

University of Idaho

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2009

Leveling the playing field

Disability Support Services
unlocks student potential

10 cheap Moscow dates

1 a.m. to 4 a.m.

The nightlife of a small college town

From the editors...

Greetings Blotsers,

As the semester comes to a close, we're happy to present the second issue of the Blot.

We've covered some hot topics, including how the Disability Support Services uses innovative techniques to create a better college experience for students, as well as fun date ideas that are a little easier on the wallet.

We'd love to hear what you think! Email blot@uidaho.edu, and check us out online at www.blot.uidaho.edu.

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Behind the Scenes

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University of Idaho

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Adviser Shawn O'Neal

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Breaking down digital networking

story by Whitney Schroeder
graphics by Nick Groff

Think before you post. That's the advice U.S. President Barack Obama delivered in a speech broadcast in classrooms throughout the nation.

"I want everybody here to be careful about what you post on Facebook, because in the YouTube age, whatever you do, it will be pulled up again later somewhere in your life," Obama said.

In a Twitter-pated, Facebook-frenzied, your space is MySpace society — Obama's blunt address in front of a class of ninth grade students at a Virginia High School this past September doesn't appear to be readily heeded.

Social networking has been around since the dawn of man. From cavemen throwing rocks at each other to Victorian socials to the pony express. But it wasn't until the turn of the millennium that online social networking became mainstream. The development increased the speed of communication and degree of risk associated with the practice.

"People use these things and don't understand the ramifications of the things that can happen," said Darren Kearney, an Information Technology Services employee.

When he presented at the University of Idaho Computer Security Symposium in October, Kearney focused on the issues presented by social networking sites. Identity theft and professional concerns are the two main issues Kearney stresses.

"When you go to open an account, what is automatically asked for?" Kearney said. "Then by default (personal information like phone numbers and email addresses) is all posted."

When reinstating a closed account, UI graduate Chris Clinger discovered that even seemingly benign information can pose a security threat. Since the account had been set up in 2005, Clinger

couldn't remember the answer to his security question, "What is your favorite movie?"

"I have the memory of a Commodore 64 so I was dead in the water," he said. "I remembered that my Facebook page lists all of my favorite movies, so while on the phone with their support, I took a look at my Facebook page."

Using the first movie on his list, harmless information right, he answered the question correctly.

"Just like that I was able to reinstate my account and do anything else I wanted with it," Clinger said.

Identity theft can be an intimidating thought, but with a little discretion social networkers can minimize the threat. Exercise precaution by omitting addresses, phone numbers, mother's maiden name and social security numbers from online posts.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Web site provides specific advice on how to safely enjoy the benefits of social networking, including:

- Limit the amount of personal information you post
- Remember the internet is a public resource
- Be wary of strangers
- Be skeptical
- Evaluate your settings
- Use strong passwords
- Check privacy policies
- Use and maintain anti-virus software

[small feature]

MOSCOW:

{1 a.m. - 4 a.m.}

story by Grant Callaghan
photography by Jake Barber

One to 4 a.m. is what many people believe to be the witching hours of a college town — the time when tickets are written and messes are made.

During these early hours, a mass migration begins from the bars and parties. Like a giant caribou herd — students and servers, bartenders and bouncers, cooks, residents and entertainers, all spill out on to the streets. For three hours the migration pushes on. For most students, there is just one question, and it's a simple one: "What do we do now?" Some people rush out to try to get something to eat, others just have to try and figure out how to get home.

David Duke, assistant chief of police, described how the Moscow Police Department works to keep order of the stumbling masses and designated drivers during the early morning migration. He said the police use a watch commander to assign different patrols and to implement different methods of patrolling to ensure safety and order during the early hours. The watch commander sends police out on foot, bikes and cars.

"When the bars get out, normally the best way to patrol is by foot or on bikes," Duke said.

