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.Ds 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.

— Janelle Brown

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