

Chapter 3

Building the Campus 1967-1972

Hopeful anticipation gave way to pride in a completed showpiece as people observed the step-by-step building, physically and institutionally, of the CSI campus between 1967 and 1972. In January 1967 the CSI Board of Trustees chose to use concrete and brick for constructing exterior walls in the new buildings, partly because these products brought insurance savings. In Phase One, the first three structures built served academic, fine arts and maintenance purposes. Funds from the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1965 financed much of the construction. The fourteen hundred Civic Auditorium Association members in February 1967 enthusiastically handed over most of their funds to the college in order to match federal funds to construct the Fine Arts Center; in return association members helped design and would use the center. This collaboration brought much community pride. It was assumed that a future two-story addition would furnish space for drama and art classes.¹ Neilsen-Miller Construction Company of Twin Falls submitted the low bid for erecting the three buildings, along with sidewalks, landscaping and parking areas.

On Saturday morning, August 5, 1967, about two hundred individuals attended a ground breaking ceremony on the site of the future Fine Arts Center, as the Twin Falls Municipal Band entertained with music. Statewide dignitaries, including the presidents of Boise State College and Ricks College, joined local people in the celebration. Twin Falls resident Joe McCollum, member of the State Board of Regents, was master of ceremonies. Dr. Taylor offered a short history of the college; Eldon Evans moved dirt by pushing the plunger for the small explosion.²

The *Times-News* regularly updated readers with frequent articles and pictures on campus construction. From seventy-five to one hundred workers were employed in the project. As the landscape evolved, a 107-foot tower became the focal point in the center of campus; it served other uses as well.³ Readers were informed that of the \$3.4 million budget for the initial three buildings, \$1.8 million was from general obligation bonds, \$408,000 from the Civic Auditorium Association funds, and the remainder from the federal government.⁴ As the campus emerged, the zoning commission created a



*A view of the August 1967 ground-breaking ceremony.
CSI Archive photo.*

special residential area around the campus to prevent rapid commercial development.

Told about the explosive growth of community colleges throughout the nation, readers of the *Times-News* could place the development of CSI in its larger context. One new community college per week was added to the existing 840.⁵ From 1961 to 1968 junior colleges experienced a 46 percent increase in numbers and a 161 percent increase in enrollments.⁶

In 1968 a new campus arose out of a former hayfield. The Maintenance Building was finished in early September. On September 16 the Trustees named the emerging academic building the Shields Academic Building, in honor of James H. Shields Jr. This building, with twenty-seven classrooms and three lecture halls, opened for use on September 23, about a month after the beginning of the fall semester. Since there were not enough offices in the new building, the academic dean and many faculty members were housed in offices in the "White House" and the "Green House" in the southeastern section of the new campus. Those buildings were residences that had been purchased with the Kimes site. As the Shields Building opened, student enrollment had reached almost 1,700 students from twenty-two of Idaho's forty-four counties. Eight different states and eight foreign countries were represented as well.⁷



*The newly-completed tower in
1967.
CSI Archive photo.*

The new building brought changes to campus life. Nearly thirty thousand books needed to be moved to the CSI Library, which would be located in Shields 104 through 107. Students, formerly having had only evening classes, now must become more early morning people, with some having eight o'clock classes! Information tables and maps directed the students into the correct classrooms. With a major building completed, the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce declared October 3 to be Jim Taylor Day; he was honored along with trustees and some seventy faculty members. Nearly five hundred people attended a Holiday Inn banquet to pay tribute to him.⁸ Taylor believed that CSI should give as well as receive from the community; in 1968 CSI was the first Twin Falls organization to have 100 percent participation in the United Fund Drive.

CSI's next focus was on the Fine Arts Center. Already in February 1968 a fine arts commission of five was selected to coordinate the public use of the center, including the fees collected. These five people reflected some attempt at gender and area balance within the district. They were James Kinney and Dr. Harry Brumbach of Twin Falls, Bob McManaman of Buhl, Mrs. Jack



*The Shields Building under construction.
CSI Archive Photo.*

Ramsey of Filer and Mrs. Jerry Callen of Jerome.⁹ In early June Doc Taylor led tours of the construction area, including the Fine Arts Center. After construction was finished on November 1, the Fine Arts Center officially opened on November 13-15 with many presentations, starting with a performance of the Utah Civic Ballet troupe to a near capacity crowd in the almost 1,000-seat auditorium. The program included a schedule of upcoming art shows and auditorium events.¹⁰ As Phase One construction was completed, earlier on November 4 an open house allowed community members to explore all three buildings. An estimated 2,500 residents and others visited the facilities in pouring rain; they were favorably impressed with the structures and the



