

Spring 2011 Update
January 12, 2011
Presented by President Bob Kustra
Boise State University

Welcome

Recent Additions or Changes in Faculty / Staff

Kevin Satterlee, Vice President and General Counsel

I have progressively added to the responsibility and areas of oversight of Kevin Satterlee, who until now has served as Associate Vice President and General Counsel. I asked him to oversee the security arm of the university shortly after the tragedy at Virginia Tech in the interest of ensuring that we are prepared for the unexpected. I have recently added to this the responsibility for all campus emergency planning, risk management as well as oversight of our NCAA compliance efforts. These responsibilities are in addition to his leadership of the office of general counsel, legal services, and trademark and licensing efforts. Kevin is an exceptionally knowledgeable, talented and trustworthy individual. I am pleased to be able to acknowledge the significant role he plays in the administration at Boise State as well as increase his involvement in leadership and decision-making on campus with this change. His new title is Vice President and General Counsel.

James Patrick, Executive Director for the Morrison Center

James Patrick has worked for several nationally renowned community and university-based performing arts centers and as an independent producer in film and theatre, most recently with the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn. He has been actively involved in performing arts management and leadership for 14 years. During his seven-year tenure at the Warner Theatre, he increased annual attendance by 30 percent; the theater's capital fundraising exceeded \$7 million; and he oversaw the design and construction of a 50,000-square-foot addition that included a black-box studio theater and a new center for arts education. Patrick recently was honored as one of the 50 most influential people in Connecticut's Litchfield County. He commenced his new role at Boise State on January 10.

Heather Brust, Associate Vice President for University Advancement

Heather Brust was recently promoted from Director of Donor Relations to Associate Vice President for University Advancement. In her new role, Heather will oversee key development staff and college development directors, corporate and foundation relations as well as donor relations and university-wide development services. Heather originally came to Boise State as director of donor relations in October 2008 from Texas Christian University, where she previously served as director of development for the Neeley School of Business.

Pablo Coblenz, Assistant Vice President of Human Resource Services

Pablo Coblenz joined us as the new Assistant Vice President for Human Resources in December. He was formerly a Human Resources Director for both Albertsons and SuperValu. He is a seasoned human resources leader and project manager who most recently worked as a human resources consultant for the J.R. Simplot Company.

Marla Henken, Director of Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity

Marla Henken took over as the Director of Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity this past fall. She is a seasoned labor and employment attorney with over 11 years of experience and joined us from the law firm of Stoel Rives, LLP.

Provost Search

The Provost's search is now underway. I am pleased to have a strong cross-section of folks from across campus serving on the search committee. Their work began in December and they hope to have campus visits organized in April. The position description can be found on the HR website. **Ads are beginning to run nationally this week and we hope to have finalists to campus in early April.**

VPSA Search

The search for a new Vice President for Student Affairs is proceeding on schedule. Numerous candidates with rich student affairs backgrounds as well as experience at major universities give us every reason to believe this will be a successful search. **The search committee is presently screening semifinalists and anticipates inviting finalists to campus in early February.**

2010 Bronco Football

I was pleased to read recently that if an academic national championship were to be held in football, based on the academic performances of the players themselves, the match would be between Stanford University and Boise State University. I am also extremely happy to report that **Coach Chris Petersen** has announced that he will be staying at Boise State, despite speculation to the contrary at the end of the season.

Congratulations

Three among us have been honored by the **Idaho Business Review as Women of the Year. Cheryl Jorcyk, Biology, Cindy Clark, Nursing, and Kimberly Woodings, Registrar's Office,** are among only 50 women statewide from public, private and charitable business sectors being recognized with this honor.

Budget Update

State funding woes continue and Boise State's general account funding is down nearly \$20 million from a few years ago. In addition, EWA due to Boise State is \$10.3 million, but will not likely be funded for FY12.

The good news is that currently there are no holdbacks planned for FY11 and the Governor's budget recommendation included a smaller than expected budget reduction for Boise State, at

less than 2 percent. While we do not know the level of cuts that the Legislature will recommend at this time, we remain cautiously optimistic.

