Junta, the house of government. There a fence surrounds the stump of an old oak under whose boughs the decision-makers of another era once met peacefully to make alliances.

A new alliance now exists between Gernika and Boise. The charter that unites the cities claims that Boise is the region's eighth province, linked by Basque culture, heritage and family. It claims that the citizens of both cities share appreciation for the spirit of the individual, the essential nature of freedom and the importance of community.

Many of the progenitors of Boise's current Basque community came to America in search of opportunity; many intended eventually to return to their homeland. In the American West, they found work as shepherds in the foothills and mountains. Characteristic Basque hardiness and determination helped many endure the arduous, lonely labor and overcome the language barrier. Some did return to their homeland, but more stayed and formed a new Basque-American identity.

Today, on Boise's Basque block, the red, green and white colors of the Basque Country beckon. The museum displays both the disappearing rural family farms of the Pyrenees and the Basque-American culture of the West. Boise's Oinkari Basque Dancers mirror the dance troupes of the Spanish and French Basque provinces. Children of Boise's Basque-Americans learn Euskera in a Basque preschool. Members of Boise's Biotzetik Basque Choir sing lilting folk melodies in that ancient language. Here two cultures meet and mingle, each enriching the other.

And now as I sing those melodies with the choir, I hear echoes of Euskera and Castellano spoken on the streets of distant towns and cities. When I float Idaho's rivers and hike in Boise's foothills, I recall contrasting landscapes of colorful fishing boats in languid ports and lovely paths in the intensely green Pyrenees Mountains. As I swim in Idaho's mountain-fed reservoirs and feel the sunlight taste the surface, I remember the silken touch of the salty waters and the shimmering sunlight on the Bay of Biscay.

McKinnon, a member of Boise State's Division of Extended Studies staff, was the recipient of a Faculty/Professional Staff International Development Award for study in San Sebastian, Spain, this past summer.
Faculty, students take interdisciplinary action

BY JANELLE BROWN

Biology and chemistry are different scientific fields — but when it comes to biomedical research and other areas, they are becoming increasingly connected. At Boise State University, students are gaining a hands-on understanding of the relationship between the two disciplines as part of a research program.

Boise State is one of 15 institutions nationwide to receive funding from the Merck Foundation and the American Association for the Advancement of Science to fund undergraduate research experiences that combine biology and chemistry.

The $60,000 grant provides stipends over a three-year period for selected students to work on interdisciplinary research projects with faculty teams. Students each receive stipends of $5,000 a year.

"By interacting with faculty from both the biology and chemistry departments on a single project, students will learn the role played, and the language spoken, by the other discipline," says Martin Schimpf, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the program’s principal investigator.

"This experience will allow undergraduate biology and chemistry students to take a giant step into the future, where multidisciplinary teams will become increasingly important to the advancement of scientific knowledge," he adds.

Schimpf, a chemistry professor, is teaming with biology professor Julia Oxford and student Phuong Doan to study the role a specific type of large molecule called a propeptide may play in molecular structures that lead to retinal detachments and subsequent vision loss among elderly patients.

The project draws on Oxford’s expertise in the structure and function of collagen, a protein involved in a variety of biological structures.

The project also draws on Schimpf’s expertise in field-flow fractionation, a separation technique he has developed over the past 15 years that can be used to isolate and study the interaction of molecules.

In Oxford’s lab, Doan prepares cultures that contain vitreous humor, a collagen structure that holds the eye’s retina in place. Then, in Schimpf’s laboratory, the team uses field-flow fractionation to study the behavior of the propeptide in various environments. By modifying the cultures in specific ways, the team can then learn about the molecular mechanism that leads to changes in the vitreous humor. That knowledge could help researchers develop a strategy to prevent vision loss where a deteriorating vitreous humor causes retinal detachments.

Other faculty teams include biology professor Steve Novak and chemistry professor Robert Ellis, who work with students Robert Lefler and Kevin Hansen on genetic studies involving Medusahead Rye, an invasive grass species, and on a project to study the responses of certain plant species capable of growing at mine sites contaminated by heavy metals.

A third faculty team pairs biology professor Marcelo Serpe and chemistry professor Henry Charlier with student Amber Hibbard. They’re studying the role of certain proteins in the development of plant cells that produce latex. Latex is an important source of natural rubber and also contains many compounds that have potential pharmaceutical uses.

The interdisciplinary approach provides unique opportunities for both students and faculty, Schimpf adds. "We’re able to initiate undergraduate research projects that would otherwise be impossible to carry out."
As a young man during China's Cultural Revolution in the 1970s, music was Neil Gu's ticket to avoiding the harsh life on a work farm, the fate of his family and university professor father.

Clad in green Mao suits, violinist Gu and other young Red Guard musicians played patriotic music to inspire the revolutionary workers. But Gu yearned to learn Western classical music, and under the cover of darkness he carefully copied classical exercise books by hand and practiced clandestinely.

"With Western [music], we had to put a mute on to practice the exercise book," says Gu, now a violist and visiting professor at Boise State. "Imagine this 100-page book we wrote by hand. I still keep it with me. Sometimes I look at it and I can't believe we did that."

A quarter of a century later, Western economic and cultural ideas now play key roles in modernizing Chinese society, and playing an instrument such as violin or piano has become a status symbol for newly emerging middle-class families. With a population of 1.3 billion, China is primed to make a mark on the international music scene.

Gu has seen those changes firsthand. The last two summer he and Boise State music department chairman and pianist James Cook have made trips to Nanjing and Beijing sponsored by the Chinese government. There they played with a quintet to sold-out houses and worked with motivated young musicians at conservatories.

"They told me in Shanghai that in 1990 they had 250 people entered in the Shanghai piano competition, and this last year they had 25,000," says Cook. "I'm telling young musicians, 'Someday you're going to go to China, because that's where the cultural shift is taking place.' The Chinese are trying to compete or match the standards, maybe outdo the standards, of the West.

"They [students] are so respectful, not to the point of obsequiousness, but in the sense that they are gobbling up everything you say and responding to everything you say. It's a dream world for me teaching and playing."

Cook, Gu and other Western musicians hope to convey artistic understanding and interpretation to pupils whose studies focus mainly on technical proficiency.

"The [Chinese teachers] are mainly emphasizing technique; those kids are doing a great job on that," says Gu. "Maybe they need more opportunity to listen and to feel the music."

Gu is particularly suited as an emissary of Western artistic interpretation. After the Cultural Revolution ended, he was discovered in China by violin great Isaac Stern, who offered Gu a scholarship to study in the United States. He studied with noted viola teacher William Primrose at Brigham Young University, then went on to teach as a professor at Montclair State University in New Jersey and perform in Asia and the United States, including at Carnegie Hall and with the New York City Ballet.

"I want to try to get more students from Asia to come to Boise State," says Gu. "I think it would really benefit the university."

— Pat Pyke
Through a glass darkly

Death becomes her. Or rather, it's become a center of focus for Boise State psychology professor Jamie Goldenberg. She and research partner Jamie Arndt of the University of Missouri-Columbia have secured a five-year $1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study terror management theory, or how people's feelings about their own mortality impact their health-related decisions.

Awareness of death has long been a part of life for Goldenberg. "It always amazed me how people could go about their business not thinking about death," she says. "I've always been very aware of it and it surprised me how so many people seemed to be in denial."

The field of terror management stems from the work of anthropologist Ernest Becker, who won a posthumous Pulitzer Prize for his book Denial of Death. Becker theorized that all our thinking patterns and social structures are designed to shield us from the knowledge that one day we will die. Thus, we create a myriad of distractions to keep ourselves from dwelling on the unthinkable.

Goldenberg and Arndt speculate that one way people deal with the knowledge of their mortality is by unconsciously attempting to boost their immediate sense of self-worth, thereby adding value to their lives. This often takes the form of high-risk behavior, such as spending long hours in the sun in search of the perfect tan or smoking in order to fit in with a particular peer group.

Reminding people that these and other behaviors increase the risk of death is rarely successful, Goldenberg says. "Despite the rise in deaths, it might unconsciously promote more of a need to enhance self-esteem. We don't respond to our fear of death in rational ways. What we do is not to avoid death, but to avoid death anxiety."

For instance, no matter how often we're told that smoking causes lung cancer, we don't approach that knowledge logically, Goldenberg says. A more successful approach to convince people to stop smoking would be to taint the image of smoking, making it appear less "cool" and thus neither a ticket to popularity nor increased self-esteem.

