

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

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Tuesday, April 19, 2016

FACULTY

Stretched thin

Many factors contribute to low faculty morale at UI

Erin Bamer
Argonaut

When Patrick Hrdlicka left his home in Denmark as a Ph.D. to become an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Idaho, he liked to joke that he took a pay deduction with the job.

Yet even now, as an associate professor, he said the punchline isn't so far from the truth.

"This is the country of opportunities, right?" Hrdlicka said. "At least that's how it is marketed."

Hrdlicka is one of many faculty members who believe the morale among UI employees is dangerously low. At the center of their many grievances is money.

James Foster, a distinguished professor in the College of Science, said his salary is 30 percent less than the average pay for a professor of his rank at peer institutions — and he's not the only one.

At Washington State University, professors receive annual salaries well over \$100,000, with some reaching past \$200,000 per year. Faculty members at UI's peer institution University of Nebraska-Lincoln receive salaries around \$100,000.

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the salaries given to regular faculty at UI ranged from lower than \$20,000 to more than \$100,000 annually. Despite where their salaries stand, the majority of faculty have not seen sig-



David Black | Argonaut

nificant raises, with much of faculty only seeing an increase of about \$2,000 over the past three fiscal years.

Hrdlicka said low pay has the potential to act as a statement to employees. He said because UI uses a kind of scoring system to determine pay, low employee compensation shows faculty, staff and administrators where

they rank and how much the UI administration values them.

Liz Brandt, a distinguished professor in the College of Law, said it doesn't impact morale right away when faculty don't see a significant raise to their salary in a year — it's when the pattern repeats that it can cause damage.

"If you have a year with no pay increase, I don't

think most people take it like that," Brandt said. "If you have two years without a pay increase I don't think most people take it like that. If you have six years without a pay increase, you start to think, 'What am I, chopped liver?'"

But most faculty members don't come to UI because of the pay, Brandt said. There are other issues along with

low salaries that are detrimental to morale.

Foster said the increasing number of created administrative positions combined with the steady rise in salaries for administrators can lead other employees to wonder why that money can't be spent to raise salaries for non-administrators.

SEE THIN, PAGE 5

CITY

From doggies to doobies

Community comes out for Moscow Hemp Fest

Austin Maas
Argonaut

Arlene Falcon, owner of local business Tye Dye Everything, has managed Moscow Hemp Fest since 2006 — yet the event has evolved since it was founded in 1996, Falcon said.

"It started with this guy, Shawn, who made hemp bracelets and eventually started Hemp Fest," she said.

Saturday afternoon, University of Idaho and Moscow community members, including kilt-clad men, young children and an assortment of dogs, gathered in East City Park to enjoy psychedelic rock and celebrate cannabis culture for Moscow's 20th Hemp Fest.

Present were several local businesses and independent vendors, as well as local bands including the Charcoal Squids and Mother Yeti, who voiced their support of the festival and its message.

Falcon said when the festival was founded, the event mainly focused on hemp, but as the legalization of medical marijuana became increasingly popular, the focus of the event began to shift.

Falcon said nowadays, "It's all about information and advocacy."

One advocate for the legalization of medical marijuana, Denise Fall, said she believed cannabis oil played a key role in curing her cancer.

"I really think it helped me," Fall said. "As soon as I started using the cannabis oil I could feel my lump getting smaller and smaller."

SEE DOOBIES, PAGE 5

GREEK LIFE

Slow but successful

Turtle Derby continues to raise funds, awareness for ALS 58 years later

Diamond Koloski
Argonaut

Kathy Combo said when she was a University of Idaho student, watching the Phi Delta Theta Turtle Derby was one of her favorite things to do with her parents when they came to Moscow for Moms' Weekend. Now that it's her turn to be a Vandal Mom, she said she loves watching the derby with her kids.

"It's honestly one of our family traditions, coming to the turtle races," Combo said.

In the event, located in the center of Old Greek Row, dozens of people gather to cheer on turtles inside a circle painted on the street — the first turtle to make it outside the circle wins.

"It sounds really boring," said Beau Grant, Phi Delta Theta philanthropy chair. "But the crowd's really pumped.

It's always a lot more exciting because of the crowd."

The 58-year-old event raises funds and awareness of amyotrophic lateral disease (ALS) in honor of Lou Gehrig, who was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Grant said the turtle derby is one of the UI Greek community's most successful philanthropies — between the auction, the coin drive and the GoFundMe account, he said the event usually raises between \$1,500 and \$3,000. They exceeded \$3,500 before the event concluded.

Besides the turtle races, spectators can also watch skits performed by sorority women, and bid on baskets made by sororities and donated by local businesses. Audience members also have the chance to "Pie a Phi," in which the highest bidders can throw a pie in the face of a Phi Delta Theta member.

Fourth-year student and fourth generation Vandal Ryann Mata was cheering in the crowd with her family, including her mom Rhani, a Vandal alumna. The Matas have attended the turtle derby for the past four years.

SEE SUCCESSFUL, PAGE 5

RESEARCH

Granting an opportunity

UI receives grant to help Nez Perce students become more engaged in STEM fields

Corrin Bond
Argonaut

In a 2011 review of the Lapwai community, Melinda Hamilton, the Idaho National Laboratory education director at the time, found that as a whole, the community had an interest in providing its children with more education opportunities.

Three years later, Kay Seven, director of the Nez Perce tribal education department, received a call from Hamilton — an opportunity had arrived.

"One day, it was July 2014, she called me and said, 'Kay, there's an opportunity to submit an application to the National Science Foundation under their ITEST initiative,'" Seven said. "She goes, 'Kay, we're thinking of submitting an application and the technology is UAV. I thought, 'Wow that sounds exciting.'"

ITEST, the Initiative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers, is a research-based grant funded by the National Science Foundation. Seven said

the goal of the grant is to build a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) identity with an underrepresented population through the use of remote sensing and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technologies.

Hamilton became the University of Idaho director of STEM education after her time with the Idaho National Laboratory. Seven said when Hamilton found the grant, the Lapwai community was the underrepresented population that came to mind.

After that first phone call, Seven and Hamilton partnered with Karla Eitel of UI's McCall Outdoor Science School to assemble the application and write the grant.

In October 2014, Seven said the university received its official award notice — UI officially had \$1.1 million to start the program that would help Nez Perce students in the Lapwai community build STEM identities.

Seven said one of the reasons she believes the grant to be important is that the Nez Perce tribe has a number of different natural resource careers.

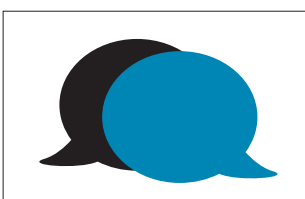
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How faculty morale affects all of UI. Read our view.

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Department of Student Involvement

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and is open to the public!
Wednesday, April 20th 7-8 pm
Commons Whitewater Room

CRUMBS

A Crumbs recipe



Breakfast casserole

This is a great recipe for holiday breakfasts or any occasion where you need to feed a bunch of people. Next time you are in a bind to feed all those hungry mouths, give this recipe a try.