*The Fine Arts building takes shape in 1968.
CSI Archive photo.*

plans for future expansion.¹¹

With Phase One of building construction completed, additional landscaping to beautify the new campus was needed. In October 1969 Doc Taylor hired Frank Pohanka, a refugee from

communist Czechoslovakia, as a horticulturist who would be “involved particularly with care of trees, shrubs, flowers, and general landscape maintenance on campus.”¹² Pohanka had sold his small farm to the college as it was part of the larger Mary Kimes property. A few acres of trees on that property would be used to begin landscaping. The community associated Pohanka with the beautiful new campus. He would live until 2005 when he died at the age of ninety-two.¹³

In Phase Two the community anticipated three additional buildings: Health-PE, Multi-Use (administration, library and student union), and the Dormitory. On November 24, 1968, the paper published an aerial photo of the Phase One buildings and the blacked-out locations of the anticipated three new structures. The CSI Housing Commission, consisting of Mike Gray, Maurice Guerry and Jack Russell, made recommendations on planning and construction issues. The \$2.5-million Phase Two project would be financed by an Office of Education grant and a Housing and Urban Development loan.¹⁴

Arrington Construction Company of Idaho Falls produced the low bid for the Health-PE structure. Community members looked forward to the gym section of the building with enthusiasm, since all basketball games, along with other sporting events, had been played in local high schools. The new gym could accommodate about 4,200 people. Again frequent pictures



*Frank Pohanka.
CSI Archive photo.*

of the emerging buildings appeared in the paper. Finally the Health-PE complex was finished on September 20, 1970. The gym was inaugurated with a U.S. Marine Band concert for almost four thousand Magic Valley school children in October. The Health-PE Building was dedicated on November 29.

With students moving onto a permanent campus, activities of organizations and sports were important.

The 1966-1974 annuals document these activities. Pictures in the 1969 *Talon* show thirteen organizations: Art Club, the band, the choir, Circle K, DECA Club, Delta Psi Omega, Lorelei Club, Phi Theta Kappa, Rifle Club, Rodeo Club, Ski Club, Samothrace Club, and the Tijuana Brass. Four sports are pictured: baseball, basketball, wrestling, and tennis. Women are absent from sports other than being cheerleaders.

Further construction increased the level of student activities as well. In late November 1969, the Neilsen-Miller Construction Company began erecting the Multi-Use and Dormitory buildings, which would provide on-site administrative facilities and living and eating space for students. Responding to the already increased traffic, the city installed a traffic signal at the Falls-Blue Lakes intersection in May 1970. The Times-News furnished photographs of the move into the Multi-Use structure. On December 29, 1970, Sharon Stahlecker and Willie Patterson packed administrative materials for the move from administrative offices at 149 3rd Avenue East to the new facilities. The next day students assembled library shelves on the second floor. On January 14, 1971, two pictures highlighted students serving meals from the new cafeteria and carrying library shelves into the new library. On January 21 Dr. Taylor was featured in his new office, and Virginia Bright was ready to check out books at the front desk of the new library. This new facility freed up classrooms on the first floor of the Shields Building. On January 13 the Dormitory was completed with less fanfare.

All these new buildings increased Twin Falls construction significantly. The total 1969 value at \$4,911,659 was nearly double the \$2,714,502 value of 1968.¹⁵ Much of the non-CSI construction was indirectly related in some way. For example the Benedictine Priory, which provided a Newman Center for Catholic and non-Catholic students, was completed on Falls Avenue in 1969 because of the new college.



*Delta Psi Omega in 1969.
CSI Talon photo.*

One additional building was added before the end of 1972. Located just north of the Shield Academic Building, the Vocational Education Building—the present Hepworth Building—was the first professional-technical building on campus and must have reflected the 1971 legislative decision to totally fund the CSI Area Vocational School. The new building was financed from the state permanent building fund and a federal grant. It housed classes in agri-business, consumer education, distributive education, home economics and police officer training. The author was one of several academic faculty members who were able to move offices from the “White House” to this new building. Completed on May 31, 1972, the building was inaugurated with the Idaho Vocational Association Summer Conference in June.¹⁶

As new buildings arose, the campus grew institutionally as well. Kellwood Corporation’s decision in March 1969 to locate in Twin Falls demonstrated CSI’s role in economic development. Kellwood, of Siler City, North Carolina, provided nylon stockings for Sears, the Cling-A-Lon hose. Corporate leaders announced that the dynamic new college, along with civic pride and chamber efforts, drew them to the city. Doc Taylor assured Kellwood leaders that it would provide all necessary training of potential employees. Knitting machines were placed in the old CC Anderson Building where the college trained employees in eight different job classifications. In October 1969 CSI began classes in knitting, machine fixing, and sizing for upcoming employees. By the time Kellwood opened, the college had trained nearly five hundred people for the new knitting mill. With great pride, a forty-page section in the March 8 *Times-News* preceded the March 10, 1970, open house for the newly finished Kellwood Building.

