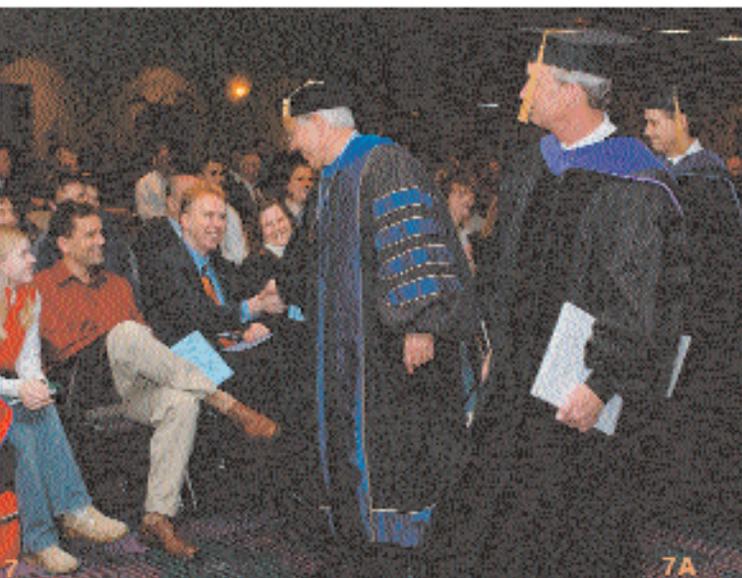


# Boise State celebrates 30-year milestone

Presidential installation highlights anniversary events



Boise State celebrated the installation of a new president and 30 years as a university with a week of exhibits, panel discussions, lectures and receptions in late February. The university was founded as a junior college in 1932 and became a state college in 1969. On Feb. 22, 1974, then-Gov. Cecil Andrus signed a bill changing the name to Boise State University, solidifying Boise State's importance in Idaho's education system.

Events culminated Feb. 27 with the installation of President Bob Kustra in a morning of pomp and circumstance featuring Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, Boise Mayor Dave Bieter and other honored guests.

University photographers John Kelly and Carrie Quinney captured two of the week's major events on camera. The first was a reception honoring the university's "Great Eight" — winners of the Carnegie Foundation Idaho Professor of the Year award. The second was the presidential installation in the Student Union, highlighted by President Kustra's installation address (top right).



# Boise State sets another spring enrollment record

Enrollment continues to rise at Boise State with a spring headcount of 17,890, an increase of 145 students over last spring. But the real news is that students, on average, are taking more classes, putting an even tighter squeeze on already crowded classroom space.

The university's full-time equivalent, based on the number of credit hours students are taking, jumped 3 percent, to 12,818. The increase is a result of more students attending full time rather than part time.

Adding the resources needed to keep up with that growth will be a little easier if the Legislature approves a proposed 2.5 percent increase in university budgets, but Boise State isn't done with belt-tightening measures just yet. That proposed increase doesn't provide for the jump in student enrollment or for the operating costs of new buildings approved in last year's budget.

The general fund increase will also only partially cover the cost of raising employee salaries, which have been stagnant for the last two years. The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee recom-

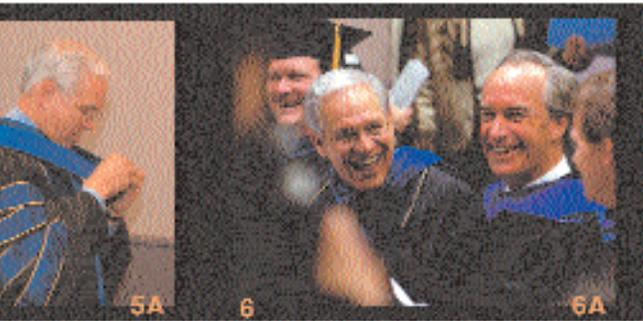
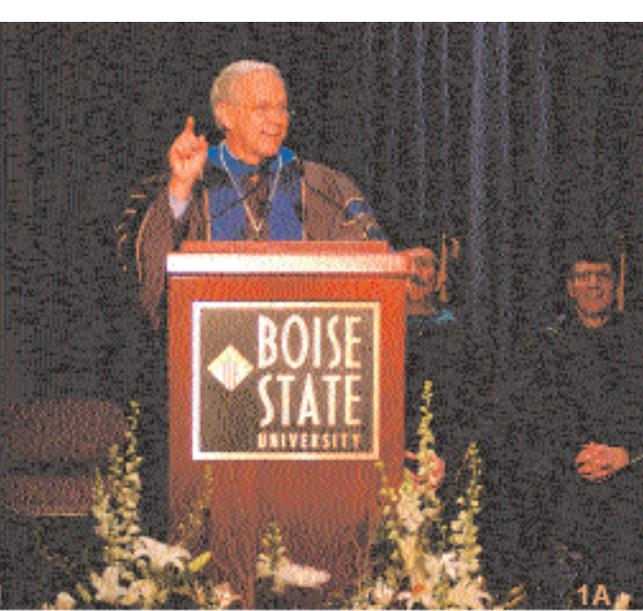
mended making up that difference from student fees, a move many see as legally tenuous.