Ingredients

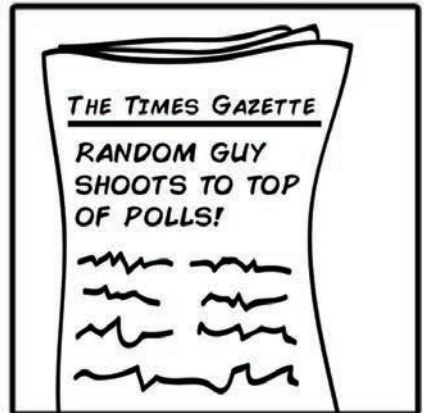
- 2 pound bag hash browns
- 5 eggs
- 1 pound sausage
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups shredded cheese

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit and grease a 9x13 inch pan
2. Pour all of the hash browns into the pan
3. Cook sausage and onions on a skillet at medium high heat until sausage is browned
4. In a small bowl whisk together eggs, garlic powder, onion powder, pepper and salt
5. Evenly coat the hash browns with the egg mixture
6. Top with half the cheese followed by the sausage and onion and then finish with the 2nd half of the cheese
7. Cover pan with tinfoil and bake for one hour
8. Take pan out of oven, remove tinfoil and cook until you can poke a knife into the middle and it comes out clean

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Completely Unrelated

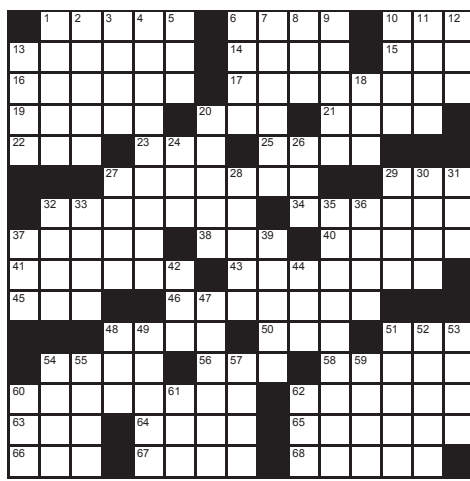


Karter Krasselt | Argonaut

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Obscurity
- 6 Talk big
- 10 "So long!"
- 13 Underclassman
- 14 Highway division
- 15 Jogged
- 16 Spotted animal
- 17 Footstools
- 19 Silkwood of "Silkwood"
- 20 Do something
- 21 Remnant
- 22 D.C. setting
- 23 Pet
- 25 Pub potables
- 27 Glacier deposit
- 29 Sweeping
- 32 Arm muscles
- 34 Blunt
- 37 Sealant
- 38 Psychic power
- 40 Sgt. Bilko
- 41 Surrounded by
- 43 Of no value
- 45 Corral
- 46 Through-the-door peeper
- 48 German title
- 50 One or more
- 51 Drivel
- 54 Pout
- 56 Nave bench
- 58 Emergency signal
- 60 Ancient single-reed woodwind
- 62 Alluvial deposit
- 63 Barbary beast
- 64 Like Darth Vader
- 65 Agouti
- 66 Prefix with classical
- 67 Strong cleaners

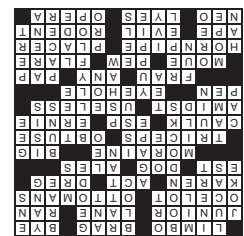
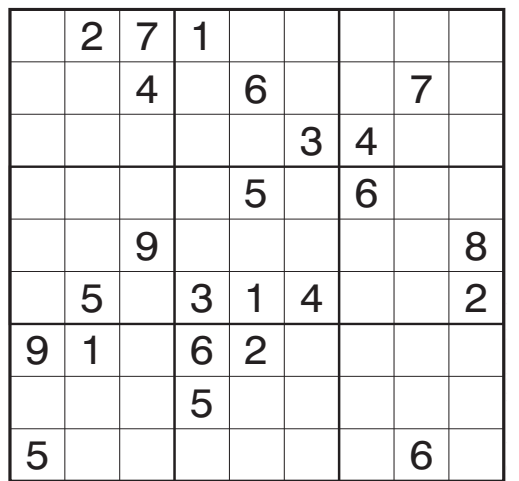


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Down

- 1 "Star Wars" director
- 2 Unreactive
- 3 Eight furlongs
- 4 Back country
- 5 Food scrap
- 6 Coalition
- 7 Wicker material
- 8 Orkin target
- 9 Hollow rock
- 10 Scottish hillside
- 11 Yin's opposite
- 12 Lt.'s inferior
- 13 One-liner, e.g.
- 18 "___ Miniver"
- 20 Yawning
- 24 Refinable rock
- 26 Sign before Virgo
- 27 Temperate
- 28 Progeny
- 29 Bagels
- 30 Horned goddess
- 31 Force unit
- 32 Subtued
- 33 Completely botch
- 35 It often causes a big splash
- 36 Elder or alder
- 37 Upper limit
- 39 Grandma's word
- 42 1773 jetsam
- 44 Forever and a day
- 47 Young upwardly mobile professional
- 48 Good times
- 49 Drive away
- 51 Harness racer
- 52 Concert venue
- 53 Flippant
- 54 Brood
- 55 Creme-filled cookie
- 57 Fish caught in pots
- 59 Put on board
- 60 Chinese dynasty
- 61 Old World vine
- 62 Debate position

SUDOKU



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THE FINE PRINT

Corrections

Find a mistake? Send an email to the editor.

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The UI Student Media Board meets at 4:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. Questions? Call Student Media

at 885-7825, or visit the Student Media office at the Bruce Pitman Center on the third floor.

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- The Argonaut reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and clarity.
- Letters must be signed, include major and provide a current phone number.
- If your letter is in response to a particular article, please list the title and date of the article.
- Send all letters to:
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BEAUTIFUL DAY TO PLAY



Tess Fox | Argonaut

University of Idaho Children's Center students celebrate the Week of the Young Child with a playdate Wednesday outside the Idaho Commons.

CAUTIOUS CONSUMPTION WEEK

Being a conscious consumer

Keynote speaker explains effects of alcohol, marijuana

Erin Bamer
Argonaut

When alcohol and marijuana are the topic of lectures aimed at college students, Jason Kilmer said the message is often clear: don't use them. While Kilmer said he does not endorse the use of illegal drugs, he said he didn't necessarily want to send that message in his Cautious Consumption Week keynote speech Wednesday.

"I can't come to your chapters and tell you how to smoke crack in less dangerous ways," Kilmer said.

His speech, "The Science of Alcohol and Marijuana" explained the effects of both substances on humans based on research, including studies he has conducted.

Kilmer said he wanted his speech to be more interactive than a traditional keynote address. He asked the audience what they thought were some positive effects alcohol had on social interactions.

Attendees said they were usually more relaxed, outgoing and competitive.

Kilmer said the audience's responses matched the majority of surveys, but went on to describe an experiment he conducted that showed that the perceptions of what

alcohol does to people's social habits may be the main cause of the positive effects, not the alcohol itself.

Kilmer's research required the creation of a fake bar lab and a group of willing college students over the age of 21. The students were divided into four groups, he said. One group was told they were going to be given alcohol and they were, another group was told they were going to be given non-alcoholic beverages and they were.

These first two groups yielded no unexpected results, Kilmer said. The group that was given alcohol was more outgoing and loud, and the group that wasn't seemed more bored and quiet.

He said the remaining two groups were more interesting. One group was told they were getting alcohol and they were given non-alcoholic beverages, while the other group was told they weren't getting alcohol and they actually were.

Kilmer said the group that received no alcohol but were told that there was alcohol in their drinks behaved like they were given alcohol. They were more outgoing, started drinking games and said they were feeling a buzz. When they were told there was no alcohol in their drinks, Kilmer said he enjoyed watching the men's reactions.

"There's always one guy that says, 'Yeah, I knew there was no alcohol in there,'" he said.

The other group that was given alcohol and didn't realize it were still more reserved, as if they were sober. Some felt the physical effects of the alcohol — they were more tired, hot and clumsy, he said, but without any of the positive effects.

Kilmer then moved on to explain the effects of alcohol and marijuana on people's sleep cycles. He said the ideal sleep cycle would bring a pretty equal back and forth between deep sleep and Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, with steadily more REM and less deep sleep further into the night. He said both alcohol and marijuana extend the amount of deep sleep and cut back on REM sleep, which is why people under the influence of alcohol or marijuana rarely dream.

The effects of this type of cycle can lead to daytime sleepiness or anxiety, Kilmer said. Although many people smoke marijuana or drink alcohol to deal with anxiety, he said doing so could actually be detrimental.

Kilmer also said marijuana takes a long time to get out of people's systems. He said if people choose to drive after smoking, it still counts as driving under the influence.

