

International Times

News from the International Programs Office

Fall 2005
Issue 3

News from the Boise State University Task Force on Internationalization

By Dr. Sabine Klahr, Director International Programs

The Task Force on Internationalization has made significant progress toward developing a plan and recommendations for the integration of an international dimension across the University. Since the Task Force's first meeting in December 2004, the following items have been accomplished:

- Four sub-committees of the Task Force have been established and these committees are open for participation to anyone in the university and the community
- The committees have met a number of times during spring and summer 2005 and are beginning to develop reports
- A vision and mission statement has been developed
- A website has been developed
- Participation in the American Council on Education's internationalization laboratory

In the academic year 2005/06, the executive task force members include:
Sabine Klahr, International Programs, Co-Chair
Michael Blankenship, College of Social
Elisa Barney Smith, Electrical and Computer
Engineering

Kelley Brandt, Admissions
James Cook, Music
Texie Evans, Student
James Ferguson, Mechanical Engineering
Neil Gu, Community Member
Jason Herbeck, Modern Languages
Xabier Irujo Amezaga, Modern Languages
Ellie McKinnon, Extended Studies
Rob Meyer, Student Activities
Mark Plew, Anthropology
Uwe Reischl, Center for Health Policy
Bill Whitaker, Social Work

The sub-committees of the Task Force include:

- Curriculum/Academic Programs/Research
- Student Affairs
- Marketing
- Community Partnerships

It is not too late to participate in the sub-committees! Feel free to contact Sabine Klahr if you are interested. We welcome participation from throughout the university and local community. To remain updated on Task Force activities, please access the following website:

<http://www2.boisestate.edu/vpaa/internationalization/index.shtml>



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1136 Euclid
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**If you are interested in participating in the
Internationalization Task Force
please contact Sabine Klahr,
sklahr@boisestate.edu**

Governor's Trade Mission to Asia By Dr. Sabine Klahr, Director International Programs

In May 2005, Governor Kempthorne led a trade mission to Asia with a delegation of approximately 40 representatives from state government, industry, and education. I traveled with the delegation to Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, and Shanghai as the representative for Boise State University. The delegation also traveled to Taipei as their last destination prior to returning to Idaho.

My objectives for the trade mission were to develop partnerships with educational consultants to bring more students from Asia to the University and to enhance Boise State's linkages with higher education institutions in Asia. Boise State is pursuing connections with

higher education institutions in Asia for the purpose of collaborative research, faculty and student exchanges, educational and professional training programs at BSU for groups of students and faculty, and recruiting qualified graduate students. In addition, the International Programs Office at Boise State would like to develop professional training programs for international clients from the private sector, combining intensive English language training with professional development.

The next trade mission will take place in early December when Governor Kempthorne is leading a delegation to Mexico. 

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New Memoranda of Understanding with International Partners By Dr. Sabine Klahr, Director International Programs

Boise State University recently signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to enter into a partnership with the following organizations, governments, or universities:

Basque Government, Basque Country

For the establishment of a Basque Studies Program at Boise State for which the Basque Government is providing partial funding.

Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange, Beijing, China

For cooperation on a variety of initiatives designed to bring Chinese students and professionals to Boise State for cultural exchange and specialized training programs.

The Center is affiliated with the Ministry of Education in China and promotes international exchange and study to Chinese students and professionals.


Kainan University, Luzhu, Taiwan

For cooperation designed to develop joint cultural, academic, research, and faculty exchange programs.

Kainan University offers academic programs in Business, Transportation & Tourism, Information Technology and Management, and the Humanities.


University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule) – Heidelberg, Germany

For cooperation designed to develop student and faculty exchange programs as well as short-term academic and teaching opportunities in business.

Fachhochschule-Heidelberg is a private university offering an innovative business degree program with integrated practical experience in one of the most beautiful small cities in Germany. 

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Boise State Students Study Art in Japan By Ellie McKinnon, Assistant to the Dean of Extended Studies

Eleven students and their professor, John Francis, of Boise State's Art Department extended their study of design while traveling in Japan this summer. While there, they explored three Japanese cities, Nagoya, Kyoto, and Tokyo, experiencing the culture through homestays and while exploring museums, temples, gardens and castles. They increased their understanding of design via visits to private studios and design centers. They were able to meet designers at the Toyota Automobile Museum, examine ancient and modern design Nagoya's International Design Center, attend a kimono show, and visit publishing and industrial design houses. We promise first hand accounts of their experience and photos in an upcoming issue. 