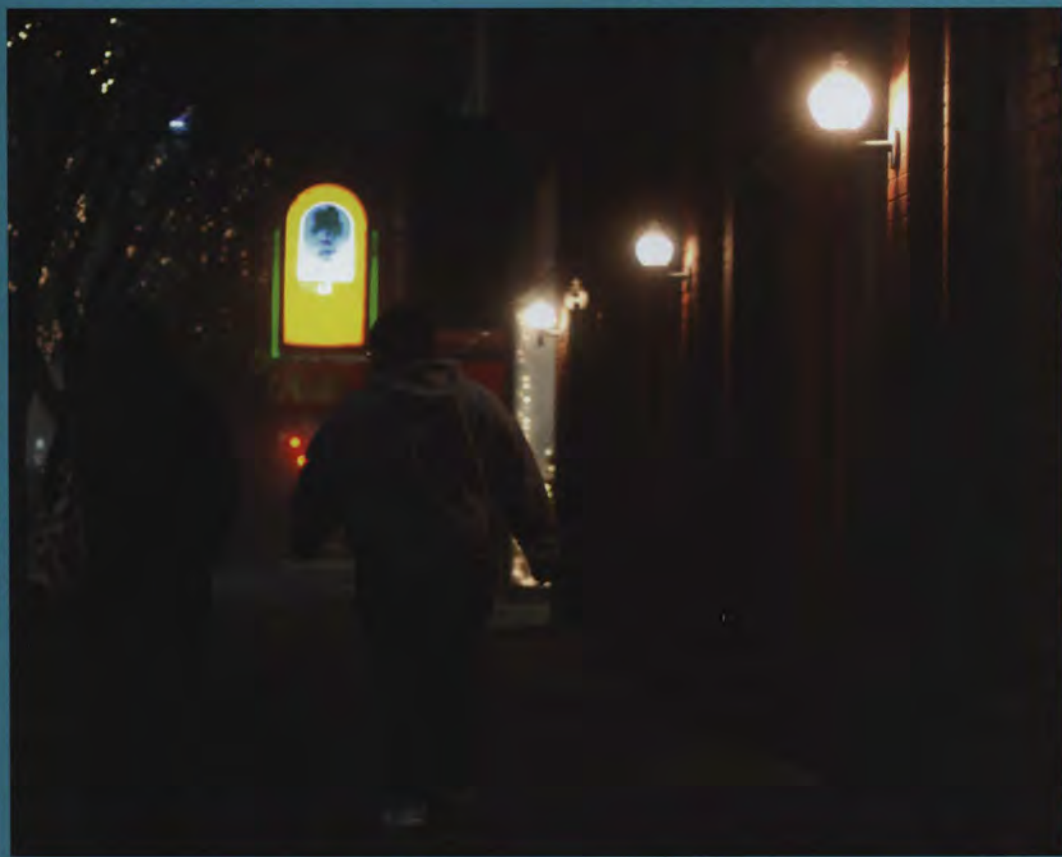
"When the bars get out, normally the best way to patrol is by foot or on bikes."

— **David Duke,**
assistant chief of police MPD

But, for larger areas of campus and town, patrol cars are the more efficient choice. Officers patrolling the busiest times of the night and morning have a lot of ground to cover and he said they often prioritize areas where citizens may need assistance and where people could be breaking the law. Officers are assigned their patrols, and trained to look for suspicious behavior. These same officers also respond to 911 calls and are responsible for traffic patrols. There are also concentrated patrols dedicated to the campus.

In addition to the increased patrolling, officers must continue to perform their jobs as normal. They work 10-hour shifts with swing shifts at night to ensure the peace and safety of Moscow.

Todd Alden, University of Idaho senior, said the bars are the biggest social scenes in town. He explained that when he turned 21, he would go to the bars and normally just end up going home, mainly because he would get too drunk.



"When a person is first able to go to the bar, the idea of having someone serve your alcohol is somewhat overwhelming," Alden said.

As he got older, he figured out how to manage his drinking to extend his nightlife. Drinking became less of a main accentual, when it comes to a fun night out.

Alden emphasized that Moscow Bagel and Deli, more commonly known as the bagel shop, is the place to go after a long night at the bars.

"They stay open specifically to serve those inhabits of the early morning hours," said Ava Isaacson, Moscow Bagel and Deli employee. "The bagel shop gets a lot of the bar crowd, and Friday and Saturday nights are crazy."

Alden, like many other students, said he tries to find the best places to eat in the early morning hours.

Where there are college students, there is a good time waiting to happen.

"The bagel shop serves great food at reasonable prices, and is a warm place to chill and continue a good time with friends," Alden said.

Isaacson said on the "wild nights" the lines will "snake around the shop" and will sometimes even go outside.

But where there are college students, there is a good time waiting to happen. During the long migration home, people can stop to connect with one another and get an update about Moscow and other gossip going around. A person can learn what happen at the bars or the location of the after party. More times than not, a friend or two can be made while waiting in line. Moscow's nightlife is that of many college towns — locals and college students looking for something to do.

[feature]

Leveling the playing field

Disability Support Services unlocks student potential

story by
Sarah MacDonald &
Ivan Solotov

photography by
Jake Barber

Megan sits in the back of her classroom. She is indiscernible from any other student taking notes or perusing Facebook on a laptop. Yet Megan is about to have a seizure. The movie playing on the projector and the professor's laser pointer are about to trigger her epilepsy. She deals with this every day. Megan Renaldo, a senior with epilepsy, is one of many students at the University of Idaho with a disability.

Everyday tasks can pose challenges for people dealing with cognitive disabilities, such as Megan Renaldo. But with hard work and perseverance, these students get in the groove just like everyone else. To help them along, they use UI Disability Support Services for aid.

UI is dedicated to providing equal learning opportunities to students of all walks of life. At DSS, this commitment is focused on one purpose — to provide equal access to students with disabilities. Whether the student needs access to buildings, resources or the opportunity to succeed, the administrators of DSS are there every step of the way.

"The key word is access," said Rhonda Wallen, alternate media and testing programming coordinator. "We provide access to these resources. Though we care greatly about our students' success, it is not our mandate. Our mandate is to level the playing field."



And that's exactly what they do. Through numerous programs and services, DSS offers accommodation to students with various disabilities. Such programs include extended testing, note taking services, real-time captioning, alternatively formatted books and a collection of devices for mobility impairments.

"There are a lot of things we can do (to accommodate students) quite easily and inexpensively," said Gloria Jensen, DSS coordinator.