The enrollment figures reflect a manageable pace of growth, says Mark Wheeler, dean of enrollment services. "A 1 percent increase in headcount and a 3 percent increase in FTE is about what we can handle this semester considering the tight state budget. Keeping growth in concert with our resources is one of our biggest challenges right now," he says.

The university increased admissions standards last fall and will increase them again this fall to keep enrollment in line with its resources.

That increase in standards is also making a difference in how well the freshman class performs. Of those admitted in fall 2003, more finished the semester in good academic standing and more continued into the spring semester than in previous years.

"As the academic quality of the student body increases, our retention and graduation rates will continue to improve," Wheeler notes. "It's an exciting time for the university."



Other photos from left to right: Professors of the Year at their reception — Russ Centanni (2000), John Freemuth (2001), Alicia Garza (2003), Pam Gehrke (1999), Greg Raymond (1994), Todd Shallat (2002), Tom Trusky (1990, 1991 and 1993) and Stephanie Witt (1998); Centanni poses with fellow honoree Gehrke (right) and nursing professor Pat Taylor; Margene Muller, executive assistant to the provost, gives last-minute instructions before the inauguration procession; President Kustra receives help robing from his assistant Randi McDermott; Kustra, Gov. Kempthorne and Faculty Senate president George Murgel, left, share a light moment before the procession; Kustra greets Mark Dunham, Boise State's director of government relations, during the procession; student body president Ali Ishaq addresses the audience; with his wife, Kathy, by his side, Kustra is sworn in as BSU's sixth president by State Board of Education president Blake Hall; Mayor Bieter delivers his speech; President Kustra with Lois Chaffee, widow of Eugene Chaffe, the university's second president; Dr. and Mrs. Kustra pose with Hall following the induction.



## 'FOCUS' earns gold/silver medals

An illustration by Boise State art professor Bill Carman, featured in the Summer 2003 issue of FOCUS magazine, was awarded the Gold Medal in a competition sponsored by the Northwest district of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

The illustration accompanied a story on the role of the arts in a turbulent world.

Additionally, FOCUS writers Janelle Brown, Kathleen Craven and Patricia Pyke won a Silver Medal for periodical team writing. CASE is an organization for advancement professionals.



## Boise State-West, housing projects remain on schedule

Despite the snow and rain of winter, construction projects on Boise State's main campus and Canyon County site are all on track. In addition to several projects already under way, four new projects are in the planning stages.

Following an official groundbreaking in August, the **ACADEMIC BUILDING** on the 150-acre Boise State-West campus is beginning to take shape. Concrete footings and foundations for the building and the first-floor slab have been poured and steel structure is being erected for all three levels of the building.

Expected to open in December, the 65,600-square-foot building will house classrooms, science laboratories, student services offices and a bookstore.

On the Boise campus, two new **RESIDENCE HALLS** and an **APARTMENT COMPLEX** will be available to students by the end of the summer. Construction on the David Taylor and John Keiser halls is on schedule, with the first building at the University Courts apartments to be done by late May or early June. All of the buildings should be ready for occupancy by August.

Several new **BUS SHELTERS** have been erected across campus, providing a safe and attractive waiting area for shuttle

and city bus riders. Those shelters were scheduled for completion once the weather warmed up enough to permit glazing — typically above 40 degrees.



Boise State-West's academic building is due for completion in December.

The project, which includes a bus turnout lane on University Drive, was funded by federal dollars.

In addition to these projects, several proposed structures are in various stages of planning and implementation, including:

A 59,000-square-foot **INTERACTIVE LEARNING CENTER** located immediately east of the Multipurpose Classroom Building in the current cul-de-sac. The new center is Boise state's latest effort to capitalize on technologies that create more flexible and responsive learning environments. The process to select an architect and construction manager is under way.

A 20,000-square-foot **STUDENT SERVICES CENTER** designed to be a one-stop shop for students transacting university business and seeking student support services. The Division of Public Works will begin the architect and engineer selection process soon.

An \$11 million **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY CENTER** to be housed in a new seven-story addition on the east side of the Mathematics/Geosciences building, will include facilities and programs that link fundamental science research to science-based public policy, K-12 education and public outreach.

The pre-design phase is expected to begin soon. In February, President George W. Bush signed an appropriations bill that includes \$800,000 in federal funds to help construct the facility.

A **MULTIMODAL TRANSIT CENTER**, a 1,200-car parking structure serving students, faculty and staff who want to transfer from one form of transportation to another, such as from a car to a bus or bike. The facility will include a transfer station and bike lockers. The Federal Transit Administration requires an environmental assessment, which will likely take a year or more to complete.

### Gene Harris Jazz Festival April 1-4

The 2004 Gene Harris Jazz Festival, April 1-4, will feature legendary jazz pianist Dave Brubeck and vocalists Ernie Andrews and Rebecca Parris as headliners. Tickets are available at all Select-a-Seat outlets, by phone at 208 426-1494 or online at idahotickets.com. ("Brubeck headlines 7th annual Gene Harris Jazz Festival," *FOCUS*, Fall 2003.)