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Annual Study Abroad Fair

Do you want to study in another country as a Boise State student?

We'll show you how!



Come to the third annual
Boise State Study Abroad Fair
Wednesday, September 28, 10:00 – 3:00 pm
Student Union Jordan Ballroom.

The fair will highlight all the study abroad opportunities available to Boise State students throughout the world.

Students will have the opportunity to talk with faculty, program

representatives, advisors and returned study abroad students. Financial aid and scholarship information will be available and representatives from the Boise State Financial Aid Office will be on hand to discuss study abroad financial aid availability. There will also be information about international opportunities available to Boise State faculty and staff.



Boise State Students Receive Study Abroad Scholarships

Students often think they cannot afford to study abroad, however, there are a number of awards available for students with need. Boise State students have been very successful in receiving competitive national scholarships for study abroad and for the Fall 2005 several students received awards.

Gilman Scholarship

Two Boise State students have received the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for study abroad.

Micaela Fisher, a senior English and Philosophy major has received \$4,000 for her studies in Lima, Peru for the Fall term.

Toby Baigrie, a junior Education major has received \$5,000 to study Puntarenas, Costa Rica with the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

The Gilman award is funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The award allows students with demonstrated financial need to study abroad. The Gilman scholarship aims to

support students who have been traditionally under represented in study abroad, including but not limited to, students with high financial need, students in underrepresented fields such as the sciences and engineering, students with diverse ethnic backgrounds, students with disabilities, and students of nontraditional age. The program seeks to assist students from a diverse range and type of public and private institutions from all 50 states.

Award recipients are chosen by a competitive selection process and must use the award to defray eligible study abroad costs. These costs include program tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare.

The International Programs Office administers approximately \$30,000 in funding for study abroad scholarships. Students should not let fears of funding hold them back from studying abroad. Please contact the International Programs Office for an application, assistance or more information 426-3652.



Interview with a Study Abroad Student

Brandi Bailey, Semester at Sea.

Brandi studied abroad during the Spring 2005 term on the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program.

What is your major?

I am majoring in Elementary Education and Social Science. I took classes to fulfill my social science degree requirements while on the ship.

Where did you study abroad?

I studied onboard a ship that traveled around the world. I traveled from Vancouver, Canada to Hawaii, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, India, Kenya, South Africa, Brazil and Venezuela and returned to Fort Lauderdale, United States

When did you go abroad?

I left from Boise on January 12th, 2005 and returned into Fort Lauderdale on April 28th, 2005.

How did you pick that program?

I saw a flyer on one of the bulletin boards on campus a few years ago. I thought having a multi-country

experience would really help me to have a broader understanding of how other societies function within our world

What was it like living on the ship?

I loved shipboard life and it is probably what I miss the most. It is amazing to wake up every morning and see the vastness of the ocean! I also made friendships that will last a lifetime. There are so many memories that only certain people can relate to, it is such a special connection with someone when you say, "remember that rickshaw ride in India" or "crossing the street in Vietnam!" and they know exactly what you are talking about and they understand that unless you were there it is impossible to truly understand.

Tell us about the adventure in Hawaii (with the ship's mechanical issues)

The ocean was rough from the moment we left Vancouver, for ten days everyone was seasick and falling out of their beds at night. Then one night a really bad storm hit and a sixty-foot wave smashed into our ship. It broke out a window in the bridge and destroyed all of our electrical and navigational equipment. We also lost engine power in 3 of the 4 engines. With this kind of loss we were forced to divert from our course headed to Korea to seek repairs in Hawaii. I definitely found a new appreciation for the ocean and how powerful it truly is! However, if you ever have to pick a place to end up ship wrecked with a bunch of new friends, Hawaii is a great option.

What stands out in your mind about the countries you visited?

People are truly the same anywhere you go. All people love their children and want the best for them. I spent a night in a *Dalit* (untouchables) village in India where the people had never had contact with American or European people. People who had literally nothing by western standards were willing to give whatever they had (a watermelon from their garden or a *bindi* from their forehead) to be hospitable. This was true in every country I visited. No matter how little the people had they found reasons to smile and help you in any way they could.

What would you tell other students thinking about studying abroad?

Do it! No matter where you go it is truly life changing. You learn so much about yourself and how you fit into the world. Also, traveling is not about the sights that you see, but the people that you meet.

Is there anything else you think students should know about studying abroad?

