



UI Extension Trends 2005:

Faces of Extension

Transplanted from ‘Avant-Garde’ 20 Years Ago, Chad Cheyney Finds Comfort in Idaho

From the moment Charles “Chad” Cheyney moved to Arco from Davis, CA, in 1985, it felt like home. Glad to cast off “an overcrowded avant-garde community,” Cheyney quickly sunk his boots into Idaho’s cowboy country. Cheyney and his wife, Teresa, hadn’t lived in a small town before, but “it wasn’t a problem for us because we didn’t need to change the culture to be comfortable here.”

In 1978, Cheyney joined a Farm Bureau farm-supply cooperative as a fieldman, helping growers of everything from kiwis to alfalfa and from tomatoes to sugarbeets improve their practices, trim their costs, and increase their profitability.

Saving growers money has been an emphasis of Cheyney’s career ever since. As UI Extension educator in Butte County, he led local biocontrol projects that unleashed four natural enemies against the noxious weed leafy spurge in his area. Through demonstrations and personal consultations, he encouraged alfalfa growers to base their fertilization practices on soil tests and showed grain growers they could reduce the application rates of some of their wild-oat herbicides.

In 1997, Cheyney launched the Lost River Grazing Academy, a hands-on workshop on intensive management of irrigated pastures. “Feeding baled hay costs twice as much as grazing,” he says. “Every day that you spend grazing saves you a ton of money.” Not only do cows—rather than fuel-guzzling machinery—harvest the solar energy in pasture grasses, but plant nutrients cycle continuously through cows and pasture.

In 2002, Cheyney began dividing his efforts between Butte County and the new Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension, and Education Center north of Salmon—a two-and-a-half hour commute. As its interim superintendent, Cheyney leads the center as it hosts alfalfa variety trials and studies on calf respiratory ailments, cattle identification, low-stress weaning, estrus syn-

chronization, early-summer calving for reduced use of harvested feeds, cattle breeding for feed efficiency, and goat grazing for spotted knapweed suppression.

“We don’t have anything like that in Idaho,” he says about the center. “It would give people a place to do ranch-scale demonstrations and research on things that people are interested in doing but that are scary enough financially that they don’t want to try it themselves.”

Asked what he brings to his job that a born-on-the-ranch counterpart wouldn’t, Cheyney responds thoughtfully: “Maybe what’s more important is what I don’t bring. I’ve never been married to the existing ranching paradigm. I can understand it, I appreciate it, but I’m not invested in it.”

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Toomey Inspires Artistic Discoveries Among Idaho 4-H'ers

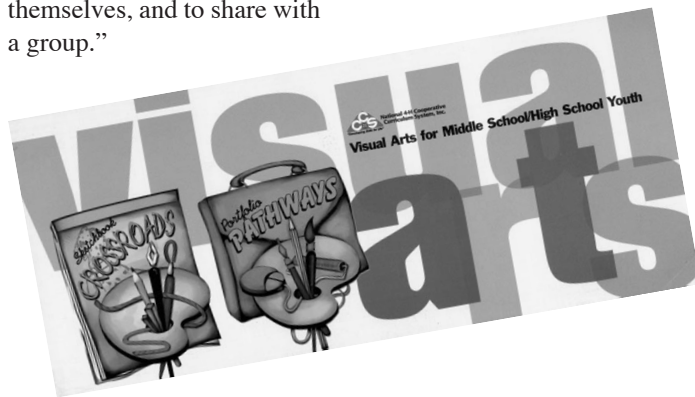
“Arts and Crafts—A Palette of Fun” ushered in a new market for 4-H curriculum. Introduced in 2001 for ages K to grade 6, it was among the first National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, Inc., offerings designed to be used experientially by 4-H and in after-school programs in and outside of the classroom.

On the ground floor of this vision was Maureen Toomey, Idaho 4-H associate and special projects coordinator who is now in the University of Idaho’s Caldwell Research and Extension Center. As the project manager, writer, and creative talent for “Palette of Fun,” Toomey and her team did “lots of outside-the-box thinking.”

