

President Bob Kustra
Spring Update, Jan. 10, 2007

As Governor Butch Otter said at the opening of his inaugural address, “How about those Broncos!” Without question, the success of the football program elevated Boise State to the national stage with our spectacular appearance in the BCS Fiesta Bowl. And the way we won the game captured the imagination of the public beyond our wildest dreams. Our story transcended football because it was about creativity, courage, risk-taking and even romance – thanks to Ian Johnson.

My congratulations to athletic director Gene Bleymaier, head football coach Chris Petersen, his incredible group of assistant coaches and his remarkable team. The Fiesta Bowl was truly a victory for the ages in a season to remember.

The accomplishments during the season were numerous: fifth straight Western Athletic Conference crown, an undefeated season at 13-0, and a No. 8 national ranking in the BCS standings. The university at large has benefited immensely from this experience – certainly in terms of media exposure from coast to coast and merchandise sales which support student scholarships. There will be many intangible benefits, from increased student visits and applications to a boost in our fundraising efforts. No doubt, the overwhelming community and statewide spirit generated for the Broncos is part of the momentum for the university.

I have received hundreds of emails from all over the country—even the world, and I would like to share just a few of them with you this morning. (President Kustra read several e-mails)

Many friends also were amused to see me taking pictures when we were on the stand to accept the trophy. I thought you might enjoy seeing a few of those this morning as well. (Slides shown of pictures from the game)

And just in case you didn’t see our new Boise State ad at halftime before a national audience, I thought we’d run it again for you, and then frame this spring update with its message. (Spot shown)

Where you see Blue, we see Idaho’s largest university ...

- 2007 is the anniversary year for Boise State University. We turn 75 on Sept. 6. Led by our founder and president, Idaho Episcopal Bishop Middleton Barnwell, Boise Junior College opened its doors for the first time in 1932. The numbers that first day: four buildings, 15 faculty members, 41 male students and 37 female students.
- What a change! We now have 165 buildings (and a global online outreach), 2,400 faculty and staff, and nearly 19,000 students. We are Idaho’s largest university.
- And recent growth in graduate education has been nothing less than stunning.

Since the year 2000, graduate head count and FTE have seen cumulative growths of 24.5 percent and 44.3 percent, respectively. That compares to growth of 14.5 percent and 18.1 percent for overall enrollment. Last fall we enrolled 533 full-time graduate students, up from 434 the year before.

But wait — I have late-breaking news from Graduate School Dean Jack Pelton on this front. According to Jack, “Normally, in the week after New Year's Day, we receive three to four graduate applications per day, generally for non-degree seeking students wishing to take a few graduate courses. It is simply a slow time of the year. However, last week after the game, we saw 30-40 graduate applications per day, and these are mostly non-resident degree-seeking applicants. I can't explain this jump in any other way than post-Fiesta Bowl attention.”

And it's not just happening in graduate admissions. The admissions office has received a 135 percent increase in online inquiries since the Fiesta Bowl.

Where you see blue, we see a Metropolitan Research University of Distinction ...

The Freshman Success Task Force created a blueprint for ensuring that we stay focused on our core mission—educating students. We have set an ambitious goal of increasing student retention by 10 percent over this next academic year.

This fall semester we made progress toward retaining academically prepared students by implementing an early warning system, developing interventions for students on academic probation, and enhancing adviser relationships.

I am delighted to report the following great trends with our most recent incoming class:

- More than 74 percent of the incoming class had a high school GPA of 3.0 or better, with an average of 3.3
- New freshmen enrollment is up by 3 percent
- Non-Idaho residents grew from 10 percent of the class to 13.5 percent
- Idaho recruitment from outside of the Treasure Valley also saw growth: North Idaho increased from 1.2 percent to 3.8 percent; Eastern Idaho increased from 6 percent to 8.7 percent
- New students from under-represented ethnic groups grew from 13.9 percent to 14.5 percent
- Four new National Merit Finalists enrolled, bringing the campus total to seven
- 382 Boise State students have qualified for the new federal Academic Competitiveness and National SMART grants, which are based on academic achievement as well as financial need; awards range in amounts from \$750 to \$4,000 per year

This fall, the Carnegie Foundation recognized our efforts and contributions to our metropolitan area in a major way. Boise State University was one of only 76 universities nationwide to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of

Teaching for outstanding efforts to engage the community through partnerships, outreach activities, and curricula that have a positive impact on the Treasure Valley and the university community.

The Carnegie Foundation selected Boise State as a recipient of its newly created Community Engagement Classification, placing the university among the ranks of the University of California-Los Angeles, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of North Carolina.