There is no federal stimulus funding available and the lack of state funding increases means that we will need to continue to fund activities from carry-forward and one-time reserves and that we must continue to carefully manage our operating budget and be willing to reduce and reallocate our budget to meet our most strategic needs. In addition, we will most likely need to seek a student tuition and fee increase to make sure that we can continue to serve our growing enrollments.

Dependent Fee Waiver

Boise State obtained SBOE approval in December to pilot a dependent fee program starting in fall 2011. The purpose is to determine the financial feasibility of adding a dependent as an eligible participant in the employee and spouse fee waiver policy to improve employment benefits for university employees. **This trial program is planned for two years** so that data can be gathered as to the cost to the institution, impact on enrollments and class availability and benefit value to employees. This trial program **will not impact the current policy that allows employee and spouse fee waivers with the exception that, if a dependent is enrolled, only one eligible participant per family can enroll each semester.** However, employees that are not enrolling a dependent will continue to have the fee waiver available for both employee and spouse, per the existing policy. Proposed eligibility requirements and benefits for dependent waivers are as follows:

Eligibility

- Permanent employees at .5 FTE or greater who have been employed at the university for five months of continuous benefits-eligible service.
- Dependent is defined as an unmarried child up to age 26.
- Fee waiver is for employee and spouse **OR** dependent in any given semester.

Benefits

- Discounted rate for the dependent is for a maximum of 16 credits per semester.
- Cost to dependent is a **\$25 registration fee, plus 35 percent of current resident tuition and fees. Based on fall 2010 tuition and fees this would be \$928 for a full-time, undergraduate student or \$81 per credit.**
- More information will be forthcoming from HR as we roll out implementation for fall 2011.

Technology in Teaching & Learning

Following my address in August, I commissioned the **Task Force for Teaching and Learning with Technology**. I have asked the task force to envision what our future learners will look like and how we apply continually advancing learning technologies to teaching and learning principles that can engage our future learners. I have also asked them to help identify how we can use technology to build the programs of the future.

The task force is made up of faculty from every college. Some are advance practitioners of using technology in their classroom and some are in their infancy but all are eager to engage and bring a wealth of ideas and energy to the task force. In addition to faculty and selected technologists, Deans Mark Wheeler and Marilyn Moody are part of the task force along with Vice Provost Sharon McGuire. Susan Shadle and Max Davis-Johnson are co-chairing the effort.

- The task force will identify ways in which our policies, infrastructure, and culture must be modified so technology can enable and empower the learning experience.
- The task force will make recommendations to appropriate units on campus for programs and initiatives that will support effective use of technology at both the individual faculty level (e.g., pedagogical considerations) and the institutional level.
- They will engage the campus in learning about these ideas.

Leadership Academy

The President's Leadership Academy, for the first time this fall, **convened 27 current and future leaders** from across campus to participate in a program designed to ensure that current and future campus leaders have access to the most current research and knowledge related to **organizational culture, leadership, creativity, performance management and decision-making.**

The participants are spending this semester managing projects to apply what they have learned and with the intent of affecting real change on our campus. I am impressed with the program so far, which is led out of our **Center for Professional Development in the College of Business and Economics**, and look forward to the outcome of this year's sessions as well as growing the program in the future. Another cohort will start up in the fall, so give serious thought to participating and contact your vice president if you have interest.

Alternative Calendar Committee

I have long believed that there are gains that can be made by better utilizing our facilities and resources year-round. **The Alternative Academic Calendar Committee is a group of faculty and staff presently examining the pros and cons of various academic calendars** – with a particular eye on how such calendars can facilitate increased productivity as a metropolitan research university. **The committee's findings are due next fall. The group is looking at models ranging from a semester calendar that facilitates greater activity during the summer term to a trimester calendar like the ones used at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, BYU-Idaho and other institutions. People with thoughts regarding academic calendars and options that should be explored can contact committee chairs Mark Wheeler or Michael Blankenship.**

Core Reform

The Faculty Senate approved the proposed changes to our core, now entitled the “Foundations Program,” in October. A group continues to work on the effort, with plans for implementation of new requirements in fall 2012, which will focus on learning outcomes, and common and engaging experiences early on for students to foster critical inquiry and innovation skills.