Doc Taylor was constantly promoting the college and its programs. He asked LaVar Steel to throw one thousand pottery bowls with “The College of Southern Idaho” on the lip in liquid gold lettering. From his car trunk he would distribute these bowls or Kellwood panty hose samples to people he encountered, even in rest stops.¹⁷

Doc Taylor’s enthusiasm was reflected as CSI developed other needed programs. As explained earlier, CSI had partnered since 1965 with the Magic Valley Memorial Hospital to educate Practical Nursing students. However, there was a local shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs) as well. In August 1969 hospital administrator Irene Oliver noted that there was a nationwide shortage of RN nurses which would be helped if CSI could educate more of them. Dr. Taylor sought to initiate an RN program; he informed the Board of Trustees that it would be costly and different sources of funds would be necessary. Finally, in November 1970 Judith Roberts, whose husband was a fish biologist in Hagerman, was hired to inaugurate the RN program. It was



Judith Roberts in 1971.
CSI Talon photo.

anticipated that a large number of other medical services programs would follow. In August 1971 the RN program began to fully operate in Shields 113 with the assistance of Marilyn Blackburn, Peggy Stanfield and Leta Obray.¹⁸

As a comprehensive community college, CSI constantly moved to meet needs and develop opportunities. For example in April 1970 the college used an almost \$70,000 grant, made available by the Manpower Development and Training Act, to provide training for jobless and underemployed individuals. Aware of Snake River trout producers' need for trained workers, CSI began the fish technology program in 1972.

The college was constantly on the search for new modes of educating students. Taylor announced to the board in December 1970 that the construction permit for KBOI TV Channel 13 was for sale for about \$2,500. KMVT, the Twin Falls commercial TV station, would reimburse the college for the purchase price.¹⁹ Placing the CSI transmitter on Jerome Butte would provide a favorable outreach. By June 1971, KMVT contributed some \$100,000 worth of equipment and Dr. Taylor had filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission to operate the station. It would begin broadcasting in November 1973.

By the mid-1960s it became clear that the Herrett Arts and Science Center, which had continually developed since 1952, needed to be incorporated into a larger community institution. Norman Herrett was aging and the scope of the operation was beyond one person's care. In March 1966 the Twin Falls School District examined using a federal grant to include the center into its educational mission, but it never came into fruition.²⁰ Meanwhile national experts gave accolades after examining the center. Praising the collection, in August 1967 Dr. Emma Lou Davis of the San Diego Museum of Man said there was nothing comparable within eight hundred miles. By June 1971 seventy-five students assisted Mr. Herrett in teaching nine thousand students annually from as far east as Pocatello to as far west as Parma. Dr. Junius B. Bird, director of the Museum of Natural History in New York City, and Dr. Paul R. Cheesman of Brigham Young University provided more praise for the center. In addition in April 1972 Norman Herrett received the Newsworthy Program Award from *Instructor* magazine.²¹

In that context, in 1969 Norman Herrett initially proposed to President Taylor that the Herrett Center and CSI collaborate so the collection, and the



*Norman Herrett.
CSI Archive photo.*

unique method of teaching, would ultimately go to the institution. Based on further negotiations, in June 1972 the center was donated to the college. The agreement noted that Norman Herrett would coordinate the center as long as physically able, that an advisory committee would be formed, and that a campus site would be selected for a museum building.²²

As CSI was developing, Magic Valley Christian College, located on the old Albion Normal School campus, experienced problems. It was announced in March 1969 that it would relocate to an abandoned Air Force facility in Baker, Oregon, based on that city's financial assistance. In April some proposed to create a public junior college for Cassia and Minidoka counties on the soon-to-be vacated campus. After all, a second junior college could be legally established within an area if the existing college had a daytime enrollment of one thousand.²³ Additionally, those counties now spent many dollars on students attending CSI. When that proposal failed to materialize, in February 1970 it was hoped that the Intermountain Trade and Technical Schools, Inc. might move to the Albion site. When that did not happen, one month later the city of Albion purchased the campus from the State Land Board for ten dollars.²⁴ The frustrations over developing the Albion campus site must have demonstrated to CSI leaders that they could not take success for granted.

As the CSI campus developed, membership on the Board of Trustees was remarkably stable. In 1967 the board reorganized and developed job functions. In January Eldon Evans was selected as Chair with John Garra-brandt of Jerome as Vice Chair. After Herb Van Slyke of Rupert became in September the first Business Manager, he replaced John Coleman as Secretary-Treasurer. Ex-Officio members from Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding and Lincoln counties were invited to attend trustees meeting, even though those counties had not joined the junior college district.²⁵ In December the board and President Taylor adopted guidelines defining the functions of the board and the president.

