Boise State University
Summer Series—Environmental Studies

About the Instructor...
If one were to look up scholar in my dictionary, you would find a picture of Todd Shallat. You would also find his picture under, phenomenon, prodigy, virtuoso and whiz kid. There would be a lot of pictures of Todd Shallat in my dictionary. Todd directs the Center for Idaho History and Politics at Boise State University. He is also the editor-in-chief of the Boise State University Office of Publications. Born in Chicago and raised in San Mateo, California, he received the Ph.D. in Applied History and Social Science from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1985. I use Todd’s prose as a model for my writing attempts because Todd is the sole author of four books and the lead co-author of another seven about cities, technology, and the environment. He is the winner of the Henry Adams Book Prize from the Society for Federal History, the Abel Wolman Book Award from the American Public Works Association, the Idaho Book Award from the Idaho Library Association, the Independent Publishing Association’s “honorable mention” for history publishing, and the Gold Medal for feature writing from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. It is always and honor and an adventure when Todd brings his students to Celebration Park. Here is Todd’s synopsis of their July visit.

About the Class
Every desert tells a story. On a fractured steppe of the Snake, at Celebration Park in Canyon County, the story progresses from fissure volcanoes to ancient markings. The enigma beguiles. In the heat of last July the story, for two days and a night, unfolded before a class of Boise State University environmental studies students. Ages ranged from 21 to 60—a banker, a retired airline pilot, some planning graduate students, and undergraduates of many kinds. Boise State's Todd Shallat has been taking students to these desert canyons for 26 years. "There is no better place to teach environmentalism," said Shallat, who directs the university’s Center of Idaho History and Politics. "Academic fields converge in this tortured landscape. Students ask a hundred questions. In the cool of the evening, they come alive." The course is part two of a summer "Investigate Boise" sequence. In June the focus is the city and it’s suburbs. In July the focus is energy and the environment. This year’s program included a Snake River jet boat ride and a visit to Swan Falls Dam.