The Season of Giving:
The joy of the holiday season, and of life, comes from serving others, not from what we get ourselves. ISU wholeheartedly embraces this joy of giving through several incredible programs.

~Benny’s Pantry~
Hunger can prevent students from achieving their academic goals so, in 2014, ISU created Benny’s Pantry to alleviate this concern. Most active ISU students and employees are eligible to access the Pantry and anyone can donate to the Pantry. For eligibility standards and donation information, please visit isu.edu/pantry.

~Bengal Meal Share~
The Office of Student Life and the Division of Student Affairs has officially unveiled the Bengal Meal Share program. Food insecurity is a major barrier to student success, so this program allows students on meal plans to donate up to 10 meals per year to other students. Not only does this help those in need, but it also allows students to serve fellow students and build family-like connections between Bengals. Anyone not on a meal plan can also donate to the Bengal Meal Share program by visiting the program’s website (isu.edu/mealshare).

~ISU Angel Tree~
The ISU Angel Tree began as a project with Student Affairs in 2008. Gifts are provided for over 100 Angels every December through this program, representing 50+ families. ISU's Angel Tree is unique from other Angel Trees in the area in that it is intended specifically for the children of our ISU students. Visit isu.edu/angeltree/ for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 3-7: Closed Week
Dec. 7: Angel Tree Selection Ends
Dec. 8: ISU Rodeo National Finals Viewing Party (7:30pm; Ballroom)
Dec. 11: Angel Tree Gifts are Due
Dec. 10-14: Finals Week
Dec. 13: Student Affairs Holiday Party (11am-1pm; Ballroom)
Dec. 13: College of Technology Graduation (7pm; SPAC)
Dec. 20: Campus Closes for Winter Break

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."
- Aristotle
Letter from Lyn:
I can’t believe it was almost exactly one year ago that I made my first visit to Idaho State as a Vice President for Student Affairs candidate. From my first step on campus I could feel that the employees of this university have passion and spunk for what they do, especially the members of this division. Unsurprisingly, this past semester has solidified my original feeling even further.

The hospitality that has been extended to me, which I have also seen consistently extended to our students, faculty, and staff, has been incredible. Your hard work and your commitment to supporting students shines through in everything you do. This division has done incredible things from starting the Bengal Meal Share program to successfully executing the Holiday Tree Lighting festivities. Even amid these big projects, you never lose sight of what is most important - our students and their experiences! So today I say thank you for welcoming me and for being exactly who I felt you were from the very beginning: True Bengals.

Staff Spotlight - Brooke Barber:

What do you do on campus and how long have you worked at ISU?
I joined the Office of Student Involvement and Orientation as Director of Orientation, Leadership and Service five years ago. Our office supports campus life through the areas of New Student Orientation, Week of Welcome, Family Weekend, Benny's Pantry, Service Corps, Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society, Student Activities Board, Greek Life, Clubs and Organizations, Creative Productions, and Summer Programs. We love what we do!

What is your favorite thing about your job?
I pursued a career in Student Affairs because student development resonates with the innermost core of who I am as a person. Nothing brings me greater joy, professionally, than seeing college students thrive in their holistic development in the years that they are with us. A true highlight for me is being able to see firsthand our newest Bengals become academically and socially connected to ISU during New Student Orientation!

What is your favorite annual activity/event that occurs at ISU?
Homecoming! It is such a fun time and it is beautiful to see current students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members rally together to celebrate Bengal Pride! I also happen to be a huge football enthusiast in general, so I never miss an ISU Homecoming Football Game.

Where does your passion for ISU come from?
So many wonderful faculty and staff members of ISU are Idaho natives and/or ISU alumni, but that is simply not my story. I had never been to Idaho prior to my interview and I was unfamiliar with the ISU campus. During that visit I was struck by the idea of being part of a "Bengal Family." Our students speak of it often and I have felt it strongly in these five years. Being part of this "Bengal Family" drives my passion for the continued success of ISU.

Do you like the snow that blankets Pocatello each year? Why or why not?
This North Carolina native has slowly adjusted to life at 5000 feet. Learning to drive in the snow in Idaho and embracing appropriate winter gear to stay warm were big steps for me. I would say that I am a "summer person" at heart who now appreciates the beauty of winter (including the fun of cross-country skiing)!

December Fun Facts:

- "Jingle Bells" was written in 1857 and was actually intended as a Thanksgiving song.
- The first artificial Christmas trees were made using goose feathers that were dyed green.
- It is estimated that more than 150 million holiday light sets are sold in America each year.

If you would like an item added to next month’s newsletter, email sargjess@isu.edu.