Terror management theory manifests itself in a number of ways, including prejudice. "It undermines our own belief system when others think differently than us," Goldenberg says. It also shows up as depression, obsessive-compul-
sive disorder, neuroticism, sexuality, romantic attachments, greed, creativity and guilt.

Many people also deal with mortality awareness through acts of patriotism or heroism. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, people suddenly had a massive reminder of their own vulnerability. "The response was symbolic," Goldenberg says. "It's the ultimate defense. The thing that's most heroic in our society is confronting death in a meaningful way, as with military heroes and firefighters. These are just different types of defenses."

The research has a two-fold purpose. First, to demonstrate that the hypothesis that humankind lives in constant fear of its own demise is true and second, to figure out the best way to convince people to act in their own best interest.

Utilizing both students and the general population, the pair will expose people to situations likely to remind them of their mortality, then ask them questions dealing with relevant issues. For instance, they might have someone watch a half hour of the evening news, or stop them on the street in front of a funeral parlor.

"When they're standing in front of a funeral parlor, they tend to feel more people will agree with their opinions," Goldenberg says. "They need to have others agree with them in order to feel more value."

Understanding those self-motivators is the best way to influence human behavior, the pair says.

"I think the mark of a good theory is not only the extent to which it provides answers to questions, but how it directs us to new and interesting theories of social behavior," Arndt says. "I think this theory does that quite well."

—Kathleen Craven

Tiny is big with researchers

Sometimes, big things come in tiny packages. That's the case when it comes to nanotechnology or nanoscience, the study of ultra-miniaturized systems that are formed by manipulating individual atoms and molecules to create tiny but complex electronic and mechanical devices.

Boise State scientists are pursuing research projects on a number of fronts in this newly emerging field. Their work has many practical applications; nanoscale materials are widely regarded as essential to the future of the computing, optical, aerospace, electronics and biomedical industries.

Among the research efforts are two recently funded projects.

In engineering, researchers have powerful new tools to study nanoscale materials after receiving a $234,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Professors Amy Moll and Bill Knowlton are co-principal investigators for the new NSF grant, which funds equipment to enhance the capabilities of the university's atomic force microscope, or AFM.

The AFM is used to analyze the surface structures, electrical properties and mechanical integrity of nanoscale materials. The NSF grant will be used to fund a variety of research projects at Boise State involving researchers in engineering, physics, chemistry and biology, and will also be available for researchers in local industries or at government laboratories.

In physics, professor Charles Hanna is the recipient of a three-year, $105,000 grant from the NSF's Division of Materials Research to conduct nanoscience research. His grant is titled "Broken-Symmetry States of Confined Interacting Electrons."

The project involves modeling low-temperature quantum systems confined to two dimensions. According to Hanna, the project will help expand scientific understanding of how interacting electrons and interacting bosons behave when they are confined to nanoscale dimensions.

Bosons are particles, like photons or helium nuclei, which can join together to form huge single quantum states, Hanna explains. The tendency of a collection of identical bosons to form a single quantum state is the physical basis of lasers, superconductors, and superfluids, which are liquids that are free of friction and can flow practically forever.

— Janelle Brown

chemistry prof for invention

says. The university will also benefit if her patent is developed into a commercial product.

Russell's invention gives scientists an easy and reliable way to measure mercury levels without sending a sample to a lab for analysis. It eliminates the inaccurate reading that sometimes occurs because the mercury can be lost by vaporization by the time a sample is tested. The invention could be used as part of cleanup efforts at mine sites or in medical analyses such as telling dentists when to replace fillings.
“A writer is somebody for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.”

—Thomas Mann

GOOD INK

Boise State writers influence their fields

The legendary library at Alexandria, Egypt, a gleaming building situated between the city’s busy Mediterranean harbor and the Great Temple of Serapis, was said to have housed the wisdom of the ages. Hundreds of thousands of papyrus scrolls held the sum of mankind’s knowledge and philosophy. More than two millennia after its destruction by fire — purportedly the victim of a Caesarean attack gone awry — the very name still stirs the souls of nations.

Why, after so many centuries, do we still mourn the loss of these ancient manuscripts? Despite the historical and archaeological record, we sense that something of great value has been lost that can never be restored.

“There’s a perception that if something is in a book, it’s more valuable, accurate or significant [than the spoken word],” says Bill Parrett, author, education professor
and director of Boise State’s Center for School Improvement and Policy Studies.

That’s certainly the case at Boise State, where professors like Parrett produce an astonishing number of written works each year. In the 2001-2002 academic year, faculty members wrote close to 750 books, poems, textbooks, articles and stories. Add another 1,000 journal and book reviews and almost 650 professional paper presentations and the total is impressive. Factor in the number of

collages and universities using these books as required text or readings, as well as those who read for pleasure, and you begin to see the power Boise State wields through the written word.

That same power has engaged readers for eons. The earliest known writing system dates to about 3200 B.C. Ancient Egyptians believed that having their name inscribed was essential to achieving immortality, and in China ancients believed that writing was read by the gods.

While we no longer attribute mystical powers to the written word, it’s undeniable that it can and does stir up deep emotions and inspires scholars and the masses alike to both new heights and unexplored depths. Through the written word ideas can be widely disseminated, schools of thought launched and traditions either bolstered or undermined.

Werner Hoeger, a kinesiology professor and Olympic athlete who has written several textbooks on fitness and wellness, says writing is a satisfying medium for changing lives. His textbooks are currently used in more than 400 colleges nationwide, and as the first to address both fitness and wellness, he’s been called the leader in his field. As he touts the benefits of physical activity, good nutrition and disease prevention, hearing that his books are helping others take control of their health motivates him to do even more.

Certainly the undeniable ability of books to change lives and loyalties lies behind attempts to suppress revolutionary ideas by banning them as early as the 12th century. The power of the pen is such that kings, rulers, magistrates and even local city councils have long used their clout to control the publication of works that might weak-
The Translator

Describing Will Browning as a translator of books is a bit like describing Julia Child as a baker of cookies. The job titles aren’t wrong — they’re just seriously understated.

Browning, a professor of French at Boise State, might better be characterized as a high-wire artist, a deft and daring purveyor of the double entendre, the witty aside and the alliterative pun. His English translations of two books by Quebec author Réjean Ducharme are filled with literary inventions that allow the spirit of the language found in the original French to shine through.

“It’s a creative performance that is completely invisible,” says Browning. “It’s also an enormous responsibility and a great joy.”

Browning received accolades from the Canadian media for his translation of Ducharme’s The Daughter of Christopher Columbus. And he’s just finishing the translation of Go Figure, to be published by Talon Books in 2003.

By any measure, the challenges Browning faces are immense. First, there’s Ducharme’s dense language, which is rich in allusions, invented words and puns that would be nonsensical if translated literally. Then there’s the fact that Ducharme has been a hermit for more than 30 years, communicating with the outside world only through his partner, actress Claire Richard. He reportedly doesn’t own copies of his books because he can’t bear to re-read them.

“I carry his voice with me and at times he’s like a friend guiding me,” says Browning, who has never talked to Ducharme and doubts he ever will. “I don’t think he’s a recluse because he’s unhappy. I think he’s a genius who is doing what he wants to do.”

Browning digs deep for the best expression. Sometimes he gets it just right, such as coining “fixer-upper” to refer to the house a character in Go Figure wants to remodel for his wife, who is off traveling through Europe to heal from the miscarriage of twins. Other times, Browning says he “sweats bullets” over a small phrase.

“It’s true there is something lost in translation, but I think there’s something gained in access as well,” Browning says. “Ducharme deserves a wider readership. I’m passionate about this work.”

—Janelle Brown

en their positions. In modern day, censors have banned titles such as Catcher in the Rye, Lady Chatterley’s Lover, Huckleberry Finn, and Brave New World as well as the Bible, the Quran and other books of scripture.

What is often seen as a knee-jerk reaction — banning books to prevent the dissemination and adoption of ideas — is at least based on some fact according to Stan Steiner, a professor of elementary education specializing in children’s literature. “People are influenced by what they read. We’ve all had those ‘Aha!’ moments when we’ve read something, it’s made an impact and we then look at the world differently,” he says.

One such book is a picture book by Jon J. Muth called The Three Questions, based on a short story by Leo Tolstoy. In the book, a young boy seeks the answer to three important questions: When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? and What is the right thing to do? In finding the answers, he learns the importance of relationships and putting others first.

“It touched me,” Steiner says. “It’s about life skills that continue to work through adulthood.”

Steiner has written four books and well over 40 articles while also publishing an ongoing book review column for three different journals. Along the way, he’s come to realize the power of the written word.

