The Varsity B Spring 2014 newsletter is offered as an electronic document. We plan to print some copies for the Varsity B members who do not have email. We believe that this format will actually better serve the membership as we can add more information without incurring significant printing costs.

Let us know what you think by sending an email to: varsityb@boisestate.edu

You can also post a comment on the Varsity B Facebook page.

The Peterson Preco Plaza sits quietly between the Taco Bell Arena and Bronco Gym.

**Varsity B Assists in Updating Preco Plaza**

*By Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Coordinator*

The Preco Plaza, which sits quietly between the Taco Bell Arena and Bronco Gym on the Boise State campus, has long been a very busy thoroughfare for many Bronco students and student-athletes. The display plaques which adorn the Preco Plaza recognize all Bronco student-athletes who have graduated from Boise State. Dating back to the 1930’s, Bronco student-athletes have been working hard to earn their Boise State degrees, staying the course while competing in their respective field of play.

Recently, the Varsity B has agreed to help support the plaque updating process which has become very expensive for Bronco Life Skills and the academic support team. The Varsity B feels that this is a worthy project to continue, since it really emphasizes Boise State’s priority in supporting the student-athletes in achieving degree completion.

Not only is it important to recognize our graduating student-athletes, it is also noteworthy to acknowledge the Boise State Athletic Academic Services, who have been instrumental in helping Boise State athletics remain in the top 10% of the nation for APR (academic progress rate).

More Bronco student-athletes are successfully completing their degrees than ever before and that is something the Varsity B would like to celebrate!

– Go Broncos!

The student-athletes from the spring 2014 graduation class are new Varsity B members and ready to Attack the Future!
2014 Gridiron Social...

By Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Coordinator

THE 2014 ANNUAL SPRING BRONCO football reunion included over 350 former Bronco football alumni student-athletes, who gathered to welcome Coach Bryan Harsin and his staff as they get ready to Attack the Future.

The spring reunion weekend started on a more somber note, as many former Broncos celebrated the life of fallen Bronco Randy Trautman (1978-1981). Randy passed away unexpectedly on March 1st, 2014. On Thursday, April 10th, several of Randy’s teammates were present to pay their respects and to celebrate the true Bronco that Randy Trautman was.

Coach Harsin wanted to change the format of the annual Gridiron Social this year and invited the alumni to the new Bleymaier Football Center on Friday April 11th. First, the alumni enjoyed watching the varsity football squad go through the final practice of spring ball. At the end of practice Hall of Fame defensive tackle, Doug Scott (1976-1979), spoke about the impact that Randy Trautman had on the Boise State football program. The word “intense” was repeated more than a few times, describing Trautman’s style of play while at Boise State. Then, current NFL star Quintin Mikell (1998-2002), spoke about his thoughts on being a Bronco in the NFL and shared his words of wisdom with the large crowd of alumni and the varsity football team in the middle of the Blue.

The Gridiron was very successful and many first time attendees are already making plans to attend next year’s social. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 10th, 2015.

A special thank you to Kauhi Hookano who donated unique “Attack the Future” Varsity B shirts for the Gridiron Social event. Kauhi has owned and operated Morning Sun Shirt Co. in Garden Grove, CA, for the past 25 years. Thanks Kauhi!

— Go Broncos!

PHOTO 1: Coach Bryan Harsin (third from left) greets former Broncos Jim McMillan, Greg Palin and Glenn Doty at practice prior to the 2014 Gridiron Social.
PHOTO 2: Former Bronco Doug Scott (1976-1979) addresses the entire group of alumni and varsity, describing the impact of Randy Trautman, who recently passed away.
PHOTO 3: Former Bronco great Quintin Mikell (1998-2002) also spoke to the group and offered a few words of wisdom from his 11 years in the NFL.
PHOTO 4: Former Broncos, Bob Bruce, Everett Carr, Greg Palin and Kauhi Hookano had a blast at the 2014 Gridiron Social.
The Passing of a Former Bronco

RANDY TRAUTMAN, 1960-2014

Randy Trautman passed away in his sleep on March 1st, 2014, at the age of 53.

