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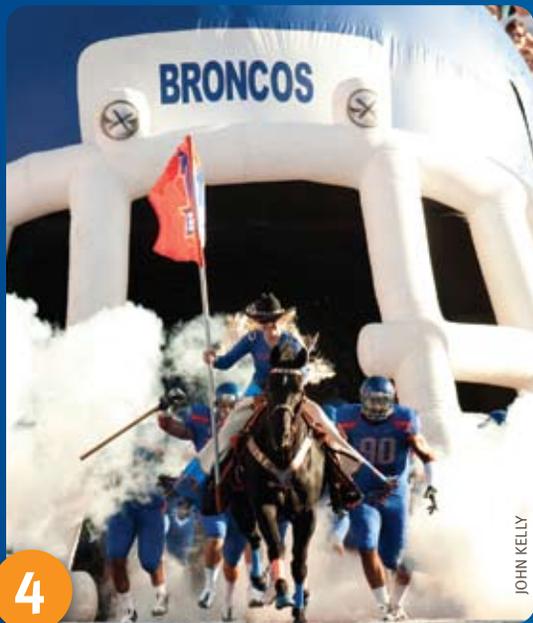


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ICONS TO IMPACTS: 10 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT BOISE STATE

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CARRIE QUINNEY

By Erin Ryan

IT'S THOUSANDS OF FOOTBALL FANS BLEEDING ORANGE AND BLUE AND ONE STUDENT PLAYING BACH ON A BRAND NEW STEINWAY. IT'S THE YOUNGEST GENERATION LEARNING ENGINEERING BASICS AND THE OLDEST GENERATION LEARNING VIEWS ON THE SOUL. THE THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT BOISE STATE ARE EVER EVOLVING, A MIX OF ITS ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL MISSION AND THE CHARMING MINUTIAE OF ITS LIFE. READ ON FOR A FEW OF OUR FAVORITES.

1. Undergraduate Research

For undergraduate students, research is a vivid window on the “real world” as well as passions and talents waiting to be unearthed. Shoulder to shoulder with faculty in the field, the studio or a state-of-the-art laboratory, students in every discipline have the opportunity to explore and make discoveries that affect our world. At the 2010 Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Conference, more than 500 presented their work. That’s a lot of brainpower, and they’re just getting started.

2. Educational Zoo

The Biological Sciences Department is home to a world of fascinating creatures, from a preserved golden eagle donated by celebrated conservationist Morley Nelson to fossilized mammoth tusks dating back 20,000 years and a collection of deactivated pathogens helping researchers fight modern epidemics. With the combined expertise of 22 full-time doctors of science, this is not your everyday zoo.

3. Carillon

Every hour on the hour campus rings with the chimes of the carillon. High in the Administration Building, the classic instrument is a series of cast bronze bells popular in medieval times and used to signal everything from storms and wars to births and weddings. Boise State’s carillon was silent for many years before being repaired and rededicated for the 75th Diamond Anniversary in 2007. While it doesn’t sound the alarm or the joyous occasions of faculty and staff, it does keep perfect time.

4. Buster’s Backup

Since 1965, Boise State fans have enjoyed the sight of a live horse and rider taking a victory lap around Bronco Stadium after every touchdown or field goal. Over the years the animals have been provided and cared for by students, alumni and local ranchers, with names like Big Blue, Gold Dust and Boogers Hustler. While a cannon full of glitter is nice to celebrate points on the board, nothing compares to the sight of this dynamic duo brandishing the blue and orange.

5. Green Ethos

On a campus with one of the smallest carbon footprints in the nation, green efforts include solar-powered streetlights and geothermal-heated buildings; reusable to-go containers in campus eateries and a student-run organic garden planted with local produce; a Bike Barn where commuters can park and an annual Community Bicycle Congress that promotes alternative transportation; and a host of faculty research projects, student clubs and programs that focus on the most pressing environmental concerns of the 21st century.

6. The Idaho Review

Boise State’s literary journal is a sanctuary and showpiece for some of the best writers on the planet. Featuring unknowns and giants alike, its first 10 issues include pieces that have been reprinted in “The Best American Short Stories,” “Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards,” “The Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses” and more. It is literary fiction at its best — short, sweet and under a cover that ranges from understated script to a whimsical Godzilla.

7. Boise River

No image of the Boise State campus is complete without the towering cottonwoods and graceful currents of the Boise River. Walking to class, students may be greeted by rising rainbow trout, great blue herons standing still as reeds or the occasional whitetail deer. Bronco football fans can walk to the stadium along the winding Greenbelt, which also provides quick access to rich cultural and culinary opportunities in Boise’s historic yet chic downtown. In addition to its bucolic beauty, the river provides water for drinking, agriculture and recreation, all components of the Treasure Valley’s famed quality of life.

8. College for Kids

The best educators understand that at every level, learning is more effective when it’s a mix of hands-on challenge and mind-expanding fun. Professors across the Boise State campus are masters of both, especially when it comes to reaching out to the next generation. High school

students are invited to examine mock crime scenes and analyze DNA evidence. Preschool children are introduced to chemistry through exploding foam and glowing test tubes. And elementary school kids get a taste for engineering by building rockets and launching them from the blue turf. The people behind these lessons are unsung heroes, volunteering their time and resources, and more importantly, their passion.

9. Great Outdoors

National Geographic Adventure Magazine, The New York Times, Sperling’s Best Places — what do they have in common? All have ranked Boise as one of the best American cities for people who love the outdoors. Boise State’s Outdoor Program taps every last drop of natural splendor with more than 100 adventure offerings every year, including rock climbing, caving, mountaineering, camping, backpacking, rafting, kayaking, canoeing and surfing. On the research side, Boise State’s one-of-a-kind master’s program in raptor biology takes advantage of nearby “ecoregions,” from hawk counts in the Snake River Basin to owl surveys in the Northern Rocky Mountains.

10. Student Body

Boise State is the largest higher education institution in Idaho, with a record enrollment of nearly 20,000 students in 2010. And in this case, quantity is quality. The student body includes Phi Kappa Phi Fellows and Goldwater Scholars, NASA interns and professional musicians. It includes undergraduates bringing Shakespeare to low-income schools in Boise and doctoral candidates researching humanitarian geophysics in Thailand and raptor ecology in Africa. Boise State students come from everywhere, and we believe they can do anything.



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