“The spoken word, unless it’s recorded, gets distorted through the second telling,” he says. “When it’s printed, it’s substantive.”

It’s also permanent. What may have started as a simple thought or idea becomes etched on the official record once it’s placed in print. “A book is forever, it transcends place and time,” says Bob Barr, an education professor who collaborates with Parrett on books dealing with teaching at-risk kids. “It’s truly incredible to be in an airport and see someone reading an

“Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it, and above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light.”

—Joseph Pulitzer, publisher
old, dog-eared copy of your book." That permanence requires an author to organize his thoughts more clearly than he otherwise might. "I don't know what I know or what I believe until I write it down," says Barr. Once written down, however, his and Parrett's strategies are clear enough to hold weight, as evidenced by their success in persuading the state Senate and House to pass the Idaho Reading Initiative, which encourages all children to be reading at grade level by third grade.

And the ever-looming deadlines that come with writing assignments provide a much-needed opportunity for self-evaluation.

"One of the things I like about writing is the time for self-reflection," says Cliff LeMaster, a biology professor and editor of the journal The Chemical Educator. "Especially in the sciences, you can be working on a project for quite some time. Writing gives you a relative stopping point, a chance to look back and ask what the project was about and what you learned."

LeMaster says that writing forces a researcher to be concise, accurate and convincing. "It's easy to have a conversation with someone because it's a dynamic situation where you can adjust [your theories] based on what comes up. With writing, you have to tell who you're accountable to fellow experts in the field. And that can be frightening, you're still riddled with self-doubt."

But with a published work, he says, you're accountable to fellow experts in the field. And that can be frightening, no matter how many books or journal articles you've published.

"You always have a doubt hanging over you that you're not such an expert," Shullat says. "You can convince your students, even yourself, but you're still riddled with self-doubt."

For some, writing is a creative outlet. Bill Carman, an art professor who

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The Novelist

Mitch Wieland's love of fiction writing stems from his longtime love of reading. "It comes out of being a reader from childhood on, and loving books as far back as I can remember," Wieland says. "For me, it's a love of language and working with words."

Wieland, who directs Boise State's master of fine arts program in creative writing and edits The Idaho Review, is at work on his second novel. His first novel, Willy Slater's Lane, was written about six years ago. It's loosely based on stories Wieland's father used to tell him about two eccentric brothers who lived together in Ohio, which is Wieland's home state.

"I just thought, 'These are great people to try to write about,'" Wieland says. The brothers died in the 1960s so Wieland never knew them. "When I went to write the novel, I invented their personalities from scratch."

Wieland started the novel as a short story. Though he had written several short stories, he had never attempted a longer work. "To suddenly have a narrative that moves beyond 20 pages is exciting," he says.

Wieland, who had just returned from teaching English as a second language in Japan, worked on the novel full time while living in San Diego. "One of the keys to writing is to be able to afford the time to immerse yourself in the material," he says.

Excerpts from his new novel, The King of Infinite Space, have been published in several literary reviews. It's the story of a man, Ferrell, who divorces his wife and moves to 100 acres of sagebrush land in Owyhee County.

"It has a lot to do with the landscape and the wide-open spaces down there," says Wieland, who drew inspiration for the setting from the view out of his former home near Emmett, and from trips to Owyhee County to help friends build a cabin there.

The story explores the idea that people have a need for solitude and, at the same time, a desire for companionship.

As a full-time teacher, his new novel was more time consuming than his first. But he finds his work with students helpful to his writing.

"It's interesting to teach writing while you are writing. You are able to talk about fiction and what makes it work. The two just go together," he says. "Certainly, it makes you think about your own work. It keeps you honest, invigorated and charged up."

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Liz Melendez
"The pen is mightier than the sword."
— British novelist Edward Bulwer-Lytton

recently had his first children's picture book published by Random House, says publishing a book was a natural progression for him. "I like storytelling, it's part of the reason I'm in illustration," he says.

Publishing also provides access to a broader audience. "If people really have a message to tell, fine art is not the way to do it," he says, noting that books reach a whole group of people who might never see a gallery show.

And because his work is aimed at children, Carman says his writing works to expand his teaching.

"With this book I'm reaching a children's audience where they are still teachable. The imagination is still there — they still believe that magical things are out there, like dragons and monsters," he says.

"That's why I teach. I like to get them excited about the possibilities and let them discover the flame and passion inside of them. That's why I do it — not just to put food on the table or buy a new car."

But few rewards can completely compensate for the angst that accompanies the creative process. Finding time to write in the midst of other responsibilities is tough, as is the chronic stress of meeting deadlines — whether determined by editors or self-imposed. Even the very process of crafting words can be intimidating.

"It takes a unique skill to be a writer," says Hoeger, who recently finished his 32nd edition of his six titles currently in print. "The uniqueness of the pen is to convey a message in such a way that readers will continue to enjoy that message."

Despite the difficulty, writing also has tangible rewards, LeMaster says. "The reward is in the sense of completion. At the end of the day, you have to be able to have something that's completely finished, done and out the door. When you put the last period on the last reference and put it in the mail, that's a marvelous feeling."
The search for perfection can lead to the depths of despair

Anthony "Tony" Lukas — author and trial reporter, a sad-eyed civil-rights crusader twice awarded the Pulitzer Prize — saw pity in the faces of friends who wondered if the pensive New Yorker had the stamina to survive. Lukas, age 60, was visibly exhausted and clinically depressed. Awarded his first Pulitzer for a 1967 New York Times series about the bludgeoning of a teenager in Greenwich Village, his second for a 1985 study
of racial strife in Boston, Lukas was four years into his fifth book when, in February 1993, he visited Boise State and spoke to my history students.

His manuscript concerned the 1905 bombing assassination of Idaho’s ex-governor Frank Steunenberg. The project was “pure history,” said Lukas, and problematic because the archives had yet to reveal the villain who had bankrolled the man who planted the bomb. No amount of research could establish the motive behind the murder. Lukas didn’t know what to write.

“Writing is easy,” said a cynic who must have known men like Lukas. “You just stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.”

On June 5, 1997, having relinquished more than 1,700 pages to his editor at Simon & Schuster, one of America’s finest writers returned to his Upper West Side Manhattan apartment and hung himself with a bathrobe sash.

Even giants fall short of perfection. History, a “bracing challenge,” said Lukas, is patched together from scraps boxed into yellowing archives. At best the patchwork result is plausible simplification. Not the past as it actually happened. Not the reporter’s irrefutable truth.

“He never found the smoking gun,” said Kathy Hodges of the Idaho State Historical Society, the author’s ace researcher.

Author David Halberstam, having worked with Lukas on The Harvard Crimson and later The New Times, recalled that his colleague had always reserved the harshest words for himself. Said Lukas’ wife after the suicide: “You could have told him that he won the Nobel Prize. It wouldn’t have made any difference.”

Historians most applaud the book Lukas called Big Trouble, a study of anarchy versus the law in the shadow of majestic mountains, an epic aptly named. The biggest trouble with

The Teacher

Lorrie Kelley doesn’t see herself as a writer. But out of necessity the Boise State radiologic sciences professor became one to improve the resources available to herself and fellow health-care educators across the country.

Along with radiologic sciences adjunct instructor Connie M. Petersen, Kelley authored Sectional Anatomy for Imaging Professionals. The pair wrote the textbook after discovering there was no book available to address the specific information they teach in their courses.

Most medical sciences students are comfortable with anatomy, Kelley explains, but in radiology the students look at parts of the body in different orientations. “It’s tough to teach it without being able to show it,” Kelley says.

From the planning stages to the finished product, the book took about two years to complete. The process included research, gathering images to include in the book and sorting through terminology. Various fields such as anatomy, medicine and physiology use different languages, Kelley says. Experts from each discipline even disagree over some anatomy issues.

“There is actually some disagreement even with where anatomy is,” she adds. “Especially when you come to the smaller ligaments and vessels.”

The book, she says, addresses the whole body.

Kelley calls it a “neighborhood project,” noting that many area physicians and medical facilities donated images and use of their equipment.

Sectional Anatomy for Imaging Professionals has become a popular seller in its market. “It’s a small market, so we’ll never get rich off of it,” Kelley says. “But it sure is nice to have [the book available].”

Kelley and Petersen are working on the book’s first revision, which will include more images from ultrasound and nuclear medicine.

“We aren’t technical writers by profession, so it was a bit of a stretch for us,” says Kelley.

But, like radiologic medicine, it posed a welcome challenge for her.

