Stueckles’ gift to benefit research

Duoise State biology professor Julia Thom Oxford, who conducts research that may someday help scientists find cures for ailments ranging from early onset arthritis to fetal alcohol syndrome, retinal detachment, cleft palate and cartilage degeneration in knees, was named the inaugural recipient of the Dean’s Distinguished Professor Award.

The award, established this fall by Duane and Lori Stueckle of Boise, provides supplemental salary for an outstanding Boise State biology professor who is involved in research and teaching in areas with biomedical application, particularly in developmental biology, molecular biology, genomics, proteomics and cell biology. (The Stueckles, above, were honored as grand marshals during BSU’s 2005 Homecoming festivities.)

Duane Stueckle, a Boise businessman and entrepreneur, said he has long had an interest in the study of genes and proteins and the Human Genome Project, and believes that their applications could someday lead to breakthroughs that could relieve human suffering and disease.

“I'd had this idea of providing some support in this area for a long time, but I figured I'd have to go to MIT or Harvard to do it,” he says. “Then I found out what was going on right here at Boise State, and I decided, why go across the country when there are great things happening in my own back yard?”

Boise State has made impressive strides as a metropolitan research university, Stueckle adds. “I like to help at the start of things. Providing funds to keep talented faculty at Boise State falls is exactly with what I like to do.”

Foundation enjoys record fund-raising year

The Boise State Foundation had its best fund-raising year ever in the 2005 fiscal year with a 61 percent increase. The Foundation received $18,944,376 in gifts, donations and private grants, surpassing the previous best total of $11,647,346 in 2004.

“The record contributions for Boise State are a tangible sign of the momentum that is building for the university,” says Rick Frisch, Boise State vice president for university advancement. Foundation donations have increased 275 percent since 2003 when contributions totaled $6,875,066.

“This is by far the biggest fund-raising year we’ve had due to the generosity of many individuals, corporations and foundations that support Boise State’s academic and athletic endeavors,” Frisch says.

Significant gifts in fiscal year ’05 included: $3.1 million for the Caven-Williams Sports Complex; $2.5 million from the estate of Jody DeMeyer for an endowed nursing chair; $1.7 million donation in laboratory equipment from Micron Technology; and $1.1 million from the Nampa Industrial Foundation’s matching money for endowed scholarships.

Since October 2003, donors have taken advantage of the remaining money — $430,000 of the BIF matching money. The gift contained $516,589 earmarked for laboratory equipment from Stryker-Medical.

A $1.5 million donation from the Boise Industrial Foundation more than two years ago is paying dividends for Boise State students. The gift contained $16,580 earmarked for matching money for endowed scholarships.

Since October 2003, donors have taken advantage of the remaining money — $430,000 of the BIF matching money. The Foundation has until the end of this year to take advantage of the remaining money — $116,874. Because of a positive investment performance, the Foundation has more in the fund than was originally donated.

DONORS ADD TO BIF DONATION

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FALL PHON-A-THON ON NOW

The 19th annual BSU Foundation Phon-a-thon is ongoing through Nov. 22.

Every year more than 40 student callers contact 35,000 Boise State alumni and friends to ask for their financial support. Last year, more than 3,600 people made contributions. This year’s goal is $235,000.

Pledges are being made through the respective colleges.