This recognition by the Carnegie Foundation demonstrates Boise State University's commitment to its students, staff and faculty, and to the Treasure Valley. Community engagement is integral to the university's mission as a metropolitan research university of distinction, and we are pleased that the Carnegie Foundation has acknowledged our hard work.

In addition:

- Our faculty in the College of Education secured a half-million dollar NSF grant for mathematics education and the recruitment of secondary math educators.
- The growth BSU has experienced in *total* sponsored project funding over the past 5 and 10 years is pretty impressive —

Fiscal Year 1996 — \$8.4 million

Fiscal Year 2001 — \$16.8 million

Fiscal Year 2006 — \$23.9 million

Much of the growth that Boise State experienced in total sponsored project funds is due to close to a six-fold increase in research funding since FY1996.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce and welcome our new vice president for research, Dr. Mark Rudin. Mark came to us from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, where he served as interim vice president of research. Mark received his Ph.D. in health physics from Purdue University, and we are delighted that he has joined us in this very important role for the future of Boise State.

Finally, two new doctoral programs were added in 2006, in geosciences and electrical and computer engineering. And the Engineering College ranked 12th in the nation among public, comprehensive universities.

Located in one of the West's most dynamic cities ...

- Where the beauty of the foothills of the Rockies is matched by a dynamic energy and the West's most livable communities.
- Where Boise State's College of Engineering and College of Business and Economics play a major role in transforming the metropolitan region into an up-and-coming entrepreneurial hot spot cited by *Money* magazine, *The Wall Street*

Journal and *Forbes*, to name just a few.

- Where our library's McCain Collection for Western Life is one of the West's premier research collections built with contributions from Warren E. and Bernie McCain, along with hundreds of Boise State friends.
- Where we were honored last year to host the prestigious Western Literature Week, with a distinguished address by Terry Tempest Williams, one of the West's finest writers. Our thanks to faculty member Tara Penry and her colleagues for doing a great job hosting writers and faculty from across the country.

A Place of Science ...

- Where one of our newest faculty, Dr. Megan Frary, will receive the prestigious NSF early career award.
- Where our generous donors Lori and Duane Steuckle established the first endowed chair in the Department of Biology to support research and teaching with biomedical applications. This was a most generous and important gift to the University.
- Where the National Science Foundation awarded a \$350,000 grant for major research instrumentation to study the structure of materials on an atomic level.
- Where our colleges offer the people of Idaho access to educational opportunities in programs from aerospace to zoology.

A place of business.....

- Where we are preparing to expand our MBA program by offering a weekend cohort option for a 15-month MBA degree.
- Where students who live in the COBE residential dorm are also learning how to run a business, Dawson's 4.0 coffee shop.
- Where another team of business students earned top returns in the D.A. Davidson Student Investment Program for 2006. Twenty schools from seven states in the Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions participated.
- Where the community is annually invited to participate in Creative Economy Workshops, a wonderful niche for our College of Business and Economics.
- Where a new College of Business and Economics building will serve as the gateway to our Boise campus on our western edge and enable our business college to become the premier College of Business and Economics in the northwest.

And speaking of business, or the need to run the university like a business, we were delighted to learn recently that Boise State was able to retain its current A1 Moody's and A+ Standard & Poor's bond agency ratings for upcoming bond issuances. This is a significant vote of confidence from a respected external source. The rating agencies have expressed confidence in the university's long-range plans, including anticipated success of the comprehensive campaign. Standard & Poor's additionally cited the University's continued enrollment, with good acceptance and matriculation rates, and a wide array of

undergraduate program offerings. Thanks to Stacy Pearson, vice president for finance and administration, and her staff.

A place of nature ...

- Where we house the Idaho Bird Observatory and track migrating bird patterns across the Western United States. By the way, don't forget Bald Eagle Days, Jan. 25-27, on the Boise River at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, which offers the public up close and personal viewing of our nation's symbol. The events also include the International Wildlife Film Festival at The Flicks, and the fund-raiser and art auction on Jan. 26.

A place of art...

- Our Visual Arts Center galleries offer exhibits ranging from photography to sculpture. On stage, students shine in theatrical productions, vocal and instrumental music concerts and dance recitals. Boise State is home to the Idaho Dance Theater, and many faculty and students are affiliated with our nationally recognized Idaho Shakespeare Festival.
- More than 1,200 students visited the Boise Art Museum last year under our new collaboration, and 300 season tickets were sold for the university's Classic Performances Series.
- Larry McNeil, professor of photography in our Art Department, was honored last fall with an All Roads photo award from National Geographic.
- The Morrison Center Chamber Players, an ensemble of Boise State music students, finished in second place in the Music Teacher's National Association's annual competition in spring 2006.