Randy played football at Boise State from 1978 to 1981, and was the only Boise State football student-athlete to be elected to the College Football Hall of Fame. He was inducted in 2000.

Trautman was a member of the 1980 I-AA National championship team, and also was named an Associated Press All-American in both 1980 and 1981. He was the Big Sky Conference defensive player of the year in 1981. Trautman was inducted into the Boise State Hall of Fame in 1990.

“He was probably as good as anybody that ever put a uniform on,” said Chris Doyle, who graduated alongside Trautman from Caldwell High in 1978, before both joined the football team at Boise State. “You can’t take anything away from his ability to play football. He was as good as there’s ever been.”

Trautman was drafted by the Washington Redskins in the ninth round of the 1982 NFL Draft before eventually playing for the Canadian Football League’s Calgary Stampeders from 1982-85.

He returned to the Boise area following his playing career and worked in the construction industry. But Randy battled a number of health issues in the months preceding his death, including a bout with a serious case of pneumonia last summer.

Randy will be missed by the entire Bronco Nation.
LYLE SMITH TURNED 98 YEARS YOUNG

by Tom Scott

On St. Patrick’s Day. And it seems we appreciate him more every day. When we think of Lyle, we automatically think, “Father of Bronco Football.” Which he was. After all, he coached Boise Junior College from 1947-67 and amassed a career record of 156-26-6, with five undefeated seasons, 51 shut-outs, a 37-game winning streak, and the Broncos’ original national championship—in the JC ranks in 1958. After stepping down as coach after the 1967 season, he became full-time athletic director as BJC evolved into Boise State, and he became so much more to so many people. His first big hire was football coach Tony Knap. “Nuff said there. But Lyle was charged with transitioning all Boise State sports from the junior college ranks to the NAIA level to NCAA membership in the span of three years. He oversaw the Broncos’ entry into the Big Sky in 1970, a big move for the startup program. All the way through the 1970s, women’s sports were emerging, and Smith presided over a burgeoning women’s program that included basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, tennis, field hockey and track and field. They ceased being club sports and were absorbed into the athletic department. Smith’s most visible women’s colleague was Connie Thorngren, who served as women’s athletic director and basketball coach. Oh, and volleyball and track and field coach. She led the Lady Broncos to the Northwest Small College women’s basketball championship in 1970 and the AIAW national tournament in 1975. Thorngren retired in 1983 with a career hoops record of 179-121. Smith and Thorngren worked their way through Boise State’s first Title IX initiative in 1978, laying the groundwork for improvements in funding, practice time and travel for women’s athletics. On the men’s side, Smith’s department included basketball, tennis, golf, cross country, track and field, wrestling, baseball, and even skiing. The latter was eliminated after the 1975 season when the Big Sky dropped the sport, but not before Billy Shaw won a national championship in slalom in 1974. Then there was baseball. Smith continued to coach baseball at Boise State through 1973, and one of the most painful things he had to do as AD was eliminate baseball after the 1980 season due to budget cuts. Smith retired in 1981, and as a measure of the love the university and community had for him, the Lyle Smith Golf Classic was formed that spring and flourishes to this day. As does Lyle.
HOMETOWN: (Where did you grow up and where do you live?) Grants Pass, OR. I currently live in Meridian, ID.

DEGREES: Bachelor of Science Health Sciences Boise State University, Physical Therapist Assistant Associate of Applied Science Idaho State University.

FAMILY: Married almost 17 years to Curtis Stoehr with two boys, Jacob 6 years, Ryan 3 years.