Toomey was a key team member when “Step Up to Leadership,” a five-part series of 4HCCS curricula, was released in 2003. She co-chaired work on a two-book, skills-based visual arts set—Sketchbook Cross Roads and Portfolio Pathways—for grades 7 to 12 youth, which is scheduled for release in August 2005. Another 4HCCS curriculum undertaking is clothing, in partnership with lead specialist Sharlene Woffinden, UI Extension educator in Bear Lake County.

“I like art, especially doing art with kids,” Toomey admits. She sees kids get excited, and their self esteem rise, when each child is given a stack of supplies and they come up with different ideas. “Art is a great way to express themselves, and to share with a group.”

“The whole art of teaching is awakening the curiosity of young minds.”



Toomey grew up with art in her Utah home, the seventh among 11 children. As a Christmas gift at age 9 or 10, her father, an engineer with Hercules, Inc., gave Toomey a set of oil pastels. In the fifth grade, her grandmother gave her a book about interesting U.S. places. Toomey became intrigued with pre-Columbian people and their art, particularly serpent mounds in 800 A.D. in what is now southern Ohio.

She was active in 4-H, mostly cooking and sewing, and always had an artistic flare. Toomey made half her wardrobe before enrolling at Carroll College in Helena, MT. She later attended the University of Utah and Westminster College and received degrees in recreation and parks management, history, and zoology.

Interest in art was kindled one summer working at a youth conservation camp in the mountains of Colorado. The director’s wife was a fiber artist. Toomey was introduced to the batik wax resist and dyeing process, and she worked with stained glass.



Drawing and technology are a natural combination for Maureen Toomey.

The marriage of art and science has always been natural to Toomey. She sees biological sciences, geography, nature, geology, and histories of families not as separate entities. “It’s all so blended for me,” Toomey said.

Toomey is enthralled with 4-H youth development. “What we do is education in a non-formal setting.” She believes wholly in Anna Tolle France’s description: “The whole art of teaching is awakening the curiosity of young minds.”

“The setting doesn’t matter,” Toomey said about where learning occurs.

Toomey’s husband Jim got a staff assignment in the UI’s Center for Business Development and Research in 1988, and Maureen started part-time as a UI Extension associate in December 1989. She worked with 4-H Teen Conference, EmPower curricula, and the National Network for Science and Technology, along with mentor Carol Benesh, former UI Extension youth specialist.

“Carol and I work well together,” Toomey said. “Carol is random abstract, and I am concrete sequential.”

While Benesh moved on to head Nevada 4-H, Toomey has remained a creative staple in Idaho 4-H Programs while in Caldwell. The Toomeys moved when Jim was hired to direct the UI’s Food Technology Center.

Toomey has appreciated all the creative opportunities Idaho 4-H Programs and its director, Arlinda Nauman, have presented. “Kids just need time to play and have fun,” Toomey added, as she seeks to embrace the “teachable moments” that art and 4-H provide.

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Juan Alvarez seeks solutions to long-term problems in Idaho's insect world.

Passion for Science Drives Juan Alvarez to Help Growers

Some entomologists love insects. Juan Alvarez loves agricultural research.

Assistant professor of integrated pest management (IPM) in potatoes and cereals at the University of Idaho's Aberdeen Research and Extension Center, Alvarez' passion is for science—and, particularly, for applying science to growers' problems.

For three years—before he earned his bachelor's degree in agronomy at Universidad Nacional in Bogota, and advanced entomology degrees from the University of Massachusetts and University of Florida—Alvarez grew barley and potatoes in his native Colombia.

"It wasn't long enough, but it was a fortunate experience," he says. "I now have an idea of what it is to be in the grower's situation, to go home thinking that you have put all of your money into a field and many things could happen, and you may not have a crop the following day."

Intrigued by a variety of pest problems in diverse agricultural systems since 1990, Alvarez joined the UI faculty in 2001 and has already identified three insect pests new to the Gem State—corn blotch leafminer, Haanchen barley mealybug, and a *Clivina* beetle in sugarbeets.

"I want to integrate many other scientists in my research,"

he says. "I think that's the way to find solutions for long-term problems."