During the 1968 and 1970 board elections incumbents had no opposition. In January 1969 John Coleman became Chair, John Garrabrandt Vice-Chair. After the December 1970 election, John Garrabrandt became Chair, Eldon Evans Vice-Chair. James Shields' death in mid-April 1971 brought the appointment of John Hepworth in May to complete his term. Hepworth had been vice-chair of the Southern Idaho College trustees in Buhl. Later he served on the Committee of Twenty-Five which had promoted the formation of CSI. The committee had listed him as a potential Buhl member of the original five trustees. He was a very logical choice to replace Shields. As we shall see the 1972 election sparked more controversy.

While actively administering CSI, Taylor furnished leadership in other organizations as well. In December 1967 he began serving as secretary of the Northwest Association of Junior Colleges. In recognition for his efforts, the local Jaycees gave a distinguished service award in January 1968. In September 1968 an eight-person team examined the new college for two days to determine if accreditation was justifiable. During the association meeting in Reno in December, it was announced that the college was fully accredited and "had made more progress than any other college in the association history in the same length of time." At the Reno meeting Taylor was selected as second vice president of the association.²⁶ In December 1969 Doc was selected as first vice president in the Portland, Oregon, meeting. In May 1969 and again in 1971 he was selected as chair of the Idaho State Advisory Council for Vocational Education. Taylor served as the President of the South Idaho Chamber of Commerce in 1970 and in other local positions.

Some CSI faculty members joined Taylor in supplying leadership as well. As examples, in April 1967 LaVar Steel was appointed to the Idaho Commission on Arts and Humanities. Ruthann LeBaron served as vice president and then in 1972 president of the Idaho Academy of Sciences. These appointments highlighted the impact the new campus was having in the state.



*The first accreditation team working in 1968.
CSI Archive photo.*

Long-term administrative leaders helped build the college. After joining the campus in 1966 as a vocational counselor, Jerry Meyerhoeffer became Director of Admissions and Records in September 1968. Friendly and photogenic, he became known in the community as his picture frequently appeared in the local paper. David Perkins, hired in May 1967, served in numerous roles, including Dean of Students and Director of Student Personnel Services, before retiring in 1996. Dr. Adele Thompson, hired in 1966, also served in a variety of positions including Dean of Women. Like Meyerhoeffer, she was featured in newspaper articles, particularly relating to female student issues.

The new campus required additional personnel in 1968. Former member of the board of trustees for Southern Idaho College in Buhl, Bob McManaman became Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. As a college employee, he surrendered his position as a member of the Fine Arts Advisory Committee. He would administer buildings and grounds until retiring in 1989. Security for the new campus would also be needed. In November Lee Talkington resigned his twenty-year position with the Twin Falls Police Department to become head of security at the new campus.

Many new faculty members came to the college as students enrollments increased and because some instructors took positions at other institutions. Indeed, the opening of so many new community colleges nationwide created much fluidity in jobs. In August 1969 fourteen new faculty members were welcomed to campus. Some of the new faculty members would later provide administrative leadership.

Early deaths of some of the first faculty members hired in 1965 created a sense of loss in the small tightly-knit campus community. Charles Alban had taught a wide variety of classes and had sponsored student government activities. After leaving the college to head the South Central Community Action Agency in late 1968, Alban died in late July 1970. Elsie Opheim came to the campus after completing her M.S. at Montana State University. She taught in office administration and served as chair of the Business Department. She passed away in December 1970. The Board of Trustees sent a letter of condolence to her family.

All losses did not come from deaths. Job changes caused others to leave. Vocational Director Wayne Rodgers left his position at CSI in 1967 to become director at Eastern Idaho Technical College. Orval Bradley was hired in July; he came to CSI from Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma, where he had served as director for five years. He obtained both his four year and Master's degrees at Kansas State College. He would remain vocational director until his retirement in 1995. At the same time that Bradley was hired, Marvin Glasscock was selected to instruct in related subjects and began the Adult Basic Education program in 1968. Ac-



*Ruthann LeBaron in 1966.
CSI Talon photo.*



*David Perkins.
CSI Talon photo.*



*Bob McManaman.
CSI Archive photo.*

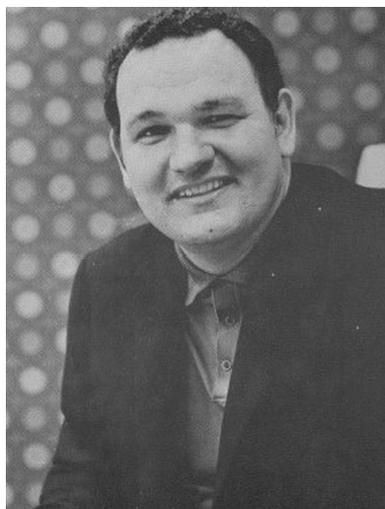
ademic Dean Don Keith left the college to begin his new duties in mid April 1968 as Executive Director of Higher Education in Boise. Dr. Terry Smith, coming from an Oregon background and having just completed his Ed.D. at the University of Texas, Austin, became the new dean on June 1.

