

CONTINUING THE TRADITION *by Brett Sampson '88*

WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST

Supporting Students Through The Trustees/President's Fund

To properly prepare students to compete and succeed in a rapidly changing world, BYU–Idaho must continually modify and refine itself while continuing on its course of being recognized as a great university.

In a 2005 BYU–Idaho devotional talk, Elder Henry B. Eyring said:

Each time I come here, I am struck by what seems to be continuous change. Many new buildings now stand where once we looked across open fields. What was a fine junior college is becoming a distinguished university. Thousands of students enroll who seem to be ever brighter and more spiritual. They study in classrooms, some of which I saw today, equipped with powerful teaching aids unknown just a few years ago. New faculty are choosing to join us who have remarkable professional preparation and great faith in the restored gospel. The rate of growth in physical structures will slow down, but spiritual and academic improvement will continue and will accelerate.¹

What is the Trustees/President's Fund?

As needs arise through this perpetual period of constant change, the Trustees/President's Fund allows the administration to financially supplement student-focused programs and projects. Each is reviewed annually in a report by President Kim B. Clark to the BYU–Idaho Board of Trustees.

This philanthropic priority is made up of donations to the university from alumni and friends who want their gift to help “where the need is greatest.” Often alumni—like the alumnus in Gaithersburg, Md., who consistently gives \$50 a year, and the parent of a student from Gilbert, Arizona, who faithfully donates \$177 a year—do not know where their money will go; they just know that it will support students.

Blessing Many through the Fund

Students are blessed through this fund as money is dispersed to various board-approved philanthropic priorities that lack the full funding they need to best assist students at BYU–Idaho.

So far this year, priorities supplemented through the Trustees/President's Fund include: Grants-in-Aid, Adaptive Services Adventure Program, Internships, the Department of Academic Learning, Indoor and Outdoor Beautification, and a few campus societies including Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE).

Celeste Burndorfer

Celeste Burndorfer is just one example of a recent student who has been blessed through the Trustees/President's Fund. A former president of the BYU-Idaho chapter of SIFE, Celeste's team won a regional SIFE championship held in New York City.

These experiences not only help the growing reputation of the university, but are valuable to the practical application of what students are learning in class. "Every single job interview I've had has asked me about SIFE and my role in it. It let me apply what I have learned in the classroom to the real world," said Celeste.

The students' ability to travel to regional and national championships is possible because of the Trustees/President's Fund.

Brandon Jones

With assistance from the Trustees/President's Fund, Brandon Jones was able to travel to China earlier this year as one of 70 students from across the United States participating in the International Scholar Laureate Program. There he toured two major factories and the Three Gorges Dam. As an engineering major, these tours were invaluable learning opportunities.

Brandon observed firsthand how these Chinese companies facilitate production and maintain efficiency. Of particular interest was the displacement of 1.3 million people who had lived on the upstream side of the dam. Most only knew how to farm, so the Three Gorges Dam University was built to help educate and prepare these farmers for diverse future opportunities.

The opportunity to go to China was a tremendous blessing in Brandon's life. It provided practical experience for his educational and career paths, cultural exposure, and personally affirmed that he is constantly watched over from above.

Adaptive Services Adventure Program

The Adaptive Service Adventure Program (ASAP), funded entirely through the Trustees/President's Fund, focuses on BYU-Idaho students with disabilities. This year, the Fund provided specialized equipment such as a Scarab road trike, a bowling ramp, and wheelchairs for the wheelchair basketball games that are quickly growing in popularity on campus.

These devices were imperative in helping ASAP reach the goal of introducing physically handicapped students to outdoor and other forms of recreation using on-and off-campus resources and volunteerism.

Steve Anderson, an advisor of ASAP, recently wrote, "We appreciate all you do in funding. It is really gratifying to watch our students grow. Because of the funds granted, you become our real enabler. Thank you."

Welcomed Resources

Twenty-one percent of all cash donations received by LDS Philanthropies for BYU-Idaho so far this year have been earmarked for the Trustees/President's Fund. The thousands of alumni and friends who give so generously to this fund put their trust in the administration. One hundred percent of the money donated to this and all other priorities* goes directly toward helping students through various programs like those highlighted here.

Glenn Embree, dean of the College of Physical Sciences and Engineering, has seen the far-reaching effect of assistance provided through the Trustees/President's Fund. He said, "We greatly appreciate the donors' support as we work to build programs to bless our students' and faculty's lives. These donations enhance the flexibility and strength of many of our programs by enabling us to distribute funds where and when they are needed."

Thousands of individual students like Celeste, Brandon, and ASAP participants are the true beneficiaries of gifts to the Trustees/President's Fund.

The students thank you and LDS Philanthropies thanks you. [SM](#)

1 Eyring, Henry B. (2005, Jan. 25). "Raise the Bar." Brigham Young University-Idaho Devotional.

**For a complete list of philanthropic priorities, how students are helped, or to contribute online, please visit www.byui.edu/giving.*

LDS Philanthropies
BYU-Idaho
220 Kimball Building
Rexburg, ID 83460-1657
208-496-1128 or 800-227-4257
www.byui.edu/giving

If you have comments about this article, please e-mail sampsonb@byui.edu.