So far, collective research projects have included identifying natural enemies in potato ecosystems, examining interactions among alternative plant hosts and the aphids that carry potato virus Y and potato leafroll virus in potatoes, and documenting the establishment of biocontrol agents for wheat stem sawfly.

A major ongoing effort addresses wireworms. In 2004, Alvarez says the researchers made significant strides in their understanding of aphid-virus interactions in potatoes and in the timing of wireworm controls.

"I cannot create a research program that will be just for experimental conditions. I cannot come here and tell growers, 'Forget about what you have been doing for the last 50 years.' I have to be creative and find ways to integrate their management systems with what I think would be ideal."

Alvarez' responsibilities at the UI extend beyond research. With a 40 percent appointment in UI Extension, he spends many of his days on the telephone, educating potato and grain growers on various aspects of pest management. He delivers workshops, writes articles for trade magazines, and develops UI Extension bulletins.

"It's really a positive thing that growers want to work with me," he says. "I've been so happy with that. And, honestly, I couldn't have a research program without their input. Why would anyone want to create new knowledge that would never be applied by the industry?"

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Generations of Fort Hall Youth Have Enthusiasm to Learn

Like the old white churches that stood as focal points for pioneer communities, a small house in the center of Fort Hall Reservation is a gathering place for the ages. But it's not civic leaders who meet inside to debate local politics. Under the leadership of Nola Cates, children congregate to learn life lessons—making quilts and clay pots, cooking and gardening, crocheting and cross-stitching, leather craft, and animal husbandry.

4-H programs serve as a unifying force at Fort Hall, providing children a sense of belonging, giving them a shared identity, explains Cates, who has shepherded the program the past 21 years, first as an office manager and, since 1987, as 4-H program director.

In fact, she's a third generation 4-H'er, beginning on the reservation as a child. All four of her daughters have gone through



Nola Cates is a third-generation participant in Fort Hall Reservation 4-H.

4-H programs, and now her six grandchildren are following suit. And 4-H is alive and thriving at Fort Hall because it's fluid and flexible, Cates insists.

"They come here with an enthusiasm to learn. When you make it fun, they really eat it up... Hands-on participation is the key to keeping them interested. They learn by doing. We adapt the meeting to the mood of the kids.

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Spreading the Seed of Ecological Literacy

When University of Idaho Area Extension Educator Chris Schnepf hears former students declare his programs “perfect,” “excellent,” and “stellar,” he quips, “The people you contacted, those are my pall bearers.”

It is telling that the group includes loggers, environmentalists, large and small forest owners, and several hybrids thereof. The point where their diverse land management philosophies converge is on the issue of sustainability: They are decidedly for it.

Schnepf has been preaching the gospel of sustainable forest practices since 1988. His goal is “creating literacy in applied forest ecology, to meet whatever values landowners and land users have.” Those values differ widely.

Some UI Extension clients hope to sustain healthy ecosystems in order to retain their livelihood, lifestyle, or heritage; for others, managing the land to achieve long-term ecosystem health is a worthy goal in and of itself. For a growing number of Idahoans, these goals overlap. “That’s the good news,” says Schnepf. “You can manage simultaneously for a variety of outcomes.”

According to Jan Scharnweber, family owner of a nine-acre forest in Coeur d’Alene and graduate of UI Extension forestry courses, Schnepf is “way ahead of the curve” in terms of both content and delivery of his programs. She dubs his presentations “stellar” citing his depth of knowledge, approachability, cutting-edge presentation technologies, and the immediacy of the

Schnepf has been preaching the gospel of sustainable forest practices since 1988.

programming. Scharnweber is one of Schnepf’s “serial” extension students. “Once we see them, we tend to see them again,” he explains.

Serial student and Hayden-based logger Matt Abram

is one of more than 1,120 Idaho loggers who has been certified through UI Extension’s Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) program in the past decade. LEAP helps familiarize loggers with the ecological criteria underlying Idaho Forest Practice Laws. The LEAP credential is updated with 16 hours of UI Extension Pro-Logger programming annually.

LEAP, says Abram, “opened my eyes to what I’m doing on the ground. It’s got me thinking about things like water quality issues when I make skid trails. The better I leave the ground, the more likely my job will be there 10 years from now,” Abram says, adding that what he has learned in Schnepf’s Superior Seed Tree Selection program “is going to be important hundreds, and even thousands of years from now.”

