INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

BASQUE STUDIES

Fall Semester 2013
The Idaho Historical Society recently concluded its “Essential Idaho” exhibit of 150 things that make the Gem State unique. In their promotional logo the letter “D” of Idaho was done in a Basque theme with the Basque flag and dancer. [Dec]

Long-time Basque Studies supporter Peter Buhler, Professor of History at Boise State, is retiring—though we hope to see him around! Accordingly, we inaugurated a new tribute award from Basque Studies: the Basque “arrauna” or oar for the symbolism of people grabbing an oar and rowing together. His help has been instrumental in making Basque Studies a reality at Boise State. [Dec]

Our Basque language director Nere Lete was promoting our program out in the larger Basque community. On Dec 3rd (International Day of the Basque Language) she gave a presentation at the Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada-Reno entitled “How do we translate the untold?” Then a few days later at the Boise Basque Center she read the story of Olentzero (Basque version of Santa Claus) to children and adults gathered to celebrate the holiday season. Hora! Hora! Gure Nere Lete! [Dec]

Afton Barkes was the recipient of the Basque Studies Minor scholarship from the Department of World Languages. A native of Burley, Idaho, Afton is majoring in Biology with a zoology emphasis here at Boise State. Her interest in also taking on a Basque Studies Minor came from an exchange student from the Basque Country that they had in her home. Since then she has fallen in love with language and culture. Zorionak–Congratulations! [Dec]
Basque Studies at Boise State is currently helping to develop a new book project in the ongoing Boise State series of “Investigate Boise.” This will feature Boise Basques as the focus, and how this group has helped make Boise distinctive. A team of student and community writers are currently developing chapters that cover Basque music, dance, the Jaialdi phenomena, the shepherding legacy, etc. with publication set for mid-2014—in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Anduiza handball court on the Basque Block. [Dec]

“Discover the Basque Country” presentation in conjunction with the “International Education Week.” SUB in the Cataldo Room (Nov)

Screening of three videos (with English subtitles) on the theme of “Euskara past & future” as part of “Euskararen Eguna” or International Day of Basque; Boise State BoDo
An interesting story appeared recently on the ongoing blog “A Basque in Boise” by Henar Chico. Titled “Our Stoves: Reconstructing the history of Bilbao La Vieja through cooking recipes” is a new transmedia project about reconstructing the history of one of Bilbao’s oldest neighborhoods through the recipes of older women in the area. To read more click here. [Nov]

Fr. Alec Reid, back in 2007, was the featured speaker at our Boise State Basque Studies conference because of his work with the Irish peace talks, and the parallels with the violence in the Basque Country. A statement from the United States’ consulate in Belfast said “[his] deep faith and moral courage helped lay the foundation for dialogue and progress in Northern Ireland” peace talks. “Those close to Father Reid can be proud of his role, and his legacy offers a profoundly powerful inspiration to all of us.” To read more go to: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-25067087 http://www.berria.info/albistek/86061/alec_reid_hil_da.htm http://www.diariovasco.com/20131122/mas-actualidad/politica/sortu-reivindica-trabajo-reid-201311221918.html [Nov]

Boise State’s “The Blue Review” recently featured an article about the Basques: “The Rise & Fall of ETA” by Mark Bieter. The piece chronicles the half-century of turmoil in the Basque Country as ETA militants sought independence for the Basque Country. To read more click on http://thebluereview.org/rise-fall-eta/ [Nov]

Recently our program was visited by Ander Caballero, the official Basque Country delegate to the United States, and Miren Perez Eguiurren who is heading up the Basque Government’s trade office in Boise. They have been very supportive of our program. Here they are pictured visiting the offices of the Basque Studies Consortium. [Oct]
The official launch of the **BOGA Basque Studies Consortium Journal** was in New York City the weekend of Oct. 12th as part of the events around the centennial of the oldest club in the United States. Here Boise State’s **John Bieter**, one of the presenters as the **Mugaz Gaindi** conference, is holding a hardcopy of the online journal. This new journal picks up where the former **Journal of Basque Studies in America** left off in endeavoring to promote “current knowledge and scholarship regarding Basques worldwide.” This second-generation journal is an online, English-based, academic (peer reviewed) publication. We are also pleased to count Professor **William Douglass** as our Advisory Editor! It is Boise State’s first online scholarly journal and the only English language journal of Basque Studies. The inaugural issue contains three peer-reviewed articles, as well as two special features and dedication. Click on [http://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/boga/](http://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/boga/) [Photo: EuskalKultura.com] [Oct]