JOB: Physical Therapist Assistant with MultiCare Home Health in Meridian, ID.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Graduation day, having a degree in my hand knowing I had made it through my first four years of schooling.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: My fondest memories were traveling with the team, exchanging secret sister gifts before each meet, listening to the poems and songs we would write about each other to encourage our best effort and calm our nerves. I love to laugh and that was by far the best calming medicine.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: The Student Union Building, I could always find a quite place tucked away to study or several friends to talk with if I didn’t want to study.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? The campus is hardly recognizable since I left in 1998. All the beautiful new buildings and growth is wonderful for the students. The only building I will never forget is Chaffee Hall Dormitory. It was my home for two years while going to school.

Athletics at Boise State have exploded. I am so proud to have been a part of the building blocks that now make up Boise State athletics. Each sport has soared to the next level making a unique contribution in their conference and showing the rest of the nation what Boise State has to offer. The level of athlete that BSU can now recruit, given its history in conference wins and championship level competition, is phenomenal. Each year I love to see what Boise State can do and watch the athletes rise to the challenge over and over again. I will forever be proud of where I chose to spend my four years and will forever be a Bronco.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: I appreciated the positive culture Sam Sandmire, Bill Steinbach and Tina Bird created. Workouts were hard but there were plenty of laughs to make it worth the countless hours we spent in that gymnastics gym together. Together, those three coaches transformed an average club gymnast into a four year competitor on a collegiate gymnastics team.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? On July 25, 1998, the summer after I graduated, I married my best friend and love of my life, Curtis Stoehr. We lived in Blackfoot, ID, for three years while I went to school at Idaho State University and Curtis worked at the Southeast District Health Department as an Environmental Health Specialist. We moved to Meridian in 2001, where we bought a home and have lived for 13 years. I have worked as a Physical Therapist Assistant for 13 years in the Treasure Valley and Curtis has worked for the State of Idaho for a total of 18 years. We have two wonderfully energetic boys, Jacob and Ryan, that love soccer, football, riding bikes, fishing, and anything in the great Idaho outdoors.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? Boise State takes care of their athletes. I loved how I was treated as a student-athlete. From the first day I set foot on campus I was directed toward the resources I needed to succeed and given all the encouragement from coaches and academic staff to make it happen. I knew everyone wanted me to be the best student-athlete I could be and leave with experiences that I would remember for a lifetime.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? Football

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I think the Varsity B is a wonderful way to keep Alumni connected. The Varsity B supports its past and present athletes and shows them how they will forever be a part of a community once they graduate from Boise State.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? I am proud to announce to anyone, I am a Bronco! Choosing Boise State was the best thing I could have done and I feel I am forever a part of a community. – Go Broncos!
Boise State senior gymnasts have made the most of their time at Boise State. Please help welcome Alessandra Cinfio, Amanda Otuafi and Kelsey Black to the Varsity B!

Cheer and Mane Line: Connor Sheldon, Skylar Harris, Shelby Kiersey and Sheila Lamar say farewell to early morning practices and “Hello” to the Varsity B.

Women tennis seniors Anissa Bryant-Swift, Morgan Basil, and Sandy Vo are recognized prior to their last home match of their Bronco careers.

Men’s tennis seniors: Nathan Sereke, Aidan Reid, and Andy Bettles leave Boise State as the 2014 Mountain West Champions.

Five Bronco softball seniors: Megan Harvey, Rebecca Patton, Tara Glover, Mackenzie Whyte and Brittany McCray are all smiles before the final weekend at Dona Larsen Park.

Boise State senior gymnasts have made the most of their time at Boise State. Please help welcome Alessandra Cinfio, Amanda Otuafi and Kelsey Black to the Varsity B!
The Varsity B’s mission is to encourage and promote the heritage, traditions, and success of Boise State student-athletes and Boise State athletics for all Broncos; to honor the legacy, and preserve the qualities that represent being a Boise State Bronco.
since graduating, this was my first alumni meet, and it was everything I had hoped it would be (and more!). Campus has grown by about five academic buildings and two athletic complexes. I think I could actually feel the value of my degree go up when I stepped on campus and saw how ‘big time’ Boise State has become.