These services not only provide students a fair opportunity to learn, but also grants them a college experience that is as memorable as those of their able-bodied peers.

"We give them permanent tools for success," said Allan Curtis,



learning disability specialist. "The goal is to make them as independent and responsible as possible."

The staff works on a case-by-case basis, searching for the best possible solution to satisfy individual student needs. If DSS doesn't have room in its budget to provide that solution, the regional Office for Civil Rights will look at the entire university's budget to find funding.

"Since the government said it will accommodate any and all students, a lack of money (in the budget) is no excuse," Jensen said. "There is always a way."

Most of the students who utilize DSS have physical or sensory disabilities, Jensen said. These students have usually been living with their disability for some time and know their limitations. However, there are many more students who may not be getting the help they need — help that is readily available.

Jensen said one of the fastest growing populations at UI is that of students with cognitive disabilities, such as Asperger syndrome, autism, bipolar disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). These disabilities are often overlooked because they aren't always physically evident.

"They may seem like minor disabilities because they are hidden," Jensen said. "But in an education environment, they are major."

Students diagnosed with cognitive or learning disabilities have a great resource to turn to, according to several sources.

Curtis, who works with cognitive and psychological disabilities, is known for his dedication to the students and commitment to helping them reach their full potential. His tone and demeanor brim with pride and protectiveness when

speaking about what he does.

"They are here
to fight for and
support all of us."

**-Megan Renaldo,
student**



Curtis explained his job is to tailor assistance to each student. No one's degree of disability is the same, and therefore no two students can receive the same type of assistance.

"Our students are varied, and aren't just confined to this campus. I assist distance outreach students, as well as the incarcerated," Curtis said.

He made mention of the 'level playing field' described by Wallen. He explained that some high schools make accommodations and exceptions for students with learning disabilities, but that was impossible in a university setting. The standards are the same for everyone, as are the expectations.

"I don't lobby for students with professors. I can't force professors to comply," Curtis said.

Curtis and his fellow staffers can't force the students to come to them, either. Curtis, Jensen and Teresa Huffstutler, Deaf Services' lead captionist, all mentioned "work-around" students, or students with disabilities who find ways to work around them. Even if the student established coping mechanisms in high school, the university format often becomes a struggle for them. And if it does, they can visit the DSS offices.

"The people there are incredible," Renaldo said. "They are there to fight for and support all of us."

While some DSS programs simply allow students to use elevators or to be excused from seizure-triggering movies, others go to great lengths to provide students with access.

The DSS collection of alternatively formatted textbooks is one of these programs. This service provides students with an electronic version of any book needed for class. Sounds simple enough, right? Well, the process proves otherwise.

The student brings the textbook to the DSS offices. The book then goes to the UI Copy Center to have the binding sliced off, and returns to the offices. Each page is then scanned through a dual-sided scanner to digitalize the text. These images are then run through a program that edits them for a Microsoft Word document, removing images and graphs. In the end, the student receives two books back: the original book, spiral bound and ready to be sold back to the UI Bookstore, and a digital version.

The digital version can be run through various word recognition software programs, including the DSS recommended ReadPlease, which reads the text out loud. This method of reading is especially useful for blind students, but also for students with ADHD, severe migraines or

reading disabilities.

The voice on the speech software is mechanized and speaks in a broken cadence that can be difficult to follow. Yet Wallen, who is in charge of the alternative media program, said that like any learning process, adjusting to the voice takes time.

"The speed of the speech is adjustable, and students who have been using the software listen on such high speeds that I cannot understand a single word, yet they have no difficulty comprehending," Wallen said.

The digital books are stored in a database for future usage, though the students must still pay a fee to access them.

A more frequently utilized program also appears on Wallen's list of duties —organizing and proctoring extended testing. This service is flexible and works with the students' needs. For example, some students require extra time and a calculator, while others need frequent breaks or choice

"They may seem like minor disabilities because they are hidden, but in an education environment, they are major."

**-Gloria Jensen,
DSS coordinator**

WILL BE TOWED AT THE OWNER'S
 EXPENSE. VEHICLES MAY BE
 RECLAIMED BY CALLING
 MOSCOW POLICE DEPT
 882-5551

University of Idaho
 Disability Permit Required

music to aid in concentration.

Renaldo takes her tests at DSS because the additional time given to her relieves stress that could otherwise cause a seizure. Renaldo said the resources of DSS have been essential in her success at UI.

"I couldn't have handled school without them — too many potential seizure traps," she said. "If the teachers didn't understand and DSS wasn't there to back me up, school would have been too difficult."

The service aims to provide maximum success opportunities for the student and minimal impact on the professor. Wallen proctored 150 exams in September alone.

One of the newest forms of assistive technology available to students is captioning services. This program uses a multi-step process to provide deaf or hard of hearing

students with a visual account of what is being said in their classes and ultimately lands them with a "script" of what was taught that day. How does this differ from note taking services? Captioning allows the student to see what is being said in real-time.

Here's how it works: a captionist attends class with the student. The captionist sets up their typing machine, the student sets up their laptop. The student can sit anywhere in the room, allowing them to remain anonymous. The lecture begins. The captionist, who is trained in shorthand, phonetics-based method of transcription, begins typing and within three seconds, the professor's words are on the screen of the student's laptop.