Basque Studies at Boise State University has on display a photo exhibit of a dozen panels in the hallway outside the office for the Basque Studies Center (old Business Bldg. B-310) as of October 2013. It is a collaborative effort featuring the photographs of Mike Arrazola that takes one on a photographic tour of different aspects of Basque culture. The exhibit is made possible by the Basque Government of Euskadi, the North American Basque Organizations, and our program here at Boise State. Stop by anytime to see them!

Our program is pleased to announce the addition of **Argia Beristain Dougherty** of **Argitu Consulting**. Originally a Basque-American from Las Vegas, Argia also became involved with the Basque communities in Seattle and Washington, DC before recently relocating here to Boise with her family, where she continues her consulting business.

She will be assisting the Basque Studies Center with several initiatives, and her expertise will take us to new heights!
It is with sadness that we received the news of the passing of Pete Cenarrusa on Sept. 30th. He was 95 but it was still too soon for him to leave us. This extraordinary man will be missed. He and his wife Freda were instrumental in the formation of our program of Basque Studies here at Boise State University. This initiative was headed by the Cenarrusa Foundation for Basque Culture (formerly the Cenarrusa Center for Basque Studies). In 2004-05, the Basque Studies element of the Cenarrusa Foundation was transferred to Boise State University, and since then the program has continued to expand with varied course offerings including a Basque Studies Minor, and our popular weekend workshops. None of this, however, would have been possible without the support of Pete & Freda Cenarrusa. HILAK GOGOAN BIZIRIK (The dead are alive in our memories)

Sept. 30th was an open house for Basque Studies, with the new office for the Basque Studies Center debuting, and the Basque Studies Minor program was also illustrated with some exhibits. The day also featured the music of the visiting Basque Country musical trio "Kalakan" seen here teaching a series of hits on the "txalaparta". It also brought people from the broader community to campus to see what we were doing. Related links: Boise State news story  Channel 7 News video clip
October 2013 featured the centennial of the NYC Basque Club (the oldest in the United States), in conjunction with the Fall N.A.B.O. meeting and the academic conference “Basques in New York & Beyond” with several presenters including Dr. John Bieter of Basque Studies at Boise State University, and William A. Douglass, advisory editor of our BOGA Basque Studies Consortium Journal.

EUSKO KIROLAK – BASQUE SPORTS PRESENTATION. (Oct 10, 2013) Dave Lachiondo, of Boise State’s Basque Studies program, discussed many different Basque sports including handball and pala, wood-chopping, txingas (weight carrying) and rowing. Zer (what): Presentation on Basque Sports by Dr. Dave Lachiondo Noiz (when): Thursday, October 10 – 7pm Non (where): Basque Museum & Cultural Center Nor (who): Everyone was welcome to this free event.

Sept. 2013. Basque Studies Open House
To inaugurate the new office for the Basque Studies Center, and to profile the program and Basque Studies Minor, an open house was held that featured the visiting Basque Country group “Kalakan.” It was an opportunity to re/introduce ourselves to our campus and Basque communities. As it happened, it coincided with the death of long-time program supporter Pete Cenarrusa.

Related links: Boise State news story  Channel 7 News video clip
NEW OFFICES: Fall Term 2013

The Basque Studies Consortium (name changed Fall 2013) is now located in the Old Business Bldg. (soon to be re-named Riverfront Hall).