Leadership changes also came in the coaching staff. Following successful basketball games in 1966, the CSI team moved onto the national stage. In April 1967 Eddie Sutton was named the national AAU coach of the year. Just one year out of high school coaching, he led the Golden Eagles to a 33-4 record. In celebration, on October 1967 Bill Herrett of Filer presented a mounted golden eagle, which was ultimately to be displayed in the gym. Tom Schiermeier, a CSI student, prepared the eagle for display. In March 1969 Sutton moved east to become head basketball coach at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He credited President Taylor with his college coaching success. Taylor's enthusiasm caused Sutton to begin coaching at CSI even before there was a gymnasium, which was not completed until 1972.

After receiving an onslaught of applications from seventeen states, Doc Taylor selected as the new athletic director and basketball coach Jerry Hale, the assistant coach at the University of Texas, El Paso; there he had developed excellent recruiting experience. Sutton had recommended Hale, who had been his teammate in college. By March 1970 the CSI team earned its



*Orval Bradley in 1969.
CSI Talon photo.*



*Coach Jerry Hale in 1971.
CSI Talon photo.*

first trip to Junior College Nationals in Hutchinson, Kansas, by defeating Ricks College 83-79 in the regional tournament. The Golden Eagles finished eighth in the nation. In December of that year a second golden eagle was donated to Dr. Taylor, this one ultimately going on display in the Multi-Use Building—today's Taylor Administration Building. After playing in Hutchinson again in 1971, the CSI team took second in the nation, and fourth in the nation in 1972. The CSI basketball reputation was well on its way!

After Mike Glenn left coaching baseball to become Chair of the Business Department, Doc Taylor followed another Sutton recommendation and hired Bob Banfield, who had worked with Sutton at Creighton, as the new baseball coach in 1971. Banfield led the baseball team to the Region 18 championships in May 1972.

The community appreciated new educational and entertainment opportunities made available by the Fine Arts Center and the gym. Nationally known popular musical groups such as the Pozo Seco Singers, Harpers Bizarre, Gary Lewis and the Playboys, the Pat Boone family and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band performed in the Fine Arts Center. Diverse individuals such as Josh White Jr., Glenn Yarbrough, and Dick Gregory performed as well. Vice President Spiro Agnew spoke at the gym in October 1972; Twin Falls was not accustomed to having a visit from a sitting federal second-in-command. A more classical taste in music was served with the internationally known soprano Helen Laird's concert, the Utah Symphony, and the City Center Joffrey Ballet as only three examples. Since some performances had too many au-

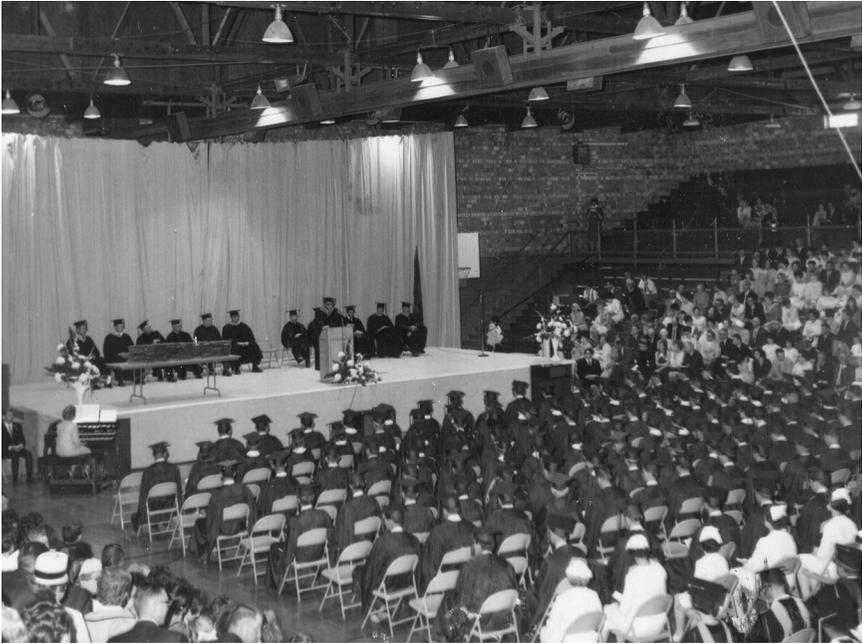
dience members due to oversold seats, promoters were warned in early 1972 that they must no longer sell more seats than the center could hold. Exhibits were now available to the community as well; in April 1971 twenty replicas of Leonardo da Vinci's inventions, along with material from his notebooks, were displayed at the Fine Arts Center.

During 1969-1970, members of the community relished showing off the new facilities during large conferences. In March an estimated seven hundred Future Farmers of America attended a three-day Leadership Conference. In early October nearly six hundred people appeared at the three-day Idaho Art Association meeting, the first one in Twin Falls. Also in early October over six hundred fifty people from eight western states, plus a few foreign countries, discussed beef production on campus. In early February 1970 a Country Music Jamboree featured eleven different bands during a two-day show.