“I love mysteries,” she says. “Looking for answers, that’s what diagnostic medicine is. With all of the new technology, we’re learning so much more about the body because we’re seeing the body in new ways.”

And her book is helping to take that new knowledge to radiologic sciences students across the country.

—Sherry Squires

Big Trouble, for me, is the book’s vaulting ambition: to capture that violent moment when capital collided with labor, when assassins carried dynamite and Idaho hired Pinkerton thugs to kidnap labor leaders and the riotous class-torn region exploded in mayhem. Few scholars would reach so far from a single event.

Big Trouble nevertheless remains one of the best books ever written about Idaho’s history — surely the most thrilling I’ve ever read.
“Something about Frank Steunenberg’s last walk through the snow captured my imagination,” Lukas explained. “In my mind’s eye I saw him thread his way by store windows still festooned for the holidays with boughs of holly, chains of cranberries and popcorn ... a familiar Currier and Ives print of an American town at Christmastime, the mythic village sufficient unto itself, proof against an uncaring world.”

I knew upon reading that posthumous passage that we had shared more than a classroom. Lukas and I both pined for a more simple and chaste Idaho.

Both of us, I learned, had battled depression since adolescence. Both of us had lost mothers to suicide; and both, ever since, had a short in the dimmer switch that modulated emotions.

“He was the happiest and saddest man I know,” said a friend of the reporter with a fatal genius for painstakingly detailed prose.

Worlds apart Lukas and I — he was dapper, erudite, cosmopolitan, calm; I am rolling chaos in mismatched socks. Yet we cursed the same preoccupation, writing for ego and economics, but also for self-assessment, for clues to the people we had become. I too knew how to obsess.

Compulsively I had worked almost 15 years on a history of engineering, coauthored his first book while teaching at the University of Idaho. He decided to write CMOS: Circuit Design, Layout, and Simulation because no textbook like it existed.

“You see a need for something in education and you want to fill that need,” Baker says.

In addition to teaching full time, he worked 40 hours a week for three years to finish the book. “I was working a lot of evenings,” he says.

He’s since published DRAM Circuit Design: A Tutorial in 2001 and CMOS: Mixed-Signal Circuit Design earlier this year. Baker is considering a second edition to his first textbook, but only after sales drop off indicating a newer version is needed.

Baker has found textbook writing to be much more time-consuming than academic writing he’d done in the past. It’s an effort he describes as both painful and rewarding.

“You have to focus. You have to be coherent. You have to be consistent, and if you want a successful book, you have to have some altruistic feelings about what people really want,” he says. “It’s very easy to write a book — it’s much more challenging to write a book people will actually buy.”

His experience authoring textbooks is rewarding, mainly because the books help his students to be more marketable. “You are helping students to get a good, quality education,” he says. “You don’t get famous from this — it’s about how many people you can help.”


— Liz Melendez
focus — I'd be writing that history still.

These days I seldom read writers as good as Lukas, and then mostly to cannibalize information for my own research. If Lukas in the fog of depression killed himself because he thought his work mediocre, dare I take pride in mine? The higher a writer strives, the more the process humbles. Seldom can you put on paper the prose in your mind and heart.

 Falling short of perfection cripples writers more severely than most. A 1995 report published in Scientific American found that writers suffer episodes of clinical depression 10 times more frequently than the general population. And writers are 18 times more likely to die from suicide.

"We put so much of ourselves into our work that it's hard to separate ourselves from it," wrote children's author Nancy Etchemendy in an article about finding the courage to write.

"When I write," said novelist Kurt Vonnegut, "I feel like an armless legless man with a crayon in his mouth." I feel like that crayon-mouth man even on my 14th draft.

Why then bother to write if the obsession wreaks havoc on ego?

"Because I'm good at it and I can," said Anne Lamott, author of a writing text. Because writing, in academe, forces the scholar to specify, authenticate, document and defend the unchallenged ideas so freely scattered in classrooms.

Because the Boise State Faculty Manual specifies that research and writing account for 40 percent of a professor's value to the institution. Because heartfelt historical writing also works through personal conflict, seeking explanation from lives that mirror our own.

"All writing is therapy," said Lukas, explaining his motivation. "To some extent all writers seek their craft to heal a wound in themselves."

Lukas saw our lives as puzzles with missing pieces. We write to patch those places. We write to make ourselves whole.

Todd Shallat is a Boise State professor of history. His books include Structures in the Stream: Water, Science, and the Rise of the U.S. Army Engineers (winner of the Henry Adams Prize for historical writing) and the coauthored Snake: The Plain and its People and Secrets of the Magic Valley and Hagerman's Remarkable Horse.

The Classicist

Research for his biography on Constantine the Great has taken Charles Odahl to battlefields and historical sites across France, Germany, Egypt and other countries key to the fourth-century ruler.

"I've done the whole thing all the way from Northern Europe clear down to the Middle East," he says. "I take my vacations to Constantine sites."

He hopes this travel will set his biography apart from other Constantine works written by authors who never followed in his footsteps.

"There's just been terrible work on him," Odahl says. "So what I'm trying to do is make an interesting text for the public and scholars."

Odahl's 400-page biography will likely be published next year as part of a British series of books on Roman emperors.

Odahl, a Boise State professor of ancient and medieval history and director of classical languages, is an authority on Constantine, who ruled the Roman Empire from 306 to 337. He also owns what may be the largest private collection of Constantine coins in the world.

"We owe so much of our culture to him, I thought this would be an interesting guy to write about," he says. "He fought some of the greatest battles in history. He completely changed Rome from a pagan city to a Christian city."

Although he's written many articles on Constantine, this is Odahl's first attempt at a biography. "I'm really enjoying it because you get into people. You get into their inner motivations," he says. "Writing ought to be fun."

Odahl enjoys the storytelling that comes with writing about the emperor. "His story has battles, political changes, religious changes, a soap opera — it's really fun to write and really fun to research," he says.

One story involves Constantine's second wife who, fearing that her son might not become emperor, framed Constantine's son by his first wife for rape. Constantine ordered his son put to death. When he later found out his son had been falsely accused, he sent his wife into the palace hot tub with a bottle of wine; where she drank herself to death.

"It was the nicest way he could get her to commit suicide," Odahl says. "That's the kind of story that makes a well-written book more than just the retelling of history."

"If you can be dramatic in your writing," he says, "it makes for good reading."

— Liz Melendez
Boise State’s literary journals leave an indelible mark

Ask Mitch Wieland, director of Boise State’s master of fine arts program in creative writing, about the history of literary publications on campus and he’ll give all the recognition to fellow English professor Tom Trusky.

Trusky, director of the Hemingway Center for Western Studies, laughs and gladly accepts the praise, but admits that other colleagues assisted him. Trusky began teaching at Boise State College in 1970 and immediately began his love affair with Western literature and literary publications. Feeling that other college literary journals were too conventional, he was the driving force behind cold-drill, a creative literary publication he started that same year. The journal was created in a three-dimensional format “to indulge every book art whim” he had.

The name comes from a Gary Snyder poem — a cold drill is a handheld chisel used in mining and is “a great metaphor for pens and pencils, those things we hold in our hands when we write,” Trusky says. Trusky’s favorite issue was also his last. With his selection as director of the Hemingway Center in 1995, it became impossible to continue as editor of cold-drill.

That final issue was a writer’s workout video. Having discovered thermochromic paper, which changes from blue to orange in a reader’s hands, he used this paper in the final issue. Small booklets were printed and placed inside a video box. “Part of your workout was to assemble the book with rivets that were also included inside the video box,” he says, tongue planted firmly in cheek.

Another part of the “workout” theme included authentic Boise State athletic wear. “I got jockstraps from the Broncos and cut 2-inch squares from Bronco jerseys so you actually had athletic gear in the box,” he says.

Wieland took over the journal at Trusky’s urging. With the establishment of the MFA program four years ago, Wieland was able to turn publication of cold-drill over to MFA students. Each year a graduate student is selected as editor and students in both...
the MFA and English MA programs contribute to the publication.

Wieland is also editor of The Idaho Review, a publication that hit literary newsstands in the fall of 1998. Wieland approached Daryl Jones, Boise State's provost and vice president for academic affairs, and asked for his support on the endeavor. Jones, himself a published poet and former member of the English faculty, donated $6,000 from his own budget and suggested the name for the journal. "He was surprised that no other journal in the state had taken that name," Wieland says.

Nothing, says Wieland, matches the experience of working on a literary journal. "I would put it way up there as a growth experience for me as a writer ... literary journals are what keep literature alive."