Boise State welcomes two new Ph.D. candidates from the Basque Country in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Ongi etorri—Welcome to Ander Martinez (Lasarte-Oria, Gipuzkoa) and Virginia Molina (Galdakao, Bizkaia) They were recently featured in this Boise State Update Story.
Basque Studies participated in Boise State University’s Studies Abroad Fair. Once a year students are offered an opportunity to learn more about various learning opportunities in different countries. Our collaboration with the office of International Learning Opportunities, the host of this annual event, goes back to the 1970s when Boise State helped to pioneer studies abroad with a program in the Basque Country, that eventually became the University Studies Aboard Consortium (USAC). [Sept]

Sept. 2013. Promotion of Basque language learning classes at the Boise Basque Museum & Cultural Center

- Beginner Euskara with William “Gilen” Thompson-Uberuaga
  Mondays 6-8; September 9, 2013 – December 16, 2013
- Intermediate Euskara with Itxaso Cayero
  Thursdays 7-9; September 12, 2013 – December 19, 2013
- Advanced Euskara with Oihana Andoin
  Mondays 6-8; September 9, 2013 – December 16, 2013

Promotion of the Center for Basque Studies’ literary contest.
Open to all non-academic submissions, as long as it has something to do with a Basque topic. Contest winners awarded $500 and publication of the work for first place; second place receives a $150 Center for Basque Studies Press gift certificate and publication consideration of the work; and third place receives a Basque Literature and Classics gift pack and publication consideration. Submission details. [Sept]

Free screening of the film “Gazta Zati Bat” at Boise State BoDo (Downtown–corner of Capitol and Front Streets). The showing also featured a person from the town of Idiazabal, where the documentary was filmed. The film tells the story of a small Basque village famous all over the world for its cheese. Villagers forget the differences caused by the last armed conflict in Europe in order to accomplish a mission: to be able to choose what they want to be in the world. Leaving behind a dark and difficult & problematic past, “Gazta Zati Bat” (“A Peace of Cheese”) is a story with a positive look towards the future. The documentary is in Basque with English subtitles. [Aug]
Nere Lete, assistant professor of Basque in the Department of World Languages, published the English translation of a short story in Basque by Eider Rodríguez titled “Nahiago nuke gezurriz ez esan,” (“I Would Rather Not Lie”). This story is part of the Hayden’s Ferry Review, issue 52. Hayden’s Ferry Review is a semi-annual journal of literature and art out of Arizona State University. Her translation was praised by a reviewer as one of her favorite pieces in the issue.

Two students, Renee Rohman and Dafydd Vaid, who are taking Basque at BSU, are in Maizpide, Lazkao, for two weeks in July thanks to the financial support of the BSU Basque Studies Center and the International Learning Opportunities office. They will study Basque 6 hours a day for 2 weeks, including weekends! To follow their posts: http://www.eitb.com/en/blogs/

Basque film screening: Javi Zunizarreta’s film Zuretzako
Thursday, July 25, 2013

Boise State room at the Collier’s Building (corner of Capitol & Front). The first American-made Basque-language film, Zuretzako is based on the life of filmmaker and Princess Grace Award-Winner Javi Zubizarreta’s own grandfather. Starring Zubizarreta’s father and brother in the title roles, Zuretzako tells the story of the sacrifices that fathers make and the toll they take on their sons.
INVITATION

ZER-What: Beyond the Blue—Beyond the Block joint reception

NOIZ-When: 4PM Friday, October 25th

NON-Where: Basque Museum & Cultural Center
611 Grove Street

We wanted to extend you a cordial invitation to join with us for a joint reception. For a decade our entities (Basque Museum, History Dept & Basque Studies) have been collaborating and we wanted to recognize and celebrate these joint efforts. In addition, we’re also welcoming the following to their new positions: Annie Gavica, the new Education Program Specialist for Basque Museum and John Ysursa, the new Director of the Basque Studies Center. At 4PM we are offering a tour of the Museum, Basque Block and new facility at Boise State “BoDo” Downtown, followed by a reception at the Museum. We hope you can make it.
Dr. John Bieter recently completed (June 2013) a program for a group of Boise State students with a unique perspective on local history, particularly as it relates to Idaho’s Basque heritage, at the annual “Investigate Boise” field school. This is the fifth year for the popular summer seminar. The course takes students into the streets, moving college beyond the classroom and keeping the learning pragmatic and real. To read more click on Investigate Boise. [June]