The captionist simultaneously uses Livescribe — a program using a pen with a camera in the stylus to digitally record information written on special paper — to draw graphs, graphics and equations.

But the captionist's job doesn't end there. When the class ends, they pack up, go back to their office and prepare the script. This includes cleaning up the text, downloading graphics and equations from the Livescribe pen, embedding the images into the notes and sending it off to the student via e-mail.

Though captionists have replaced the role of interpreters on campus, those services are still offered. The assistance provided by captioning is beneficial for the student, especially for his or her anonymity, but the ability to sign is unmatched said Jensen, who also serves as deaf services coordinator and one of the few remaining interpreters on campus.

"There is a huge need (for students who know sign language)," Jensen said. "Even though there aren't many deaf students in the area, when they do come through, they need people to communicate with."

continued on page 12

[campus life]

Ten cheap Moscow dates

story by Kristen Whitney
photography by Jake Barber

Since romantic walks in the park and picnics in the Arboretum are out of the question during this time of the year, here are ten winter-friendly date ideas that won't break the bank:

1 Stop by One World Café or Bucer's Coffee House Pub for coffee and a show.

From local solo artists to traveling indie bands, both places have performances several nights a week.

2 After a good snowfall, scope out a steep hill and hit the slopes ... with a sled that is. If you don't own a sled, Tri-State and Wal-Mart have a wide selection catering to every budget. "Just remember, Bob's (Place) tray sledding is even cheaper," said Matt Fazio, University of Idaho senior. Be sure to have hot cocoa on hand to warm you up after your sledding session.

3 Test your climbing skills on the 55-foot rock wall at the Student Recreation Center. Rental equipment is available at \$3 for a belay device and harness and an additional \$4 fee for shoes. Personal equipment is welcome and saves you the rental fee. Participants must complete the basic clinic to acquire skills necessary to start climbing safely on the wall. Experienced climbers can avoid the \$7 clinic if able to pass a belay test.

4 YouTube how to make sushi, pot roast or even potato chips. Look up the ingredients you'll need and then head to the supermarket together. Try cooking something neither of you have ever made. Not a talented chef? Be sure to have a frozen pizza on hand as a backup plan.

5 Head over to Zeppo's in Pullman for a competitive game of bowling. Game prices are reduced Tuesday nights. "It's a fun and inexpensive group date," said Jessalyn Hopkin, UI junior.



6

The Palouse Ice Rink is located in the Rotary Veterans Memorial Pavilion at the Latah County Fairgrounds, near Safeway. Rent a pair of skates and hit the rink during public skate for \$7. Be sure to bring mittens.



7

Keep an eye open for bar and restaurant specials. It's a great way to save money at the places you already frequent. Monday night is wing night at the Alehouse and Blue Monday at the Garden Lounge. Blue Monday consists of a long list of drinks on special for \$2.50. Tuesday is Fat Tuesday at John's Alley. Stop by for \$2 Fat Tire beers and maybe a show if your timing is right. Wednesday is two-for-one margaritas at La Casa Lopez. Thursday night is ladies night at Mingles (free pool for all ladies and \$1.50 wells) and the Corner Club (all drinks are half off).

8

Let your creativity flow at Wild at Art located in Eastside Marketplace. They have a large assortment of unfinished ceramics ready to paint or browse their mixed media area stocked with a vast array of user-friendly art supplies. This can also be an opportunity to make a thoughtful memento for your date to take home.

Will you go out with me?