He also said people are more likely to take higher doses of edible marijuana because it takes longer to ingest and feel the effects, so people take more in a short period

because they don't feel the high immediately like they do when it's smoked, Kilmer said. This can have an intense and unpleasant result for the user, he said.

Toward the end of his speech

Kilmer discussed drinking tolerance. He said tolerance is largely based on environment. If someone drinks in the same environment on a consistent basis, the body starts to associate and prepare itself of the alcohol upon entering the environment. When the environment changes and alcohol is consumed, the body isn't prepared for it and tolerance is lowered.

One audience member asked if elements other than location constitute a common environment. Kilmer said yes, things like familiar people, time of day and types of drinks can count for a consistent environment and if any of those habits are broken people are more likely to experience negative effects.

"If there is ever a time when you're worried about someone, you feel like they've had too much to drink, realize that there are resources on campus that you can point them in the direction of," Kilmer said.

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News brief

ACMS prepares for season finale

The University of Idaho Auditorium Chamber Music Series (ACMS) is set to host its fifth and final concert of the 2015-2016 academic year. The final series concert features the New York Woodwind Quintet and will be held at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Administration Building Auditorium. The quintet has been Ensemble in Residence at the Juilliard Conservatory since 1989 and includes flutist Carol Wincenc, oboist Stephen Taylor, clarinetist Charles Neidich, bassoonist Marc Goldberg and William Purvis on the French horn.

Tickets for the performance are \$10 for students, \$19 for seniors and \$22 for general admission and can be purchased at BookPeople of Moscow, online through Idaho Marketplace or at the door.

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Student Media Advertising

ASUI



Diamond Koloski | Argonaut

Interim Director of Student Involvement and ASUI Adviser Shawn O'Neal discusses the possibility of a permanent appointment.

Connecting with students

ASUI members examine the bond formed with the director of Student Involvement

Jessica Gee
Argonaut

Over the years, several Directors of Student Involvement have come and gone through the ASUI office, but current Interim director Shawn O'Neal has had a substantial impact on those involved in student government, said Briana Larson, ASUI Elections Coordinator.

Larson said that's why she and ASUI Pro Tempore Rachael Miller came together to write a senate resolution in support of making O'Neal the permanent director of Student Involvement. The resolution passed unanimously at Wednesday's senate meeting.

"We were both in agreement that Shawn was the best director that we have personally experienced, and we wanted him to continue the job," Larson said. "We knew a lot of other people in ASUI liked Shawn as well, so we thought, 'How can we help and make sure everyone else gets to benefit from having Shawn around?'"

O'Neal was hired as interim director for one year, and once the year was up the university would decide who would become permanent director.

As director, O'Neal oversees the five families of Student Involvement at UI — Student Media, volunteer programs, leadership programs, ASUI

and Vandal Entertainment. O'Neal is the former adviser of Student Media, including The Argonaut.

O'Neal said he began working in a newsroom when he was 17 years old, and said accepting the interim director position was the first time he'd left a newsroom since. O'Neal said he was surprised with how much he has enjoyed his new position.

"Honestly, I didn't think I'd like it as much as I do, but it's been more fun than I thought it would be and I'm just now getting comfortable in it," O'Neal said. "I like this position, but honestly I like working with students, period."

O'Neal said he enjoys having conversations with students because they possess traits he said he doesn't have.

"I'm careful and overly cautious, and I kind of like that working with students allows me to work with people who don't necessarily have those restraints on them," O'Neal said. "I've had so few conflicts with students over the years and I enjoy working with them a lot. It makes coming to work a good time."

Larson said the ASUI office has changed for the better since O'Neal came into his position. She said she has taken advantage of his open-door policy many times.

"I ask him for advice just about every other day," Larson said. "Part of the purpose of ASUI is to deal with administrators, and we don't always get a listening ear because they have a million



other projects going on, but Shawn is always willing to listen and help us figure out what steps to take next."

Miller said O'Neal has empowered students in ASUI without stepping on their toes, which has allowed them to act as leaders on campus. She said his support has been especially helpful during times of stress.

"His door is literally always open, and he will drop anything to listen to students," Miller said. "I've gone into his office and cried from the stress of ASUI so many times and he's always there. If you ask for advice he's more than willing to give it, but when you don't want it he's the best listener there is."

Larson said O'Neal has created an open environment where students feel comfortable talking to him about anything, which hasn't always been the case in the past.

"Shawn goes out of his way to learn everybody's name and make a personal connection with everybody, and that's not something that most people do," Larson said. "His attitude in the office is noticeably different than other directors in the past, and I think it's really improved the atmosphere of being here."

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ADMINISTRATION

A happy medium

New UI Ombuds hopes to learn the community and reach out to students

Erin Bamer
Argonaut

As University of Idaho Ombuds, Barbara Beatty's primary job is to act as a confidential mediator in conflicts between members of the university community. That's what inspires her go-to catchphrase whenever she meets someone new at the university.

"I hope I never see you again," Beatty said. "But if I do, I'm there."

Beatty began her new position earlier this month, and she said the UI Ombuds position is well-developed compared to other colleges, because the previous Ombuds Ellen Schreiber did such a good job.

While she is responsible for reporting to the university president, Beatty said she takes the confidentiality of the people she works with very seriously. She said she would not give specific names of people or departments in the report unless she's given special permission by the individual.

"I would not compromise my confidentiality, because that's the whole integrity of what ombuds is about," Beatty said.

She said she originally was interested in psychology, but when she started working in that field she said it didn't seem like a fit for her. When she considered her other options, she remembered how she enjoyed working in mediation part-time after completing a mediation course a few years before. The rest, she said, is history.

Upon arriving in Moscow, she said she was immediately appreciative of the community's warm and welcoming environment.

"I love it here

because of the sense of community, the friendliness, the openness," she said. "It certainly makes your job easier if people welcome you."

Beatty said UI is different from a lot of other higher education institutions because it only has one ombuds. In other colleges and universities there are several that are specifically tasked with dealing with conflicts for students, faculty, staff, administration or other areas deemed necessary.

Faculty, staff and administrators were also welcoming to her as the new university ombuds, which Beatty said is unique. Many times people are wary of ombuds because they associate them with negative situations.

Students aren't as aware of the Ombuds Office or what it does, Beatty said. She said she plans to spend a good portion of the next academic year reaching out to students as a potential resource to them.

Beatty described herself as a high-energy, talkative individual who likes to have fun, even if her job is often a lonely one. Because of the importance of confidentiality when it comes to the cases she mediates, she said she can't acknowledge that she knows people she's worked with.

Despite this, she said she loves her job enough that a few meals sitting by herself in the Idaho Commons is all worth it.

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DOOBIES
FROM PAGE 1

Fall said she was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2014, and began using cannabis oil a week prior to her chemotherapy treatments. In combination with her chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Fall said the cannabis oil help her become cancer free by Nov. 2014.

"The doctor was amazed at how good my numbers were," Fall said. "If it was up to me I would have only used cannabis oil instead of chemo and radiation."

Fall said, as someone who grew up in the '70s, she never consumed marijuana prior to her treatment, and her experience has led her to a new understanding.

"I'm going to do everything

I can to get it legalized here in Idaho," Fall said.

Falcon said as the event grows, she hopes to begin affecting change in Idaho legislature. She said in order to get medical marijuana on a ballot, they must receive 40,000 signatures on a petition.

Falcon said in the past the petition had reached over 20,000 signatures but had to be withdrawn due to an "endorsement issue." She said there will soon be another petition to sign which she hopes will reach the necessary 40,000 signatures.

"People think, 'Oh, well I've already signed that,'" she said. "But it's important to know that it's a new one."

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Arlene Falcon, who owns local business Tye Dye Everything, organized the 20th Annual Hemp Fest. Austin Maas | Argonaut

THIN
FROM PAGE 1

UI Provost and Executive Vice President John Wienczek said he's not sure if this issue is based in truth, but he would look into it.

"My experience with these things is it's myth often that gets generated without data to back it up," Wienczek said.