It is worth the money and all the planning. If I could go back in my college career I would have made time to go on Semester at Sea and spend a semester in one country. After traveling in so many varied countries I have the confidence to travel independently and feel like I learned more in 100 days than what I have learned in four years at Boise State. 🇺🇸



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Report from Italy By Prof. Michael Bixby, Department of Management

Last fall I taught in Turin (Torino), Italy through the USAC (University Studies Abroad Consortium) program. I have done this twice before—in San Sebastian, Spain in 1994 and Santiago, Chile in 1999—about once every five years. USAC is really growing and now has more than 20 sites around the world where American and other university students can go to spend a semester abroad.

The first night in Torino we all stayed in a hotel downtown. We had a welcome meeting that evening, met the USAC staff (four people) and had dinner together. The next morning we met again, and the staff led us on a walk around the center of the city. Later in the day we all got on a large bus, and were taken to our various apartments, scattered around the city. Sharon (my wife) and I moved into a nice, large two-bedroom apartment with two balconies located on a busy street only about two blocks from the university building where our classes were held. Several buses and trams ran along our street every few minutes. The good news is that we could easily get downtown and all over the city—the bad news is they run most of the night, which made it quite noisy.

We both studied Italian at the university, which helped in the street, at shops and in restaurants. Sharon took two full semester courses in Italian, and I went when I could. Torino is not a tourist mecca, and unlike Florence or Rome, people don't immediately start speaking English when we started talking—there was not much English spoken in normal shops/restaurants.

Food is an important part of the Italian life, as most of you know. The people know and care about where each item comes from, and its history. Food preparation is an important part of the daily life, and meals are a social event as well as just eating. So going out to a favorite restaurant with friends, or being invited to someone's home, is a big deal. We were fortunate to do so on several occasions. Sharon also took a great Italian cooking class along with eight students, in which they actually cooked a four-course meal of delicious foods at each of the five sessions. She later cooked some of the antipasti, pasta and sauces, meats and desserts at our apartment. Mmmmm.

I taught two classes (in English), which both started in the 3rd week: (1) European Union Law, Structure and Policy; and (2) Legal Issues in International Business. Imagine my surprise when I walked into my first class (European Union) and only 5 of the 20 students were American—the rest were from all over Europe and the world! In my previous USAC teaching, almost all the students were Americans. One student asked, "Why is an American teaching this class?"

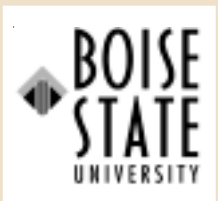
I had to dig deep into teaching techniques learned over 20 years. I explained how USAC chose professors, and what my experience was, and how lucky we were to have so many Europeans who could add much to the class. Fortunately I had made copies of several recent articles on EU issues, and we divided into groups and had a good discussion. Things improved every day, we ended up getting along great, and I really enjoyed the class—we had students from eight different countries, and it was a diverse group. We did lots of group projects and reports and always had lively discussions.

Sharon and I enjoyed exploring Torino. We really liked the city, although the guidebooks give it short shrift (Rick Steves doesn't even mention Torino). The books still focus on its history as Italy's auto capital, and although it is still the home of Fiat, it has much more than cars. It is Italy's 4th largest city, with more than 1 million people and will host the Winter Olympics in early 2006—lots of construction and preparations are underway.

Torino has many fine museums (one of the best Egyptian collections in the world), lots of Baroque architecture, lovely parks, the river Po (largest in Italy), a fine central square (Piazza Castello) surrounded by churches, palaces and fine shops, and of course the "shroud of Turin" is here. And Turin is right at the feet of the Alps—on clear days (and we had great weather) the snow-covered Alps



-Michael Bixby taught abroad with the University Studies Abroad Consortium in Turin (Torino), Italy, during the Fall 2004 term.



loom large in a 180-degree arc to the west and north—only 30 or 40 miles away. Pretty nice! I think that Torino will be “discovered” when the world arrives for the Winter Olympics.

My classes were on Mondays and Thursdays. These are different classes than I teach at Boise State, requiring new preparations and using new books (for me). So I had to spend a good deal of time preparing lectures, assignments and other material during the week. However, we really enjoyed the weekends—as did the students. During the semester we traveled to Rome, Venice, Florence, Siena, Lucca, the Cinque Terre, Aosta, Milan, as well as day trips to several smaller towns and other sites of interest near Torino. We also were lucky to make friends with a few local people who showed us their smaller cities, often with centuries-old churches, museums and other buildings—and the visits were usually preceded or followed by a tremendous meal.