Yes

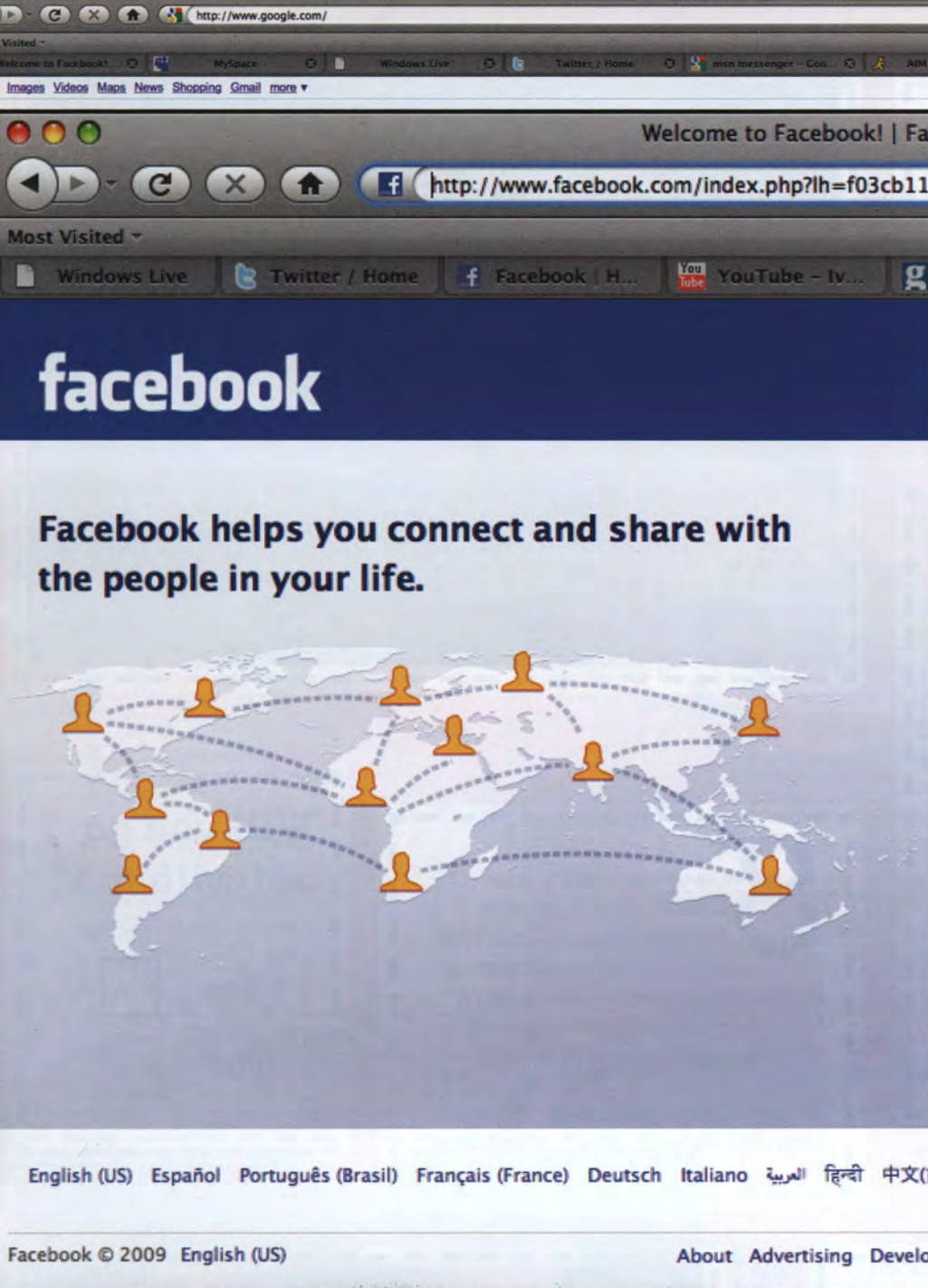
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9

The Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre, located in downtown Moscow, screens a wide variety of movies. Documentaries, independent and foreign films offer a chance to break from the norm. Also, the Kenworthy hosts events including lectures, concerts and book readings on a regular basis. Stop by or check the event calendar at <http://www.kenworthy.org>.

10

Treat your sweet tooth and maybe try a new beer or wine at to the Moscow Food Co-op. "For desserts ... we have anything from tiramisu to cakes, cup cakes, peanut butter cups and cookies. A piece of cake is around \$3 and it's huge," said Hunt Paddison Co-op employee. If you're also in the mood to drink, the Co-op has a large selection of beers and wines. "For wine you can go as low as \$4-5 and up into the \$20 range if you want to," Paddison said. "Being able to build your own six-pack of beer is really fun." After you've stocked up on goods return home to watch a good movie together and share your tasty treats.



Breaking down digital networking continued

But users should remember that social networking sites affect other aspects of a person's identity. An online profile can be a paramount factor in establishing a professional (or unprofessional) reputation. Identity thieves may not care if there are drunken, half-naked photos on your profile, but many future employers will.

"You are the most expensive thing anyone is going to invest in," Kearney said. "They look online and gauge whether you are worth the investment."

Depending on what people choose to post on Facebook, employers are able to see the unprofessional side of people, including immature use of profanity along with excessive alcohol use and inappropriate attire. Even if people clean up their Facebook profiles, they are still not off the hook because of the 10,000 people they are "friends" with.

"They (employers) will look at more than just your profile," Kearney said. "They will look at your friends as well. What do they do?"

Most people are not going to college to become the president of the U.S., but the president's advice can be useful. College is in preparation for graduation and graduation is to get a job. Be mindful of the power of an online presence and take a minute before making that next post.



Leveling out the playing field continued

Jensen began teaching a sign language course on campus this semester, and hopes it will be picked up as a continuing elective.

For each student, communication is key to understanding and appreciating the person behind the disability.

"People are people," Jensen said. "Students with disabilities are students too. We all have different issues at different times."

DSS is available to all students with a medically diagnosed disability. Students who believe they have a disability are encouraged to contact DSS for assistance. All services are free, and no one is turned away. However, it is the student's responsibility to initiate contact.

Disability Support Services is located at room 306 in the Idaho Commons, and can be reached at (208) 885-6307.



CAMPUS RECREATION



Rallying the most out of life

story by Lisa Short
photography by Nick Groff

[athletic radar]

Katie Tribley devotes herself to one game — volleyball.

"Day in and day out I come into the gym. I leave everything at the door. There's a court, a net, a ball, and a team. It's not always glamorous but nothing else matters, I come in and compete," she said.

