

innovate@boisestate: A Spring Break Challenge

By Melissa Jensen

For many students, this past spring break was a chance to rest at home or on a sunny beach. But for one elite group of Boise State students, spring break involved 12-hour days spent in an intense five-day competition called innovate@boisestate.

The enterprising students were selected from a cross-section of the university's academic colleges to explore and find creative solutions to a single community problem. They each earned an \$800 stipend and academic credit, and winning teams shared prizes of \$1,000 and \$500 for first and second place.

"At Boise State we are constantly searching for new ways to challenge our students and give them the best education and experience possible," says President Bob Kustra. "This new challenge is yet another example of that drive. With community partners and enthusiastic students, innovate@boisestate could become a marquee example of Boise State's innovation and imagination."

The featured problem was unveiled on the first day of the challenge as teams were formed in groups of five or six students. Each



team received a human "tool box" of resources, including a faculty expert, community consultants and a reference librarian from the Albertsons Library.

"The thing that excited me the most was how the university engaged students and gave us an opportunity to make a difference in the community," says participant Stephen Foster, a mass communication journalism major.

Throughout the week team members kept a video journal of their time together as they combined hard data with innovative ideas. On the final day of competition, a panel of judges scored team performance on the following criteria – supporting data, feasibility, implementation and innovation.

The community problem, along with a list of participants, presentations and video journals, can be found online at <http://academics.boisestate.edu/undergraduate/innovateboisestate-spring-break-challenge/>.

Remembering Tom Trusky – 1944-2009

By Kathleen Tuck

PICKING UP THE PHONE, I HEARD THE FAMILIAR HUSKY VOICE AND KNEW IMMEDIATELY WHO WAS CALLING. THE GREETING SIMPLY SEALED THE DEAL. "DR. TUCK, HOW ARE YOU?"

Only one person addressed me that way — not surprising, considering I have no Ph.D. But that was classic Tom Trusky. Always looking for ways to equalize the academic playing field and ingratiate himself to those he liked to call his "media handlers."

When he died in late November after four decades at the university, he left behind a true legacy. His engaging classroom style led to his being named Idaho's Professor of the Year three times by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education — in 1990, 1991 and 1993.

A professor of English, Tom helped found several publications aimed at encouraging creative writing, including cold-drill and the Ahsakta Press poetry series. He was editor of the Modern and Contemporary Poetry of the West series, director of the Hemingway Western Studies Center, founder and director emeritus of the Idaho Center for the Book, head of the Idaho Film Collection and instrumental in initiating Boise State's MFA program in creative writing. He also was passionate about silent film star Nell Shipman and Idaho artist James Castle.



But that's not why I'll remember him. My memories include Tom installing Burma Shave poetry signs across campus; pushing for an exhibition of poems hung on refrigerators with children's magnets; waving a pair of red, white and blue boxer shorts while expounding on the merits of recycling underwear into paper; exalting over a box of previously unknown James Castle sketches; and populating my e-mail box with rambling, creative and often irreverent messages.

He was always enthusiastic, he refused to take no for an answer and there were times I dreaded seeing his name pop up on my caller ID. But I never regretted knowing him.

As Richard Young, chair of the Department of Art, noted: "A really bright star is gone from this university."

TOM, YOU ARE MISSED.