Our adult son Dan and his lady Melissa arrived from Boise for a visit in late October. We went to Rome together for three days, which was lots of fun—we rented an apartment in Piazza Navona, right in the center of the city. One day we did all the Vatican sites—the Museum, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peters. The next day we visited the Coliseum and the Roman Forum. On both days we did a lot of walking all over Rome. What a city! Around every corner there seems to be a fantastic site that is 2000 years old—“Look, there’s the Parthenon.” Sharon and I took the train back to Torino on Sunday (I had to teach my classes on Monday). Dan and Melissa rented a car and explored Tuscany for a few days, staying in a Tuscan villa. When they came back to Torino, they were engaged! It was pretty romantic, just as Dan had planned.

In addition to all the exciting things we are doing, there were the little experiences with “life sure is different” that all international travelers have. I tried to learn to take showers without a shower curtain—we had a tub and a “telephone” type shower, but no curtain or enclosure of any kind—I got the floor wet many times! We gradually figured

out the buses and trains, how to buy tickets, when and where to go, and how to push your way on when necessary. We occasionally thought of our nice cars back home—but we never rented a car during our 4 months in Italy—just used trains and buses.

It is a different experience to do your shopping all in Italian, carrying your bags back to the apartment from the bread store, the meat store, the pastry shop, or the supermarket. Just trying to figure out what kind of meat you are buying takes a little work, and asking for a particular cut of meat, or type of cheese (and ordering the quantity—in grams or kilograms) all in Italian, is a challenge, but Sharon did it well. In addition to grocery shopping, the phones work differently in Italy, and dealing with the post office to send mail or a package can be a challenging experience.

What sort of things surprised us? Well, the number of strikes for one. Every few weeks there was some sort of “sciopero” (strike). The unions, teachers, and other worker groups are still strong in Italy, and the conservative government of Silvio Berlusconi has proposed many cuts in education and public services. So sometimes the buses and train workers strike, for four or five hours or most of one day, and other times the schools are closed down for one day. Although it is an inconvenience (even more so for those of us with bad language skills who may not know that it is coming and plan accordingly) most of the people seem understanding. “Well, the bus drivers have been working over one year with no contract” said one friend, when I whined about the lack of bus service.

So while it was challenging in some ways to live in another country for 4 months, if everything was just like it is at home, we might as well have stayed in Boise. The semester passed quickly and we experienced much more of Italy than we would have as a tourist visiting for a week or two. We actually “lived in Italy.” All in all the time passed quickly, and it was a great experience—one I would recommend to anyone.



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If you are a Boise State faculty member interested in teaching overseas, contact Corrine Henke in the International Programs Office at 426-3652.

The Highlights of Being an International Student Advisor

By Christy Babcock Quintero, International Student Advisor

On many occasion I have been heard professing my love for my job. The reasons for this love affair are numerous: the exotic gifts I receive from countries all over the world (this is the ideal job for someone with a childlike love of presents!), the generous lunch and dinner invitations to eat home-cooked international foods (also the perfect job for someone who loves to indulge in foreign cuisine!), the potential tour guides and complimentary lodging opportunities when I travel the world, the puzzling challenges of reading between the lines of immigration law, and above all the precious cross-cultural friendships I make each year.

A favorite aspect of my job is organizing student activities, in part because I enjoy showing the students what a great state we live in, in addition to the opportunity it gives me to go snow-shoeing, hot-springing, or hiking while “on the clock”! Although at times coordinating student events feels like herding cats and I must practice great patience while remembering that the concept of time for some cultures may be very different than my concept of time, it tends to be an extremely rewarding experience. I have found the students to be truly appreciative of and actively involved in the experiences I create for them. And even when I commit the occasional faux pas, such as taking a group, half of which was either vegetarian or vegan,

to dinner at a cowboy bar in Idaho City, which sported a menu of meat, meat, and more meat, my students always seem to forgive me. The adventures have been numerous, but below are some of the highlights:

The gathering of 20+ international students in the Table Rock Café kitchen chopping, stirring, baking and frying menu items for the annual festival, the sincere awe in the students’ eyes and their shrieks of excitement as we round a bend and spy literally 100s of elk posing in a meadow, and hearing “Happy Birthday” sung in succession 8 different times in 8 different languages are among my favorite memories. Witnessing the creation of the first international BSU snowman, sculpted by 10 people who had never before touched snow was quite an honor. The gracious guides from the Outdoor Rec Center hadn’t realized that one of their job duties that day would be instructing students on the making of snowmen and snow angels. Observing the IPO staff act out the meaning of Thanksgiving in front of 75 inquiring international minds was certainly entertaining! And finally, the beaming smiles of the cap and gown adorned students (despite the butchering of their names by the announcer) and meeting the proud parents who have traveled so far to attend this momentous celebration is always a wonderfully rewarding end to an adventure-packed school year. 📷

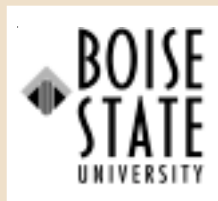
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International Students and McCall-An Annual Adventure!

