



FOCUS

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BOISE STATE'S first graduates in construction management gave May 18 commencement ceremonies a different twist when they donned bright orange hard hats after receiving their degrees. Scheer photo

BSU adds '80 alumni

More than 1,350 Boise State seniors joined the ranks of the school's alumni association this spring, including 450 who were on hand at Commencement exercises May 18.

Seated on the Bronco Stadium turf in near 80 degree temperature, the black-robed graduates heard talks from BSU president John Keiser, State Board of Education representative Janet Hay, and student representative David Clark before marching single file before the rostrum to receive their degrees.

Spirits were as bright as the weather as graduates acknowledged cheers from proud families and friends. One physical education graduate went out in style by racing down the center aisle and turning a mid-air flip, while construction management seniors donned orange hard-hats instead of traditional black mortar boards.

In his welcome address, Keiser told the audience that "the faculty of Boise State University certified you for degrees with the belief that education is the hope of mankind in the sense that there is something better than corruption and violence for righting the world's wrongs.

"We like to think that education is truly synonymous with civilization."

Hay outlined the financial problems facing higher education in Idaho, and urged the graduates to become involved in decision-making.

"In the years to come you will not only have children of your own in our schools and colleges—you will most probably find yourselves studying to upgrade or update skills, studying to change professions, or studying to satisfy a personal interest. You will continue to have a stake in the quality of Idaho education all of your lives," she said.

In his turn at the dias, Clark, who was BSU's student lobbyist in the legislature last year, urged better communication among the university community.

"Now is the time, facing recession and major building projects, for the administration, the faculty, and the students to be talking together," he said.

BSU also used the occasion to single out Florence Miles and Dr. John Swartley for Silver Medallion awards.

Miles, who came to BJC in 1955 to begin a nursing department, is retiring after 25 years.

"Her long career at BJC, Boise College, Boise State College, and Boise State University has touched the lives of literally thousands of people in the Treasure Valley as students, patients, colleagues at both the university and health service staffs of many organizations," Keiser said.

Swartley left the State Board of Education last March after serving for 10 years. A Boise physician, Swartley has also been active in local and state medical associations and served as chief of the medical staff at St. Luke's in 1977-78.

"For ten years he has served unselfishly and given so much time and consideration to education matters it is remarkable.

"He has given special consideration to Boise State concerns having served on the executive committee for this institution several years. He is truly a friend of education generally, and to Boise State in particular," Keiser said.

Geothermal heat in BSU future?

University architect Chet Shawver says Boise State's future could be in hot water—geothermal hot water, that is.

His prediction is based on a preliminary study conducted by engineers at CH2M Hill which concluded it would be both technically and economically feasible to convert the present heating system in 16 campus buildings to a system that would use low temperature (170 degrees) geothermal water.

Shawver says converting to geothermal heat at BSU could save enough money to pay back the \$4 million start-up costs in 10 years or less.

Use of geothermal energy in Boise, which began back in the 1890's with the drilling of two wells near the Old Penitentiary, declined considerably when low-cost natural gas and electricity became available about 50 years ago.

Due to recent energy costs and shortages, the concept of using water heated naturally beneath the earth's surface has again taken hold, and work has already begun to develop a reliable geothermal distribution system for parts of Boise.

The Boise Geothermal Project, scheduled for completion the winter of 1982, calls for the development of several new production wells and approximately two miles of new transmission mains to be buried along public rights-of-way. The pipeline closest to BSU would be located at Capitol Boulevard and Front Street.

But whether or not geothermal heating will become a reality for BSU depends on funding and "on Boise Geothermal's acceptance of our proposal to include the campus in their geothermal system," said Shawver.

At today's prices, the engineers' cost estimate to run geothermal water mains from the Capitol Boulevard pipeline to the campus and then to develop a campus geothermal water distribution system is \$1.5 million. The additional cost of retrofitting the proposed 16 campus buildings, including the multipurpose pavilion now under construc-

tion, would be about \$2.5 million.

Why invest so much money in converting the present system to use geothermal water?

The answer is obvious, said Shawver. Conversion to a natural energy source would "substantially" reduce campus energy costs in the future.

In 1978-79, the university's natural gas bill was about \$286,000. And Intermountain Gas Co. predicts that will increase 11-19 percent per year for the next 15 years, according to Shawver.

Because it is cheaper and twice as efficient as gas, BSU could save about \$120,000 every year by using geothermal water for 80 percent of the space heating, domestic hot water heating, and swimming pool heating, the CH2M Hill report said.

Also, because the cost of using geothermal water is expected to increase at a much slower rate than natural gas, the estimated annual savings should increase even more over the years.

"There is no question about the desirability of converting to geothermal heating," said Shawver. "The problem is coming up with the necessary funding."

Shawver hopes federal funding will be available, but added there is also the possibility of either getting state appropriated monies or paying back a revenue bond with the annual savings in energy expenditures.

A conservative estimate of the conversion cost's pay-back time would be 10 years, he said.

Earlier this month, Shawver sent a letter to Phil Hanson, director of Boise Geothermal, encouraging him to support BSU in getting funds for the project and asking him to consider including the university in Boise's proposed geothermal system.

"What they decide will have almost absolute influence on what would be available to us. If we had a firm commitment that the supply would be there, I'm sure we could find the funding."

Open parking

No BSU decals are required for parking on the university campus from May 19-August 29, according to Gordon G. Phillips, administrative services director.

Summer session opens

The 1980 summer session at Boise State University will contain over 360 courses broken into two five week sessions and eight and ten week blocks of classes.

Registration for the first five week, eight week, and ten week sessions will be held Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m.-noon in the BSU gym.

Students can sign up for the second five week session on either that date or on July 12 in the Student Union.

Classes begin June 9. The second five week session begins July 14.

Costs are \$30 per credit hour for undergraduate courses and \$32.50 per credit hour for graduate courses.

This year BSU will offer 71 special workshops that range from business and educational tours of Mexico to a geological expedition in Yellowstone Park.

About 64 courses and workshops will be offered on education topics, including the use of newspapers in the classroom, nutrition, conservation education, and law for the teachers.

Summer school course schedules can be picked up in the BSU registrar's office, and more information about courses can be obtained at the Office of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions in the library, phone 385-3293.