Everyday Tribley works hard to be the best volleyball player, student and person possible. Tribley is a junior at the University of Idaho and was recruited before her junior year of high school at Idaho's volleyball summer camp. She said she thrives on working hard and is excited to push herself for four years in training and competition. She said realizing she is part of something bigger than just herself and that she has people counting on her, motivates her to always push herself. She knows the lifestyle isn't the same as other college students but is adapting to being an athlete.

"It's a big sacrifice," Tribley said. "But it's a great opportunity to be the best athlete you can be."

Tribley trains with volleyball coach Debbie Buchanan but also works a lot with assistant coach Steve Whitaker. Whitaker helps Tribley improve by simplifying drills and working hard on the basics. Focusing on the basics is an effective organizational method for the complex life of an involved student like Tribley.

Tribley is a double major in pre-med and international studies, and is looking to intern at an international clinic in Latin America before going on to medical school. Her majors don't have many overlapping classes, so she has a heavy course load to keep up with but tries to balance it out. During the season, she said her life is a little unbalanced with it focused a little more on volleyball, but during the spring it will even out more.

Tribley is an important part of her team, but she also participates in activities pertaining to her majors. She is a member of the Martin Institute of International Studies and had an internship with the Martin Institute last summer, and they said they feel she is a great ambassador for their program.

"We're a fan of Katie," Bill Smith director of the Martin Institute and Martin School of International Studies said. "We think it's pretty cool that we're associated with Katie and vice-versa."

Smith said Tribley does a great job balancing her studies and her athletics and knows it can be hard to have competing passions. He said he hopes if she continues to do well in the program that there are scholarships she could receive for optional programs at Oxford. He also noted her life fits together because she has a unique support system. Contributions from her family, her coach and her peers have given Tribley the push to excel in all areas, including building her character.

Tribley volunteered with the Alternative Service Break program at UI with hurricane relief efforts on the coast in years past and is looking forward to traveling to Romania to help with the construction of an orphanage.

"She's a genuine person," Smith said. "It is really fun for us to get to work with her." Whitaker also said he was lucky to be able to work with her, that it is a privilege and has made him a better coach. He said it's amazing how much she is involved in and is a fan of what she is trying to achieve in the broader scope of life.

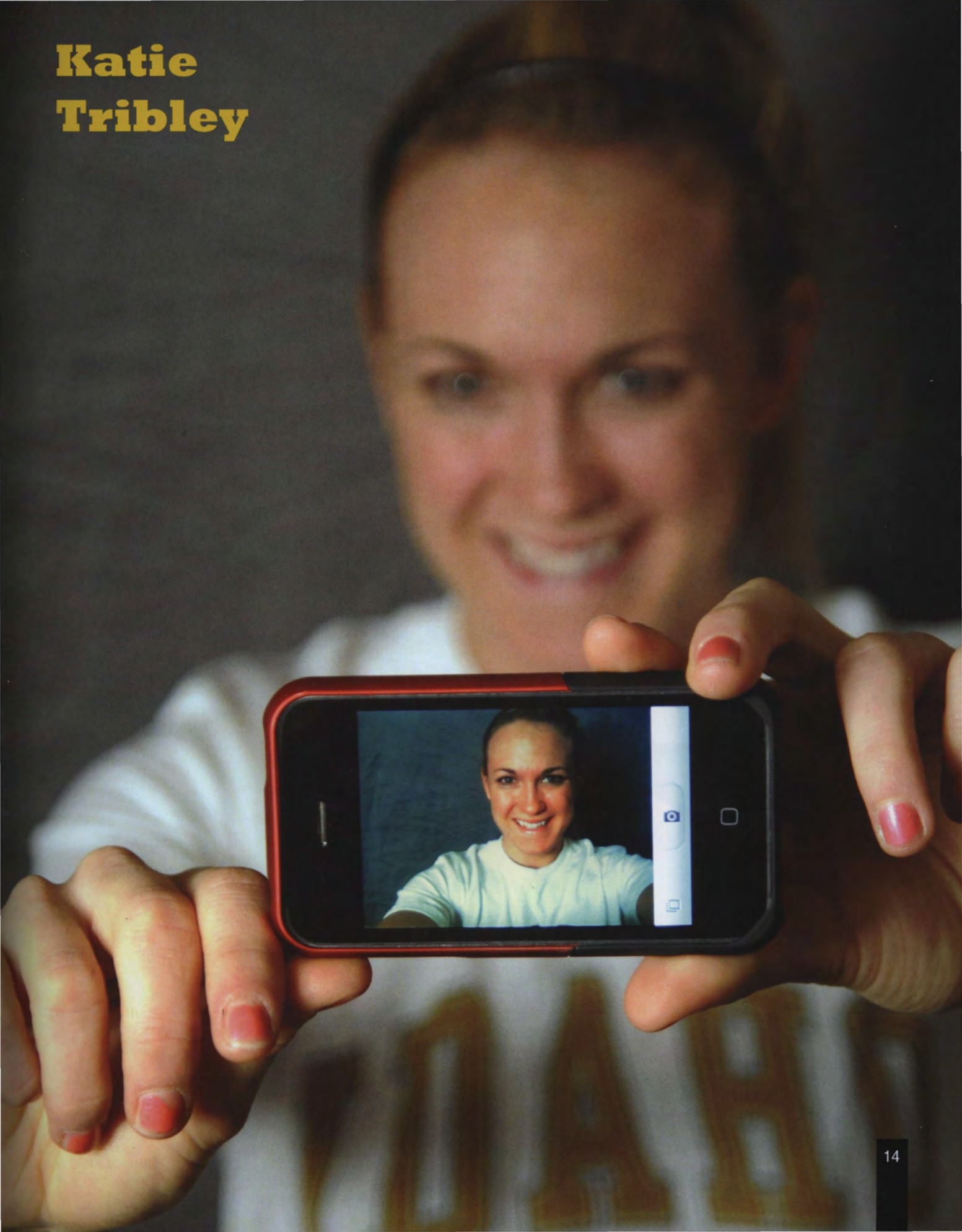
Aside from the double major, full-time athletics and volunteer work, Tribley also likes to scuba dive, paint and make collages. Her face lights up as she talks about each different activity she crams into a day because when she commits to something she said she likes to go at it 110 percent.