Advising Enhancements

- New students entering fall 2011 will be required to have advising prior to spring 2012 registration.
- Increased advising staffing at the college level to more effectively serve students.
- Newly relocated in the Academic and Career Services Building (formerly the Technical Services Building).

Reducing Credits to Graduation/Degree

Faculty Senate approved and SBOE endorsed the reduction in minimum credit hours to degree from 128 to 120. To effectively reduce credits without compromising learning, departments are engaged in a process to review their curriculum and learning objectives to indentify and implement reduction in required credits for degree. **These reductions will be implemented fall 2012 resulting in a decrease in time to degree and therefore reduced costs and time for students.** Faculty facilitators in the process are Keith Allred, Lisa Bostaph, Lisa Brady, and Jackie O’Connor with coordination and leadership by Sharon McGuire and Susan Shadle.

Retention and Graduate Rate Increases

- Our retention rate has increased substantially since implementation of the Freshmen Success Task Force in Fall 2006: **the retention rate for First Time Full-Time (FTFT) freshmen has increased by 8.8 percentage points (60 percent for Fall 2004 cohort to 68.8 percent for Fall 2009 cohort).**
- The increase in retention has been maintained across subsequent years. Year 2-3 retention rate increased by 7 percent and year 3-4 retention rate increased by nearly 8 percentage points.
- The traditional measures of our graduation rate, 4-year and 6-year graduation rates, have consistently trended upward. Since establishing cohorts in 2000, the 4-year graduation rate has increased by 3 percentage points and the 6-year rate has increased by nearly 6 percentage points.

University Advancement

Destination Distinction: The Campaign for Boise State University

Total campaign commitments as of 12/31/10: \$160,457,000 or **91.7% of goal (\$175 million)**
Six months remain in the campaign (End date is 6/30/11) to raise \$14.5 million

Campaign goal accomplishment:

Student support (scholarships, student research): \$22 million or 58 percent of goal

Facilities support: \$68 million or 98 percent of goal

Direct academic support (academic divisions, athletics): \$49 million or 115 percent of goal

Teaching support (Endowed faculty positions, research): \$7 million or 26 percent of goal

Employee Giving Campaign

Current and former Boise State faculty and staff have made gifts and pledges totaling **over \$2 million** to the university since the start of the Destination Distinction campaign on July 1, 2004. This fiscal year's campaign has already been very successful thanks to the leadership provided by co-chairs Melissa Lavitt and Gene Bleymaier and the hard work of the employee campaign committee. With six months left to go in the fiscal year, 33 percent of employees have already made a gift to Boise State.

Foundation

Boise State University's assets held by the Boise State University Foundation have rebounded substantially from the recession's low point.

Total assets currently at \$144.3 million

Total assets grew 8 percent from 2009 to 2010

Endowment currently at \$72.9 million; this is only \$5 million short of the highest value recorded for the endowment (\$78 million on 6/30/08)

Endowment has grown 56 percent from the low point (\$46.7 million) on February 28, 2009, a great barometer of the economy's peaks and valleys.

Campus Read Program

2010-2011 Read - *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, by William Kamkwamba

- Highlights from fall
 - Author talk featuring questions from audience, visits with students, and building miniature windmills on the quad.
 - Over 40 courses and sections incorporated the Campus Read book.
 - 100 students demonstrated their innovation skills by developing different uses for recycled material (e.g. used CDs for bike and helmet reflectors) and famine education websites.
- Upcoming events
 - Student organization windmill build in March.
 - John Gardner talk tentatively planned for early February.
 - Undergraduate Research Conference highlighting student innovations.