The journal's budget is still $6,000 and that covers printing only. Wieland has formed The Friends of The Idaho Review to assist with fund raising. "We are a nonprofit organization and we welcome tax-deductible contributions," he says, noting, "Literary journals publish the literature of tomorrow."

The Idaho Review has garnered numerous awards since it began four years ago. Three stories were short-listed for the Best American Short Stories from the first issue and two short stories from the second issue were listed as honorable mentions in the 2001 Pushcart Prize, one of the most prestigious awards in the literary arena. A story by David Huddle in the 2001 issue has been included in the 2002 Pushcart Prize.

Other literary endeavors at Boise State include Ahsahta Press and the Western Writers Series.

Trusky was also the driving force behind Ahsahta Press, which began in 1974 and is now officially under the auspices of the MFA program. Janet Holmes, a poetry professor in the MFA program, is the current editor. Since its inception, Ahsahta Press has published books of poetry by Western writers, usually three books per year.

Professor Tara Penry currently edits the Western Writers Series. It began in 1971 and has published more than 150 titles focused on the life and work of individual writers who have made significant contributions to Western literature.

— Alexis Ross Miller
OctoberWest

Boise State said thanks to its many supporters during the second annual OctoberWest on Oct. 19. More than 250 people attended the western-themed event, which included an auction, dancing, dinner and games. OctoberWest was held on the property of J.R. and Esther Simplot and sponsored by the Boise State University Foundation.

Among the community and university leaders getting into the spirit of OctoberWest was Boise State President Charles Ruch, top. Numerous guests, center, were rounded up throughout the evening for mug shots at the Sheriff’s Office including, clockwise from left, Tom and Bonnie Stitzel, Becky Lathen, Esther Simplot, Bill Lathen and J.R. Simplot. Bottom, Idaho Gov. Dirk and Patricia Kempthorne take a moment to pose for their own mug shot.

Donor Notes

J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation, $440,000 for the Creating High Performance Schools Initiative-2002.

Associated Governmental Accountants, $1,000 for the Associated Governmental Accountants Scholarship.

Bank of America, $3,000 to the Unrestricted Fund.

Joan E. Bergquist, $1,000 for the Brian Bergquist Student Leadership Fund.

Boise Cascade Corporation, $1,500 to the Boise Cascade Minority Scholarship.

Boise Rotary Foundation, $3,000 to the Bob Gibb Memorial Scholarship.

CARE Committee, $1,125 for the Idaho Engineering Science Camp.

Robert & Suzanne Carille, $2,390 for the Accounting Research Endowment.

Jean Cenarrusa, $5,000 to the Mary M. Hopkins Nursing Scholarship.

Peter & Freda Cenarrusa, $1,120 for the Ansotegui-Fereday Memorial Scholarship.

Central Paving Co. Inc., $3,000 for the Micron Engineering Building.

Trudy Comba, $5,000 to the Ruth Marks Endowed Scholarship for Single Parents.

Cooper Norman & Co., $2,000 to the Accounting Department.

Coopers Lybrad, $34,300 to the Accounting Department Administration Account.

Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, $180,000 for the Laura Moore Cunningham Scholarship & $60,000 for the Laura Moore Cunningham Restricted Nursing Scholarship.

Estate of Helen Wright, $85,200 to the Helen Wright Nursing Scholarship.


Tom & Marguerite Frye, $1,000 to the Unrestricted Fund.

Golden Eagle Audubon Society, $1,421 for the Idaho Bird Observatory.

Humphries Family Foundation, $20,350 to the Ruth Humphries Campbell Memorial.

Idaho Community Foundation, $2,000 to the Don & Evelyn Grable Memorial Scholarship.

Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation, $5,000 to the Idaho Bird Observatory.

Intermountain Gas Company, $2,000 for the Intermountain Gas Company Scholarship.

Douglas & Ann James, $500 to the Ella Judith James Memorial Scholarship & $500 for the Ann & Doug James Early Childhood Educational Scholarship.

Bill & Rebecca Lathen, $500 to the Business Administration Account & $500 to the Gordon Pirrong Accounting Department Scholarship.

Terry & Jennifer McEntee, $2,000 for the Micron Engineering Building.

Micron Technology, $3,000 to the Idaho Engineering Science Camp, $9,600 for the Micron Scholars in Productions Operations Management, $25,600 to the Micron Scholars in Engineering and $1,200 for the Physics Department Administration Account.

Harry W. Morrison Foundation, $200,000 for the Micron Engineering Building.

Harvey & Margo Neef, $29,213 for the Harvey Neef Mane Line Dancers.

Jim & Karin Nelson, $6,250 for the Micron Engineering Building.

Jane O llenburger and Mark Nicholas, $5,000 to the O llenburger Endowed Account.

Wendell & Myrtle Phillips, $22,500 for the Wendell & Myrtle Phillips Endowed Scholarship.

Thomas L. Rea, $2,000 for the Alumni Center Building Fund.

Peter & Betty Richardson, $1,000 to the Unrestricted Fund.

Riverside Inc., $3,000 for the Machine Tool Technology fund.

Ross Medical Foundation, $3,000 to the Gordon Ross Medical Foundation.

Timothy & Jill Schindewin, $1,000 for the Schindewin Technical Account.

Elizabeth & Eric Schneider, $1,000 to the Schneider Computer Science Scholarship.

Shepler’s, $1,000 for the Unrestricted Fund.

John W. Sparks, $10,000 to the Diana Burleigh Sparks Nursing Scholarship.

Christopher & Marjorie Thomas, $500 for the Accounting Department Administration Account & $500 to the Gordon Pirrong Accounting Department Scholarship.

True Step Ministries, $1,100 to the Gene Harris Administration Account.

Gayle & Daniel Weinberg, $200,000 for the Children’s Center Expansion.

Welcome Club of Treasure Valley, $1,000 to the Welcome Club of Treasure Valley Scholarship.

Western Association of College & University Business Officers, $1,500 for the Boise State University General Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Zions Bank of Utah, $2,960 to the Zions Bank Founders Scholarship.

Zonta Club of Boise Foundation, $1,000 for the Zonta Business Scholarship.
Milk money grows to sizable endowment

What started as a humble nest egg hatched into a sizable sum for the descendants of Ruth Campbell Humphries.

Humphries would sell milk from the cows on her Nebraska farm and keep the money in her sugar bowl. Periodically she would dip into the fund to buy stocks from the "penny stock man" who would come around. She primarily invested in a small company, Nebraska Consolidated Mills, which today is Con Agra Foods.

After she and her husband passed away, their three children inherited the stock and further diversified their holdings. The third generation of Humphries children began the Francis W. and Louise Humphries Family Foundation from the investment, named for their great-grandparents.

After some family members moved to Boise, the family foundation established the Ruth Campbell Humphries Memorial Scholarship at Boise State for students majoring in business to benefit future generations of students and honor their grandmother's memory.

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Acting Up

Theatre arts chair Richard Klautsch consults with fellow faculty member Charles Fee on the subtleties of a scene while student Dwayne Blackaller practices his lines in the wings and alumnus Stitch Marker mulls the finer points of playing the fool. No, it's not a university-produced play. Instead, it's the Idaho Shakespeare Festival's 2002 production of *Twelfth Night*. Klautsch plays the role of Orsino and Fee is the Festival's artistic director.

To paraphrase Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, the partnership between Boise State and the Festival is the stuff of which dreams are made.

That partnership dates to the Festival's birth in 1977, when a group of actors (many of them former or current Boise State students) decided to put on a show. Their first choice, *Hair*, proved to have expensive royalties, so they moved on to Plan B.

"The next logical choice was Shakespeare, because he's dead and you don't have to pay anyone to do him," recalls Marker (BA, theatre arts/secondary education, '89), one of the founding members and still a Festival draw. "It was not a real noble beginning."

Noble or not, the Festival has grown to include a top-notch cast performing in a world-class outdoor amphitheater. Its mission, to "produce great theater, entertain and educate," encourages a continued bond with the university that sits practically in its backyard.

"What this gives students is real education for the real world," says Klautsch. "Learning about theater, about how to do it, can never be separated from the actual 'doing' of theater."

It also lets students work with professionals from all over the country, he says. "To get that kind of exposure and experience right here in Boise is extraordinary."

The experience students gain when they step out of the university environment and work side by side with professors and professionals from across the country is unparalleled, Klautsch says. "The demand this places on students is very educational. They get to see how we approach our work in a professional environment."