Whitaker said she has great attention to detail and always wants to improve upon them and is constantly putting in effort that exceeds most players. He said she is always there trying to get better and he never gets a half-hearted practice from her.

"Live every day," Tribley said. "I understand that I'm not going to be perfect but I accept my flaws and work on turning them into strengths. I just have to be careful not to spread myself too thin."

"Day in and day out I come into the gym. I leave everything at the door. There's a court, a net, a ball, and a team. It's not always glamorous but nothing else matters, I come in and compete."

**Katie
Tribley**



**Anna
Sandman**



Inside the net: blocking the competition

story by Ross Bingham
photography by Nick Groff

The air is frigid, turf flies as the University of Idaho women's soccer team prepares for a double header before homecoming week. Anna Sandman screams commands from the backfield as the scrimmage heats up. Protecting the net and commanding her teammates, Sandman stands fierce, alert and ready for whoever wants a shot on her net.

Sandman, goalkeeper for the UI soccer team, grew up playing a multitude of sports in Maple Valley, Wash. at Tacoma High School. She was active in basketball as well soccer and other sports. She came to UI with a desire to play soccer.

"I love stepping onto the field and going to practice, I chose soccer because it's the one I most enjoy playing. I love everything about it," Sandman said.

Sandman is not a typical goalkeeper — standing a little over six-feet tall she is a force to be reckoned with on the field bringing a multitude of athletic abilities. She joined the women's basketball team last year at the end of the season, appearing in six games as a reserve player. She scored her first career point on a free throw in a 64-41 win over San Jose State. She helped the Vandal women make one of the NCAA's best single-season turnarounds and finish with a third-place Idaho record of 10-6 in the Western Athletic Conference.

"The coaches knew I was good with my hands and have a very competitive personality," Sandman said. "It was a really fun experience for me."

UI soccer has seen more than a few games go into overtime and it's in these moments Sandman shines. The enemy is rushing toward her full speed on a breakaway and the only person between pulling out a "W" and going home empty-handed is Sandman — and she thrives on the pressure.

"That's the reason I play. I love all the pressure on me. Everything gets really slow-mo and I go into a state of focus," Sandman said. "No one intimidates me."

A goalkeeper's job goes beyond protecting the net. Sandman carries the vital role of master and commander of the field. She must watch the enemy movement and command her teammates accordingly to lead the best play.

"The biggest part of being a team is to trust in one another. The defenders can't worry about what I'm doing. I can see the whole field and it's my job to let my team know what our competitors are doing," Sandman said. "I'm sort of the commander on the field."

[athletic radar]

Peter Showler, UI women's soccer coach, said he has been pleased with the performance of his team this season. The soccer team has made Vandal history this year, breaking the previous at-home wins record set by the 2000 soccer team. Showler attributes this to hard work, team chemistry and how well they have "gelled" together on and off the field.

"It's a knock-on effect, all the athletes are doing well and the coaches as well as the players can feel it," Showler said. "It's infectious."

The soccer team continued its attack on the WAC this season to finish with its the best single-season turnaround in team history at eight wins.



[photo gallery]