Wienczek and other new administrators that arrived at UI in recent years have received the biggest raises compared to what their predecessors received.

Wienczek's current annual salary is \$46,176 more than what the previous Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Baker received.

According to the Faculty and Exempt Salaries report over the past three fiscal years, in 2013-2014 Bruce Pitman held the title of both vice provost of Student Affairs and dean of students, and received a yearly salary of \$132,828.80. The next year, after Pitman announced his retirement, he was listed as vice provost for Student Affairs, while Craig Chatriand assumed dean of students in January 2015, a promotion from associate dean. That year Pitman received a raise of just under \$3,000. When

Jean Kim stepped in as vice provost for Student Affairs, her annual salary jumped to \$178,526.40.

Wienczek said there is a current search going on for a new Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, which will be a new position within the UI administration.

Low pay is a primary source of the high faculty and staff turnover rates, which is yet another blow to morale. UI President Chuck Staben said faculty turnover at UI is twice the national average at 14.5 percent. Wienczek said turnover numbers for staff are even higher at 18 percent. Staff members are the ones leaving UI more often, and Brandt said this impacts faculty morale as well.

When staff members leave, other employees need to work to hire and train replacements. The lack of familiarity also doesn't encourage employees to make connections with each other.

"I've had three different faculty assistants in the last 18 months," Brandt said.

Staben has said one of his primary goals for the university is to increase enrollment by 50 percent, but this objective can also demoralize faculty, Hrdlicka said. He said many employees don't necessarily believe the university can reach this goal, and in-

creasing enrollment has been tied to raising salaries.

Even if the university does reach the goal and enrolls about 15,000 students, Hrdlicka said he and many other faculty members aren't certain that their pay will rise anyway. Such a spike in the number of students will bring about more issues for UI, like limited housing options and fewer faculty members to teach them.

Wienczek said the State Board of Education came up with the goal to increase enrollment to address the needs of the state.

"Our president has made it clear that he is 100 percent behind the direction that the State Board wants to take the state in general in this regard," Wienczek said.

In terms of low faculty morale, Wienczek said he isn't sure there is much of a problem to begin with. He said it may just be because he is an administrator, but he's gathered from the conversations he's had with faculty and staff that many UI employees are more hopeful for the future.

"They really feel that there's a new day and that things are really moving in a positive direction," Wienczek said.

Though there is still plenty of room to improve, Hrdlicka, Foster and Brandt all



said they feel there has been an improvement to faculty morale in the past year. All of them tied it to the increase in transparency among administrators, specifically Wienczek and Vice President for Finance Brian Foisy.

"Vice President Foisy I think is — among the staff in particular but also faculty probably feel this way — is somewhat of a rock star," Wienczek said.

Where Brandt said the end of the last academic year was an all-time low for faculty morale, there has been an increase this year due to the attitudes of the people in charge. Last year she said employees saw no clear direction for the university because Staben's administrative team was still in development, but now it's clear that the administration is making an effort to improve UI and the people who are a part of it. Their openness to discussing major concerns is a big part of that, she said.

"I think right now people really appreciate the sense of transparency and openness that is there," Brandt said.

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OPPORTUNITY
FROM PAGE 1

"We have one of the largest fishery operations in the world," Seven said. "We have an awesome fishery department and we have biologists who do a lot of research for the tribe, same with the natural rescue department, with our wolf recovery, our bighorn sheep project, our agricultural development, our fire management. We're really rich with natural resource careers."

Despite Lapwai's fisheries and natural resource projects, Seven said most people employed in middle-to-upper management positions are not native. Rather, they're primarily caucasian.

"We're thinking, 'How can we encourage and inspire our native people, our tribal people, to go to college, to pursue those degrees?'" Seven said. "To have the academic background and to come to the tribe and be seated in those professional or management positions — that's a huge reason why I believe the grant is important to the tribe."

For the project, the university partnered with the Nez Perce tribe and Lapwai School District.

Seven said the work begins with UI's Raymond Dixon, an associate professor

with the College of Education.

"Dr. Raymond Dixon will come to the Nez Perce tribe and begin his job analysis with our natural resource program," Seven said.

Once a job analysis of the natural resource industries has been completed, Seven said a group of graduate and doctoral students led by Dixon will collaborate with the board of Nez Perce members to develop a curriculum that helps integrate STEM subjects and UAV knowledge into classrooms.

In addition to the development of a STEM-based curriculum that can be integrated into tribal classrooms, a group of Lapwai High School students will attend a summer camp at UI's McCall Outdoor Science School in 2017.

"We'll build the curriculum in the first year by doing a lot of other work, like participatory action research," Seven said. "Talking to members of the community, especially the elders, on how we can make the curriculum relevant to indigenous people, to the Nez Perce people, and how they care for their resources and their environment?"

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SUCCESSFUL
FROM PAGE 1

Rhani said despite growing up in Moscow and attending UI, she never really knew about the turtle derby.

"So when we decided to start bringing (my two younger daughters), we discovered it's a lot of fun," she said.

Ryann, a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, said her house got their turtle Thursday, and kept it in a bathtub with the company of many members of the house.

Ryann also said she met her fiance through the UI Greek community. She



said this event is just one example of how the Greek community is brought together.

"It sounds weird that a competition would bring everyone together, but it really does," Ryann said. "It's just a friendly competition that we all love to go to."

Rhani said she also appreciates the event, though for different reasons.

"It's one of the few events on campus that the kids can enjoy," Rhani said. "It really is a great time every year."

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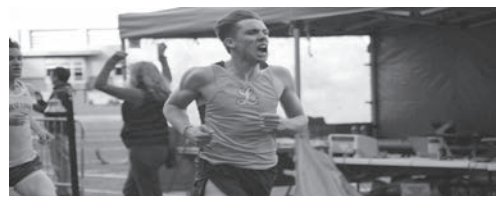
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SPORTS



Vandal cross country team nets Lakeridge standout.

PAGE 8

CLUB SPORTS

Early momentum

Strong first half propels Montana men's lacrosse over Idaho

Josh Grissom
Argonaut

An early seven-goal deficit proved too much for the Idaho men's club lacrosse team to overcome Saturday, as the team fell 15-8 to regional foe Montana on the SprinTurf.

The Grizzlies scored five goals in the fourth quarter to seal the win over the Vandals, after Idaho cut the deficit to two late in the third quarter.

"We've just got to get out of the habit of starting slow," Idaho head coach James Courter said. "We'll continue to build upon the momentum we seem to catch in the third quarter. If we do that, we'll find some more success."

Montana (4-8) capitalized on first half goals from junior attackman Eric Larson and freshman attackman Christopher Palmer to gain a 9-2 advantage over the Vandals.

"Historically this has been a pretty heated rivalry," Idaho senior captain A.J. Gravel said. "They've been due for a win in their book, and they just came out firing on all cylinders. They caught us on a flat day."

Idaho (2-9) responded with six goals in the third quarter, capitalizing on strong performances from Gravel and freshman attackman Grant Hill.

"I think everyone was able to come together and realize what mistakes were being made," Gravel said. "We recognized that we needed to capitalize on what we had and really get the energy up."

Hill said the team usually plays its best after halftime.

"It's just always kind of been one of those things, we've always had a pretty big second half," Hill said. "We've got to work on getting a good first half in next game."

The Grizzlies would regain momentum with five unanswered goals in the fourth quarter to clinch the conference victory.

Hill said the depth of the Montana roster, compared to the low number of Vandal substitutes, provided the Grizzlies with an ad-



Josh Grissom | Argonaut

Senior defender Chris Moran substitutes off the field for the Vandals late in the fourth quarter of a 15-8 loss to Montana Saturday.

vantage late in the game.

"The low numbers certainly don't help," Hill said. "We kind of got into our own heads more than anything. We've just got to play harder next time."

Hill led the Vandals with three goals and two assists. Gravel provided another three goals for Idaho, while sophomore midfielder Drew Welch netted two goals on six shots.

