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An international gathering of scientists and students review data collected during joint hydrologic and geophysical experiments conducted in June at a Boise State University research site. From left are Agnes Crespy and Andre Revil, European Center for Research and Education in Environmental Geosciences, France; Warren Barrash, Boise State University; Salvatore Straface, University of Calabria, Italy; and Enzo Rizzo, National Research Center, Italy.

## Globe-trotting scientists gather at Boise State field research site

**M**ore than 20 scientists and graduate students from research institutions in France, Italy, Canada, Taiwan and the United States gathered in June at a Boise State field research site along the Boise River for two weeks of hands-on experiments combined with a two-week field course in hydrogeophysics.

The activities, which included hydraulic and geophysical tomography experiments, were a collaborative effort coordinated by researchers at Boise State's Center for Geophysical Investigation of the Shallow Subsurface (CGISS) in the Department of Geosciences. The experiments at the Boise Hydrogeophysical Research Site are part of efforts to develop new hydrogeophysical imaging technologies to map subsurface properties and contaminant movement more accurately and more cost-effectively than is currently possible.

CGISS is the recipient of \$1.5 million in grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the subsurface research studies. According to CGISS researcher Warren Barrash, the grant's principal investigator, the experiments and the new field course were excellent opportunities to work with leaders in the field from around the world and the next generation of scientists and engineers on high-priority field, theoretical, and modeling problems.

Among U.S. institutions represented at the gathering were the Idaho National Laboratory, Stanford University, the University of Arizona, the Kansas Geologic Survey and the University of Iowa.

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— Warren Barrash, Center for Geophysical Investigation of the Shallow Subsurface.

## briefs

### STUDENT RECEIVES HONOR

Kimberley Johnson, a senior in the Environmental and Occupational Health program in Boise State's College of Health Sciences, was honored by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) during its annual education conference in Atlantic City, N.J., earlier this summer.

NEHA awards a \$1,000 scholarship to the one student nationwide who, through academic performance and leadership, shows the most promise for an outstanding career in an environmental health-related discipline. Johnson competed with candidates from 30 other universities accredited by the National Environmental Health Protection and Accreditation Council (EHAC).

In addition to the NEHA Scholarship, Johnson was the recipient of the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs' Research Competition Award for her research related to water contamination in public drinking water systems. She received \$500 plus the coverage of all costs associated with travel and lodging to attend and present her research at NEHA's 2007 annual education conference. The competition was open to more than 40 environmental health-related programs in the United States. Johnson was one of three undergraduate students to receive this prestigious award.

### NEW MBA PROGRAM OFFERED

Boise State will begin offering a new master's of business administration in information technology management this fall. The Idaho State Board of Education recently approved the new program.

The MBA will feature five courses specific to the management of IT in operations, plus one elective to complement six core MBA courses.

The degree is designed to help graduates secure long-term futures in the IT field, says Sharon Tabor, chair of the newly named Department of Information Technology and Supply Chain Management in the College of Business and Economics. Some potential students have been scared away from pursuing IT careers because of off-shoring of jobs and dot-com failures, Tabor says. However, with baby boomers retiring and the field widening, there is high demand for IT professionals.

Formerly the Networking, Operations and Information Systems Department, the department recently changed its name and altered course offerings to be responsive to changing roles in today's competitive economy.