Students embraced the new college with enthusiasm; the rapid enrollment increase created a sense of success. On May 15, 1967, the *Times-News* printed all 128 names of the first graduating class; the ceremony was held at Twin Falls High School. The 1968 class had 202 graduates. The 286 graduates in May 1969 were the first to receive degrees at the new campus site. By 1971 the graduation ceremony was moved to the gym because the more than three thousand members of the audience could not fit into the Fine Arts Auditorium.

The community demonstrated an appreciation of student needs by increasing the number of scholarships. In January 1967 the 20th Century Club announced that it would provide two student scholarships; in June the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce began collecting money for scholarships and aimed to get at least two hundred \$100 scholarships. In the same month the Jerome Rotary Club presented a \$125 scholarship to the college.²⁷ These initial scholarships encouraged future ones such as those from the Twin Falls Music Club and from the Business and Professional Women.

Students involved in the arts were very visible. In April 1967 Fran Tanner directed her drama students in the intimate "theater in the round" format at the YMCA-YWCA. They performed three one-act plays: *George* by Van Cartmell, *The Sandbox* by Edward Albee and *The Devil and Daniel Webster* by Stephen Vincent Benet.²⁸ Multiple art exhibits and concerts followed. Even before the new campus emerged, there was a week-long Festival of the Arts in April 1968 at the YMCA-YWCA and at the high school. It would involve students in one-act plays, concerts and art showings led by three faculty members: Fran Tanner in drama, LaVar Steel in art, and Dennis Foote in music.²⁹ Tanner had been trained in Readers Theater at the University of Wash-



*Graduation ceremony held at Twin Falls High School in 1968.
CSI Archive photo.*

ington and became associated with that art form at CSI. In December 1969 Philip Rayher directed students in their performance of *Tom Paine* written by Paul Foster. Instructor Mike Green was honored by having his one-man art show displayed at the University of Montana at Missoula between November 23 and December 13, 1970. In October 1972 students performed George Bizet's *Carmen*, the largest production up to that time.

CSI had from the beginning tried to integrate students and the community in activities. In February 1970 the Cultural Field Trip to San Francisco began a long-term vehicle for students and community members to enjoy the artistic experiences of that city. LaVar Steel and Mike Green started and directed these field trips until their retirements. They wanted the community to appreciate the range of artistic experiences in visual arts as well as performances in music, dance and theatre.³⁰

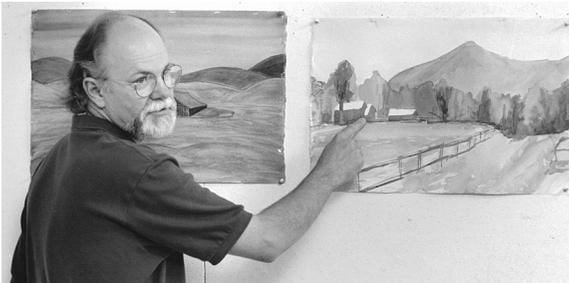
Also the college collaborated with the Antique Festival Theater. The theater began in 1963 when Aldrich and Di Bowler were offered the Ramona Theater to start a drama group which would provide "live" entertainment and an opportunity for fledgling actors to perform. Like the Dilettantes in Twin Falls, the Buhl group experienced much support. Local business people served on the board and raised scholarship money. After the summer 1966 season, a smaller group continued a touring company that presented



First graduation ceremony held at the CSI Gym in 1971.
CSI Archive photo.

more limited theater. In 1968 the group gained a grant from the Idaho Commission on the Arts and Humanities. In 1969 the board of trustees for the theater group included John M. Barker, James H. Shields, and Bob McManaman, names well-known at CSI. That year's season began at the CSI Fine Arts Center with Henry Fielding's *Tom Thumb the Great*, Moliere's *The Doctor in Spite of Himself*, and James Rosenberg's *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch*.³¹

Student clubs promoted pride in CSI with their achievements. Joan Edwards, president of CSI's Phi Theta Kappa honor society, was motivated to action by her attendance as one of more than four hundred delegates at the national convention in Austin, Minnesota, in April 1967. During the following year the CSI club was named the most active group in the nation.³²



Art instructor Mike Green.
CSITalon photo.

In May 1968 two CSI students—Linda Bell and Phyllis Wagner—attended the national Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) meeting in Houston, Texas, after having won awards at the state convention.³³

Wagner won the first place trophy at the meeting. In May 1970 George Rogers received the first place medal at the national DECA meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

As Gene Hull began to teach political science for CSI in 1970, he collaborated with Fran Tanner to develop a more competitive debate team. After they began jointly coaching debate, it thrived.³⁴ At a 1972 regional tournament in Arizona, debate and forensic students did so well that they were invited to participate at the national speech tournament in Los Angeles. Many of these early students, such as Joan Edwards, Helen Hammond, Lloyd Hardesty, Bob Keegan, and Fred Trenkle would later provide leadership for the college. The quality of their CSI education was reflected in their performance.