But the partnership is complementary in other ways as well, says managing director Mark Hofflund, calling it a partnership of opportunity. "On a practical basis, we're getting actors, we're getting designers and we're getting opportunities for ourselves."

Because several Festival directors also teach at Boise State, they have the opportunity to try things that may not fly on the professional stage. "New ideas are always being born in the academic world," he
Sara Bruner, left, as Viola; Richard Klautsch, below left, as Orsino; and Dwayne Blackaller as Curio in Twelfth Night.

...and other members of the Boise State community involved with the 2002 Idaho Shakespeare Festival included:

Mike Balzari, carpenter and scenic painter — faculty
Sara Bruner, actor — former student
Amanda Costello, house manager — student
Adam Cotterell, wardrobe — BA, theatre arts, '02
Bianca Dillard, apprentice — student
Mika Freeman, wardrobe mistress — student
Nick Garcia, actor — former student
Rebecca Hoffman, costume crafts — faculty
Coyle Hyslop, sound intern — BA, theatre arts, '03
Lisa Hylag, light board operator — BA, theatre arts, '03
Olivia Leubus, stage management, production assistant — student
Dana Madden, box office — BA, theatre arts, '97
Fran Maxwell, prop assistant — BA, theatre arts, '99
Aaron Milette, box office manager — BA, English/general literature, '02
Rosela Moseng, box office — BA, theatre arts, '02
Nickie Shell, company manager — BA, interdisciplinary studies, '99
Zach Skintz, sound operator — student
Tracy Sunderland, actor — faculty
Eden Teagle, box office — BA, theatre arts, '03
Christine Zimowsky, administrative assistant — BA, art, '95

Marker agrees the partnership has been a good move. “The Festival and the faculty at Boise State’s theatre department have been really smart since the beginning about building an allegiance and nursing it,” he says. “It’s had great benefits for the Festival, for Boise State and for audiences.”

—Kathleen Craven
70s

WILLIAM "BILL" ASSENDRUP, BBA, accounting, '71, has been elected to the board of the Professional Insurance Agents of Oregon/Idaho. Assendrup has worked for Clear Lakes Agency since 1971 and served as president for the last 22 years. He is a board member and past president of the Buhl Kiwanis Club and has also been active in local chambers of commerce, the Magic Valley Home-builders Association and the Idaho Youth Soccer Association.

KEITH D. BURKE, BS, physical education, '71, works for export company Natchiq Sarkhalin LLC in Anchorage, Alaska. The company was named Alaska exporter of the year for 2001 with exports totaling $11 million.

KENNETH RAY PATTERSON, BA, social work, '73, has been named director of the Community Services Agency for Stanslaus County, Calif. Patterson previously was the western division director for the Child Welfare League of America in Salt Lake City. Prior, he worked as the director of the Child and Family Services Division of the Utah State Department of Human Services.

80s

DANIEL R. HAGUE, AAS, horticulture, '83, recently joined CDF Design/Build, a landscaping firm in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Hague has more than 25 years in the landscape maintenance field. He works in a similar capacity for Kootenai Medical Center.

BRENT D. CARR, BBA, marketing, '84, has been promoted to director of sales for the nine-state Western division of Fresh Express Inc. Carr also was inducted into the National Register's "Who's Who in Executives and Professionals."

If you love sports, you'll envy Karl Benson. He gets one of the best seats in the house for just about every game he attends.

Leader of the WAC

As commissioner of the Western Athletic Conference, Benson manages the athletic interests of the league's member institutions, including his alma mater, Boise State.

From officiating to bowl game negotiations, Benson sees to it that WAC athletics run smoothly; in the process, he attends numerous games.

"People think I have the best job in the country," he says. "I watch games from press boxes and good seats, and I get to enjoy a lot of victories. Every week there's at least one of our teams that wins a game."

A former Bronco baseball player, Benson (BS, physical education, '75) began his non-playing athletic career at Boise State in 1975 as assistant baseball coach under Ross Vaughn, current chair of the university's kinesiology department.

Benson is beginning his ninth year as head of the WAC, a job that followed a four-year stint as commissioner of the Mid-American Conference, four years on the NCAA staff, master's level course work in athletic administration at Utah, and various coaching jobs.

"I first came out of school as a coach, wanting to devote my life to intercollegiate athletics," Benson says. "My job couples intercollegiate athletics with the business side of athletics, and I enjoy it very much."

Benson is often on the receiving end for both accolades and complaints involving his league. While he admits that his job is sometimes a hot seat, he is seldom chided for his Boise State connections.

"I'm subject to criticism and complaints regardless of where I got my degree," he says. "It comes with the territory."

--- Sherry Squires

In Touch

Interested in networking with other alums in your area? Volunteers are needed to form chapters. See details on Page 44.
two Idaho math teachers to receive a 2002 award. She received a $7,500 grant for her school's mathematics department and a trip to Washington, D.C.

LARRY LAVERTY, BA, political science, '85, is an actor working mainly in Los Angeles in film and television. He appeared most recently on ABC's The Practice.

STEPHEN FRANKENSTEIN, BA, history/secondary education, '86, has been promoted to assistant principal at Greenwood Lakes Middle School in Lake Mary, Fla. Previously, he was dean of students at Corner Lake Middle School in Orlando.

VICKIE (RUTLEDGE) SHIELDS, BA, communication, '86, has been promoted to interim associate dean for student and curricular affairs at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Shields is a tenured associate professor of telecommunications and women's studies at BGSU and previously served as director of the university's women's studies program.

GREGORY L. STEVENS, BBA, management/human resources, '87, is vice chancellor for human resources for the community colleges of Spokane, Wash. Previously, Stevens served as director of human resources for Butte College in Chico, Calif., and in a similar capacity for the county of Tuolumne, Calif. Stevens earned his master's degree in human resource management from the Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah.

G. DEE CARTER JR., BBA, marketing, '88, recently completed his MBA at Northwest Nazarene University. Last December he was promoted to senior real estate loan officer and assistant vice president of real estate for Idaho Independent Bank. Carter resides in Meridian.

DEANNA KAY McWHIRTER, BBA, marketing, '89, is a commercial loan officer for the Nampa office of Farmers and Merchants Bank. She has 14 years experience in commercial financial sales, financial analysis and account management.

SUE J. NEWCOMBE, BS, nursing, '89, recently traveled to Guatemala with the Teen Challenge program to help build a church and establish a medical clinic. She hopes to return to Guatemala to do further work in early 2003.

90's

DEBRA K. (TOWNE) SHRUM, MA, education, '90, teaches health and coaches girls basketball at Mountain Home High School. In 2002 Shrum was named District III - 4A girls basketball coach of the year. She resides in Hammett.

JOHN G. ELIOTT, BA, communication, '91, is a loan specialist for Trinity Home Mortgage's Boise location. Elliott has 11 years of experience in sales and marketing.

BRENDA GARDUNIA, BS, mathematics/secondary education, '91, will travel to Japan as part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. Gardunia, a mathematics teacher at Mountain Cove High School in Boise, was selected from a national pool of more than 2,100 applicants. The program allows distinguished primary and secondary school teachers in the United States to travel to Japan for three weeks to promote intercultural understanding.

STEPHEN FRANCES LYON, BA, English, '91, is employed as a staff writer at the Lahontan Valley News, a daily newspaper in Fallon, Nev. Lyon's past awards include being named outstanding journalist of the year for week...
Thummel's research aids transplant patients

Boise State has produced its share of world-class scientists. When seeking a classic example, look no further than University of Washington clinical pharmacologist Kenneth Thummel (BS, premed/biology '78, chemistry '81).

After his schooling at Boise State, Thummel went on to earn a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science from UW in 1987. After he completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Connecticut Health Science Center, where he studied the structure and function of the drug metabolizer cytochrome P450, he returned to Washington in 1989 as a faculty member.

"When someone takes an Advil for a headache, for instance, P450 breaks it down to metabolites that can be excreted from the body," Thummel explains. Most of the time drug metabolism is beneficial, he says, but sometimes it is not.

When Thummel started his research, he was studying Tylenol toxicity. Working with colleagues at Washington, he discovered that alcohol ingestion could modify the activity of P450, converting the drug into a potentially liver-toxic metabolite. Package labeling for Tylenol now warns against this combination.

Thummel has concentrated his research on the immune suppressors (IS) given to organ transplantation recipients. The correct dosage of the IS drugs is important so that the patient doesn't reject an implanted organ or suffer kidney damage. His research could have long-standing effects across the medical spectrum.

Thummel is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an associate editor for Drug Metabolism and Disposition.

