

# Our Towns

## OUR SCHOOLS PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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They're BSU history teachers and — they live in a dorm. "It's fun. We get a lot of good interaction with students. We think of it as an extension of our teaching," says Lisa Brady. "Some of our colleagues think it's crazy," volunteers her husband, David Walker. The couple is faculty-in-residence at the Arts and Humanities Residential College. They host coffee nights and discussions once a week, talking about things like politics and current events, and offer cultural outings once a month.

## Learning doesn't stop at the end of class

Faculty at BSU live with students in the dorms and host coffee nights to add enrichment to campus life.

### BY ROCKY BARKER

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Learning never has, and most likely never will, end at the close of the school day for Boise State University history professor Lisa Brady.

Growing up, Brady's mother, Sharon — a history teacher in Denver and Salida, Colorado, and finally Albuquerque, N.M. — filled the lives of her children with treasure hunts and history

games.

Now Lisa Brady and her husband, David Walker, also a BSU history professor, don't stop teaching when their school day is over either; they go home to their University Square apartment surrounded by their students.

Like three other couples who teach at BSU, Brady and Walker live in resident halls with students in the Renaissance program where humanities students and faculty together go to the ballet, the opera and foreign movies, as an added enrichment for those who live on campus.

"It's an attempt to bridge the

gap between the faculty," said Lisa Brady, who teaches environmental history.

"When we told our colleagues we were living in a dorm they kind of cringed, but it's not that bad," Walker said.

Students are encouraged to use their neighbors as a resource, to ask questions and seek advice. At times, it can be tiring, Brady said, but more often it is "incredibly rewarding."

"They see that we are real people," she said.

Walker, who specializes in military history, said his lifestyle was not a major adjustment. He finished his doctorate at George

Washington University in 2004 and Brady finished hers at Kansas in 2003.

One of their activities is café night, where initially, Walker and Brady invited students to Starbucks for coffee to discuss philosophy, politics and history.

The couple soon learned that the cost of expensive lattes and cappuccinos was discouraging some potential participants, so they bought a coffee pot and set aside an area in the resident hall.

"We sort of imagined this as a rather Bohemian kind of thing," Walker said.