When you look beyond the blue, you can see the future...

- You can see our talented faculty and staff assuming new positions :
 - John McGuire — Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
 - Mark Wheeler — Dean of Extended Studies
 - Suzanne McCorkle — Interim Dean of the College of Social Sciences and PublicAffairs
 - Shikhar Sarin - Associate Dean of the College of Business & Economics
- You can see an unprecedented 100 percent occupancy in both the traditional and non-traditional residence facilities on campus, with a waiting list. Needless to say, another residence hall is on the drawing board.
- You can see key elements of our Campus Master Plan falling into place:
 - For starters, there is the new Interactive Learning Center scheduled to open this June.

- And an expanded Student Union, for which the State Board of Education sold bonds just this week. Designed to meet the needs of commuter students and our growing residential community, it symbolizes our commitment to a robust campus experience for all our students.
- There's the new Health and Wellness Center/ Nursing Building, with financing provided by Boise State bonds sold by the State Board this week.
- A new research building to house the sciences and public policy faculty in an effort to inform and enlighten public policy with the objectivity of the scientific method.
- Another residence hall to meet the growing demand for student housing on our campus and enrich the lives of our students.
- Our new Stadium Suites project, with financing approved by the State Board this week, and featuring Boise State's first Faculty Club for weekday luncheon use. An Academic Projects fund will capture a percentage of project revenues for construction of an academic building in the future.
- And, most importantly, a new parking garage.

Now that's just the short list, so if your favorite project did not make it, don't think for a minute that you will have to wait forever. After all, we are close to announcing the University's first-ever comprehensive campaign and the timing could not be better.

I mentioned the New Interactive Learning Center. It is such an important statement about our future that I want to spend some time telling you about it.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING CENTER

Boise State has a total of 165 buildings at its various sites, with several more under construction. In June, the university will open a new building that is unlike any building we have seen on this campus. It is symbolic of the transformation that is taking place at this university. The four-story, 54,000-square-foot, \$14 million Interactive Learning Center is truly a state-of-the-art facility.

Interactive

This building, and its design, is all about fostering interaction — interaction between students, interaction between students and instructors, and interaction between faculty members.

Research has demonstrated the importance of interaction between students and between students and faculty. These relationships are essential for integrating students into the university community. They are an important element in student persistence and retention and they provide a context in which learning can take place, both in and out of the classroom.

Not since the days of a central mailroom (which I understand from those who've been around for some time was a great place to connect with other faculty on campus) have we had a physical space for faculty to gather. The Center for Teaching and Learning will not

only offer such a space, but a central part of its mission is to foster opportunities for our faculty to connect with one another in workshops, brown bag discussions, and informal conversations.

The work of the Center for Teaching and Learning is underway. Since July, when the Center opened, the CTL has sponsored workshops attended by more than 200 Boise State faculty and instructors. In addition, many have taken advantage of the opportunities to consult individually with the CTL or engage in ongoing workshops about service learning and teaching with technology.

Learning

On the screen, you'll see the image of the large lecture hall and then we'll show you the artist's renderings of the four floors of the Interactive Learning Center.

It may be obvious to say that a classroom building is about learning. The primary reason to build classrooms is to create space for student learning. This building, however, is more than rectangular spaces with white boards and chairs.

Diana Oblinger, editor of a recent book titled *Learning Spaces*, acknowledges the following:

“Space—whether physical or virtual—can have an impact on learning. It can bring people together; it can encourage exploration, collaboration, and discussion. Or, space can carry an unspoken message of silence and disconnectedness. More and more we see the power of built pedagogy (the ability of space to define how one teaches) in colleges and universities. ...As we have come to understand more about learners, how people learn, and technology, our notions of effective learning spaces have changed. Increasingly, those spaces are flexible and networked, bringing together formal and informal activities in a seamless environment that acknowledges that learning can occur anyplace, at any time, in either physical or virtual spaces. We have also come to understand that design is a process, not a product. Involving all stakeholders — particularly learners — is essential.”

This building has been designed to foster active and participatory learning and to capitalize on the unique capabilities brought to the learning environment by technology. Movable seating in all rooms, even in the large lecture theater, will facilitate multiple levels of action and interaction during class meeting times. Automatic video classroom capture (where the instructor audio, a video of the instructor and the output of the display computer are captured digitally and published to the Web) provides the students the opportunity to review classroom lecture and interactions anywhere, anytime via the Internet and encourages them to become more engaged in the classroom experience and worry less about transcribing all the faculty comments and lectures. The building design also acknowledges that learning is not confined to traditional classrooms. Break-out rooms provide spaces for students to meet in small groups to work on class projects.

