The Write Stuff

From an award-winning magazine that "pushes the envelope" to a long-running series on Western writers to poetry posters, Boise State is involved in the promotion, publication and advancement of literature in Idaho and the American West. Here is a brief look at the university's various programs, projects and publications:

WRITERS AND READERS RENDEZVOUS — The fourth annual conference will take place at McCall's Shore Lodge Oct. 13-15. Sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education, the event features Idaho writers, major publishers and guest authors.

Tom Trusky and students assemble another issue of cold-drill.

COLD-DRILL — Published annually by the department of English, *cold-drill* magazine has been a consistent winner in regional and national competitions. Compact discs, 3-D comics and glasses, movie poster reproductions, records, cassettes, photo portfolios, postcards and scratch 'n sniff poems all have appeared alongside short stories, essays, poems and plays. The magazine was established in 1970.

WESTERN WRITERS SERIES — Founded in 1972 by the English department, the Western Writers Series was established to publish brief but authoritative introductions to the lives and works of authors who have written significant literature about the American West. The series has published more than 100 titles.

AHSAHTA PRESS — The English department's Ahsahta Press is dedicated to publishing poets of the American West. Established in 1974, Ahsahta Press publishes up to three volumes each academic year. The press is particularly interested in publishing poems that draw on the history, culture or ecology of the West. A note of interest: The lyrics to rock singer Sheryl Crow's hit song "All I Wanna Do" were gleaned from a poem in an Ahsahta Press publication.

WRITING CONTESTS — Boise State annually sponsors three writing contests for its students. The William Anderson Writing Awards contest is for fiction writing and awards cash prizes for first, second and third place. Anderson, a BSU alumnus, is the author of well-known novels *Bat-21* and *The Hurricane Hunter*. The Grace Jordan Poetry contest is held in honor of the late Idaho writer who wrote such books as *Home Below Hell's Canyon* and *Idaho Reflections*. Cash awards are given for first through third places. The BSU President's Writing Awards contest has five categories: personal, expository, critical, technical and special topics and presents cash awards to the winner and runner-up in each category.

NEW AMERICAN VOICES — Some of the latest voices of American literature have spoken directly to the Treasure Valley this school year thanks to a new reading series sponsored by the English department and others. New American Voices brought six renowned writers to the Boise area during the 1994-95 school year, beginning with a reading by Utah author Terry Tempest Williams.

WRITING CENTER — Administered by the English department, the university's Writing Center, located on the second floor of the Liberal Arts Building, is designed to help students with writing assignments for courses across the curriculum. Among its services, the center provides a "second opinion" on work in progress, tips on how to copy-edit papers, and strategies for putting words in writing.

LITERATURE FOR LUNCH — Coordinated by associate vice president of academic affairs Carol Martin and English professor Jan Widmayer, Lit for Lunch is an informal book club that meets monthly at the YWCA in Boise during the school year to discuss specific books. Started in 1981, the group focuses primarily on literature about and written by women.

POETRY IN PUBLIC PLACES — For the last 20 years, Poetry in Public Places has published an annual series of eight or nine posters featuring graphics and poems generally written by Boise State undergraduate students. Printed under the auspices of the English department, the posters are mailed free around the country to public places such as libraries and schools.

PORTALS — Published semiannually by the BSU College of Education, *Portals* is the journal of the Idaho Council, International Reading Association. BSU professor Stan Steiner, edits the publication with four colleagues from the teacher education faculty. The journal is intended to provide ICIRA members and others interested in literacy development with a forum for discussion of ideas, trends and issues related to literacy teaching and learning.

IDAHO CENTER FOR THE BOOK — Housed in BSU's Hemingway Western Studies Center, the Idaho Center for the Book was established in 1993 and is directed by English professor Tom Trusky. The U.S. Library of Congress oversees the Center for the Book, of which each state is allowed one. Centers for the book promote literacy, reading and book arts.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REVIEW OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE — The journal of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association is headquartered at BSU. English professors Jan Widmayer, Rena Sanderson and Kent Anderson serve as editor, book review editor and fiction editor, respectively, for the *Review*, which publishes short stories, poetry and reviews.

SIGMA TAU DELTA — English professor Helen Lojek is the vice president of the national English honor society and serves as editor of its two publications, *The Rectangle* and the *Sigma Tau Delta Newsletter*. The BSU chapter of the organization has fared well in national competition over the past few years. ❑

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