

DIRECTOR CONTINUED FROM 2

January 2004 — Michael Kirk, one of my predecessors as Argonaut editor and a founding producer of the PBS documentary series "FrontLine," visited Boise for several Idaho Public TV events.

While there, he received the first Bert Cross Defender of the First Amendment Award in recognition of his advocacy of a free press. He also spoke (via video link) to the History of Mass Media class assembled in the KUID studio.

February — Timothy White, provost at Oregon State University, met with students, faculty and staff. In March, he was named the UI's next president. We're eagerly looking forward to his arrival on campus in

early July.

March — Washington State Professor Susan Ross and I completed an article about the 1964 New York Times v. Sullivan libel case. The article will be published in a future issue of Communication Law and Policy. Susan is one of several WSU faculty members that share teaching and research interests with their UI counterparts.

April — The JAMM Advisory Board met again, this time at the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, where we heard from Steve Smith, the paper's new editor. An alumni gathering at the home of Advisory Board member Esther Louie and her husband, Wayne Baymer, followed.

May — Eighty-three students finished degrees in

journalism, visual communication or public communication, bringing the total for this academic year to more than 120. I had the honor of sitting on the stage for the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences ceremony and congratulating each graduate as the names were read. Less than a week later, I was in Portland to see another former Argonaut editor, Rod Gramer, receive a Silver and Gold Award from the UI Alumni Association.

As I write this, JAMM is almost a year old, and the cycle is about to begin again. I close by thanking my predecessors — Don Coombs, Pete Haggart, Roy Atwood and Chris Campbell — for laying a solid foundation for our new role and mission. I'm also grateful to Marc Skinner and Karin Clifford, whose

efficiency and good humor eased our collective transition from Comm to JAMM.

About the name: "JAMM Session" was chosen by the faculty from more than 50 entries from students. I like it because it hints of a spirited exchange of information, while paying tribute to the UI's lively jazz scene (Come to Moscow in February to see and hear what I mean!). Congratulations to Joely Ward and Jed Kleppen, who each submitted the winning entry. Among the runners-up: JAMMboree, JAMMbalaya, JAMM Journal, Fresh JAMM, and Peanut Butter and JAMM.

Please let us know what you think of this newsletter and give us suggestions for future issues. Send your comments to jamm@uidaho.edu.

SHOUP CONTINUED FROM 2

The Department of Theater and Film and what was then the School of Communication were left homeless in 1998, when construction of the Idaho Commons meant the destruction of their respective buildings.

Meanwhile, the Air Force ROTC's wooden edifice behind the Student Union Building — an old fraternity house that had served as the department's temporary building for many years — was finally slated for demolition.

The sudden need for office space led to Shoup's conversion from a swingin' student residence to a hub of academia.

The logistics of the transformation were relatively simple, says Dan Schoenberg, director of UI Auxiliary Services.

Most of the structure's changes were aesthetic modifications, such as knocking out walls in order to form classrooms and conference areas.

Perhaps the largest adaptation was the erection of an elevator in 2001 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For the Department of Theater and Film, one

of Shoup's most important rooms was the lounge, which soon was converted into the Arena Theatre.

Students from the department — who often can be heard from outside the building as they shriek and groan, cultivating their craft — gave the room a special touch.

"Our students painted the walls black," says David Lee-Painter, the department's director.

He says the presence of three departments in Shoup, along with its placement amid other residence buildings, has yet to pose any problems.

In fact, he says things have been comfortable in the new digs.

Shoup also features a good parking situation and relative peace and quiet during the day, says Kenton Bird, director of what is now the School of Journalism and Mass Media.

JAMM administrative assistant Karin Clifford says JAMM's employees have adapted quickly to their new environment.

However, Bird says JAMM's long-term goal is to have its own building in the center of campus again, and its short-term goal is to be closer to the Radio-TV Center, where several faculty members have offices.

JAMM CONTINUED FROM 1

School of Communication as follows:

- Journalism, advertising, public relations and a new degree in radio-TV-digital media production to the new School of Journalism and Mass Media.

- Communication Studies (including organizational, interpersonal and small group communication, as well as conflict management) to the Department of Psychology, now known as the Department of Psychology and Communication Studies.

- Film studies (including film classes from the departments of English and Foreign Languages and Literatures) to the Department of Theatre Arts, now called the Department of Theatre and Film.

- Photography and digital imaging to the Department of Art, recently renamed the Department of Art and Design.

This was the first major realignment of degree programs since 1973, when the School of

Communication was formed from the former departments of journalism, radio-television and speech.

As a result of the reorganization, students are able to choose specific majors and courses in four departments that better reflect their interests and career goals.

Creation of the School of JAMM has enabled the School's faculty to focus on professional and applied classes in journalism and media studies, while maintaining the historic foundation in the liberal arts. In addition, the change has raised the program's visibility among media outlets around the Northwest and may enhance opportunities for external funding.

Kenton Bird, interim JAMM director, said the new school's curriculum is based on standards set by the Accrediting Council for Education Journalism and Mass Communication, a national body.

No journalism program in Idaho is accredited, but the UI hopes to schedule an accreditation visit some time in the 2006-2007 academic year.

Journalism, Communication alumni receive newsletter

This newsletter is being sent to alumni of pre-1973 journalism, radio and television programs, and to School of Communication alumni from 1973 to 2003.

School of Communication alumni are asked to indicate which department they wish to receive newsletters from in the future by contacting:

- Steve Banks, Department of Psychology and Communication Studies, sbanks@uidaho.edu

- David Lee-Painter, Department of Theatre and Film, davidlp@uidaho.edu

- Bill Woolston, Department of Art and Design, woolston@uidaho.edu

- Karin Clifford, School of Journalism and Mass Media, jamm@uidaho.edu

You may also indicate your preference to continue receiving the JAMM newsletter by e-mailing Clifford at the above address.