

Boise State draws 1 million visitors during 2004-05

From sports fans to conference attendees, more visitors than ever are flocking to Boise State. For the first time, the metropolitan campus in the heart of Boise's capital city announced a visitor total of more than 1 million people for the 2004-2005 academic year.

The biggest draws on campus proved to be Bronco Stadium and the Taco Bell Arena, which together filled 550,000 seats for events such as seven straight home football game sell-outs, the NCAA basketball tournament, numerous Boise State and high school Commencement ceremonies, family favorite *Disney on Ice* and musical headliners such as Mark Chesnutt and Velvet Revolver.

The Student Union also drew large crowds for events that included the biannual Distinguished Lecture Series, the Andrus Center's two-day symposium on water in the West and the weeklong Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Celebration. In all, more than 380,000 people attended events at the Union.

"Programs like our Classic Performance and Global Expressions series and highly recognizable speakers like Gloria Steinem, Martin Luther King III and the former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson, make the Student Union a destination for many of the visitors to the Boise State campus," says Leah Barrett, Student Union director.

On the other side of campus, close to 150,000 arts patrons took advantage of both university-produced and professional performances in the Morrison Center, including the annual Broadway in Boise series, the New Shanghai Circus, country stars Merle Haggard and Trace Atkins, dance productions and musical recitals.

In addition to campus visitors, Boise State boasted the largest enrollment ever for an Idaho university, with 18,456 students enrolled for the fall 2004 semester. More than 2,200 faculty and staff were employed to assist students and the additional 30,000 people who attended workshops, seminars and evening and weekend classes through the Division of Extended Studies. To relieve stress and promote fitness, the award-winning Student Recreation Center served 200,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni in its state-of-the-art facility (page 16).

And where did all these visitors park? In one of the 6,600 parking spaces in lots scattered from the stadium on the east end of campus to the parking structure on the west. Most of the lots are serviced during the fall and winter semesters by campus shuttles.



JOHN KELLY

Bronco Stadium was the venue with the largest attendance figures.

West campus unveils

Lots of elbowroom. Plenty of parking. Sparkling new digs.

That's what students encountered June 6 when they arrived for the first-ever day of classes at the new academic building on the Boise State University-West campus in Nampa.

While the new 65,600-square-foot building is dazzling, having additional learning space will make the most difference for students, says West campus director Dennis Griffin.

The new building has allowed all academic-based classes to be moved out of the Canyon County Center on Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard, where both academic classes and technical programs had been housed. The new space will ease overcrowding and allow increased offerings in both areas.

"We're thrilled with the opening of the building," Griffin says. "With the incredible growth we've seen here, it can't happen soon enough."

Students enrolled in academic programs offered in Canyon County nearly doubled between 1999 and 2004. In all, the center served more than 5,500 students this past academic year in for-credit and non-credit programs, and more than 500 students signed up for the first summer session.

Classes offered at the new building include English, math, anthropology, chemistry, biology, physics and more. Facilities include: a lecture hall; 14 classrooms (including a computer classroom); two distance learning classrooms; three teaching laboratories; lab prep rooms for biology, chemistry and physics; a general computer lab; a branch library; faculty offices; limited administrative offices; two conference rooms; five student services offices; a self-service center; a branch bookstore and study lounges.