I’m actually not sure if this group of alumni could have had more fun without the BPD getting involved, yet somehow we all got up on time to swim at the meet on Saturday morning. And let’s be honest, after watching me swim, I’m sure Coach Hill went straight to compliance to try to scrape out another year of eligibility.

It was a great trip – easily the best part was catching up with old teammates. Seems like we’ve all settled in across the continent and are actually becoming productive members of society, which is something we were maybe all worried would never happen after our undergrad shenanigans. Overall it was a great weekend, I can’t wait for the next one! My only complaint is that a weekend is too short. Can’t we all just go back for four more years?

– Go Broncos!

Swimming and Diving Host First Alumnae Weekend

By Tara Hahto – 2007-2010

Since graduating, this was my first alumni meet, and it was everything I had hoped it would be (and more!). Campus has grown by about five academic buildings and two athletic complexes. I think I could actually feel the value of my degree go up when I stepped on campus and saw how ‘big time’ Boise State has become.

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– Go Broncos!

Tara Hahto competed for the Broncos from 2007 to 2010. The Canadian from Victoria, BC, completed her masters at TCU and is now back in Canada working as Marketing, Events and Communications Coordinator at Canadian Interuniversity Sport in Ottawa.
Every young golfer does it during the monotony of practice. This putt, they tell themselves, is to win the Masters.

For former Boise State standout and current PGA Tour star Graham DeLaet, those moments came during practice with the Broncos men’s golf team at Warm Springs Golf Club.

“It’s reality now,” he said of his upcoming Masters debut. “It’s been a lot of hard work to get there. There have been a lot of people who helped me along the way. It’s been quite the ride.”

DeLaet, who ranks 30th in the world and 15th in this season’s FedExCup standings, spoke to a crowd of more than 200 on Friday night at the Stueckle Sky Center, where the school held a celebration in his honor.

He won 10 college tournaments at Boise State and took Rookie of the Year (2007) and Player of the Year (2009) honors on the Canadian tour before finding a home on the PGA Tour in 2010.

The 32-year-old will play all four majors this season, starting in two weeks at Augusta National.

It will be a dream come true for a small-town Canadian hockey player who transitioned to golf because of injuries and accepted the best scholarship offer he could find from Boise State’s Mike Young.

“The wrestling coach was the golf coach,” DeLaet said to laughs. “He’s one of my good buddies now. … I really didn’t know what to expect.”

Kevin Burton, a former PGA Tour player, replaced Young in 2005 and mentored DeLaet through the end of his college career and the early stages of his pro career.

A year into his stay in Boise, DeLaet thought he might have a future on the links — but not as a guy with three straight $1 million seasons and 18 career top-10 tournament finishes.

“I don’t know if I ever thought that,” he said, “but I kind of dreamt it.”

He credits Burton for giving him the mind-set and assortment of shots required to succeed on tour. He joked that it took seven or eight years for those lessons to sink in.

“I wouldn’t be here, where I am right now, if it wasn’t for Boise State golf — there’s no question,” he said.

DeLaet, who spends the cold months in Scottsdale, Ariz., and the warm months in Meridian, made a pitch at the event for Boise State’s proposed indoor golf practice facility at Warm Springs. The $500,000 project would include an indoor chipping and putting area and hitting bays that open to the driving range.

“An indoor facility at Boise State would be unbelievable,” DeLaet said. “You would see the program take that next jump, especially for recruiting kids. … To be able to continue to hone your skills all winter long and be able to jump right into a tournament in the spring and be able to play at a high level — that’s the thing that’s really going to take this program to the next level.”

Burton also unveiled the program’s new award — the Graham DeLaet Player of the Year. DeLaet presented it to the 2013 winner, T.K. Kim. Kim recently earned his playing privileges on PGA Tour China.