By Christy Babcock Quintero, International Student Advisor

Every summer IPO plans an international student weekend in McCall. Thanks to my generous and dear friend Ryan Jain, the students have had a complimentary place to stay while they hike, hot spring, and laugh the weekend away every year since 2001. Typically a vanload of 12-15 students with me as their fearless (and at times fearful) leader leaves Boise on a Friday evening destined for Vigilante’s Restaurant in Donnelly. After a delicious meal, students and staff alike jump on stage to participate in the weekly Karaoke event, screeching out the words to

R-E-S-P-E-C-T, dancing out the letters YMCA, and swaying hand in hand to We Are the World. The local rednecks (a term I use with sincere endearment) are always intrigued by our multi-colored group speaking any number of unusual languages. I imagine that they discuss the invasion with friends and family for many days afterwards. This year our lively choir was crushed when upon arrival to Vigilantes we learned that Karaoke Night had been discontinued the previous weekend. (Maybe they knew we were coming!) Because we had no one to sing for, our



Int'l Students & McCall continued from Page 7

evening ended much earlier than in former years. Ryan was pleasantly surprised to see us roll into McCall at a decent hour this year! On Saturday I normally coax whining students out of their sleeping bags at an ungodly hour (such as 10 AM) with a home-cooked breakfast. I then get them out the door to start the day's adventures which consist of any number of activities: long sight-seeing hikes, cold dips in the lake or river, slow relaxing pontoon rides, or death defying jet ski flights. This year, due to



overlooked speed limits, two of our jet-skiers had the pleasure of meeting the Payette Lake patrol officers! Fortunately their endearing accents got them off with just a warning! Our Saturday always ends with a trip to Burgdorf Hot springs, where at

that time of year we are guaranteed to be greeted by large herds of elk of all sizes. Deer and eagles usually grace us with their presence too. After an hour or two of soaking in the hot soothing water, the students fall into a deep trance while I cherish the silent 40-minute drive back to McCall. Sunday morning we may take another shorter hike or check out the shops downtown. The students always chip in with putting Ryan's house back together and lamentingly pack up the van to return to their worlds of classes and homework. Here are what some of our students have to say about the McCall weekend:

Guillaume Pays, France
Mc Call: WOW! I think it's one of the best places to have fun in Idaho.

Saud Almadani, Saudi Arabia
I was amazed when I went to McCall. It is so beautiful and green. The view of the big lake was so attractive. The trip might be only two days but it felt like a week. Can you believe that we get all this for only \$20? There is no travel agency that can compete with this price.

Jude Sawine, Ghana

June 2005 was the second time I made the annual trip to McCall. The first time was a blast so I knew how much fun I would be missing if I failed to go this time. In 2003, my favorite part of the trip was the unique warm restaurant called Vigilante's. After washing down a quarter pound grilled steak with all the goodies, I took over the stage and unleashed a merciless rage of rock and roll using a plastic guitar I found there. It was Karaoke Night! This year there is a tie for my favorite part of the trip; the game of "Sticks and Goggles" ties with the boat ride on Payette Lake. When in McCall we stay at Ryan Jain's, who seems to enjoy every single second around us international students. "Sticks and Goggles" is a silly game that Ryan and his friends invented years ago. When I explain, you might wonder why we think it is so much fun. But I guess you just have to play it to find out. To play this game, one player puts on a pair of ski goggles and the opponent tries to hit the goggles with a stick. The goal is to grab the stick before your opponent hits you in the goggles. It is quite amusing for the spectators.

The boat trip on Payette Lake was wonderful. There was music and munchies and of course, the beautiful scenery. I relaxed at the rear of the boat and watched those who were brave enough to be pulled behind on the inner tube. I also posed for some pictures from well-known professional photographers like James Rono and Antonio Teruel. I am still waiting to see those pictures in Esquire magazine!

Sergey Moraru, Moldova

I want to tell you how amazing and wonderful the McCall trip was.