In addition, this building offers special spaces for unique learning opportunities. In the digital projects studio, students and faculty have access to special computer workstations, software, peripherals and assistance to enable them to create digital content in many forms such as presentations, Web sites, video productions and other digital content.

In the 3-D visualization laboratory/theater, faculty and students can work together to produce and view stereo 3-D imagery of large research data sets, create immersive stereo 3-D environments and generate interactive 3-D simulations for both instruction and research. In addition, one classroom has been designed to support not only technology enabled teaching but two-way videoconferencing with off-campus students or interactions with remote experts and authorities, bringing remote students and expertise into the classroom.

As we approach the grand opening of the ILC, the Center for Teaching and Learning will offer specific opportunities through Academic Technologies to learn about the features of the ILC, and how to take full advantage of the new capabilities. Teaching assignments in the ILC will come largely from instructors who have been trained and who have specific plans for how best to use these capabilities to innovate and support student learning.

In addition to the spaces created to facilitate student learning, the ILC is designed to foster learning for faculty and instructors. The Center for Teaching and Learning will create space to engage our faculty in learning theory and practice. In addition to a library of resources for instructors, the CTL will offer numerous opportunities for our growth and development as teachers. For example, in the CTL's upcoming "Writing and Citing" workshops, participants will learn about strategies to decrease the incidence of plagiarism. Information about these and other workshops planned for this semester can be found on the CTL Web site, which has just been launched at CTL.boisestate.edu. I encourage you to look at the CTL offerings at the beginning of each semester and commit to one or two. Build this into your own individual expectations for yourself. Build it into your expectation of your colleagues. In fact, recruit a colleague and go together.

Another unique space which brings together both faculty AND student learning is the "Classroom for Research and Innovation," which will function as a research and assessment laboratory. Designed to foster innovation and the scholarship of teaching and learning, this classroom is equipped with a digital recording and observation system that will simultaneously record sound and video from four different areas of the classroom so that classroom activities can be easily captured for analysis and review. In addition, the classroom will have highly flexible furniture and technology that would allow faculty to experiment with different teaching strategies and record and analyze the results. This allows instructors who want to engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning the environment in which to try new approaches and to observe and review the effects.

Center

A building such as the Interactive Learning Center serves as a physical center on our campus - fostering community in face-to-face meetings and creating connections through

technology. The word “center,” however, also refers to the "core," and in this way the ILC represents a significant part of the central vision for Boise State as we move toward our goal of becoming a metropolitan university of distinction, one distinguished by a strong sense of community and excellence in student learning.

The New U ... Boise State University

The new U. is really the new you and me. All of us. Just as the outcome of the Fiesta Bowl was entirely in the hands of the coaches who prepared it and the players who executed it, so too our future is in the hands of the new You, whether you are in front of the classroom, whether you play a supporting staff role or whether you are in a leadership position, the new you, all of you, hold the keys to shaping our Boise State future.

You have already prepared the game plan for the future with our strategic plan under the direction of our Provost Sona Andrews. Whether you are faculty or staff, the new You has charted our journey into the future, and it is a future filled with hope and promise. It is now time to execute it.

And for that part of the journey, it’s back to that football game as a metaphor for the lessons of life and career. Stop and think about it. The history of Boise State is the story of facing adversity head on, fighting for academic respect over the years and standing up for what is best for our students, our region and our state. It’s never giving up in the face of overwhelming political odds this university faced over the years. It’s about believing in yourself and your university as our students, alumni and fans do. It’s about faculty and staff who persevered and sacrificed under less than desirable working conditions, long before equity pay was dealt with and in days when the state’s budgeting actually took funding back from our public universities as opposed to the 5 percent CEC recommended by our new governor. (Thank you, Governor, for understanding the importance of keeping higher education in Idaho competitive with our sister states.)

Our past and our future is about thinking out of the box with a blue field or our unique master’s in raptor studies that attracts the finest graduate students from across the country. It’s about taking the lessons of teamwork and applying them to our own collegial and collaborative relationships in our departments and colleges. It’s about a university not afraid to redefine itself as Idaho’s largest university serving a unique mission and role as this state’s metropolitan research university of distinction.

Congratulations once again to our football team and thanks for the lessons learned. But thanks as well to our campus partners who came before us and laid the groundwork for the successes of today and tomorrow. And to each and every one of you, the new You, my challenge is a simple one: Let’s not settle for anything but excellence in all we do and let’s not be afraid to dream and take this university and its students to a place where our *academic* quality is known across the nation.

Thanks for all you do for Boise State. Now let’s go have a great spring semester!