Thinking of decades, centuries, and millennia is also at the heart of environmentalist and serial student Phil Franklin’s land management plan. He looks forward to his first timber harvest.

“I’m there for the nature,” says Franklin of his 20-acre spot north of Sandpoint. “I want to maintain species diversity and manage for wildlife. Chris presents alternative sides to issues and practices. He’s very even handed. The thinning might pay for itself, and I hope it does, but my concern is doing it right.”



Chris Schnepf demonstrates proper tree pruning techniques.

The desire to manage the land and “do it right” is growing. The need for extension programs grows with it. Schnepf serves a population of 175,845 Idahoans spread over the 5,028 square miles of territory, or nearly 2 million acres that encompass Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, and Kootenai counties. UI Extension Educator Randy Brooks devotes 60 percent of his time to forestry in north-central Idaho. Oregon, by comparison, employs a dozen extension foresters off-campus.

“Relative neophytes to forestry are our biggest audience,” says Schnepf, “but there’s already a backlog of people requesting more advanced programming, thinking they should really be doing something with their forest.”

In 2004, Schnepf delivered 29 classes, workshops, and guest presentations reaching 458 citizens. He estimates the demand for programs is about double what he can currently deliver.

Yet to Schnepf and other extension educators’ credit, the seeds of ecological literacy seem to be taking root. “Chris gets me excited about going out there and putting what I’ve learned to use,” says Abram. “I think that’s the mark of an excellent teacher.”

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Serial UI Extension Student

Irv Jenkins is a confessed “serial” UI Extension student.

A retired environmental engineer and remediation manager for Shell Oil, Jenkins is a lifelong dry-country dweller recently transplanted to the Sandpoint area from Texas. Lately, his focus includes getting his house built and learning how best to manage the forest that surrounds it.

Don’t get him started about the house. But he *has* found a formula for dealing with many land management issues: UI Forestry Extension programs.

His challenges are familiar to most Panhandle land owners. “Everywhere that they disturbed the surface soils you’ve got spotted knapweed,” said Jenkins, who is fighting the noxious weed invasion with biological controls, specifically 800 beetles,

15-year EFNEP Adviser Keeps Teaching as Age 68 Approaches

While going on age 68, Boise's Dixie Long keeps making a difference. President of the St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center auxiliary, a deaconess at University Christian Church, and a grandmother of eight, Long has been a program adviser for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) for 15 years.

Whether she's making home visits to one of her 30 EFNEP families or half-dozen EFNEP groups, the Iowa-born mother of five says she's motivated by the continual opportunity to help someone. "I feel like many of my clients have just not had the chances and opportunities that I have had to learn simple, basic nutrition," she says.

Participants in Idaho's 36-year-old EFNEP program either must have children under 18 or children on the way. "We feel that if we can get the parents on board, they will buy food that is nutritious for themselves as well as for their children," says Linda Gossett, UI EFNEP Extension educator in Boise and Long's supervisor. "If the children never see their parents sit down to breakfast or eat a piece of fruit, then they have no good role model."

So, Long stresses menu planning, whole grains, assorted fruits and vegetables, and food safety. She shows her clients how to make an inexpensive, healthy "master bread mix," how to puree and spice cooked beans into a delicious vegetable dip, and how to slow-cook cheap cuts of meat into irresistible pot roasts. She



EFNEP adviser Dixie Long enjoys serving healthy vegetable-and-dip snacks.

demonstrates how to be an informed reader of food labels, digging into a prop box of food cans and cartons. She even teaches basic money-management skills.

"Many of the people we work with have not learned basic food preparation skills or budgeting, so the program's biggest benefits include helping young families cook family meals that are healthy, balanced, and low-cost and also helping them budget their limited resources to pay such necessary bills as groceries, rent, utilities, and car repairs," Gossett says.

Long tells her students they can save 40 percent on even simple grocery items just by comparison-shopping. "And don't just comparison-shop once and keep going to that same store for six months. Keep comparing prices."