I enjoyed every second. The boat and the water introduced me to a new reality of beauty. It was very inspirational for me.



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Pictures from the Annual McCall Weekend, June 2005.



Winter Fun

With the assistance of the Outdoor Program staff, international students experience snow-shoeing, snowball fights, and snowman building for the first time! January 2005, near Idaho City.

James Rono, Kenya

I have experienced the rainy season at its harshest and stood at the equator when the sun was overhead, but going snow shoeing with friends for the first time was exhilarating.

Imad Mohammad, India

The snowshoe trip was an amazing experience, something I had never done before. It was a lot of fun and helped me meet new International students.



Linda Lam, China

It's my first time making a snowman; I had a hard time making a round snowball at the beginning.



International Student Interviews

Lamin Kinteh

How did you decide to come to Boise State University?

I decided to come to Boise State University because of the constructive information presented about the University on the Bronco website. As a matter of fact, quite a number of US Universities were on my preliminary list and I chose Boise State because of the speedy efforts of the International admissions co-coordinator, Miss Betty Clark.

What do you like most about BSU and Boise?

The scale of academic support offered by both lecturers and students. The generosity and open arms of the people of Boise State and Boise city always made me feel comfortable everywhere I am. The syllabus and materials presented did really meet my expectations.

What surprised you the most about the US?

BSU is an open resource center for everyone in the community and not only for enrolled students. The community at large has equal access to most facilities around the SUB, well, that is something I always admire and find interesting.

What kind of goals do you have for the future?

My goal is to become a graduate and to find an interesting job in my area of study.

Tell us a little bit about your country.

I was born in Gambia but spent most of my adult life in Sweden, I have had the opportunity of being exposed to multicultural societies (western and black African respectively). Gambia is one of the smallest countries in Africa with a population of approximately 1.7

million people. Gambia is a small strip of land known to be rich in fauna, flora and 35 km of white sand beaches along the Atlantic Ocean.

Sweden is one of the Nordic States with a population of 10 million people and known for very dark and cold winter seasons. The people are usually very relaxed and most significantly known for their political views and socioeconomic policies. It is also one of the most beautiful places to spend a summer vacation. With over a million lakes and islands this makes for a relaxing spot for most people from mainland Europe between the June and September.

What is a major difference between your country and the US?

My first winter in Boise was quite pleasant and lovely compared to what a typical Swedish winter is. Long winter darkness and very low temperatures between October and May is a major difference.

What do you miss most about your country?

The national and international soccer leagues played at this time of the year. However, I have been to all Bronco home games during the last season and that has really given me a kick. I have also been to a couple of local high school football games. Because of this I have really begun to

have a love of football.

Which languages do you speak?

English, Swedish, Norwegian, Mandingo and Wolof.

Where have you traveled? (In the US or abroad)

I have traveled quite a lot around Europe and Africa for leisure and visits to relatives and friends. My first trip to the US was six months before I started at Boise State. My last Christmas break was in Eugene, Oregon and Las Vegas. 🇺🇸



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Mark your Calendars

International Food, Song and Dance Festival
February 11, 2006

Fahad Pervez

How did you decide to come to Boise State University?

In 2002, I was looking at different colleges in USA to pursue my higher education. My cousin who works for Micron was pursuing his MBA at BSU. He told me good things about BSU. I went online and checked out boisestate.edu. I liked what they had to offer and applied for admission.

What do you like most about BSU and Boise?

Boise is a place that has both the characteristic of a big city and small town. Boise and surroundings offer so much. In the summer, there is plenty of outdoor stuff to do and in the winter, there is Bogus Basin for skiing and snowboarding. The thing that I like most about BSU is the small class structure and the individual attention students receive. People are friendly here and willing to help. I have made a lot of friends through the International Programs Office and the staff at IPO has helped me tremendously in understanding the culture at BSU. Overall my experience at BSU and Boise has been great.

What surprised you the most about the US?

I was surprised how different the culture is. Back home everybody thinks of USA like shown on MTV or VH1. I was surprised to learn the actual values and culture is much different than shown on TV. Another surprise was the food. It was hard for me to get used to food here.

What kind of goals do you have for the future?

In the future I hope to graduate from Boise State and get some industry experience in the field of finance/accounting. After that, I would like to go home and apply what I have learned here to contribute in a positive way to the society.

Tell us a little bit about your country.