Burton appreciates the example DeLaet sets for his players, both on tour and by playing with the Broncos when he’s in town.

“They look up to him,” Burton said. “He inspires them like you wouldn’t believe to hopefully someday get out there and play with him.”! — Go Broncos!
Catching up with...

ABE JACKSON
MEN’S BASKETBALL
1999-2002

HOMETOWN: (Where did you grow up and where do you live?) Boise, ID.
DEGREES: Bachelor of of Arts, Communications.
FAMILY: Father George, Mother Jeanette, Brother Ben.
JOB: Banker at US Bank and Color Commentator for BSU Mens Basketball.
FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Graduating
FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: Basketball games, especially walking off the court after a win.
FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: The Taco Bell Arena (Pavilion).
HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT?

The university has grown immensely. It was not on the national scale that it is now, when I played.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Not a lot of coaches contacted me in high school so I will always appreciate the opportunity the coaching staff gave me at Boise State. My teammates were also a huge part of the coaching…..coaches tell you what to do, but your teammates push you to be better every day.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? I played in France professionally for a season, then I came back to Boise to finish up my degree. I have worked in banking for about 13 years, the past 2.5 for US Bank. I have been the color commentator for Boise State men’s basketball for 6 seasons.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? Boise State’s growth that has occurred in the last 10 years stands out, and is mostly attributed to the success of the football program.

OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? Football, Golf, Baseball.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I think it’s a great way for former student-athletes to stay involved with Boise State Athletics. You always hear universities say that once you are in their program then you are for life, and I feel like Varsity B backs that saying up by keeping ex-athletes involved. Once a Bronco, always a Bronco.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Being a Bronco means that you are part of a family of Broncos. Whether or not the teams you were on were successful in the win loss columns, you are still part of a special group of men and women who will always have that special bond…..being a Boise State Bronco. – Go Broncos!

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UNDER HEAD COACH JIM THOMAS, the Broncos held their spring alumnae weekend with another great turn out.

Team creativity was at an all time high as each alumnae team invented a theme and adopted a “look” that helped them get motivated as they fiercely battled on the 7 v 7 soccer field.

Team Tuff defeated Team Ninja Warriors in a very competitive match for the championship, while the more veteran soccer alumnae simply enjoyed the Blue and Orange Spring Game from a suite in the Stueckle Sky Center.

— Go Broncos!
The Varsity B Thrilled to Announce a New Partnership.

THE VARSITY B IS THRILLED to announce a new partnership on the Boise State campus. The Varsity B, which is the Boise State alumni chapter for alumni Bronco student-athletes, band members, cheer squad, Mane Line dancers, sport medicine graduates and the parents of student-athletes, will now be part of the Boise State Alumni Association. The Varsity B will always be an athletic driven group at Boise State, but now the day-to-day operations will be operating out of the Boise State Alumni office. Over 700 Varsity B members will now receive more benefits and be counted among the growing Boise State Alumni Association membership. Over the 2014-2015 Bronco academic year, new Director of Alumni Relations, Estevan Andrade, will work closely with the Varsity B to make sure that the resources are in place to help the Varsity B grow even more.

– Go Broncos!

Bronco Football Embraces the Past and Attacks The Future With Countdown to Season Opener vs. Ole Miss

THIS SUMMER, BOISE STATE ATHLETICS will use Twitter and Facebook to help Bronco fans countdown the days until the football team’s season opener against Ole Miss on August 28. The countdown will begin May 21, with 99 days remaining until the first kickoff of the 2014 season.

Utilizing first-year head coach Bryan Harsin’s mantra, the countdown will Embrace the Past and Attack the Future, incorporating photos of Broncos both past and present.

Beginning with Marcus Koch (1982-85) at No. 99, the countdown will feature 99 former Broncos and several more currently on the roster. Follow @BroncoSports and @BroncoSportsFB throughout the summer. – Go Broncos!