While building the campus between 1967 and 1972, campus leaders were not immune from the national debates over the Vietnam War, the use of authority, drug abuse, and the environment. National unrest over the Vietnam War came to the campus rather late. No antiwar demonstrations had occurred as late as October 1967. By 1969 the intensity of the national debate spread to Twin Falls. In February, Dean Terry Smith spoke to the LDS students about the national wave of student unrest. When there were threats to a Marine Corps recruiter at CSI in mid-September, Doc Taylor recommended a symposium where students could discuss their differences. Each side provided opening statements in the Fine Arts Center. Although raw feelings were expressed, the debate provided a good opportunity to discuss relevant issues.³⁵

The October 10, 1969, edition of the *CSI Horizon* student newspaper demonstrated the questioning of authority. The paper called for freshman class re-elections because of violations of the CSI Constitution, questioned why a gym was being constructed when a student union or library would have been more beneficial to the majority, and wanted peers rather than administrators to judge unrest violations. While the *Horizon* supported the new dress code allowing women to wear long pants, a student letter wondered why students could not wear grubbies or cut-offs. Students were encouraged to join the observation of the nationwide Vietnam Moratorium on October 15, since three hundred student leaders had favored the nationwide boycott of classes in opposition to the war. The *Horizon* recommended a limited boycott. On October 20 the Board of Trustees noted that the October 10 paper had generated much public comment. The paper was hurting the community image of the college since just about everything in the edition had been either "critical or uncomplimentary" of CSI and its administration.³⁶

As the October 15 Vietnam Moratorium neared it was determined that the Magic Valley Council of Churches would pray for peace at the Episcopal

his meeting with fifty or sixty students, he said that the college did not have time to prepare for such demonstrations and was adamant that classes would not be cancelled; he noted that since it cost \$11,000 per day to keep the campus functioning, closing it down was a significant decision. After Taylor finally agreed to limited picketing in designated areas where classes would not be disrupted, few students actually participated.³⁹

For CSI, increased drug use proved to be a longer-term issue than anti-war protests. An anonymous student reported in October 1969 that up to twenty-five percent of campus students used drugs on a regular basis. Within fifteen or twenty minutes one could purchase marijuana on campus for about \$10 a lid or per ounce.⁴⁰ The Board of Trustees expressed concern about unfavorable local publicity about accusations of student and faculty drug abuse. Drug abuse became a major concern as seminars educated leaders who would pass the information on to students.

Students also began to be educated about a relatively new concept—ecology. In April 1970 Donald Obee, Chair of the Division of Science and Health at Boise State College, spoke during first Environmental Teach-In at CSI. He and other speakers informed students about problems that would be addressed by the newly created Environmental Protection Agency. CSI faculty shared with the community information related to the environment. For example, in March 1972 Ruthann LeBaron spoke to the Twentieth Century Club about problems of ecology.

Two 1972 events demonstrated the discontent of the time. On the morning of April 6, vandals tossed huge rocks into forty-four panels of plate glass in the present Taylor Administration Building. The panels were nine by five feet and were estimated to cost \$16,000 plus labor. It was believed that the breakage occurred between 3:15 a.m. and 5:15 a.m., during which there were no campus security guards on duty. In addition the vandals destroyed two glass windows and two doors in the Shields Academic Building. This senseless vandalism brought empathy for the college. Students offered a \$500 reward for information which would lead to the conviction of the guilty.⁴¹ The Twin Falls Bank and Trust Company donated \$500 to the college to use as needed.

The second event was the controversial CSI Board of Trustees election on December 19. After no competition for incumbents in the 1968 and 1970 elections, in 1972 there were seven candidates for two positions. The two incumbents were John Coleman, who had been Governor Smylie's original pick for the board, and John Hepworth, who had been selected to complete James Shield Jr.'s term following his death in 1971.

The election was undoubtedly complicated by three issues. In the April 17, 1972, board meeting Terrill Castaneda complained that she was informed too late in the year that she would not be offered a contract for the upcoming academic year, and that CSI's evaluation procedures were inadequate. The board supported Dr. Terry Smith and Doc Taylor in not renewing her contract. The Castaneda case would be a long-term irritant. In the May 15, 1972, board meeting the trustees determined that if faculty or staff members were elected to state-wide office, meaning they would have to be gone two or three months at a time, they would be asked to resign. That policy created controversy. In July Governor Cecil Andrus stated that the policy preventing college employees from holding elective positions made them second-class citizens.