"I felt like I had a lot of shots today, and the goalie had a hot

hand and he was making saves," Gravel said. "I also felt like I wasn't shooting as well as I should have been. But the three I had — I was able to put them in off side hip."

Palmer finished as the game's leading scorer with four goals and two assists for Montana. Larson provided four goals and four ground balls, while graduate midfielder Robert Tomlinson provided two goals and three assists for the Grizzlies.

The Vandals will host rival Boise State at noon Saturday on Guy Wicks Field in Moscow for the team's regular season finale.

"This is the big one, everyone in the back of their minds have been thinking about all season," Gravel said. "This week we are going to emphasize working hard throughout the entire practice. It's rough with 14 guys, but we need to really push it for the



whole two hours."

Courter said he is proud of what his team has accomplished throughout the year.

"It's been a hell of a season," Courter said. "We made it through with low numbers, and we continue to come out each week and fight and compete."

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WOMEN'S TENNIS

Idaho sweeps weekend

Idaho women's tennis extends win streak to five

Tess Fox and Josh Grissom
Argonaut

The Idaho women's tennis team continued to improve during the final stretch of the season with a 6-1 win over North Dakota Friday afternoon in Grand Forks.

"Our goal is to continue to get better as we work towards the tournament," head coach Mariana Cobra said. "Our doubles play has shown up for us in this stretch and has been a big boost for us."

Idaho took five of six matches in singles competition, as freshman Marianna Petrei and senior Rita Bermudez led the charge for the Vandals on the No. 1 and No. 3 courts respectively.

Freshman Celine Koets, senior Belen Barcenilla and sophomore Lucia Badillos also earned singles victories Friday.

The defending Big Sky champions began the day by claiming all three doubles matches to earn the doubles point. Bermudez and Koets combined for a 6-0 win while Petrei and Badillos followed 6-1 win.

The Vandals utilized another strong team performance Sunday to conclude conference play with a 6-1 victory over Northern Colorado.

Idaho (15-8 overall, 8-2 Big Sky) began the competition by claiming

the doubles point after Barcenilla and sophomore Ana Batiri defeated Northern Colorado's Beth Coton and Remi Immler 6-4 on the No. 1 doubles court.

"It is always great to get the doubles point," Cobra said. "When you get that boost it helps build momentum for singles. We have worked a lot this season on our doubles play and it will continue to be a focus for us heading into the tournament."

Northern Colorado (8-11 overall, 4-6 Big Sky) only earned one singles victory on the day, as Coton beat Batiri 6-4, 6-4 on the No. 2 court.

The Vandals claimed the remaining singles matches.

The team's closest competition came on the No. 5 court, as freshman Maria Tavares defeated Anna Battersby in three sets 6-3, 4-6, 11-9.

"I believe this stretch has been our best of the season," Cobra said. "We have a few more days of practice before our last match and then the tournament. We will continue to work this week to get better. We want to make sure we peak at the tournament."

Idaho will conclude its regular season schedule with a nonconference meeting with Seattle University. The Vandals will travel to Seattle to face the Redhawks at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Tess Fox and Josh Grissom can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu

Athletes of the week

Kinsey Gomez - Track and Field

Senior Kinsey Gomez competed in the Bryan Clay Invitational over the weekend, breaking her personal record in the 1500-meter run. Her time of 44:22.10 earned the fastest mark in the Big Sky Conference for the 1500-meter event.



Gomez

Arphaxad Carroll - Track and Field

Sophomore Arphaxad Carroll finished sixth in the long jump at the Long Beach Invitational. The Vandal previously held the furthest jump in the Big Sky Conference, but his 7.44-meter leap Saturday was the eighth best jump in program history.



Carroll

Felipe Fonseca - Men's Tennis

Sophomore Felipe Fonseca made his presence known on the No. 1 singles court Friday. He defeated Weber State's Jakub Gewert 6-2, 6-3 to claim a singles point in the Vandal upset.



Fonseca

Marianna Petrei - Women's Tennis

Freshman Marianna Petrei clinched a perfect conference season (11-0) in singles play against Northern Colorado. The freshman competed on the No. 1 court and defeated Lea Kravicova 6-2, 6-1 to claim a singles point for the Vandals.

In doubles play, Petrei and sophomore Lucia Badillos teamed up to defeat Northern Colorado duo Marissa Baca and Anna Battersby 6-3.



Petrei

Grant Hill - Men's club lacrosse

Freshman attackman Grant Hill led the Vandals in the team's matchup against Montana on the SprinTurf Saturday. Hill scored three goals for Idaho and provided two assists in the 15-8 regional loss.



Hill

Daniel Surron - Men's golf

Sophomore Daniel Surron led the Idaho men's golf team in the Hawkeye Invitational over the weekend. Surron finished in a three-way tie for 10th with a one-under-par 215.



Surron

SOCCER

Spokane success

Idaho soccer sees strong showing in regional tournament

Brandon Hill
Argonaut

The Idaho soccer team traveled to Spokane, Washington, to compete in a seven-on-seven tournament Saturday.

The Vandals split a roster of 19 healthy players into two teams for the tournament: Silver and Black.

The Silver Team consisted of more experienced players, while the Black Team was composed of younger players.

Idaho head coach Derek Pittman said the tournament was a beneficial way to watch how his upperclassmen and inexperienced players competed.

Pittman said the Black Team faced difficult opponents and struggled to main-

tain consistency. The black squad finished sixth out of the eight teams in the group after a loss to Eastern Washington's "B" team.

"Our Black Team consisted of a lot of our younger players and some of our players that are working their way back into fitness," Pittman said. "We wanted to give them every opportunity to play as many minutes as possible."

The Silver Team fared better in the tournament. The team earned a berth in the tournament championship before falling to Eastern Washington.

The Silver Team finished first within its group to reach the semifinals, where the team defeated Montana 5-2.

Pittman said the Vandals entered the tournament championship with tough defense. The two teams ended the game locked in a 1-1 tie, prompting

an Eastern Washington victory in penalty kicks.

Pittman said he was disappointed the championship had to be determined in penalty kicks, but he was still proud of his team.

"That definitely doesn't take away anything in sense of how well we did on the day as a whole," he said.

Pittman said three offensive players stood out during the competition.

Junior midfielder Elexis Schlossarek provided four goals and three assists for the team, while sophomore forward Olivia Baggerly contributed three goals. Junior forward Kavita Battan also scored twice.

Pittman said junior goalkeeper Torrell Stewart played well after freshman goalkeeper Julia Byerlein suffered a minor

injury in the first game. Stewart finished the tournament with 55 saves and an 82 percent save percentage.

"She made a ton of big time saves that gave our team plenty of opportunities to win," Pittman said.

The Idaho head coach said he was also impressed with the hustle and field awareness of sophomore midfielder Anna Rose Wiencek.

"It was a great day for our development," Pittman said. "We hope to carry that out into the rest of the spring."

The Vandals will host former players in the annual Alumni Game Saturday at Guy Wicks Field.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Vandals upset Wildcats

Idaho hands Weber State first conference loss of season

Brandon Hill
Argonaut

The Idaho men's tennis team accomplished a feat no other Big Sky Conference program had throughout the season.

The Vandals earned a 5-2 victory over Weber State to add a blemish to the Wildcats' previously unbeaten run through conference play.

Weber State had won nine straight meetings against conference opponents before the team's match with Idaho Friday.

Not even inclement weather could stop the Vandals, as the match was moved from Moscow to indoor facilities in Lewiston.

The Vandals used a strong performance in doubles play to gain early momentum in the matchup.

Freshman Lucas Coutinho and Mark Kovacs nabbed the first match 6-4 against Weber State duo Todd Fought and Jakub Gewert. Sophomore Felipe Fonseca and senior Odon Barta sealed

the doubles victory with a hard-fought 7-5 win.

Weber State was able to snag the final match of doubles play, but the Vandals had already sealed the point by the time it had concluded.

"I was very proud of how we competed today," Idaho head coach Abid Akbar said. "Weber State is a very strong team. It is always nice to go out and get the doubles point. With teams that are even that is where the difference comes from."

