

# Sen. James McClure

## *A Life of Leadership*



*Sen. James McClure makes a point during a press conference. McClure represented Idaho in the U.S. Senate from 1973 to 1990.*

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When future history books are written about Idaho, Senator James A. McClure '50 will be regarded as one of the state's great public officials and very best citizens. The University of Idaho is proud to count him and his wife, Louise '50, among its most treasured alumni.

In April, the University honored Sen. McClure with the inaugural Legacy of Leading Award. The award was established to honor Idaho alumni who exemplify the University's leadership qualities and who have contributed to its 120-year history of producing leaders, thinkers and global citizens.

"Senator McClure has been a model servant of the people of his state and the nation through his exemplary career of leadership," said President Steven Daley-Laursen at the award ceremony. "His tireless work for the

people of Idaho and for his alma mater has inspired many people to follow in his footsteps of civic engagement, action and service."

More than 500 of his friends and associates attended the award ceremony, a testament to the respect and affection McClure has earned during life as a public official.

"I feel a little awkward accepting an award sitting down," joked McClure, who suffered a stroke last December. "The University of Idaho is very near and dear to my heart. ... Thank you to the University of Idaho for this distinctive honor and this tremendous gathering tonight."

The McClure political biography is impressive enough: Payette County prosecuting attorney, Idaho state senator, three-term member of Congress representing the First District of Idaho, and three times elected to the United States Senate.

Notable accomplishments of his U.S. Senate tenure include leadership in the creation of the federal Department of Energy and his bipartisan work with then Governor Cecil Andrus to create the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. McClure served on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which he also chaired from 1981-87, and the Helsinki Commission on Human Rights. In 1987, he served on the Senate Select Committee to investigate the Iran-Contra Affair.

Through hard work, study and desire, he became an expert on natural resource and energy issues. From 1981 to 1987, when he chaired the United States Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he was widely regarded as the preeminent expert in Congress regarding national and international energy issues. Republicans and Democrats alike took notice – and action – when the senior senator from Idaho spoke on the connections between energy and national security and the need for smart policy about nuclear energy and controlling nuclear weapons.

Both Jim and Louise graduated from the University in 1950: Jim with a law degree and Louise with a bachelor's degree in music, and they both sang in the Vandaleers. Jim also received an honorary degree from the University in 1981.

Their dedication to the University always has been significant, and they are recipients of a number of University awards, including being honored as grand marshals of the 2007 Homecoming parade. In 2001, they established the James and Louise McClure Endowment for the Sciences and Public Policy.

Jim and Louise McClure are, by any measure, among the best citizens of Idaho. Their passion for service recalls a comment by President John Quincy Adams who said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

## Creating the Award



*Melissa Bixby and Louise McClure*

Sculptor Melissa Bixby, a master's of fine arts student from Soldotna, Alaska, created the Legacy of Leading Award. The design incorporates turrets from the Administration Building, a casting of the brick exterior of Phinney Hall, the glass panels of the Library and the Administration Building clock. The wooden base is from another notable campus landmark, the

Camperdown elms that line Campus Drive leading to the Administration Building.

"I feel really honored that I was able to create an award that is going to be given to someone who personifies the Legacy of Leading," said Bixby.

## Arriving at Insight: McClure Center for Public Policy Research

Public policy makers deal with complex issues. The decisions they make have significant and lasting cultural, environmental and economic impact. The McClure Center for Public Policy Research was established to provide policy makers access to unbiased information that will inform their decisions, provide scholarly insight, and ultimately allow them to formulate sound, lasting solutions.

The McClure Center is housed in the University's College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences and draws on expertise from across disciplines, including the scholarship of Idaho's leading researchers in agricultural and life sciences, natural resources and law.

The Center currently is focused on providing forums for public and scholarly discussion of the issues that shape us as a state, as a nation and as players on the global stage.

The McClure Lectures on Science and Public Policy bring national and international experts to the University of Idaho campus to explore the intersection of scientific study and public policy. Recent speakers include: Dr. Susan Wood, on health and reproductive issues; Admiral (Ret.) John J. Grossenbacher, who focused on the development of nuclear energy; and Jerome Ringo, who discussed the possibilities for a clean energy revolution.

In addition, on-campus panels sponsored by the Center have provided public forums that allow citizens to actively participate in national dialogue on the seminal issues of the day. In recent years, the McClure Center has hosted panels focusing on American foreign policy in the Middle East, Supreme Court appointments, gay marriage and the presidential primaries.

The University of Idaho has recently undertaken a campaign to raise \$3 million to endow and ensure the future of the McClure Center. The monies will allow the Center to provide non-partisan public policy research and polling for Idaho and the West, to increase public dialogue, to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and to enhance civic education.