"She's a wonderful role model—very experienced, very adaptable," says Gossett. "She makes the lessons very interesting."

In 24-hour food recalls conducted at the beginning and end of her 15-class series, Long says virtually every one of her participants reports improving her diet. "A few of them who really follow what I've been saying can also save 30 to 50 percent" at the grocery store.

In 2004, Gossett's four EFNEP advisers served 349 families in a three-county area of southwestern Idaho. Of these, about 70 percent attended at least six lessons and completed at least two 24-hour food recalls and thus earned certificates of completion.

"It doesn't feel like a job to me," says Long, "—especially when I know they want to come back or if they say, 'Can I give you a hug?'"

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400 each of *Larinus minutus* and *Bangasternus fausti*, provided by Mark Schwarzlaender, assistant professor in the UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Jenkins cites networking with experts and other landowners as some of the perks of his extension education.

In his battle against the fiendish knapweed, and all the vicissitudes of a disturbed ecosystem, Jenkins' arsenal is knowledge. He took the White Pine Blister Rust class last July and later that month, Managing Organic Material and Slash; in the UI Extension Field Day on Forest Insects & Diseases workshop, Jenkins and 20 others met with Area Forestry Extension Educator Chris Schnepf, bused to six locations, and walked the sites to look at insects and diseases.

"These were all one-day courses, and they were all excellent," says Jenkins.

In August, he took a two-day course on Growing Superior

Tree Seed, which taught participants how to select superior seed cones, and explored the options of where to purchase hardy seedlings. He most recently completed the six-week UI Extension Forestry Short Course.

Jenkins and his wife Carol hope to reforest their land, and—knowing how to make an informed selection—have purchased enough seedlings to plant one acre. They hope the first planting will allow them "to see how to do it better."

"The property was logged with bad logging practices," notes Carol Jenkins, a retired registered nurse, a gardener, and no stranger to extension courses herself. "It looks like a tornado went through it. We feel a sense of responsibility to the land. It's here forever, and we're not. We wanted to make a contribution to last beyond us. We took UI Extension courses to learn how to do it right."

Cates *continued from page 3*

“I think in order to make a 4-H program work you have to get down on their level, be a kid at heart, get on the monkey bars with them.”

Even before 4-H introduced a program for young children between 5 and 8 years of age (called Clover Buds), Cates recognized a need to capture the enthusiasm of primary-age children. She called the extended program “almost 4-H’ers.”

Today, about 50 children assemble at the converted house every week. One would expect competition from the Timbee Hall recreation center nearby. Not so. The programs are complementary and share an unusually equal appeal. The tribal business center where many parents work is nearby and convenient for children’s activities.

The Fort Hall 4-H program has earned such a strong reputation that a non-reservation family commuted about 10 miles each way from Pocatello so children could participate. That’s also a reflection of the program’s open-door approach.

Cates has no college degree in early childhood education, no formal training in child psychology, no classroom practicum or student teaching. Hers is a personal degree built on the education she receives from working directly with the children.

“No, I can’t imagine a time when I would turn the program over to someone else,” she says. Cates plans to keep doing what she’s done for more than two decades—deliver programs that provide Fort Hall’s young children the opportunity for success as adults.

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Cooperator Ron Thompson (center, in hat and sunglasses) watches as UI research assistant Tom Bowen demonstrates cutting-edge optical sensing technology.

BMPs for Potatoes Requires Strong Growing Partnership

At Thompson Farms—a six-brother potato-growing partnership in Blackfoot—every production practice is scrutinized for its merits and its costs. “We’re pretty conscientious,” says Ron Thompson. “If you’re not conscientious right now, you’re out of the potato business.”

The Thompsons use three- to four-year rotations, eliminating their need to fumigate for nematodes and other soil pests. They test their crop before spending money on late-season nitrogen applications. Before applying an insecticide or fungicide, they put a sharp pencil to whether its use is likely to pay off.

In short, the Thompsons are exactly the sort of cooperators Bryan Hopkins was looking for when he set out to demonstrate the value of best management practices in potato growers’ fields. Since 2002, Hopkins—UI Extension potato cropping systems soil scientist in Idaho Falls—has been comparing field-sized BMP plots managed judiciously for maximum profits with high-input plots worked zealously for maximum yields.

