

## VARSITY B CLUB MEMBERSHIP INCREASES TO NEARLY 200

Now in its second year, Boise State's Varsity B Club is growing rapidly with almost 200 dues-paying members.

The organization was formed in 2004 under the auspices of the athletic department and the Alumni Association. It is designed to welcome back and reconnect the university with former athletes, coaches, sports administrators, support staff, band members, dance and cheer squad members, and other alumni who were part of the Bronco sports scene.

"Former Broncos are realizing that an involvement and connection with Boise State is a key to the future of the university," says Michel Bourgeau (BBA, management, '85), Varsity B Club coordinator. "Through the Varsity B, many former Broncos are being admitted to the very special fraternity and sorority. Meeting other Broncos from different eras has been very gratifying; there is a certain understanding and a certain connection that is formed knowing we are all products of the Bronco environment."

The club hopes to recognize the contribution of former student-athletes and others affiliated with Boise State athletics and build a network with current and former participants in Bronco sports.

"Every time I have the opportunity to meet our current Bronco student-athletes, I am impressed with their attitude," Bourgeau says. "Not only have these student-athletes made several sacrifices to become a Boise State Bronco, they continue to work and dedicate themselves to their school and their sport. I quickly point out to our student-athletes that they are varsity athletes for a mere four or five years, but they will spend most of their life as a Varsity B athlete."

With the recent opening of Caven-Williams Sports Complex and the planned expansion of Bronco Stadium, Boise State is poised to solidify its position as one of the major universities in the West, Bourgeau says.

For more information, contact Bourgeau at (208) 426-5440 or michelbourgeau@boisestate.edu. The Varsity B Club mailing address is 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1020.



Alumnus Daniel Hidalgo (right) and business partner Victor Bruha know how to get things dung.

## Hidalgo: The manure entrepreneur

Boise State alum Daniel Hidalgo isn't ashamed to admit the truth: his art is, well, dung.

Hidalgo and his business partner and buddy, Victor Bruha (otherwise known as Dung & Dunger), have managed to marry their passion for art and Yellowstone National Park by creating paper out of bison dung.

Sure, it sounds cringe-worthy, but the odor-free, completely sanitized paper is becoming a big hit in the Yellowstone region. In fact, if you travel to the national park you'll probably come across sheets of the fragile, grayish stuff for sale in a Yellowstone gift shop.

Hidalgo (BA, art, '96) and Bruha have been friends since they were in junior high in eastern Idaho. Their shared love of Yellowstone has been a lifelong bond, and Hidalgo says that the pair feels blessed to have grown up and worked not far from the park (Hidalgo works in Idaho Falls, and Bruha in Blackfoot).

So when Bruha watched a documentary about people in Thailand who make paper out of elephant dung, his thoughts turned to the vast supply of potential paper-making materials in his own back yard.

Hidalgo said that it took about a year to get the recipe just right (the process, which is proprietary, involves lots of boiling), but once they did, they found that the paper was great for making art.

"The Yellowstone ecosystem is such a wonderful, beautiful place to go — you could go every year and still learn something new," Hidalgo says. Even lowly dung plays a part in that ecosystem, he says, and he and Bruha are proud to show how it can be useful.

Bruha and Hidalgo have been featured in regional papers and newscasts since their business began, and they hope to someday turn their project into a full-time business. Hidalgo credits Boise State with helping him have the far-sightedness it took to get into the dung-paper business in the first place.

"My education has helped me to do this as a business venture and in being a well-rounded artist," he says.

So what's next for Dung & Dunger? You can check out their works and learn more about the paper and the process it takes to make it at [www.dunganddunger.net](http://www.dunganddunger.net).

— Julie Hahn