The doubles point prompted a strong performance by the team in singles play.

Kovacs took the first singles point for Idaho by defeating Hou-En Chen 6-3, 6-1 on the No. 4 court. Fonseca followed Kovacs showing by beating Gewert 6-2, 6-3.

Barta also defeated Todd Fought in three close sets. Fought won the first 7-5 but then dropped the final two to Barta 6-3 and 6-4. Barta's win put Idaho up 4-0, clinching the overall victory for the Vandals and handing Weber State its first Big Sky loss.

"In singles we played smart and fast and were able to get the job done,"

Akbar said.

The Wildcats continued to compete, even after the loss had been decided.

Stefan Cooper of Weber defeated Idaho senior Jackson Varney in three sets. After losing the first, Varney came back to tie the score in the second set. Cooper overcame Varney in the third set 10-4.

Freshman Artem Vasheshnikov earned a late victory against Weber's Landon Barlow. Vasheshnikov beat Barlow in two sets 6-4, 6-4.

The win moves Idaho closer to potentially reaching the first seed in the Big Sky postseason tournament. The Wildcats currently sit atop the conference standings, but could fall to second with a loss to Montana and a Vandal win against Idaho State.

Idaho will face Idaho State Sunday during a two-game road trip in Boise. The Vandals will also compete against rival Boise State on Saturday.

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MEN'S GOLF

Idaho earns top-10 finish

Vandal men's golf sees success in final regular season tournament

Luis Torres
Argonaut

The Idaho men's golf team entered the final day of the Hawkeye Invitational in a three-way tie for sixth place after two rounds.

After the final 18 holes were completed, the Vandals earned a seventh place finish in the final regular season competition in Iowa City with a final score of 874.

Kansas collected a school-record fourth tournament title of the season with a score of 849.

Idaho head coach David Nuhn said the team played well during the first two rounds of competition.

"We had three guys play really solid golf Saturday," Nuhn said. "We just need to find that fourth score for a solid finish amongst some the nation's top teams."

Idaho's Ian Kim and Daniel Sutton were tied for 12th at 145 and Ryan Porch was tied for 18th at 146 after Saturday's rounds.

Nuhn said the conditions were tough and the team needed to be prepared on what lies ahead.

"The tough conditions today proved a good test," Nuhn said. "They needed to maintain focus all day out there because any misstep meant a very difficult par save."

Sutton finished as the highest-scoring Vandal Sunday, earning a three-way tied for 10th with Wichita State's Grant Bennett and Iowa's Carson Schaake. Sutton finished with a 70 and shot 2-under-par.

Porch gained two spots Sunday after shooting 1-under-par to end the day at 71.

Kim struggled on the final day of competition and dropped 15 spots in the standings, finishing in a three-way tie for 27th at 220.

Iowa State's Ruben Sondjaja led the way, earning top honors in singles with a final score of 206 and a round-low 66 Sunday.

Schaake said the Hawkeyes had a nice showing in the team's own tournament.

"Overall, it was a pretty good week," Schaake said. "We made a lot of birdies but a couple of hiccups then and there took us out of the lead. We can still take a lot of positives going into the Big Ten Championships."

Other Vandal finishers include Jake Scarrow, who gained jumped the highest in the standings Sunday after shooting a 2-under-par to conclude the final round with a score of 70. Scarrow finished in a six-way tie for 34th with a 222.

Enrique Martin was the final Vandal competitor with a 57th place finish.

The Big Sky Conference Championship is next on the schedule for the Vandals. The team travels to Henderson, Nevada to compete in the event from April 29 through May 1.

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CROSS COUNTRY

Belcik commmits to Idaho

Vandal cross country nets talented recruit for fall season

Josh Grissom
Argonaut

Lakeridge High School cross country standout Noah Belcik verbally committed to the University of Idaho Friday morning.

"Being able to spend time with the team helped me to see what my life would be like as a Vandal," Belcik said. "I liked what I saw. I have heard nothing but great things about the coaching staff and athletes, which also helped my decision."

The high school standout said he was recruited by Oregon, Baylor, San Francisco, Texas and Michigan. Belcik said he based his decision to attend Idaho on the relationship Director of Cross Country Tim Cawley had with his athletes.

"At Idaho I saw that the coaches truly cared about every athlete on their team," Belcik said. "(Assistant) Coach Travis (Floek), from what I have seen, does a great job at individually preparing his athletes to succeed. I also liked how tight knit the community and team was."

Belcik competes in events ranging from the 800-meter dash to the 5k cross country. His personal best is a mark of 1:55.90 in the 800-meter event and 4:04.30 in the 1500-meter race as a junior.

"We are excited to have Noah be a part of the program," said Tim Cawley, director of Cross Country at the university.

Belcik said he will enter the University of Idaho as a business major.



Noah Belcik, a current Lake Ridge High School cross country athlete, committed to the University of Idaho over the weekend. Idaho Media Relations | Argonaut

"I hope to grow as an athlete as well as a student and put myself in the best position possible to succeed in life after college," Belcik said. "The University of Idaho seems like the best place to help me grow."

Cawley said one of Belcik's strengths is his ability to compete in numerous events.

"The first thing that jumps out about Noah

is his range," Cawley said. "And when you add that to his toughness, it is an excellent recipe for success."

Belcik finished seventh in the 800-meter as a junior competing in the Oregon State Championships and posted a personal best of 15:42

in 5,000 meters.

The Lakeridge recruit said he is looking forward to competing with the program

next season.

"Looking at the current roster and the guys who have committed with me, I am extremely excited to see how competitive we can be," he said. "(I) could not be more excited for next season in Idaho."

Josh Grissom can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @GoshGrissom

Sports briefs

Club baseball drops series to EWU

The Idaho club baseball team fell to Eastern Washington in three straight games over the weekend in Moscow.

The Vandals (1-11) scored 12 runs throughout the weekend, but came up short in all three meetings with the Eagles.

Eastern Washington (8-4) scored six runs in the first game to claim a 6-2 victory over Idaho.

The Vandals responded with nine runs in the second game, but Eastern Washington exploded offensively late in the matchup to clinch a 14-9 victory.

The Eagles held the Vandals to one run in the final game of the series to complete the sweep with an 8-1 win.

The Vandals currently trail Montana (1-8) by one and a half games in the conference standings, while Eastern Washington remains in third. The Eagles trail Gonzaga by a game and a half in the Northern Pacific North Conference standings.

Western Washington sits atop the conference rankings with a 10-5 record.

Idaho will travel to Washington State this weekend to face the Cougars in a three-game series, while the Eagles will travel to Spokane to face conference leader Gonzaga.

Football wraps up third practice week

The Vandal football program concluded its third week of practice with team activities Friday at the Kibbie Dome.

Idaho head coach Paul Petrino said the team worked primarily on its two-minute drill and third down scenarios.

"It was really like a situational practice," Idaho head coach Paul Petrino said. "There were some things that we did a really good job of, and there were some things on both sides of the ball that we've got to get better at."

Petrino said he is impressed by what he has seen from the Vandal receiving core.

"We've got a chance to be pretty darn good at receiver," he said. "You look at it, and that's without Trent (Cowan) or Deon (Watson) out there. So that makes things even more deeper and tougher."

The Idaho head coach said he has not had difficult incorporating the various receiving options into offensive schemes.

"Any time you think you have too many of them, two of them get dinged up and then you don't have enough," Petrino said. "Right now it's a great thing, we can always stay fresh and they can always rotate."

The Vandal football team will host its annual Silver and Gold Scrimmage at 7 p.m. Friday in the Kibbie Dome.

TRACK & FIELD

Historic performances

Vandals leave Southern California with personal best, qualifying marks

Luis Torres
Argonaut

Setting personal bests each competition has been the norm for the Idaho outdoor track and field team.

This pattern of success continued during events in Southern California over the weekend.