I come from Pakistan. It's a country in the South-Asian Subcontinent near India and Iran. It's about the size of California. It has four provinces (states). Each province has something different to offer. Pakistan has all four climates. In the south, you can find tropical/dry heat and the terrain is more like Arizona/Utah.. In the north you can find cold and extreme weather and much more vegetation. Did you know the world's second

largest peak K-2 is in Pakistan. I come from Karachi which is in the southern province of Sindh and is the biggest city in Pakistan (approx 13 million people). Karachi is to Pakistanis what New York is to Americans. It is the industrial, commercial, economical business hub of Pakistan and attracts people from all over the country and world.

What is a major difference between your country and the US?

There are so many differences such as culture and infrastructure, to name a few. I would say the biggest is infrastructure. Educational/ social systems are much different which is understandable because the cultures are different.

What do you miss most about your country?

I think the biggest thing about my country would be, well my family and friends first, but after that the food. If you have ever had Pakistani food, you would know what I'm talking about. But seriously my mom's chicken biryani is the bomb!

Which languages do you speak?

Well my native language is Urdu, the national language of my country. It used to be an army code language back in the Mogul emperor days in India. It is a very soft and poetic language. I also know Punjabi, which is commonly spoken in the biggest province of Pakistan. English is my third language. I learned to write in Pakistan English because most of the education in arts and sciences is in English and it is also the official/governmental language. However, I started speaking English only when I arrived at BSU.

Where have you traveled? (In the US or abroad)

I have been to the Arabian Peninsula in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. In the US, I have visited Las Vegas, San Francisco, and Utah.



Peninah Mwangi

How did you decide to come to Boise State University?

I have good friends of mine from Kenya who have been in Idaho for quite some time now. They informed me that Boise State University is a good school and worth giving a shot, so I decided to come. Several years later, I'm still at Boise State University and I love it.

What do you like most about BSU and Boise?

I'd probably have to say the friendly folks.

Boise is a place where you feel welcome and you have people genuinely smiling at you wherever you meet them, be it at the store or in the park. With regards to BSU, there are too many things that I like about it. BSU is placed right at the heart of downtown Boise so one gets access to a lot of things. You have a ski resort at Bogus Basin, Boise River where water rafting is always fun, and

entertainment such as movie theatres, restaurants, museums, the zoo, etc. Also, BSU has excellent faculty and always has activities around the school that keep one entertained and challenged. The list of advantages concerning Boise is endless.

What surprised you the most about the US?

The American people's love of pets.

What kind of goals do you have for the future?

I'm considering undertaking a Masters course in the near future.

Tell us a little bit about your country.

Kenya has approximately 46 different tribes, all speaking different dialects. Kiswahili is the national language. Kenya is rich in culture and the people are very warm and friendly. Tourism earns the country a lot of foreign income not only because of the diversity of cultures but also because of the beautiful white beaches and wildlife. If you're wondering where to spend your next vacation, consider Kenya.

What is a major difference between your country and the US?

Time. People in the US seem to be way too busy.

What do you miss most about your country?

My family. I miss them lots.

Which languages do you speak?

English, Kiswahili & Kikuyu

Where have you traveled? (In the US or abroad)

I've traveled to Alabama, Atlanta, Baltimore, California, Chicago, Colorado, Seattle, Washington DC, Wisconsin & Tanzania.



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An International Affair by James Rono

James is an international student from Kenya pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering

As an international student you tend to have varied experiences depending on what you have gone through to get here. It becomes apparent that the path most of us have chosen is very promising but also laden with many challenges. The first step, our several thousand mile journey to get to Boise State University, seems to be the hardest. Once we arrive and become accustomed to the culture and the way of life, we discover that first step was just the beginning in a series of steps that will mold us into the people we will become in the future.

Emerson once said that what lies behind and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. It is that train of thought I would like to explore in this article. To those on the path of their dreams, there comes a time when you take an inventory of the things you have achieved, enjoyed, and aspired to acquire. Since education is what brought us here, the ultimate goal at Boise State is to graduate and use the knowledge we have learned when we return to our home countries. The ingredients for such a successful finish are simple: ambition and determination, which is evident in the fact we made it this far. But, that goal is inadequate. We acquire more than just an education. Throughout our stay we interact with each other and the Boise State community, and the results of such interactions sometimes change our perspective on loyalty, understanding, tolerance and friendship. It is through these interactions that we get to know and appreciate diversity.

