

Advancement VP, enrollment director named

Boise State has promoted its business dean to chief fundraiser and has hired a new enrollment director.

Howard L. Smith, dean of the College of Business and Economics, is the new vice president for University Advancement, and Mara A. Affre, director of admissions and assistant vice president for enrollment services at Southern Oregon University, has been named executive director of enrollment management.

Boise State President Bob Kustra says as the university was about to begin a national search for a leader for University Advancement, it became clear that Smith was perfect for the job.

"While working on a number of fundraising opportunities, Howard demonstrated again and again a unique combination of vision, organizational skills and ease with donors," Kustra says. "I am confident that his familiarity with the campus, commitment to our strategic goals and thorough understanding of the corporate and donor community will assure his success, as well as that of our upcoming comprehensive campaign."



Smith began his new duties in March, and continued to serve as dean of the College of Business and Economics through May 1. At that time Diane Schooley-Pettis, COBE associate dean, took over as interim dean. Smith will remain actively involved with the COBE dean's office until the search for a new dean is completed.

Affre brings more than 25 years of experience in student affairs, serving for the last eight years in her position at Southern Oregon. In that capacity, she was responsible for directing the admissions and recruitment program, overseeing the Office of Financial Aid and leading other services important for student success. She worked with Southern Oregon's provost and vice president of student affairs to develop work plans, program plans, mission and goals specific to enrollment.

Over the course of her career, Affre has worked with admissions programs at Arizona State, Northern Arizona and the University of California, Irvine. She will assume her duties at Boise State on May 31.

Two Bronco debaters capture All-America honors as team takes 2nd at nationals; coach Most retires

Led by All-America selections Katy Jibben and Wayne Rysavy, the Boise debate and speech team finished second at the 2007 Pi Kappa Delta National Forensics Tournament earlier this year. The Talkin' Broncos' runner-up finish marks the fifth consecutive time they have finished in the top five at the biennial national tournament. Boise State went into the tournament as the defending national champions, having won the title in 2005.

Jibben, a communication education major from Boise, and Rysavy, a communication major from Ramstein, Germany, were among 10 undergraduates from across the United States honored as All-Americans at the Pi Kappa Delta national convention. All-American selections are based on excellence in debate and speech competition, academic achievement and volunteer service. Both were named to the Northwest Forensic Conference's 2006-07 All-Conference team earlier this year. They are Boise State's fifth and sixth All-Americans, joining Jaime (Thompson) Bott (1999), Ken Rock (2003), Lacey Rammell-O'Brien (2005) and Nancy Henke (2005) as recipients of the award.

At the national tournament, Boise State won 22 individual awards and advanced three debate teams to the tournament semifinals, but could not defend its national championship as Southwest Baptist University (Mo.) edged the Broncos 157 points to 155 to claim the national championship, a title SBU has held for 18 of the past 26 years.

Following the tournament, BSU forensics coach Marty Most said he could relate to the University of Oklahoma football team. "I knew

it was close, but I didn't know it was [that] close," said Most of his team's heartbreaking second-place finish. "So this is what it feels like to lose the Fiesta Bowl on a 2-point conversion in overtime."

The Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament is the oldest collegiate debate and speech tournament in existence. Held every two years since 1917, it is the largest comprehensive forensics tournament held in the United States. In addition to this year's runner-up finish, the Talkin' Broncos placed 10th in 1975, sixth in 1993, third in 1995, fourth in 1999, fifth in 2001, third in 2003 and first in 2005.

The 2006-07 season also marked the end of an era for the program as Most (BA, education, '77; MA, education, '86) stepped down as coach after 19 years at the helm. In April he was honored by more than 100 of his current and former students and colleagues for his years of dedication to the program and leading the Talkin' Broncos to national prominence.

— Kathleen Craven



JOHN BELL