

# Korean educators learn about United States through Boise State

BY JULIE HAHN

Faculty members and graduate students from Korea are getting an education in the American experience at Boise State.

Professors Sae Hoon Park, Sang Woo Roo, Dong Ro Shin and In Tak Kwon, as well as Eun Kyoung Yu, a graduate student, have visited Boise from Chonju, South Korea, where they all work or attend Chonbuk National University. Their visits are the result of an agreement signed three years ago between the colleges of education at Chonbuk and Boise State.

The two universities plan to exchange faculty and are working on developing collaborative research projects. The partnership has produced two research grants so far, and the colleges are hoping for more work in the future.

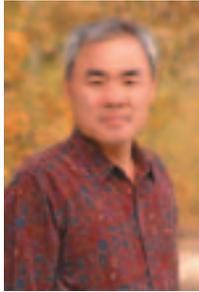
Park (above), who has been here on sabbatical since August 2004, relocated his family to Boise while he researches the differences between the education systems of Korea and the United States. Park has plenty of research material to work with; the educational differences between the two countries are profound. In Korea, Park says, students go to school from early in the morning, around 7 or 8 a.m., and stay up as late as 10 p.m. That's in sharp contrast to the United States, where some school districts are considering starting school later in the morning to coincide with children's natural need for more sleep than adults.

Park is getting a firsthand look at the United States' school system: his children, ages 13, 10 and 7, all attend Boise schools.

"Boise is a nice place to live in. It's the right size and is a safe place," he says.

Boise State literacy professor Stan Steiner has helped Park and the other Korean visitors get settled. He's introduced them to yard sales, which they don't have back home, and he's helped them get drivers licenses. Steiner and his wife, Joy, traveled with College of Education Dean Diane Boothe to Chonbuk in late October.

"We are extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity to engage in partnerships and welcome visiting professors and families from Korea," Boothe said before she departed. "We have a formal agreement to exchange educators and students. They have been kind enough to visit our university and now it is our turn to be their guests."



## RAYMOND NAMED FRANK CHURCH PROFESSOR

Greg Raymond, a professor of political science and director of Boise State's Honors College, has been named the 2005-2006 Frank Church Professor of International Relations at Boise State. The one-year professorship, funded by the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs and the Frank Church Chair of Public Affairs, focuses on nationally or internationally known experts in international policy.

A globally respected scholar in the field of world politics, Raymond earned his Ph.D. in international studies from the University of South Carolina and has been a Pew Faculty Fellow at Harvard University, a consultant to various government agencies and an academic associate of the Atlantic Council.

## GRANT TO FOCUS ON HISPANIC HEALTH ISSUES

A \$1.17 million three-year grant will work to decrease Hispanic health disparities in Southwest Idaho. The "Idaho Partnership for Hispanic Health" project has been awarded to Mountain States Group by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, a group within the National Institutes of Health.

The grant proposal was developed in cooperation with Boise State's Department of Nursing, which will provide a project coordinator to work with other grant partners. This is the first NIH grant to be awarded to Mountain States and BSU's Nursing Department. There is potential for 11 years of NIH funding to support the IPHH project.

## NEWMAN NAMED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Marcy Newman, an assistant professor of English at Boise State, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to study outside of the United States during the 2005-06 academic year. Newman is lecturing and conducting research at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan. Her research will focus on how Jewish and Palestinian children learn about one another in the United States and in Palestine and Israel.

Fulbright grants are made possible through funds appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress, as well as contributions from partner countries and the private sector. The purpose of the Fulbright Program is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those in the approximately 140 countries currently participating in the program.

## \$9 MILLION GRANT FUNDS WATER RESEARCH

Boise State researchers will pursue a number of new projects as part of a \$9 million federally funded program that will bolster Idaho's ability to study critical water and aquaculture issues.

The three-year grant, awarded by the National Science Foundation, funds projects at Boise State and the University of Idaho as part of the Idaho Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

At Boise State, the grant will fund a new Water Quality Laboratory to support hydrologic research. Geosciences professor Jim McNamara and civil engineering professor Molly Gribb are co-principal investigators for the university's share of the grant.

In addition, the funds will provide two years of support for a new Boise State hydrologic sciences faculty position in civil engineering, the expansion of the Dry Creek Watershed Hydrologic Research Site in the Boise Foothills and the expansion of Boise State's Soils Properties Laboratory.