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Basque Studies at Boise State University

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THE CONVERSATION

THE SUBJECTS

YESTERDAY'S PICTURES

COSMOPOLITAN



The subjects

Basque Studies at Boise State University

[GANDARIAS BELDARRAIN, ZIORTZA LETE, NERE](#)

Boise and the Basques

Boise, the capital of Idaho that we Basques feel so close to and our own despite being far from the Basque Country, is a twinned city with Gernika-Lumo, known to us as the "eighth Basque province". Today, 12-15,000 people of Basque origin live in the state of Idaho. It can be unanimously said that the history of Boise and the history of the Basque diaspora have gone hand in hand since the discovery of gold in the American River in California in 1849. The first Basques arrived in Idaho in 1890, when silver was discovered in De Lamar and Silver City. Although they initially worked in mining, later they immersed themselves in shepherding.

Although the first immigrants came with the idea of returning to the Basque Country after making money, many decided to stay in Idaho. The Idaho-born generation, known as the second generation or "in-betweens"^[1], was educated in American culture. For example, in many homes they did not transmit the language, but Basque music, food or the Catholic religion. On the other hand, seeing that the future of Basque culture was in serious trouble, in 1949, the local Basques built the Euskal Etxea (Euzkaldunak) in Boise, with the aim of preserving and perpetuating Basque culture. Intergenerational transmission is the foundation/fundamental/base/root/root of Basque culture and transnational relations rooted in the diaspora: "because we were, we will be because we are".



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THE SUBJECT

Educational Sciences

OTHER SUBJECTS



The Elite and the University in the Southern Basque Country

DIAZ EGURBIDE, Jon



Refuge with a woman's face: a question of gender

CHICHARRO, Alicia



The digital version of education

"Ethnic generation" ^[2] or "the present" ^[3] The third generation, known as The institutionalization and prestige of Basque culture, relations between diasporas, and attachment to the Basque Country are the main characteristics of this generation. Examples of this cultural revitalization and institutionalization are the Basque institutions created in the last six decades: in 1960, the Oinkari Basque Dancers group was created. In 1973, North American Basque Organizations (NABO). Basque Museum and Cultural Center (BMCC) in 1985 and in 1998, with the efforts of a group of parents and the Basque Government, Boiseko Ikastola, which currently offers the only preschool program in Basque outside the Basque Country. The Cenarrusa Foundation was created in 2003 to promote Basque history and culture and to help build the Basque Studies program at Boise State University. Two years later, in 2005, the Basque Studies program was established at Boise State University. It is important to emphasize that the idea and beginnings to create the Basque Studies program began in the 1970s.

For urgent justice and pedagogy

UGARTETXEA ARRIETA, Arantxa



During the trip to the Basque Museum with the students.

Basque Studies at Boise State University

Boise State University's Basque Studies program has played a vital role in the University since 2005. It is a multidisciplinary program that includes language, arts, history, politics, literature and economics. Its main pillars are curriculum and pedagogy. Basque culture and Basque teaching are the main foundations of the identity of the program. The complexities and diverse dimensions of culture, identity, gender, class and religious diversity mark the academic direction of Basque Studies. The mission of Basque Studies is in line with the expression of the university's shared values. In other words, the main objective is to provide education in an innovative and transformative context and to prepare students for success and to face the world. ^[4] :

1. Providing a diverse and knowledgeable worldview.
2. Helping to understand the international dimensions of his main field of study.
3. Teaching to communicate effectively in another language and/or culture.
4. Emphasize cross-cultural sensitivity and adaptability.
5. Making global skills a part of their daily life.

Boise State University is Idaho's largest university with 24,103 students and 200 degree programs. The department of Basque studies was founded in 1940 and is currently located within the department called World Languages. In addition to teaching 12 languages, three degrees are offered along with 17 Minor ⁽⁵⁾ and 24 certificates. The Department of Languages is a part of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences which consists of 17 departments.

The purpose mentioned by Bernard Etxepare in his well-known poem "Basque jalgi hadi plazara" is undoubtedly found in Boise State University.

Since the establishment of the Basque program, 7,600 students have taken the classes offered there. 25-30 of these students completed the Basque Minor.

The main focus of the Basque studies working group is made up of professors Nere Lete (MFA) and Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain (Ph.D). Along with these, the group of teachers who teach courses on Basque culture on weekends is also one of the reasons for the success of the Basque studies program. In addition to professors Lete and Gandarias, the general working group is made up of other professors from Boise (Department of World Languages, History Department), and together with them we also invite professors who teach Basque subjects at other universities in the USA to give classes among us (University of Nevada, Reno, North Carolina State, Michigan State, Indiana University Northwest, University of Oregon, University of Missouri, Metropolitan State University of Denver, California State University Bakersfield, Elmhurst University, University of California Santa Barbara). The majority of the teaching team has a doctorate degree and the rest have master's degrees. This team has offered and taught classes in 50 different titles.

The department of Basque studies offers a certificate in language and Basque culture studies and a Basque minor. After the schools have agreed with other departments, they are spread throughout the university and students can choose them as electives. We work closely with anthropology, history, literature, communication, sociology, political science, gender studies, etc.

The Basque studies department also offers students the opportunity to do internships in the community, both at the university radio station, at the Boise school and at the Boise Basque Museum. Students are also offered the opportunity to study Basque and Basque culture in the Basque Country by USAC (University Studies Abroad Consortium). Students of the language often go to boarding schools with university grants or with the help of the Etxepare Basque Institute.



Ziortza and Nerek prepared Run 21 at Boise State University.

Thanks to Basque-loving and generous donors, we offer grants for Basque Studies. The proceeds of the Basque Soccer Friendly organization were used to create the Pete Cenarrusa Memorial Scholarship and the Jimmy Jausoro Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Cenarrusa and Mr. Jausoro were influential and beloved members of the Boise Basque community. Mr. Warren Pepperdin created the Pia Unamuno Anchustegui Scholarship in memory of his grandmother. The Ascuaga family, on the other hand, provides the Frank and Winifred Ascuaga "Family Memorial" grant. Thanks to John Elorriaga's generous donation, Basque Studies can invite professors from other North American universities to teach weekend classes. The Ansotegui-Fereday Memorial supports students studying Basque and Basque culture in Donostia and Bilbao.

Our program is related to the history and memory of the Basque community in Idaho. We are the bridge between the Basque world and the global world. The academic thread that connects the past, present and future.

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^[1] LAXALT M., M. (2018). *Places The Basque Places of Boise, Idaho*. Reno: Center for Basque Studies Press.

^[2] BIETER, J.; BIETER, M. (2000). *An Enduring Legacy. The Story of Basques in Idaho*. Reno: University of Nevada Press.

[3] LAXALT M., M. (2018). *Places The Basque Places of Boise, Idaho*. Reno: Center for Basque Studies Press.

[4] These five characteristics are taken from the article "Globally Competent Students" written by Sandra L. Russo and Leigh Ann Osborne (nd) for The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

[5] Specialization