



## IDAHO CENTER FOR THE BOOK UNVEILS IDAHO AUTHORS! CARD GAME

# Success is in the cards for new game

BY KATHLEEN CRAVEN

**W**hat Idaho author created Tarzan the ape man and once served as a Parma city councilman? What Nobel Prize winner had a cat named Boise? What filmmaker was also noted for her critically acclaimed novel *Abandoned Trails*?

The answers to these (Edgar Rice Burroughs, Ernest Hemingway and Nell Shipman) and other questions are found in a new version of the classic card game Authors, updated and customized for the Gem State. Idaho Authors! was created by the Idaho Center for the Book (ICB), an affiliate of the Library of Congress housed at Boise State. Cards sell for \$9.95 a set and are available at the Boise State Bookstore, [www.boisestatebooks.com](http://www.boisestatebooks.com) (click on “general

books”).

Featuring 11 writers who were born or maintained residences in Idaho, the card game is played much like the original Authors. Book titles from the authors’ works are listed on sets of four cards, and players attempt to match up the most sets, or “books.” In addition to the authors mentioned above, the cards feature Glenn Balch, Carol Ryrice Brink, Vardis Fisher, Mary Hallock Foote, Grace Jordan, Ezra Pound, E.E. “Doc” Smith and James Stevens.

The idea for the game was suggested by ICB board member Cort Conley, and enthusiastically adopted by Tom Trusky, a Boise State English professor and ICB director.

“As soon as Conley asked what I thought of an Idaho Authors game, I knew we had an Oscar winner,” Trusky says. Trusky felt certain that adults of a certain age would recall with fondness the original Authors game, and that their children would also enjoy playing along. In the process, both would learn something.

But envisioning the game was the easy part; making it



CARRIE QUINNEY

Tom Trusky, center, sneaks a peek at his opponent Megan Mortensen’s cards in a game of Idaho Authors!

happen was a lesson in resourcefulness. Not only did Trusky immerse himself in research on Idaho authors and their works — with the assistance of Western literature expert and fellow Boise State English professor Jim Maguire, historian Mary Reed and University of Idaho archivist Terry Abraham — he also had to learn a few lessons in manufacturing.

“It’s been a great, if arduous, adventure,” Trusky says. “Seldom are English professors fretting about how playing cards are manufactured. Who makes them? Where? I was at a loss when quizzed, ‘Would you like that deck poker-sized or bridge-sized, sir?’”

Being resourceful, he managed to find several manufacturers through an Internet search, eventually opting for a company named Carta Mundi, an international firm with offices in Tennessee.

But before the cards could be printed, the authors needed to be chosen. Authors were selected according to several criteria. First, they must have ties to Idaho. Second, they had to be deceased. Finally, they must have written at least four significant works of poetry or fiction.

## A sampling of Idaho Authors! trivia

Boisean Glenn Balch’s (1902-1989) book *Indian Paint* was made into a feature film starring Jay Silverheels (who played Tonto in *The Lone Ranger*) and Johnny Crawford (from the TV series *Rifleman*).

Carol Ryrie Brink (1895-1981) based the heroine of her Newbery Medal-winning novel *Caddie Woodlawn* on her grandmother’s pioneer experiences.

Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) was a city councilman in Parma before writing *Tarzan of the Apes*.

Vardis Fisher (1895-1968) penned the novel that inspired the Robert Redford film *Jeremiah Johnson*.

Mary Hallock Foote (1847-1938) is best known today as the central character in Wallace Stegner’s prize-winning novel *Angle of Repose*.

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) wrote much of his novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* in Sun Valley.

Ezra Pound (1895-1972), one of the 20th century’s most controversial poets, was an admirer of the Italian dictator Mussolini.

“In selecting titles, we sought to include works generally held to be excellent literature and works which showcased the Gem State,”

Trusky says. “Often, I’m delighted to report, selected titles met both criteria.”

He even made some discoveries along the way. “My greatest find was probably discovering

Tarzan author Edgar Rice Burroughs’ *Minidoka*,” he says. “It’s a colorful, cockeyed, Western American Grimm’s fairy tale fantasy, a perfect saga to keep parents awake while they read to their children.”

His one regret in the choice of authors is that he couldn’t include noted Idaho novelist William C. Anderson, author of *BAT-21*. Anderson, a Boise State alumnus, died this past summer as the cards were being printed.

Boise State designer Kathy Robinson created the colored renderings of the artists used on the cards. Each card is backed by the wallpaper pattern from the childhood home of poet Ezra Pound.



## BOISE STATE STUDENTS DOMINATE BRIN AWARDS

Boise State students Sorcha Cusack (first place), Alexander Ide (tied for second) and Ryan Medeck (honorable mention) dominated the graduate student division of a poster contest at a conference of the statewide Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN) held in August.

The students, who are pursuing master’s degrees in biology, are conducting BRIN sponsored cancer studies and other biomedical-related projects. They competed against Ph.D. and master’s students at other universities and were judged on 10-minute PowerPoint presentations of their research.

Boise State also had a strong showing in the undergraduate poster contest, with Amanda Hibberd winning second and Judy Wayne receiving honorable mention.

## STUDENTS AWARDED INRA FELLOWSHIPS

Two Boise State students have received fellowships worth up to \$35,000 annually from the Inland Northwest Research Alliance (INRA) to join in a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional doctoral program in five western states.

Marc Buursink and Carlyle Miller, both Ph.D. students in Boise State’s geophysics program, will join with doctoral students at universities in Idaho, Montana, Utah, Alaska and Washington in the Subsurface Science Research Institute (SSRI). The SSRI uses modern distance delivery techniques to bring classroom instruction and seminars in real time to doctoral students at member universities across the Northwest.

The only program of its type in the country, the SSRI fellowships are equivalent to National Science Foundation fellowships. The fellowships include a \$25,000 annual stipend and full payment of tuition and fees.

## BSU RECEIVES NSF GRANT

The National Science Foundation has awarded Boise State \$300,000 in a major research infrastructure grant to fund the development of a Beowulf computer cluster on campus.

A Beowulf cluster is a type of supercomputer that is constructed from standard personal computer components. Students and faculty will be involved in the fabrication, development and use of the cluster, which is designed to solve intensive problems in diverse fields that include atmospheric and ocean fluid dynamics, seismology, electromagnetics, neural networks, hydrology, mathematics, physics and engineering.