Boise State pride runs deep in the Thummel household; Ken's wife Peggy (BBA, business-computer science '86), is also a graduate. The Thummels have a son and two daughters.

— Bob McDiarmid

lies by the Nevada Press Association in 1997. He was employed as a reporter for the Buzzle Mountain Bugle in Nevada at the time of the award.

PATTY LEE NEAVILL, BS, physical education/secondary education, '91, was recently named secondary school teacher of the year for the Nampa School District. Neavill, an eighth-grade science teacher, has taught at West Middle School for seven years.

VALERIE J. (MEA) ROBERTSON, BS, chemistry, '91, recently joined Micron as a technical editor. She resides in Boise.

THOMAS W. THOMSON, BBA, finance, '91, has joined Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center as chief operating officer. Thomson comes to EIRM from Delta County Memorial Hospital in Delta, Colo. Before that, he was CEO at Colorado Plains Medical Center in Fort Morgan. He holds a master's in health administration from Washington University in St. Louis.

M. SEAN O'BRIEN, BS, physics, '92, has accepted a position as associate research scientist and lecturer in the astronomy department at Yale University, where he will teach and continue his research on the structure and physics of stars.

After completing his Ph.D. in astrophysics at Iowa State in 1998, O'Brien spent a year as a visiting assistant professor at Grinnell College in Iowa and since had been a post-doctoral research fellow for the Hubble Space Telescope in Baltimore.

LOUIS JOHN PIFHER, BBA, finance, '92, was recently elected to the Meridian School Board. Pipher is a sales manager and retail representative for Rhodes International. He resides in Meridian.

KAREN GESSELL, BBA, marketing, '93, recently joined Idaho Properties GMAC Real Estate, as a real estate sales professional. Geselle's background includes sales experience in print advertising and the Internet.

WAYNE E. GILLAM, BA, advertising design, '93, is a graphic designer for the city of Redmond, Wash. Gillam previously worked for Boise State Printing and Graphics.

CHRISTINA (HALL) MARINEAU, BBA, accounting, '93, has been admitted as a partner with Deloitte and Touche in Ontario, Canada. She is responsible for leading the International Assignment Services group dealing with cross-border tax implications of employers and employees around the world, specializing in Canadian and U.S. taxation.

DANNY DEAN SCHOOLCRAFT, TC, welding/metals fabrication, '93, has joined Idaho Testing and Inspection as a welding inspector at Gayle Manufacturing. He previously was a welding inspector for Materials Testing and Inspections, Inc. A Meridian resident, he also serves on the advisory board for Boise State's welding program.

TRAVIS DON JENSEN, BBA, accounting, '94, has been elected to a one-year term on the Boise State Alumni Association board of directors. The board coordinates events and activities that encourage alumni involvement, as well as offering scholarship support to students.

SHAUN DAVID MENCHACA, BS, health data management, '94, was recognized by the Idaho Business Review as one of the "top 40 under 40" young leaders in Idaho. Menchaca is a Life Flight membership program manager in Boise. Prior, Menchaca was a financial manager for the Saint Alphonsus Foundation, a business manager for the Orthopedic Institute and vice president of development for Clearwater Mortgage. He was elected the 2002 national president of the Association of Air Medical Membership Programs.

KAREN ELIZABETH HODGE, BBA, general business management, '95, is director of Women's and Children's Services at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. She is currently working on a program geared toward teen parents.

KENNETH DALE KIRKLAND, BS, sociology, '95, is a licensed clinical social worker and has begun developing his own mental health counseling practice in Idaho City. After completing his degree at Boise State, Kirkland earned a master's degree in clinical social work at Walla Walla College. Kenneth's wife, CAROL ANN KIRKLAND, BS, nursing '95, is studying to become a nurse practitioner. They live in Idaho City.

CHANDLER LUIS LEGARRETA, BBA, general business management, '95, has been promoted to vice president at SourceOne, a Boise-based provider of enterprise technology solutions. Legarreta has been with the firm for four years. He earned his MBA from Northwest Nazarene University.

LISA (FRANK) GRIGG, BS, health science studies, '96, and her husband, ROBERT...
Welcome to the new Boise State Alumni Association website!

Enjoy current alumni news, local and national event information, the latest membership benefits, membership information, new student programs, chapter programs, and much more!

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Alum at helm of Montana college

Darrel Hammon is bringing big aspirations to a small college on the eastern Montana plains. Now entering his second year as president of Miles Community College in Miles City, Hammon (BA, English, '82; MA, English education '86) is quick to sell the school's virtues to anyone who will listen. And he's having fun in the process.

"There's no limit to what you can do with two English degrees from Boise State," he says, laughing about the chain of circumstances that has put him at the helm of the 700-student college that serves five Montana counties.

Hammon taught ninth grade in Mountain Home for several years before taking a division manager position at Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls. That led to his next position as associate vice president for extended programs at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, where he had a hand in developing an aggressive outreach program that touched all corners of the state.

In July 2001 he moved into the MCC presidential suite, where he immediately set out to focus the school's mission on academic preparation and regional economic development.

From helping local attorneys learn new courtroom technology to offering an online course for cattle buyers or developing a cadre of registered nurses, MCC stands ready to help build the economy of the town of 9,000 that is a center for commerce and health care, he says.

Backed by a "progressive board of trustees," Hammon has aggressive plans to develop the school. Construction on a new residence hall should begin in March and plans are afoot to develop a student union and family apartments. He is lining up community partnerships and seeking grant funds to develop new programs.

"I like to go fast. The decision-making environment here is good because we can very quickly decide what needs to be done and then do it," he says.

Despite its small size, the college and its president aren't immune to the pressures that face larger institutions. Already he is dealing with anticipated budget cuts as the state comes to grips with a $250 million shortfall.

And the college is devising strategies to recruit new students in a region that experienced a population loss in recent years.

Through it all, Hammon is excited to reach a goal he has had for several years, which was to lead a small college like MCC.

"This is a great job for me ... there isn't a minute I don't enjoy," he says.

— Larry Burke
of Nampa at the time of his death. He graduated from the FBI academy in 1993.

JOHN EDWARD DURHAM, CC, culinary arts, ’83, died Aug. 12 in Nampa at age 44. Durham grew up in the Wilder area and graduated from Bishop Kelly High School in Boise. Durham was active in high school sports. He used his culinary talents at Boise’s Mode Tea Room, which he managed, as well as Crane Creek and Hillcrest country clubs. He later worked in maintenance for the Idaho State Veterans Home.

PATRICIA J. DURIE, BA, theatre arts, ’98/BM, music, ’91, died July 12 in Boise at age 75. Durie earned both her degrees after retiring from Boise State in 1988 after 18 years of service. At the time of her death, she was working on her master’s in musical theater. Durie lived in Boise for more than 50 years and performed at many weddings, funerals and other events.

BRYAN KENT GREEN, BBA, marketing, ’75, died June 2 as the result of a motorcycle accident near Chico, Calif. He was 56. Involved in athletics his whole life, Green was recruited for football by several institutions, including Notre Dame, Nebraska and the universities in Idaho. He ultimately attended Idaho State to play baseball and basketball. Green served in the Army during the Vietnam War. At the time of his death he had just completed the first year of a master’s degree program at Chico State.

BARBARA JEAN (ARCHER) GUSSOW, BA, elementary education, ’70, died May 20 in La Jolla, Calif., at age 73. A Rexburg native, Gussow attended beauty college and had a hair styling business for many years. She continued her education at Ricks, Albion Christian College and then Boise State, after which she taught in Palm Springs, Calif. Gussow returned to Idaho in the early ’80s and opened Barbara’s, a clothing store in Burley. She had resided in Yuma, Ariz., since 1991.

HARVEY BOBBY HARRIS, BA, communication, ’84, died.
**Alumni Association Calendar of Events**

### November

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alumni Chapter Survey Deadline. Details: alumni.boisestate.edu.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bronco Bash Tailgate Party, Alumni Center. 11 a.m.; Rice vs. Boise State, Bronco Stadium. 1:05 p.m. kickoff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting, Alumni Center. Noon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Bronco Bash Tailgate Party, Alumni Center. 11 a.m.; Louisiana Tech vs. Boise State, Bronco Stadium. 1:05 p.m. kickoff.</td>
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**December**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Winter Graduation Celebration, 8 a.m.; Kinesiology Building/Bronco Gym</td>
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**January**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nomination deadline for Distinguished Alumni Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Boise State Day at the Legislature, 8 a.m.-noon, Capitol Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Legislative Reception, Louie’s Restaurant, downtown Boise. 5-7 p.m.</td>
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**February**

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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Application deadline for Alumni Association Freshman Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting, Alumni Center. Noon.</td>
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**May**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Alumni Association annual meeting, Student Union.</td>
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### Auction '03 set for May 3

The biennial Boise State Auction is set for May 3, 2003. The auction is a Boise State tradition that raises funds for athletic scholarships and the Alumni Center. The event is coordinated by the Alumni Association and Bronco Athletic Association. For donation or ticket information contact auction coordinator Valerie Tichenor at (208) 426-2570.

