TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Treasure Valley businessman John D. Jackson has a knack for growing his business. Now he is in the business of helping Boise State to grow as well.

Jackson recently committed $500,000 to help construct Boise State's new College of Business and Economics building and to create an inviting space for students, faculty, business and government leaders to interact. The new building is one of several initiatives in Destination Distinction campaign, the campaign for Boise State.

“This gift is an investment in the future of Boise State University and the College of Business and Economics,” Jackson says. “Business education is all about preparing today’s students to become tomorrow’s business leaders.”

Jackson, the founder and owner of Jacksons Food Stores, Jackson Oil and Capitol Distributing, serves on the Foundation board of directors and Boise State’s Destination Distinction campaign steering committee. He attended Boise State and majored in accounting. His gift will establish the Jackson Commons, the grand entryway and first impression of the new $35 million College of Business and Economics building to be constructed at the corner of Capitol Boulevard and University Drive.

The Jackson Commons will be the heart of the building both structurally and metaphorically, a hub of activity with a café, an open computer lab, community bulletin boards, flexible seating to accommodate small or large working groups and a welcoming hearth.

The gift from Jackson is an important part of the college’s Meet the Match effort. The Micron Technology Foundation committed to a $12.5 million lead gift for the business building in 2007, with $5 million of it contingent on Boise State raising $5 million in matching funds by the end of 2009. Thanks to Jackson and many other alumni and friends, more than $4 million of the $5 million match has been met to date.

For more information on how you can help Meet the Match, visit http://cobe.boisestate.edu or contact Cheryl Larabee at (208) 426-2039.

STEINWAY PLAY

Members of the Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band take to the field of Bronco Stadium to recognize the gift of an elegant blue Steinway piano in memory of longtime band director David Wells, who passed away in May. The piano, presented by the Keith Stein family, is one of three purchased so far in the university’s effort to raise $2 million to upgrade most of the university’s pianos and thereby become one of the elite “All-Steinway” colleges and universities in the world. The piano, named “Rhapsody,” is used at high profile campus events to highlight the ongoing campaign. To contribute, contact Sunny Wallace at (208) 426-2124.

Photo courtesy of Ryan Baker
By Kathleen Tuck

At 65 percent of goal, the $175 million Destination Distinction campaign already is benefiting Boise State’s people, places and programs. New and enhanced scholarships, new doctoral and master’s level programs, increased research opportunities and state-of-the-art buildings are lasting legacies to the generosity of university alumni and friends across the nation and beyond.

To celebrate the campaign’s success to date, a series of oversized banners hung from buildings across campus trumpet the very real impact of gifts to the university. Here are the stories of those featured on the banners. For more details, visit www.boisestate.edu/campaign/.

PEOPLE

Focused — Josu Zubizarreta

Josu Zubizarreta works with Boise State biology professor Greg Hampikian on genetic studies involving the Basque population in southwest Idaho in an effort to trace immigration patterns. He also collaborates with researchers in the Basque Country to study the population’s health risks, including the increased risk for Alzheimer’s disease. Thanks to a Minority at Risk scholarship, Zubizarreta graduated in May with degrees in both biology and Spanish. He currently is applying to medical schools and hopes to become a physician, possibly doing clinical research.

Motivated — Martha Mendoza

Martha Mendoza has big plans to positively impact the lives of children. A bilingual education major, she is studying to be a schoolteacher — with a twist. Not content with the materials now available, she intends to create a new curriculum that will help teachers explore issues of social inequity and injustice portrayed in Spanish-language children’s literature. Her dreams would be impossible without a scholarship from the McNair Scholars Program through the Center for Multicultural Education. “The scholarship provided me with support to continue my studies and [eventually] pursue a graduate degree,” she says.

Passionate — Julia McCoy and Nicole Frane

For Julia McCoy and Nicole Frane, music is a passion. Both young women play flute and piccolo in the Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band and both rely on scholarships. Despite the enormous time commitment, they feel deep satisfaction in performing for Bronco fans, mentoring high school students and representing the university. Off the field, they’re just as passionate about the doors an education will open for them. McCoy, who is majoring in Spanish and biology, plans to use her education to help preserve the environment in South America. Frane, who is working toward a degree in chemistry, wants to become a forensic scientist to help ensure that the innocent are not unjustly convicted.

