Thanks to Thousands of Donors

By Kathleen Craven

Just 13 months after starting its public phase at $70.2 million, the Destination Distinction campaign has surpassed the $100 million mark. Thanks to more than 15,000 donors, as of the end of October, the campaign total stood at $104,833,158 – 59 percent of the $175 million goal.

What does that mean for Boise State?

$14.4 million for student support (scholarships, residential life programs, library resources, etc.)

$49.3 million for facilities support (classroom buildings, creative studio and laboratory space, athletics, etc.)

$33.2 million for direct academic support (new doctoral and master’s programs, research centers and community partnerships)

$7 million for teaching support (recruiting and retaining faculty and enhancing research infrastructure)

“We are pleased with the progress of the campaign thus far and appreciative of the support of so many Boise State alumni and friends, and we hope the momentum continues,” says Howard Smith, vice president for University Advancement.

“We recognize the challenges of the current economic situation and have faith that our supporters will do all that they can to help Boise State become a true metropolitan research university of distinction. Educating our young people is creating the pipeline for further prosperity for all.”

Following are just a few highlights of the people, places and programs that have benefited from the campaign so far:

• In response to the looming nursing shortage, alumni and friends have provided for an endowed nursing chair, construction of the Norco Building to house the Nursing Department and an impressive list of new or endowed nursing scholarships.

• Students now can earn a Ph.D. in either electrical and computer engineering or geosciences, thanks to two new doctoral programs. In addition, several new master’s programs also are available in disciplines across campus.

• The new Ron and Linda Yanke Family Research Park, located in the former SUPERVALU building on Parkcenter Boulevard, will be used by several university institutes, centers and offices that support research on campus under the unifying theme of community engagement.

• The Langroise Distinguished Student Endowed Scholarship provides funding for 21 National Merit Scholarship finalists, including 10 incoming National Merit Scholars. Thousands of students receive scholarships each year due to the continued generosity of alumni, faculty and friends of the university.

• The Caven-Williams Indoor Practice Facility and Stueckle Sky Club are two shining examples of how the Department of Athletics is benefiting from the campaign. University plans also call for construction of a new building to house the College of Business and Economics and a new Alumni Center.

In addition, a separate goal of $50 million has been set for future bequests, such as wills, living trusts or retirement plans. To date, that fund is at 75 percent of its goal, with $37.5 million.

To find out how you can support the Destination Distinction campaign, visit foundation.boisestate.edu/campaign.

Why I Give

For the Birds

By Kathleen Craven

For Winston Moore, the Idaho Bird Observatory isn’t just about saving migratory birds. It’s also about saving kids. The observatory, established above Lucky Peak along one of the largest known raptor and songbird migration routes in the western United States, brings children and others to face to face with a variety of birds as they are counted, banded, weighed and measured.

“Kids don’t have good role models because too many parents are too busy to pay proper attention to them,” says Moore, founder of W.H. Moore Company. Because of this, he and his wife, Diane, support a number of causes that provide children with what he considers “good, clean, wholesome activities.”

Moore first visited the IBO at the invitation of his friend Dennis Fitzpatrick, who knew of his love for the outdoors and wildlife. Moore was instantly enthralled with the operation and the chance to hold a raptor or songbird in his hands and look into its eyes. In short, he was hooked.

He also was impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of the Boise State students and volunteers who staff the modest outpost, which provide the stability needed to ensure that our work will continue.

“In these times of economic uncertainty, Mr. Moore’s gift will provide the stability needed to ensure that our work will continue and that the program will be able to grow indefinitely,” says Greg Kaltenecker, director of the IBO.

That’s music to Moore’s ears. “When they hold a bird in their hands, those kids are just in awe,” he says. “I think it’s fantastic.”

REMEMBERING A BELOVED PROFESSOR

CONTRIBUTIONS have steadily been streaming in for a student scholarship fund established in the name of Mary Ellen Ryder, a beloved linguistics professor. Ryder, 56, was killed in a devastating fire that swept through her Southeast Boise neighborhood in August. By early October, close to 40 individuals had contributed to the fund.

Ryder taught linguistics for 20 years in the Department of English at Boise State.

“She is one of the great professors that built this university,” said Boise State President Bob Kustra in response to her death. “As a teacher, she has spread the joy of learning and discovery to countless students. She will be missed as a vital member of our campus community.”