Several Vandals competed in multiple locations to punch their ticket to the Big Sky Tournament May 11-14 in Greeley, Colorado.

One of the competitors to qualify for the tournament was senior pole vaulter Matt Sullivan, who cleared 5.03 meters at the Long Beach Invitational Saturday. The senior finished eighth and his clearance was the second best mark in the conference.

Junior Drew Thompson continued to excel on the track, finishing seventh and earning a personal best of 6296 points in the decathlon. His performance also qualified the athlete for the conference tournament.

Junior distance runner Nathan Stark ran the ninth fastest 3000-meter steeplechase in program history over the weekend.

Following a record breaking run in the 10K meter event at the Stanford Invitational April 1, senior Kinsey Gomez continued to set personal-best in other events. Gomez had her best time yet in the 1500-meter run at the Bryan Clay Invitational with 4:22.10, the fastest conference mark of the season.

Two Vandals made their first event attempts of the season Thursday, as Kaleala Bass took part in her first heptathlon at

the Mt. SAC Relays as part of the California Invitational. Bass finished in 48th with 3,384 points, falling 2,520 points behind Texas A&M winner Annie Kunz. Bass also set personal bests in the 800-meter event (2:24.29) and the high jump (1.48 meters).

Senior Katelyn Peterson made her season debut in the high jump at the Cal State LA Twilight Open, taking third with a mark of 1.65 meters.

Andrea Pikes earned a career-best time of 12.08 seconds in the 100-meter dash and finished second.

The following day, senior sprinter Ben Ayesu-Attah finished second in the 400-meter dash with a career-best 46.60 seconds during the Bryan Clay Invitational.

Freshman Zion Stuffie also earned second place and a career-best time of 52.75 seconds in the 400-meter hurdles.

During the team's final day in Southern California, field competitors also made their marks in the record book.

After finishing 12th in discus throw with a toss of 42.90 meters, junior Kolcie Bates threw a season-best 44.27 meters in discus.

Sophomore Arphaxad Carroll finished sixth in the long jump with a mark of 7.44 meters, extending his conference best jump of 7.42 meters set Thursday. Carroll's jump is now the eighth best in school history.

The Vandals return to the Northwest, traveling to Spokane for the Spokane Memorial Open Saturday.

Luis Torres can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @TheLTFiles



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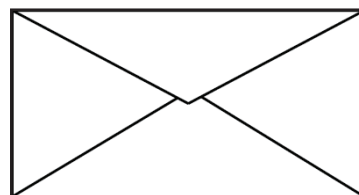
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OPINION



Send us a 300-word letter to the editor.

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OUR VIEW

Not all hope is lost

Students and administrators alike can do more to help faculty, staff feel appreciated

If students are the lifeblood of the University of Idaho, then faculty and staff are the muscles that do the heavy lifting.

While faculty and staff play an integral role in helping students transition into college and complete their higher education, they are often underappreciated and undercompensated.

An article published in *The Argonaut* Tuesday cited that during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, salaries given to regular UI faculty members ranged from \$20,000 to \$100,000. Faculty members at other universities, such as Washington State University and the University of Nebraska Lincoln, receive annual salaries within the \$100,000 range and above.

Such low salaries compared to peer institutions is one of the reasons turnover rates among faculty and staff are twice the national average, at 14.5 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

A lack of compensation, among other things, significantly contributes to low faculty morale — something that UI faculty and staff have experienced over the past few years.

While students might not have the power

to change their professors' salaries, they can take the time to express appreciation for the faculty and staff members they interact with. Events like the Day of Thanks, where students are encouraged to write thank you messages to their professors, are one way for students to help bolster faculty and staff morale.

Students can send emails expressing appreciation to their favorite professor or take the time to write course evaluations at the end of each semester. A gesture as small as thanking the custodian who just finished cleaning a bathroom in the Idaho Commons or the IT employee who fixes the communications systems in classrooms with remote learning technology can make a big difference.

Students aren't the only ones who can help faculty and staff feel appreciated either. Administrators can do little things, too, such as brainstorming ways to provide more low-cost recognition of exceling employees.

While the administration might not always be in a position to provide appropriate salary increases to faculty and staff or enact large policy changes, they can work to interact with faculty and staff in more posi-

tive ways.

The low faculty and staff morale isn't unwarranted and it isn't something that developed overnight. Rather, low faculty morale is the result of small policy changes and little to no salary increases compounded over time.

An article published in *The Argonaut* cites that while faculty morale remains low, the situation for UI faculty and staff is beginning to improve. This is largely due in part to the transparency and openness to work with faculty and staff members that has been exhibited by administrators like UI Provost and Executive Vice President John Wiencek, Vice President for Finance Brian Foisy and President Chuck Staben.

Other administrators should follow their lead and strive to practice greater transparency and be more open to ideas proposed by faculty and staff. In the same way that low faculty morale doesn't appear overnight, it can't be fixed in one day.

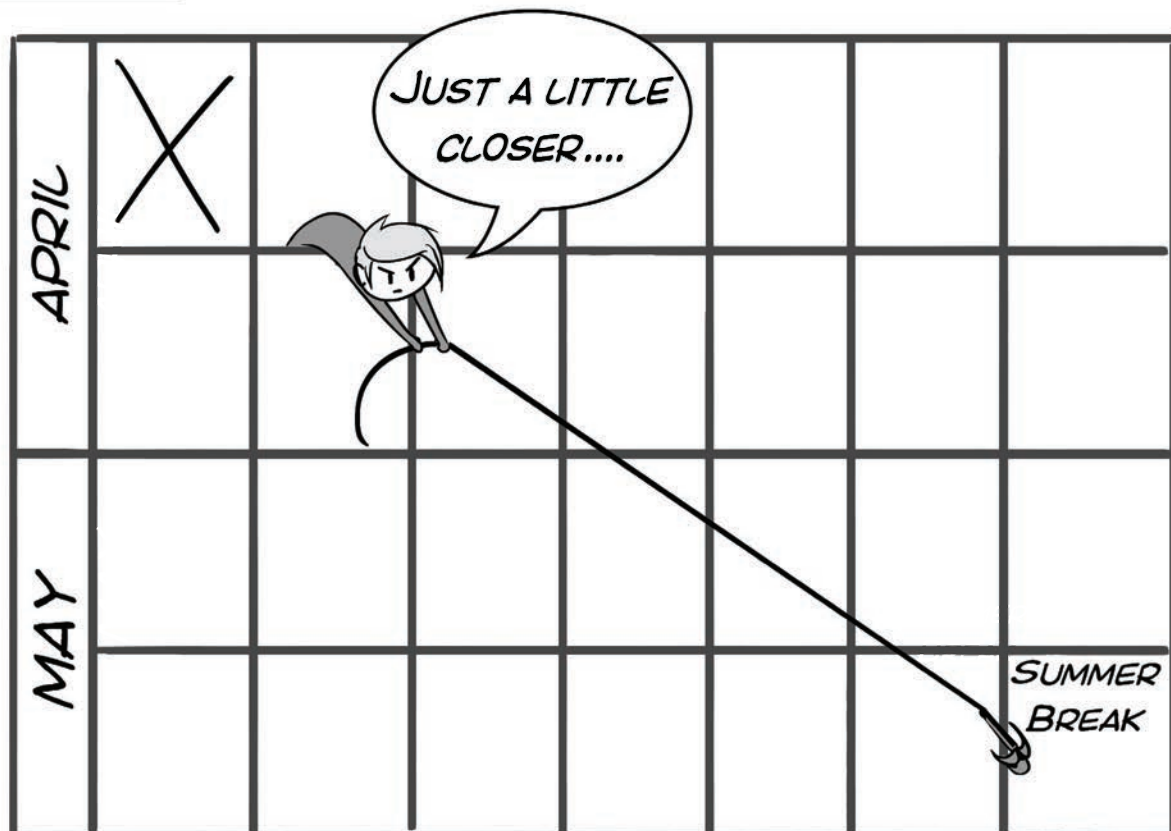
Becoming a university that openly values its faculty and staff is a process, but it's a goal that can be achieved in the near future.