Boise State DoBo. Our program received very good news lately, when we were informed that we will have access to the University’s new first floor facility at the downtown Collier’s Building at the corner of Capitol & Front. The University continues to seek a larger connection in the general community, and this move to downtown Boise is especially beneficial to our program because it puts us one block away from the Basque Block! Look for future workshops and seminars to be held there. [July]

Nere Lete, assistant professor of Basque in the Department of World Languages, recently attended the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) conference in Chicago, Illinois, where she gave a poster presentation titled: “Teaching Grammar through Culture: The Perfect Tandem.”
Izaskun Kortazar, and her Basque Studies workshop that included a trip to the Boise Basque Block. Many of our workshops collaborate with the various entities in the Basque community. Here the group is posed in front of the “Basque Cener” which was founded in 1949 as the meeting place for the Euzkaldunak, Inc. of Boise. It is used for various Basque events, and also rentals for weddings, etc. It remains one of the focal points of the Boise Basque community.

READ ME | An Enduring Legacy with John Bieter 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Basque Center – 601 W Grove St. Boise, ID 83702
Don’t miss this special opportunity to hear Basque music, followed by a presentation by John Bieter, the co-author of An Enduring Legacy and Asst. director of the Basque Studies Center. Read more at http://www.boise150.org/events/ [Mar]

In conjunction with the celebration in honor of the International Day of the Mother Language. This program was sponsored by the Basque government, Boise Euzkaldunak, the Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Biotzetik Basque Choir and the Boise State University Basque Studies Center. [Feb]

Nere Lete, assistant professor of Basque in the department of Modern Languages and Literatures was invited by the University of Idaho, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures to be the guest speaker at their Basque Film Festival opening night. She also gave a presentation for students and faculty entitled: “Translation: An Open Window to the World.”
John M. Ysursa of our program recently gave a talk at the Boise Basque Museum on the “Living Museum” aspects of Basque culture that focused on the role of Basque rituals defining Basque life. Rituals are an attempt to make the invisible (e.g., ideas, beliefs, etc.) visible, and to connect people to something outside of themselves. [Mar]

IZASKUN KORTZAR. Presentation on “The situation of the Basque language in the Basque Country and in North America” by Izaskun Kortazar (Basque Studies faculty) at the Basque Center of NY (Feb. 2013)

< Nere Lete, assistant professor of Basque in the department of Modern Languages and Literatures, recently published the English translation of two short stories in Basque; “Silences” by Jokin Muñoz and “Politics Today” by Eider Rodriguez. These two stories are part of the collection; Our Wars: Short Fiction on Basque Conflicts, published by the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Dave Lachiondo, Director of the Basque Studies Center, recently (Nov. 2012) presented at the Boise Basque Museum & Cultural Center on the topic of Basque Spirituality, Religion & Witchcraft. It was a full house!
< Nere Lele, assistant professor of Basque in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, recently attended the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA) conference in Rochester, N.Y., where she gave a bilingual reading from her translation of Jokin Muñoz's Isiluneak (Silences).

Basque Tree Carvings (Arborglyphs) in Idaho (September 2012)
They didn’t send tweets, texts, or “Friend” on Facebook……or did they? Come join us on September 20th at 7pm at the Basque Museum and Cultural Center (BMCC) where Dr. John Bieter from the Basque Studies Center at Boise State University will show photos and discuss his research on Basque tree carvings in Idaho. In collaboration with the BMCC, over 500 photos have been collected of tree carvings in the area. They reveal the thoughts and desires of Basque shepherders as they worked in the hills guiding their flocks. From names and dates to crests of home soccer teams and family farmhouses, get an inside look at the marks that herders left behind.