PLACES

COBE Building

A new building for the College of Business and Economics, planned for the corner of Capitol Boulevard and University Drive, will provide a world-class facility for a world-class college. In addition to focusing on graduate and undergraduate programs that enjoy a national reputation for quality and innovation, it also will serve as a gateway to campus representing the thriving partnership between the business school, state government and the business community.
Norco Building

When it opens this winter, the spacious new Norco Building will allow the university to educate more nursing students and turn away fewer highly qualified candidates. This is especially important in light of the severe nursing shortage predicted by the year 2020. In addition, integrating the academic Department of Nursing with the Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center, which will share the building, will enhance the quality of the learning environment.

Stueckle Sky Center

The Stueckle Sky Center offers Boise’s grandest view of the downtown skyline, the Boise foothills, the Boise State campus and Bronco Stadium’s famous blue turf. But there’s more to the popular new sky suites than meets the eye. Not only do the facility’s suites, loge boxes and club seats add to the viewing pleasure of the university’s football fans, they also provide spectacular event venues for community organizations. The state-of-the-art facility opened in fall 2008 and is named for Boise State benefactors Duane and Lori Stueckle.

PROGRAMS

Innovator — Peter Müllner

Using high-tech instruments in the Boise State Center for Materials Characterization, including the Analytical Transmission Electron Microscope or the X-ray Diffractometer, both academic and industry researchers are able to study the atomic structure of substances on a scale well below that registered by the human eye. Center director Peter Müllner says this is a vital tool for industry, especially when for problems like a newly developed solar cell that’s responding oddly or a computer chip that is failing. Many small to mid-size businesses rely on Boise State as a vital partner in their research and development processes. In addition, undergraduate students get hands-on experience often reserved only for graduate students at other universities.

Inventor — Dale Russell

Nuclear waste is nasty stuff — hazardous to humanity and the environment. If Dale Russell, a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has her way, disposing of it will be a thing of the past. Russell is working with the Idaho National Laboratory to develop and optimize a closed fuel cycle for nuclear energy production. That means waste will be eliminated as everything generated in the course of production is reused, recycled or processed to be non-hazardous. This is just the latest of Russell’s inventions. She currently holds 17 patents — three for which Boise State is the assignee.

Mentor — Anika Smulovitz

Since coming to Boise State in 2003, associate art metals professor Anika Smulovitz has resurrected the Idaho Metal Arts Guild, encouraged service-learning projects, established an annual auction of student work at a local jewelry gallery and created a visiting artists program. “All of these activities affect students and create passion and interest in the field,” she says. “To see a student who has very little self-esteem learn to use power equipment and create amazing objects filled with content and thought, to see them grow and develop self-confidence — that is why I love to teach.”
The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Alumni and friends can elect to make financial contributions to Boise State in many ways. A gift of life insurance is one option that can enable individuals to make a larger contribution than otherwise possible. Danny Richards and Dennis Ward are two alumni who have chosen to make a difference for the future through gifts of life insurance.

Who knew that young alumnus Richards, at the ripe old age of 26, could make a gift commitment of more than $100,000? His gift of life insurance allowed him to do just that. Richards, who received his B.A. in history in December 2008, is a financial representative with The Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Boise. He and Jennifer Neil, CFRE, at the Boise State Office of Gift Planning, designed a plan whereby Richards established a life insurance policy and made the Boise State University Foundation the owner and 100 percent beneficiary. He makes annual tax-deductible gifts of about $500 directly to the Foundation, and the Foundation pays the premiums. As an additional bonus, Northwestern Mutual matches his $500 gift annually.

Ward, who received his B.A. in elementary education in 1973, is owner and principal of D & DW Associates in Olympia, Wash. An active volunteer with the Boise State Alumni Association, Ward has been a significant leader in establishing the Puget Sound Alumni Chapter. As a business insurance consultant, he also is keenly aware of the many advantages life insurance can have for families and charities. He established his life insurance planned gift for Boise State many years ago and is now working with Neil to give presentations to alumni and friends of Boise State. The presentation addresses the benefits, rationale and choices individuals have when considering a life insurance policy with their alma mater as the ultimate beneficiary.

If you would like to learn more about supporting a Boise State program using life insurance as part of your estate planning, please contact one of the following:

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