— CB



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APRIL 19



Megan Hall
Argonaut

Three absences, you're out

There are many reasons why college classes are better than high school classes.

A challenging pace, in-depth course material and meaningful lectures are all reasons to prefer collegiate learning. However, there are some issues with strict, unforgiving attendance policies that drag students' grades down, even when their absences are excused.

Students pay a lot of money to take their classes, so they might as well go. There's a saying that for every time a student misses a lecture, they are tossing \$50 in the garbage.

While I don't know if that number is the hard and fast rule, I do agree that some amount of money is being flushed by not going to class. Plus, when a student misses class they lose points that impact their final grade.

Even in lecture classes of 100 or more people, like my Psychology 101 class, students are graded on participation. Whether it's a seating chart or clicker questions, professors find ways to grade students on attendance.

As someone who experiences incredible guilt when I don't go to class, this is great. As students, it's our job to show up for the classes we've committed to. So why shouldn't I be rewarded?

Some of my peers feel that the points are demeaning. In high school, most teachers gave five to 10 points per class period. College professors seem to do the same thing. In some classes, a failing participation grade can sink a student's grade enough that they fail the course. But if a student doesn't care about their education enough that they don't go to

class, maybe they shouldn't be in college. That being said, some attendance policies are too strict and fail to allow students some flexibility.



Tess Fox
Argonaut

In my art classes, after three absences, whether it's excused or unexcused, my grade drops a full letter. Even with 100 percent in the class, my four excused absences would give me a "B." This seems a little extreme.

Before spring break I was really sick and missed almost a full week of school, which was two days in my drawing class. Over spring break, I had my wisdom teeth taken out. After returning to Moscow, I spent another three or four days out of class.

I've missed four classes in my drawing class, which means I am at risk of finishing with a lower grade than I deserve. I had a doctor's note for each one. I was not out on the town grabbing coffee with friends. I was at home, either throwing up or in massive amounts of pain, and my grades are being penalized. My grade won't be lowered because of my work in the class. I have received between 80 and 95 percent on the three projects completed in the class.

College is a giant petri dish of people, places and germs. Even if I wash my hands every other hour, I'd probably still get sick. The sheer amount of people I come into contact with every day would ensure I fall ill at least once a semester. Not to mention that having wisdom teeth removed is a typical surgery to have at 19. Professors should understand these concepts.

I understand where the policy comes from.



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Art classes are similar to science labs, where if a student misses a day, it can be detrimental to their progress on the current project. However, surgery and major illnesses — or excused absences of any kind — should not be reasons to give students lower grades. It's too harsh a policy.

These strict attendance policies don't just show up in the art department. They can be seen across campus. My past and current lecture classes give three excused or unexcused absences before points are deducted from the overall grade.

In this case, it is a matter of five to 10 points being deducted. Unless I'm sitting on the cusp of an "A" or "B" grade, five points won't matter a whole lot in the long run. But an entire grade drop? That's going to hurt my GPA for no good reason.

As someone who has been known to prioritize mental and physical health as well as other obligations over class, I can't say it's wrong to skip class every so often. I always try to keep my absences under the allowed amount. And when I do decide to blow off a class for an assignment, I make every effort to follow up with my professors. I calculate the points I'd miss and make sure that it won't affect my grade.

I'm smart about my absences, because I know the value of being in the classroom. When I undergo a routine surgery or catch a common illness, my grade shouldn't be penalized. These attendance policies punish students with legitimate reasons to be absent from class.

Tess Fox
can be reached at arg-opinion@uidaho.edu

OFF THE CUFF

QUICK TAKES ON LIFE FROM OUR EDITORS

"The Wasteland"

T.S. Eliot was right. April is the cruelest month.

— Corrin

Motorsports underdog

How about guys like Matt DiBenedetto. He's finally broken through and finished sixth at Bristol and beat Kevin Harvick no less. If that doesn't impress you, the race is 500 laps long.

— Luis

Seahawks tickets

I was so excited when they went on sale this weekend. Then I saw the prices. Now I want to cry.

— Josh

Audio software

Honestly, I don't usually scream this much profanity before 9 a.m.

— Jack

Gender is a spectrum

Sick and tired of all the close-minded bathroom politics on my Facebook feed. Gender is not as simple as what's in a person's pants — it's time to start trying to understand.

— Lyndsie

Spotify

There's an audiobook section. How could I not know this? This changes everything.

— Jake

McBoatface

Creativity is not dead. Long live the internet.

— Tess

Railroads

The one time I need a train, I don't get one.

— Jessica

Be wary of April

The sun entices students away from their computers. Especially when they have three 15-page essays to work on.

— Claire

Journalism

Print may be dead, but high-quality, issue-oriented community journalism doesn't have to be. With more multimedia-based platforms, the opportunities for dynamic and compelling storytelling are endless.

— Hannah

Distractions

The sun has kept me distracted from my homework for too long. Time to start this research paper that is due today.

— Jordan

Moscow weather

Don't put the rain boots away just yet, it is supposed to rain all weekend. What is this?

— Tea

The power of Google

Should Google be able to tap into our lives for profits? The "right to be forgotten" brings up interesting judgment calls, especially for Europe.

— Katelyn

Hemp Fest

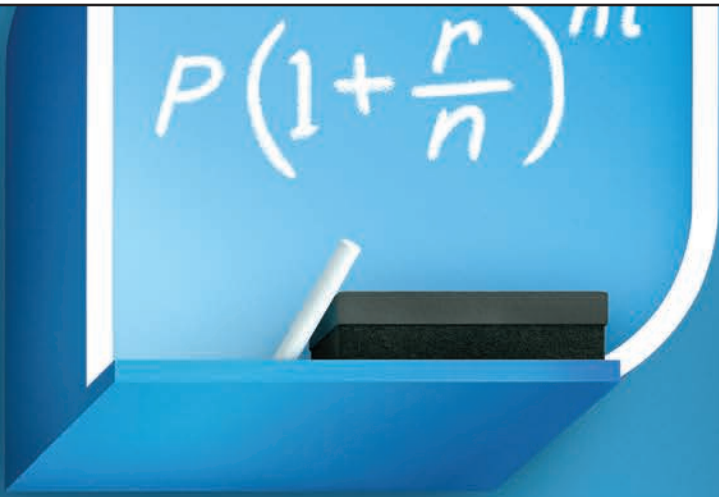
There were so many dogs. I just figured out what a chow chow is and I'll never be the same.

— Austin

In obvious news

At 6:59 p.m. last night, half of the seniors at UI imploded due to stress and panic.

— Erin



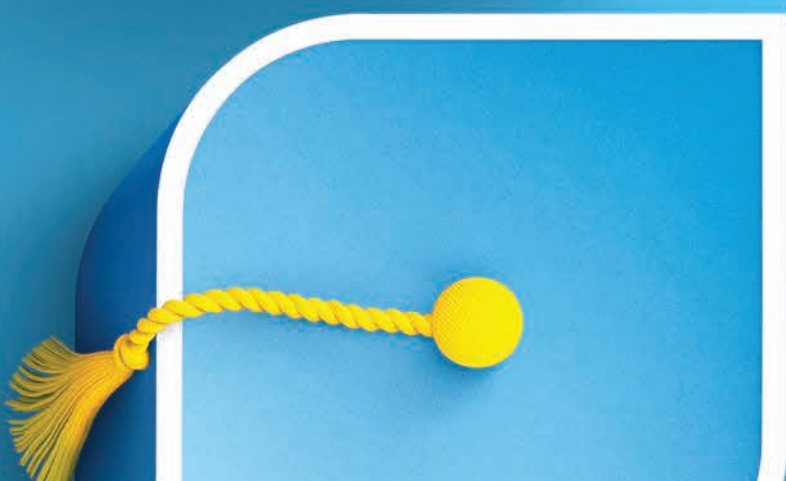
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