In three years of trials, Hopkins’ research findings have consistently shown that the BMP potatoes, which typically rely on fewer pesticides and fertilizers, are more profitable. Whether the potatoes were planted in cooperators’ fields in Idaho, Oregon, or Washington, the BMP plots “came out on top financially” every time—although the high-input plots may have slightly outyielded them.

Hopkins says growers who improve their bottom lines with BMPs can be characterized more by “an attitude” than by a specific list of production practices. “They use a concept of customized management, managing each field as an independent unit, rather than raising potatoes the same way on every field every year.”

Using cooperators to demonstrate production practices has clear advantages over demonstrating those practices in smaller plots on research fields, says Hopkins. “Growers are more likely to adopt practices they see other growers using,” he says. “If they see somebody they respect using a practice on a whole-farm basis, their level of adoption goes way up.”

Thompson says a key benefit for him is his ready access to Hopkins’ knowledge base. “I have a doctor working in my field and can visit with him one-and-one, ask him questions, and get his input,” he says.

But Hopkins says the knowledge exchange goes both ways. “Sometimes I see growers doing something that works but I don’t know why it works, so we decide to find out,” he says. “I learn things from the cooperators all of the time.”

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Laura Laumatia: Typical Multi-Tasking Global Citizen Who Returns to Idaho Roots

Laura Laumatia's life has been shaped by a rich variety of global culture. One of only 28 Extension Indian Reservation Program (EIRP) educators nationwide, Laumatia is now immersing herself in Schitsu'umsh culture on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation.

Laumatia grew up in Lewiston (Idaho), Mexico City, New Jersey, and Bangkok. After earning a bachelor's degree in animal science from Cornell ('96), which included a year's study at the University of Reading in England and course work that took her to Honduras, she headed to the Independent State of Samoa as a Peace Corps volunteer.

"I was hired in American Samoa as an Extension educator in swine development," recalls Laumatia. "When I got out onto the farms, the most glaring problem was that people were flushing their waste into the streams. It's a small island, and the waste was not just affecting the streams, but also the coral reef."

Laumatia assembled "just as many people as we could bring to the table to look at different ways to address the issues," she explains. The group got the manure into local garden soils and out of the water.

As Coeur d'Alene Reservation EIRP educator, Laumatia is still working cooperatively to find interdisciplinary approaches to complex cultural and economic issues.

Laumatia is currently working with Jannette Taylor, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) coordinator, on a community garden project to provide vegetables to elders and increase community service options to TANF and General Assistance clients.



Ariana Bolieu is an after-school participant in Laumatia's class.

Other projects are a six-week financial literacy course aimed at greater self-sufficiency for tribal members.

Currently, Laumatia works with Benewah County's UI Extension Educator Valdasue Steele; Mark Stanger, the Tribal Wildlife Education and Outreach Coordinator; Lovine Louie, After School Coordinator for the Tribal Wellness Center; Julie Sampson, Lakeside Elementary School teacher and After School



Laura Laumatia, left, makes a point during an after-school program at the Coeur d'Alene Reservation.

Program Coordinator; and Cheryl Lockhard, UI 4-H assistant for Benewah County, to deliver after-school programs at Lakeside Elementary School in Worley, and at the Wellness Center.

Stanger focuses on perpetuating tribal cultural values and activities; Sampson provides academic tutoring; and Lockhard and Laumatia deliver 4-H programming. The group's long term goals include raising self esteem and ISAT scores.

Lakeside 5th grader Ariana Bolieu likes the after-school program, and intuits that it is aimed at broadening her horizons. "They're really fun. You learn about how to do things, just in case

Kids can tell if you're really interested or just putting in your time.

you want to do that when you get older," she said. Laumatia and Lockhard are currently working with the kids to develop leadership skills.

Lockhard finds Laumatia to be a good fit in her new role. "She's lived in many cultures, and it has broadened her perspective. She really enjoys learning about the culture here, and the kids are very receptive to her. Kids can tell if you're really interested or just putting in your time. Laura is very caring."