The Festival features three nights of concerts and two days of student clinics and competitions. This year will offer clinics for elementary school children and a free Sunday gospel concert. For more information, visit [www.geneharris.org](http://www.geneharris.org).

### Wilson on campus April 14

World-renowned biologist E.O. Wilson will speak April 14 at Boise State as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

Wilson's lecture, "The Future of Life," is at 7 p.m. in the Jordan Ballroom. The lecture is

free. ("Father of biodiversity to speak in April," *FOCUS*, Fall 2003.) A professor at Harvard University for four decades, Wilson has won two Pulitzer Prizes, written 20 books and discovered hundreds of new species.

# Neel leaves BSU; Jones to retire

Two longtime Boise State administrators, Harry "Buster" Neel and Daryl Jones, are saying farewell to the university they have served collectively for more than a quarter century.

President Bob Kustra praised both men for their years of service and dedication to the university and its students and wished them well in their new endeavors.



Neel (left), Boise State's vice president for finance and administration for 9 1/2 years, left the university in

February for a position as vice chancellor for finance and administration for the university and community college system of Nevada. Neel will be the chief financial officer for Nevada's statewide higher education system, which includes two universities, a four-year college, four community colleges and a research institute.

Before leaving Boise State, Neel said he was excited about his new opportunity in large part because "the job brings new challenges in terms of dealing with the operations of all the campuses in the state." He also noted that he has family living in Nevada, and his new job will allow him to see them more regularly.

Stacy Pearson, associate vice president for finance and administration, has been appointed to replace Neel on an interim basis. BSU will conduct national searches to replace both Neel and Jones.

"Buster has given Boise State an outstanding decade of service," Kustra says. "His experience and leadership

skills have been invaluable to Boise State, and we wish him the best in his new venture in Nevada."

Jones (below), provost and vice president for academic affairs, will retire at the end of June after 31



years as a professor and administrator — 18 of those at Boise State. Jones, who says he is proud to have been a part of Boise State's dynamic

evolution into a major university, feels the time is right to "pass the baton to someone who can help to lead Boise State to new levels of excellence."

In praising Jones' years of service, Kustra says: "Thanks in no small part to Daryl's efforts, Boise State has transitioned into a first-class comprehensive state university that is now on the threshold of becoming a metropolitan research university of distinction."

Jones originally came to Boise State as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1991, he was named provost and vice president for academic affairs. Jones praised the caliber of programs and teaching at the university and says he is particularly proud of the College of Engineering, which he helped to create.

But he doesn't expect the school's excellence to stop there. "Under President Kustra's leadership, even greater accomplishments lie ahead," he says.

## On campus ...

### Nontombi Naomi Tutu

Human rights activist

"Striving for Justice: Searching for Common Ground," Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Celebration, Jan. 23, 2004.

"Be willing to speak and hear the truth because then we will have our just society."



## PROF'S BOOK NAMED TO 'BEST' LIST

Elise Blackwell's debut novel *Hunger* has been named a Best Book of 2003 by the *Los Angeles Times*. Of the 1,500 titles noted and reviewed during the year, the *Times* listed only about 40 fiction books as notable, including translations and books of poetry.

Blackwell is a professor of fiction writing in the MFA program for creative writing at Boise State.

## MITROI PAINTINGS FEATURED IN NATIONAL ART PUBLICATION

Several paintings by Tudor Mitroi, a Boise State art professor, were published in the recent *New American Paintings* by Open Studios Press in Boston.

The book features works from winners of the Western division of the Open Studios competitions, which began in 1993 as an experiment in art publishing. The competitions are bimonthly and have become the country's largest series of artist competitions.

## BOISE STATE WELDING INSTRUCTOR MARTINEZ WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Juan Martinez, a welding instructor in the Selland College of Applied Technology, was named winner of the American Welding Society Image of Welding educator award. Martinez will receive the award during the American Welding Society national convention in Chicago April 6-8.

Martinez was recognized for the Building Bridges Community Art Project that involved Boise State students and at-risk youth from Canyon County who built a metal archway sculpture for Indian Creek in Caldwell's Pioneer Park. Martinez will attend the national convention along with some of his students, who will help create a piece of metal art to take to Chicago.

## PEG BLAKE NAMED TO NATIONAL OFFICE

Peg Blake, Boise State vice president for student affairs, will take over as president of NASPA, the national organization for student affairs administrators in higher education, during the group's national convention in late March in Denver.

NASPA is the leading voice for student affairs administration, policies and practices with nearly 9,000 individual members and more than 1,175 member campuses.

Blake joined Boise State in July 1998 as the university's first female vice president.

## REC WEB SITE GAINS ATTENTION

University of Dayton sports management students named Boise State's Recreation Center Web page an outstanding site following a two-year study of recreational Web sites from schools in 14 different athletic conferences.

Results were published in the November issue of *Recreational Sports and Fitness* magazine. The Web site was developed by Deanna Uyeki, a chemistry major at Boise State and Web master for The Rec.