- innovate@boisestate student challenge based on themes from *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

Next year's Campus Read Announcement - *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
by Rebecca Skloot (Crown Publishing, 2010)

Summary (Excerpt from the book website):

*Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. **The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today**, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they'd weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the effects of the atom bomb; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.*

Student Affairs

- **The Bookstore implemented a Textbook Rental Program fall semester. In the first two months of the program, over 5,300 textbooks were rented, saving students over \$160,000 off of the retail price.**
- **Boise State University received a \$1 million “Go On” grant from the Albertson’s Foundation to assist Idaho residents who might otherwise struggle to fund their higher education. This fall the 84 “Go On” students have been involved in a mentorship program designed by current Boise State Students and have been engaged in meeting with their student mentors, attending various campus programs, and will continue to participate as part of their scholarship requirements.**
- **The Boise State University Transit Center, located on the west side of the Student Union Building at University Drive, will be the main hub for bus and shuttle transportation for the campus. Treasure Valley Ride and Boise State University Transportation and Parking Services will collaborate to expand public transportation options and services to our students, staff and visitors. The center is nearing completion and is scheduled to be open the week of January 31, 2011.**
- **Student Affairs and Academic Affairs will expand the Residential College by adding a program for second year students that specifically explores questions related to life goals, selection of major, and their purpose for continuing as a college student. This living-learning community will be supported by University Housing and Dr. Michael Humphrey as the Faculty-In-Residence. It will combine coursework with real-world experiences. Scholars will be engaged in self-directed study, self-efficacy, and situations**

where they will identify definitive values within themselves. Through this exploration, students will have a better understanding of their major selection, academic, and life goals.

Research Highlights

- **Don Warner, Chemistry Department**, \$325,000 from the National Science Foundation; REU Site: Summer Research in Chemistry at Boise State University for First Year Undergraduates.
- Retired **ECCO Group CEO Ed Zimmer** became the first **executive in residence** and is **advising the Office of Technology Transfer on how to leverage and commercialize new knowledge and technology generated by the university.**
- **Jodi Mead, Mathematics Department**, \$314,745 from the National Science Foundation; ATD: Data Driven Stochastic Source Inversion Algorithms for Event Reconstruction of Biothreat Agent Dispersion
- Division of Research/College of Engineering, \$1,870,343 from the National Science Foundation; Research Infrastructure Upgrade - Micron Engineering Center
- Boise State's research in cancer. **Fourteen faculty are involved in various capacities.** Four were recently issued United States patents for inventions that improve the effectiveness of cancer treatment and minimize common short-term and permanent therapy side effects. These new patents are the result of interdisciplinary collaboration within Boise State. Boise State is continuing work to bring these inventions to the medical community to improve patient care and cancer outcomes.
- Three faculty members – **Alex Punnoose, Denise Wingett and Henry Charlier** -- were recognized in the Early-Stage Innovation category for their outstanding work related to finding a better way to treat cancer at the 2010 Idaho Innovation Awards.
- The newly formed **Energy Efficiency Research Institute** is an initiative within CAES, **led by John Gardner.** EERI is an important interdisciplinary collaboration both between the Idaho universities, INL and industry including Idaho Power and Micron. The EERI will contribute to research, integration and deployment of energy efficiency technologies.
- For the third consecutive year, Boise State will send an interdisciplinary research team of students and faculty to **NASA's Microgravity University** this June at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The foundation of their study is the serious issue of bone density loss suffered by astronauts who endure long periods of weightlessness.
- The **2011-2012 Arts & Humanities Fellowship Recipients** will be announced shortly. This is the second year of the competition, sponsored by the Division of Research, which is

intended to inform and enrich our understanding of the arts and humanities. Recipients are expected to make their research projects accessible to the campus and surrounding community. They also receive:

- Dedicated space in the Ron and Linda Yanke Family Research Park
 - Relief from all teaching duties for AY 2011-12
 - Relief from all service and committee duties for AY 2011-12
 - Up to \$15,000 in research funding, to be used for travel, materials, or other expenses related to the approved research project
 - **Michael Samball, Music** – who will focus on “Global Perspectives in American Jazz”
 - **Francis Fox, Art** – who will focus on “Art and Technology: Bridging the Gap”
 - **Mitch Wieland, English** -- who will focus his time on writing a novel entitled, “Enka Men”
- In addition to the Arts & Humanities Fellows, the **Ron and Linda Yanke Family Research Park is up and running, with a number tenants moving in this past fall.** The initial occupants include:
 - Office of Sponsored Programs
 - Center for Orthopaedic and Biomechanics Research
 - Energy Efficiency Institute
 - Energy Policy Institute
 - Health Policy Center
 - Story Initiative
 - Extended Studies
 - KBSU Radio Administrative Offices

News from our Colleges – select highlights:

College of Arts & Sciences

- **Hans-Peter Marshall, an assistant professor** in the Department of Geosciences specializing in snow science and glaciology, was awarded the 2010 Young Investigator Award by the American Geophysical Union. The award honors one young scientist a year worldwide for making significant contributions to cryospheric science and technology.

College of Business and Economics

- **Executive MBA program enrollment for fall 2010 was at full capacity. Most recent quality statistics published by the Executive MBA Council (a national organization that rates all EMBA programs worldwide) rate the COBE program higher than our peers (U of Denver, U of Arizona, U of Washington, U of Utah, U of Nevada Las Vegas, and U of Idaho) on all key dimensions (overall performance, overall value, overall quality, and curriculum content).**

- **COBE and the Centre for Creativity and Innovation** conducted a new program with executives from industry, faculty, and graduate students in which "design thinking" approaches were taught and used to solve real "messy" problems that four major Boise companies needed help solving. This program will be repeated and expanding this summer and next fall.

College of Education

- A Boise State University initiative, supported by a \$296,000 Idaho State Department of Education grant, is helping Idaho's public school teachers regain classroom time that is now used to handle discipline problems. The Idaho Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) project provides free coaching, training and technical help to schools faced with unruly students. Behavior problems can range from verbal abuse, disrespect and defiance to hitting, kicking and fighting. "We show school teams ways to intervene that result in improving students' social behavior," **said John Carter, who coordinates the project through the Center for School Improvement and Policy Studies in the College of Education.** "These evidence-based methods work better than punishment because they focus on teaching students what to do rather than punishing negative behavior."

College of Health Sciences

- Dr. Uwe Reischl, professor of public health in the College of Health Sciences, was named **Health Care Hero by the Idaho Business Review.** Dr Reischl has a very active research agenda dealing with a variety of public health topics that have benefited individuals within the Treasure Valley, the United States and internationally. His research deals with topics such as asthma management, spine compression assessment, protective clothing and formaldehyde deduction.

College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs

- Based on new census data, many Western states will see changes in their legislative representation. **Gary Moncrief in Political Science serves as editor for his new book, Redistricting in the West, which includes contributing scholars from across the country.** The authors will offer a workshop for students and the community in April. The book will be published by Lexington Press.
- **Cities, Sagebrush, and Solitude: Confronting the Policy Challenges of the Great Basin is an interdisciplinary book co-edited by Stephanie Witt, professor of Public Policy and Administration and Dennis Judd from the University of Illinois. It includes faculty from history, political science, and communication tackling key issues in the urban west.**

College of Engineering

- **Michelle Sabick, Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, was appointed the university's first technology transfer fellow.** As co-director of the Center for Orthopaedic and Biomechanics Research, Sabick has worked on industry-backed research for Johnson & Johnson, TenXsys, Inc. and the NFL. She will spend 40 percent of her time finding promising ideas and encouraging professors to turn research into marketable products. Sabick's fellowship is modeled on a program at the University of Kentucky that directs faculty to visit the laboratories of their peers and identify promising technology.
- **Civil Engineering Chair Bob Hamilton** received the 2010 Idaho Excellence in Engineering Educator Award from the Idaho Society of Professional Engineers.

Graduate College

- Last fall, I announced significant growth in our graduate student numbers. I can now officially report that Boise State has the largest full-time graduate student population among public universities in Idaho – with 1,322 students. We grew over the past year by over 15 percent and have grown almost 60 percent in the last four years.