The richness of cultural diversity and the joys of multi-tasking don't end for Laumatia once she gets home. She and her husband Sefo are raising their three children—triplets in the terrible twos—in Plummer. Sefo, a Samoan, is learning to speak English and earning his GED; and Laura is getting to know the neighbors. She is happy to be in this corner of the world. "I feel grateful that I have such an incredible opportunity to work right here in my own home state, doing what I love in such a rich community."

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Johannesen Recalls a Lifetime with Idaho 4-H

Erling Johannesen has been intimately involved in Idaho 4-H longer than he has spoken English. And while the program has propelled countless youth to successful careers, it proved to be a cultural link that preserved Johannesen's fragile childhood interest in education.

The son of Norwegian immigrants, Johannesen spoke no English when he entered the Emmett school system. He struggled for two years finding a place in the system, desperately looking for a way to connect with his peers.



Erling and Amy Johannesen have given generously to 4-H and the University of Idaho.

“4-H membership opened doors for me.”

He found it in 4-H, and now, three-quarters of a century later, he remains a stalwart advocate for both 4-H and education. He built a distinguished career on both, serving as a UI Extension agent in Gem County for 37 years, acquiring farmland in the fertile Emmett valley, spawning five automobile dealerships, and helping launch a life insurance and investment company.

In acknowledgment of his life-long commitment to the youth organization, Johannesen was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on March 22, 2004. Friends who know him well weren't surprised that he was unable to attend the ceremony. Still active in agriculture, he serves with Volunteers Overseas Cooperative Assistance, sharing his expertise with farmers in developing countries. He was on such a mission when hall of fame honors were bestowed.

In nine years, Johannesen has visited Russia, China, Poland (twice), Armenia, Albania, and Hungary. He also has served on the Northwest Horticultural Society and the state Angus organization. He was given the Idaho 4-H Outstanding Alumni award, the University of Idaho's Idaho Treasure award, and has been inducted into the Idaho 4-H Hall of Fame and the UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' Alumni Hall of Fame.

Erling's parents, Carl and Brynheld, continued to cling to their native language after they homesteaded at Emmett in 1919.

His first project was to harvest and evaluate the quality of corn. Later he raised a jersey heifer as a livestock project. Because the 4-H program emphasized demonstrations, record keeping, and parliamentary procedure, Johannesen embarked on the fast track to learn English.

“4-H membership opened doors for me,” he explains. “It gave me a taste of belonging and success and led to my career as an extension agent, and my passion for helping others experience success.”

During his school years, Johannesen earned honors for showmanship and demonstrations, served as club officer and junior leader, and eventually became state recorder at Idaho 4-H Shortcourse.

World War II and the military beckoned shortly after he graduated from Emmett High School. The death of his father brought that military service to a premature closure. He returned to the 200-acre family farm in 1944 to help his mother raise five siblings and their modest livestock herd. Late that year, Johannesen landed a job as UI Extension agent for Gem and Boise counties. He earned a degree from the UI in 1945.

He and Amy, his wife of nearly 32 years, established a scholarship that is presented annually to an Emmett High School graduate. The Johannesens long ago parted with the Gem County farms they accumulated, the car dealerships in Emmett, Nyssa, and LaGrande (Oregon), McCall, and Boise, their Emmett farm implement dealership, and the insurance/investment business. The University of Idaho is a major beneficiary of their business successes. Contributions to the UI passed the \$1 million mark about three years ago.

At 82, Erling's pace is slowing. He and Amy spend the dark days of winter at their second home in Mesa, AZ. But his memory and his fondness for 4-H remain as strong today as it was during the Great Depression when he traded Norwegian for English.

And the accolades keep coming. For their commitment and generosity, the Johannesens received the Silver and Gold award on Feb. 16, 2005. The Johannesens were honored among the major donors to the recently completed Idaho 4-H Endowment Fund campaign. The recognition was presented—where else?—at the 2005 Know Your Government Conference in Boise in front of nearly 200 4-H'ers and about 45 Idaho legislators and judges.



For more information on UI Extension programs, call 885.5883 or access our web site at www.uidaho.edu/extension