### Events planned for Reno game Nov. 22-23

Bronco fans in Reno for the Nov. 23 Boise State vs. Nevada-Reno football game will once again be welcomed by the Boise State Alumni Association. The Reno weekend traditionally attracts thousands of alumni and fans.

This year the association is hosting a “Reno BroncoBash” on Friday evening, Nov. 22, and a pre-game Pep Rally Saturday morning, Nov. 23. Each event costs $15 in advance with a limited number of $20 tickets available at the door.

The BroncoBash will be held from 7-9 p.m. Friday evening at Circus Circus and will feature door prizes, guest speakers, heavy appetizers, no-host bar, and a special welcome by a “Frank Sinatra” entertainer. The event is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and hundreds of Bronco fans to kick off the weekend.

Saturday’s Pre-Game Pep Rally is from 9-11 a.m. at the El Dorado Hotel. It includes a full breakfast, door prizes, no-host bar and more.

For reservation information, call the Alumni Association at (208) 426-1698.
Wilderness with friends. He was 44. Born in Baltimore, Mercer was a lifelong advocate for wildlife and wilderness and was involved with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the Sierra Club, Alliance for the Wild Rockies and most recently the Idaho Greens. In 1992 Mercer began his company, Back to the Source, leading clients from all over the world on trips into remote areas throughout the West. He was also an avid writer.

H. IRVING PIERCE, AA, general arts and sciences, '58, died Aug. 9 in Boise at age 64. Pierce completed medical school at the University of Oregon in 1965 and trained in internal medicine at an Army medical center in Tacoma, Wash. He served on active and reserve duty with the U.S. Army, retiring as a colonel in 1991, having been awarded the Meritorious Service medal. Pierce worked for Medical Oncology and Hematology Associates in Tacoma until joining Saint Alphonsus in Boise in 1999. He also was the principal investigator of the Northwest Community Clinical Oncology Program.

AMY M. (GRATTON) PRIEST, BA, communication, '99, died June 8 in Boise at age 28. Priest worked for Phillip Morris Co. as a territorial sales manager. She had also attended college in Eugene, Ore.

STEPHEN G. PROVANT, diploma, general arts and sciences, '58, died of cancer Aug. 16 in Valdez, Alaska. He was 64. Provant spent 22 years with the Environmental Protection Agency in Alaska and Idaho. He retired in June 2002 from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation as manager of the Marine Vessels Section overseeing oil spill response and contingency planning. He was the state's first on-scene coordinator for the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

DEBORAH SUE (BLACK) REED, BA, elementary education, '92, died July 10 in Boise after a long battle with cancer. She was 51. Reed grew up in Pocatello and attended Idaho State University. Recently, she taught in the Kuna School District.

DAVID RAY ROESSLER JR., BA, criminal justice administration, '78, died July 2 in an automobile accident. He was 57. Roessler's wife Rose Marie was also killed in the crash. David joined the U.S. Army in 1966 and served in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. He received Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star and many other awards. He also served in Germany and was discharged in 1972 as a captain. He joined the Boise Police Department in 1975 while attending Boise State and retired from the department as a sergeant in 2001.

MARY L. SWARDZ, BA, English, '73, died June 5 in Marysville, Wash., from complications due to cancer. She was 51. Swardz grew up in southern California and moved to Boise in the late '60s. She taught English and French at Fairmont Junior High in Boise from 1978-1980. She later earned her master's degree at Leslie College in Cambridge, Mass., completing the program with a 4.0 GPA. She relocated to Marysville in 1985, where she taught at Lakewood Middle School.

BETTY (AMOS) THIERHAUSE, AA, general arts and sciences, '45, died July 13 in Boise at age 77. A Boise native, Thierhause and her husband founded Meridian Insurance Agency, which is still in operation today. She was the first woman in Idaho to receive her certified insurance counselor designation, which she retained for more than 30 years. Thierhause was also involved with Order of the Eastern Star and was a lifetime member of the Boise State Alumni Association.

JOHN CHARLES TISCHENDORF, BA, communication, '74, died April 29 in Boise at age 54. After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard in the late '60s, Tischendorf's career was in the televi-
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Volunteers needed to form chapters

Boise State alumni live in all 50 states and every Idaho county. To create further opportunities for networking and involvement, the Alumni Association would like to start alumni chapters in cities and metropolitan areas where many alumni now reside.

“Chapters are an exciting way for alumni to make new friends and stay involved with Boise State no matter where they may now live,” says Lee Denker, Alumni Association executive director. “There is a connection to Boise State that is shared by all of our alumni regardless of their current location.”

Active alumni are needed to form chapters in cities in Idaho and elsewhere. Call Denker at (208) 426-1698 regarding chapter development.

Honor a friend or colleague

The Alumni Association seeks nominations for the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award. Each year up to four alumni are selected to receive this award that recognizes a record of career or personal accomplishments. Nomination forms are available online at alumni.boisestate.edu or by calling 208-426-1698. The deadline is Jan. 15, 2003. Awards will be presented at the annual Distinguished Alumni & Top Ten Scholars Banquet on April 23, 2003.

PETER K. WILSON, an emeritus professor of business, died Oct. 9 at age 92. Wilson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, his law degree from Northwestern and practiced law in Illinois for many years. He served as a naval intelligence officer during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart. He relocated to Boise in the late '60s to teach business at Boise State. He was active in many civic and community groups, including the Boy Scouts.

JAMES EUGENE WOOTEN, BA, sociology, '88, died Aug. 7 in Boise after a lengthy illness. He was 39. Wooten grew up in Twin Falls. He enjoyed skiing, golf, fishing and camping. At the time of his death Wooten was employed at Home Depot.

DAVID EUGENE WELLS, AT, water/wastewater management, '93, died July 3 in Hailey at age 38. Wells joined the Marine Corps in 1987, and served honorably with the Second Surveillance Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War. He was active in the Idaho National Guard in Hailey. He studied diesel mechanics while in North Carolina. After returning to Idaho in 1991, he worked as a mechanic in the locomotive overhaul division of Morrison-Knudsen. He had most recently worked as an electrician in the Hailey area.

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Fax: (208) 426-1005
E-mail: bsualum@boisestate.edu

Home page: alumni.boisestate.edu
Mail: Boise State University Alumni Association,
1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1035

44 FOCUS FALL 2002
President's Message

By Robin Denison, President
Boise State Alumni Association

In August Dr. Ruch announced his retirement plans after 10 years as Boise State University's president. Consequently, the State Board of Education is in the process of soliciting and screening applicants to lead Boise State University in the 21st century. I am proud that the Alumni Association's immediate past president Mark Dunham has been selected for membership on the screening committee that will make recommendations for Dr. Ruch's replacement to the board.

Many of you know Mark and know that he is an unwavering and courageous advocate for Boise State, its alumni and its students. I am confident of Mark's representation on the screening committee, and thank him for his continued willingness to serve.

As the university and the State Board of Education begin the process of finding and hiring a president who will protect and advance Boise State's interests, the university still faces many challenges. Those challenges include receiving adequate funding for academic and other programs, fostering an environment in the business, media and legislative arenas in which Boise State's contributions to the community and the state are recognized; and redressing perennial equity issues for the state's largest higher educational institution. Many thanks to Dr. Ruch for his commitment to Boise State and his efforts to achieve those goals during his tenure.

I, like you, wish the State Board of Education well in selecting a thoughtful and effective leader for Boise State. However, we all share a responsibility to advocate for the university and its interest on whatever level is available to us and there is much that you can do to help as a Boise State alum.

I urge you to contact your state legislators and speak with them specifically about equalizing funding for Boise State University.

I also urge you to contact the Governor's Office and express the importance of Boise State being represented equally and effectively on the State Board of Education and in other areas of importance to the university. You can find the name and contact number for your area-specific legislator at www2.state.id.us/legisl/. The Governor's Office can be contacted by telephone at: (208) 344-2100 or in writing at: Office of the Governor, 700 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor, P.O.Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0034.
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