One of the greatest assets international students have here is the International Programs Office (IPO) and the International Student Advisor Christy Babcock Quintero. Through IPO you gain all the information that you need about Boise State. An optional feature that the office offers are host families. Host families provide international students with guidance and help make their introduction into the American culture as pleasant as possible. I enjoy spending time with my host family. They have been and will continue to be an inspiration in my life. I cherish the insight they have given me into the American culture and Boise.

The International Programs Office organizes many activities that get international

students involved in the community and gives us an opportunity to see what Boise has to offer. One of the events we organize is the International Food, Song and Dance Festival. The success of the festival is not only measured by monetary gain, but also by the remarkable teamwork that goes into planning and organizing it. In the hectic schedule that makes the day a success, I was glad to note that the relationship among the international students, an aspect so often overlooked, was played out with grace and enjoyable cooperation. Being a part of the cooking team, I was amazed at how much the act of dipping pieces of chicken into herbs and spices could inspire delightful conversations and forge friendships that transcend international boundaries.

Activities such as field trips planned by the IPO are usually aimed at getting the students to interact with each other and take a break from studying. Trips to McCall for jet skiing or guided snow shoe adventures led by the proficient BSU Outdoor Rec Center are just a few activities that increase the students' awareness of the natural beauty around us.

I expect our time of study in the States to be a pivotal point in our lives. I look forward to it being a continuation of the steady and gradual molding of the people we inspire to be. Furthermore, I am hopeful that all the international students here at Boise State will be successful. What I will treasure most about this experience are the friends I have made. Those that I have worked, studied, and played with have really helped me in ways I cannot explain on pen and paper. In all my wildest dreams I did not expect this to be a part of the package that encompassed studying at BSU. 🇰🇪



A Quick Glance In The Mirror

By Erich White, Intensive English Program Coordinator

There are as many different ways to benefit from a multicultural, internationalized campus as there are students and staff here at Boise State University. Our international students and visitors come to our university to learn, of course, and by their very presence can't help teaching us about themselves – their lives, cultures, values, and views of the world. As members of the campus community, we value these opportunities to learn about people and places we might otherwise never experience, and to add this knowledge to the sum of wide-ranging learning that defines a true university.

But one less obvious role our international colleagues play is to reflect back to us, like a well-polished mirror, new views of ourselves. This past spring semester, with the help of local businesses, government agencies and community members, Boise State University again hosted a group of graduate students from the International Trade Institute in Taiwan. These students served for two months as full-time, unpaid interns in local businesses, and experienced life through American eyes living with local families throughout their stay. Two comments from these sophisticated citizens of the world, during their first few days in Idaho, brought home to me one way in which our self-image tends to be a bit cocky, and another in which we take for granted a gift not so common in the modern world.

Today's Boise considers itself, quite rightly, as an important center of cutting edge technology and engineering – but in some ways we aren't nearly as far ahead of the pack as we like to think. After our Taiwanese interns' first weekend with their host families, I asked the group if they'd had a chance to send an email or two to families and friends back home. There was a sudden flurry of glances and grins between the students, and I finally received a long, drawn-out “Yesss....” One of the students looked up and said, “Erich, do you realize that these people actually connect to the internet using telephones?” Her tone held the same incredulity that we might use describing

someone who commutes from Eagle or Meridian each day in a horse-drawn carriage. Apparently even those hosts with DSL service somehow struggle through broadband life at a much slower pace than Taiwanese have been accustomed to for some years now. It's a good reminder that while we tend to see our selves as technological top dogs, the view is very different from other places on the planet.

My second wake-up moment came later that same morning, while discussing the students' adjustment to American food and eating habits. One intern was quite apprehensive about the morning tea & coffee at her home. “My host mom just uses top water, so I'm scared to drink the tea.” I was completely lost, until she clarified “No, no, tap water – from the kitchen sink. I can't drink that – it isn't safe.” The whole group seemed surprised as I explained that in Boise – in most of the country, for that matter – tap water is perfectly safe for drinking or any other purpose, which is definitely not the case everywhere in Taiwan (one of the most intensely industrialized countries on the planet). Like so much of Idaho's natural and relatively unspoiled beauty, clean tap water struck the students as a delightfully unexpected pleasure.

So, for me, that was one brief morning's case study in why it is so important for us to spend time with people from other places and perspectives – not just to study from them or to share what we have, but also to see who we are: sometimes too smug about our material wealth and status, but lucky enough to live in one of the most naturally gifted locations the world has to offer. 🇺🇸



Ten graduate students from the International Trade Institute in Taiwan grin for the camera at the Cottonwood Grill.



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