Extended Studies

- The Osher Institute is introducing hundreds of people annually to the university and its talented faculty, like Dr. Steven Olsen-Smith, Dr. Tara Penry, and Dr. Ross Burkhart, all of whom are teaching Osher short courses this spring in beautiful new rooms at the Yanke facility. Even Boise State students are getting involved, working with Dr. Rob Anson on an intergenerational learning experiment surrounding Computer Literacy for Seniors. Further, the Bernard Osher Foundation in San Francisco, which has given Boise State a \$1 million endowment to help grow the Osher Institute, recently gave Boise State University an additional \$50,000 to award in scholarships to our students, with the possibility of it, too, becoming a \$1 million endowment.
- With Boise State already delivering 10 percent of its credit hours online and students calling for more, we must examine the role distance education should play at this institution and develop a plan that positions us for that future. A committee, led by Health Sciences Dean Tim Dunnagan and Distance Education Director Janet Atkinson, will be developing a distance education strategic plan. This effort will work in parallel with the Technology and Learning Task Force (spearheaded by Max Davis-Johnson and Susan Shadle – contact them for more info).

University Libraries

- The Library, the Provost's Office, and the School of Social Work are working together to pilot one of the first projects on campus to investigate the impact library eBook and eResource technologies, coupled with mobile devices, have on student learning. As part of

the project, titled “Enhancing the Library e Experience for Distance and On-campus Students,” students are receiving mobile computing devices (including iPads) for use in their classes, along with an enriched set of electronic books. The pilot project is targeting social work classes being taught simultaneously in Boise and Twin Falls. A key part of the project is a rigorous assessment of the impact of the project on student

- The Library continues to rapidly embrace the digital future for our students and faculty. In 2000, Albertsons Library had access to 350 online journals and a handful of research databases; in 2011, we now have access to over 85,000 eJournals and over 275 major research databases. The Library continues to “Go Mobile,” with a mobile library site, mobile databases, “Text a Librarian,” and other ways for students and faculty to use the library anywhere via mobile devices.

STEM and the STEM Station (Background)

- STEM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, has become a national priority.
- Boise State has responded to the national call for strengthening STEM education by creating the STEM Station, a \$1.24 million NSF project that was launched last semester and will soon open an office in the Academic and Career Services Building
 - Boise State student enrollment in STEM majors and graduate programs has increased by 35 percent over just four years. This places our university in a position of leadership to contribute solutions to this national priority.
- The STEM Station brings together a consortium 14 Boise State NSF STEM education and research grants awarded to Boise State totaling more than \$8 million.
 - The STEM Station has already hosted workshops and symposia to help more than 200 students and faculty get more engaged in STEM teaching and learning.

Information Technology

- **We are planning to rework our computer labs and classroom support model.** We will be consolidating many of our open labs into flexible “super” (larger) labs across the campus. We will be freeing up existing space for classrooms, freeing support staff to focus on college or department support of faculty and staff. At the same time we will not be reducing the number of workstations. We will be providing a more consistent experience for students and we will be reducing our support costs. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months. We are looking to having this in place by the start of the fall semester.
- **Help Desk hours will be expanding from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting this semester. By this fall they will expand to 10 p.m.** This allows us to provide better service to students, faculty, and staff.

Closing

The recent tragedy in Arizona and students coming back to campus next week remind us of the responsibility we all have in helping to identify individuals who need help. We have implemented many changes on campus since the tragedy at Virginia Tech and I want to remind you of the availability of our counseling and security personnel. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you have concerns over behavior. Doing what we can to identify students who need help and assist them to get the help they need can make a significant difference in their lives as well as possibly avoid a future tragic event.

- At this time, we are going to hand over the program to the Chair of our Faculty Senate, Owen McDougal. Owen will be presenting proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution and providing a forum for discussion of those changes. While all are welcome to stay and listen, the pending vote is for faculty members only. Those of you who are members of the professional and classified staff are welcome at this time to leave before the faculty panel discussion commences.

Thank you all for coming, and for all that you do, have a great semester!