

tant position at Arizona State University.

JIMMI NICOLE SOMMER, MPA, '01, is the director of public and legislative affairs for Technology Law Groups. Prior to her promotion, she worked as the firm's business intelligence analyst. In her new position Sommer will manage the firm's public relations plan, including its Commitment to Community initiative. She will oversee Technology Law Group's press relations and Web site and participate in state and regional technology forums. Sommer holds a BA in international studies from George Fox University.

JULIET SHARI PACK TIETJEN, BA, theatre arts, '01, was named Mrs. Idaho earlier this year. She represented Idaho in the nationally televised Mrs. America Pageant in September. Tietjen is also a graduate of Ricks College.

LINDA MARIE BUCZYNSKI,

BSU helps brothers earn entry to Oxford

Boise, Idaho, may be a world away from Oxford, England, but brothers Ravi and Gopal Gupta have found university life at both locations to be both challenging and rewarding.

Ravi Gupta (BS mathematics, BS philosophy, '99) earned one of the first two Ph.D.s awarded in Hindu Studies at Oxford University. He recently began a new job teaching at the University of Florida.

This fall, his younger brother Gopal (BS, MS, electrical engineering, '05) enrolled in a doctoral program at Oxford after receiving a full Clarendon scholarship. Gopal will pursue a Ph.D. in science and religion. ("Gupta receives scholarship to Oxford," *FOCUS*, Summer 2005).

The brothers, who as youngsters attended home school in Boise, enrolled at Boise State at age 13, and graduated with 4.0 GPAs while still in their teens, credit the university for preparing them for the rigors of an Oxford education.

Says Ravi: "Boise State was a wonderful

experience, and the professors really took the time to work with me."

Adds Gopal: "Boise State has offered us everything that an Ivy League school would have offered but in a much more supportive environment."

The Gupta brothers also credit their Indian culture and the support of their parents with helping them achieve extraordinary success. Practicing Hare Krishnas, they say their religion has taught them discipline and instilled in them a desire to learn, to be joyful, and to find balance in life.



Ravi Gupta, left, and Gopal Gupta play traditional instruments in the Hare Krishna temple that adjoins their home.

— Janelle Brown

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