The third issue was related to the personality of head librarian Dr. Bruce Harrison, who had been hired in January 1967 to develop the library. In May 1971 Robert McGuire was hired to assist Harrison. Since the library had been a concern in the initial accreditation report, it was no surprise that Dr. Taylor would focus on it. Harrison had increased the number of volumes so that by September 1972 there were more than 100,000. Concerns developed over the usability of the books. For example, in November 1970 it was decided to purchase from Encyclopedia Britannica the 20,000-volume library on the same number of microfilm sheets. Some questioned the relevancy of the collection for a community college. Most likely the biggest issue was that at a time when questioning authority was popular, Harrison considered himself an authority.

As the December 19, 1972, trustee election date approached, five candidates filed as competitors for the seats held by John Coleman and John Hepworth. CSI student Stanley Wachtstetter, former student body president Leon Wright, Twin Falls attorney Rudolf Barchas, physician Dr. Werner Kramer and businessman David Dellett entered the race against the incumbents.

All challengers, in some way, questioned the independence of the board from Doc Taylor, with one candidate calling it a rubber stamp. Wachtstetter and Wright argued that faculty members needed tenure. They also insisted that library management must be addressed; Wachtstetter called for the removal of Dr. Harrison.⁴² Wright noted that athletic programs were over-emphasized. Barchas wanted the college to emphasize academics that taught students to think. On December 10 the *Times-News* published interviews with several students, faculty and staff at CSI which reflected the variety of opinions. Two days later the *CSI Horizon* endorsed Stanley Wachtstetter and Rudolf Barchas for the two trustee positions.

Voters supported Coleman and Hepworth overwhelmingly. Hepworth received 2525 votes, John Coleman 2014. The next-closest was Dr. Warner Kramer with 387 votes. On December 24 Mr. Spectator in the *Times-News* noted that “there is only one way to look at the results of the CSI trustee election. It has to stand as a solid vote of confidence in the way the college is operated under the guidance of Dr. Jim Taylor.” Taylor made it clear that some of the issues, particularly regarding the library, would be examined.

Between 1967 and 1972 the CSI Board of Trustees and Jim Taylor played a key role in building a campus, not only with bricks and mortar but also with programs, supportive administration, faculty and staff. They were successful in meeting needs and developing opportunities for older and younger students found at community colleges. They did that during an era that was struggling with an unpopular war, authority, drug abuse and related issues. The trustee election of 1972 may have been a vote of confidence for the past, but also introduced issues to be addressed in the future.

ENDNOTES

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3. *TFTN*, “Beacon to Education: Tower Marks CSI Campus,” December 22, 1967.
4. *TFTN*, “CSI Officials Prepare to Move Into New Academic Building in Near Future,” September 12, 1968.
5. *TFTN*, “Junior Colleges,” March 15, 1967.
6. *TFTN*, “Junior Colleges,” February 11, 1970.
7. Bonnie Baird Jones, “CSI Campus Begins to Swing,” *TFTN*, September 29, 1968.
8. *TFTN*, “Oct. 3 Is Set Aside as Day to Honor CSI’s Dr. James Taylor,” September 22, 1968.
9. *TFTN*, “CSI Fine Arts Commission Is Appointed,” February 20, 1968.
10. *TFTN*, “CSI Fine Arts Center Opens With Big Turnout,” November 15, 1968.
11. *TFTN*, “Visitors Impressed at CSI Open House,” November 4, 1968.
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13. *TFTN*, “Obituary Frank J. Pohanka,” June 26, 2005.
14. *TFTN*, “Even Dr. Taylor Surprised by the College of Southern Idaho Phenomenon,” March 21, 1969.
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16. Steve Blaye, “CSI Garners Community, State Support,” *TFTN*, June 27, 1971; *TFTN*, “New CSI Structure Nears Completion,” March 10, 1972.
17. Lavar Steel, in discussion with the author, October 3, 2014.
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24. *TFTN*, "Albion Buys Campus for \$10," March 1, 1970.
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26. *TFTN*, "CSI To Get Close Inspection By Accreditation Committee," September 25, 1968; Ruth Miller, "CSI Is Fully Accredited; Dr. Taylor Has Post," *TFTN*, December 11, 1968.
27. *TFTN*, "Scholarship Program For CSI Started," June 5, 1967; *TFTN*, "Jerome Group Finances Scholarship at CSI," June 21, 1967.
28. Norma Herzinger, "'Horseshoe' Theater Styling Slated in Three One-Act Plays," *TFTN*, April 9, 1967.
29. Ruth Koonce Miller, "Week-Long Festival of Arts Is Scheduled in Twin Falls," *TFTN*, April 7, 1968.
30. Steel discussion
31. *TFTN*, "Local Repertory Company Will Open 6th Smashing Season in CSI Arts Building," March 21, 1969.
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34. Ken Hodge, "Single-Act Plays in '66 Launched Drama Department," *TFTN*, October 21, 1977.
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40. Fred Dodds, "Where Does 'Pot' Come From? Some of It Is Grown Right Here," *TFTN*, October 6, 1969.
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