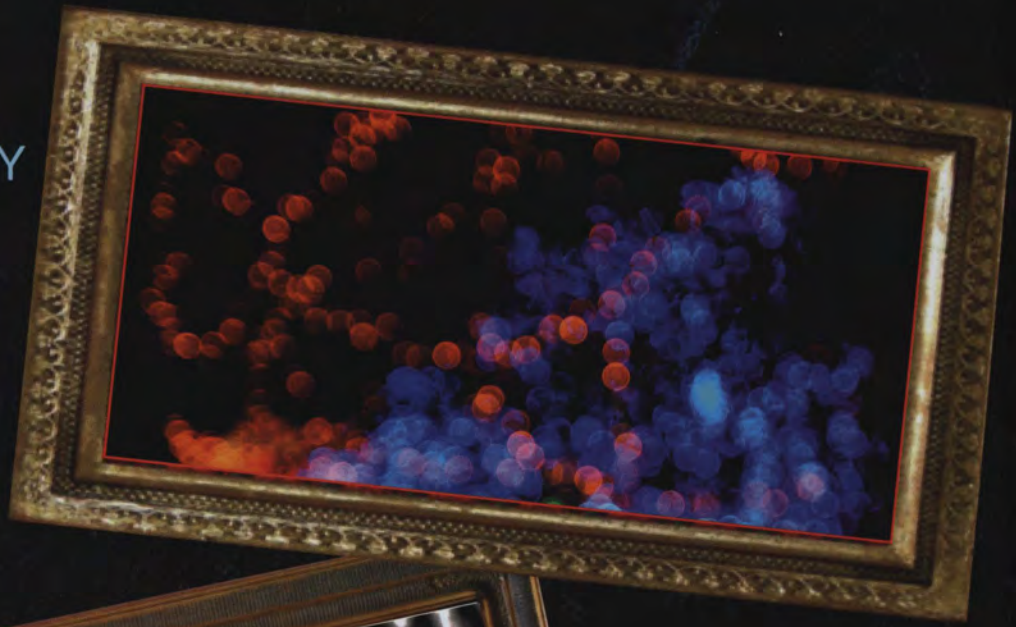


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JAKE BARBER
PHOTOGRAPHY





Local scene inspires student musicians

story by Theo Lawson
photography by Jake Barber

In recent years, music has taken its various shapes and forms in Moscow and the city's reputation for having such a lively music scene has attracted many through the success and popularity of local bands. Some of these bands include the Daniel Botkin Band, the Nameless and Swimmers of West Oz. All three bands are composed of University of Idaho students and to them music has never been just an extracurricular activity.

Daniel Botkin Band

Daniel Botkin said music has been his passion since he was young.

"I started singing when I was a kid and music has always been an interest of mine," he said.

A junior at UI, Botkin is the lead singer and acoustic guitarist of the band he formed last year, the Daniel Botkin Band. Botkin's band consists of five members including himself, drummer Jason Oliveira, lead guitarist Chris Lowe, bassist Thomas Staples and violinist Heather O'Rourke. All attend UI with the exception of O'Rourke who recently graduated. Botkin moved to Moscow three years ago and started playing and performing solo last fall, then created his band the following spring.

"Moving to Moscow has really helped because there is such a live music scene here and I had the opportunity to gain a fresh start," Botkin said.

Although he classifies his music as Indie Folk, Botkin and his band have been influenced by the music of the Dave Matthews Band, whom many believe they tend to sound like. Bart Budwig, an alumnus of UI, records bands at his house which is also the former home of famous folk singer Josh Ritter. Budwig said he thinks Botkin's music is "emotional and dynamic."

The band released their most recent album, *Letters from the Black Shore* Nov. 14 and has performed on numerous occasions throughout the past two months.

While Botkin's idea of a perfect life would involve a career in music, he said he will always be content playing for kicks.

"It would be awesome to make a living playing music," Botkin said. "It's hard to say if it will happen though because you never know what it's going to be like when you get there. I want to keep my options open."

The Nameless

Oliveira on the other hand, is a Moscow native and UI freshman who formed his band The Nameless in August. The Nameless consists of Oliveira, a drummer and background vocalist, Oliveira's older brother Chris Lowe, an electric guitarist, Botkin who plays bass, Ryan Asker the lead vocalist/keyboardist and David



Fuller the other electric guitarist. Oliveira said he thinks Moscow is a great place because it "gets kids involved with music."

The Nameless mainly play alternative rock and while one may assume the band's name was created after hours of unsuccessful band name brainstorming, Oliveira said he named it after a verse in the New Testament's Revelation.

Lowe and Oliveira believe their music sounds like that of Anberlin, Coldplay and Death Cab for Cutie. All three bands inspire the two to write and play music. Their idols in the world of music aren't the only ones who have motivated Lowe and Oliveira.

"A lot of our inspiration comes from friends and family," Lowe said. "We love music and tend to write most of our songs about friends and family, mainly about things with passion."

The Nameless recently released a six track EP album called *Memories* and have had "gigs" throughout the fall and winter. In November, the band opened for Ivoryline, a nationally recognized band who appeared at the 2006 Vans Warped Tour and currently hold a record deal with Tooth and Nail Records.

Like Botkin, Oliveira would also be thrilled to play music at the top level.

"The ultimate goal would be to get signed but I'm not banking on it," Oliveira said. "It's something that's awesome to do and it's a great feeling playing music but it's also nice making a few extra bucks for gas money."

Swimmers of West Oz

Named after a surfing spot off the coast of Australia, the Swimmers of West Oz (SOWO) have been playing together for four years. Lucas Mills, who plays guitar and does vocals in the band met fellow band mates Brad Stephens and Weston Corporon during his freshman year at UI.

"I lived in the tower my first year and was cruising around the building and heard that Brad was a drummer. We talked about playing music and then met Wes through a roommate," Mills said.

The three started the band that year and throughout the years have been adding and losing members. Now there are only three "Swimmers" and for the past year and a half the three-man band has been turning heads in Moscow.

The Swimmers of West Oz have an indie rock feel to their music and have been influenced by bands such as the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Aloha, Minus the Bear, Incubus and Stevie Ray Vaughn.

"Music is our influence. Life is our



influence," Mills said. "We listen to different types of music and find new music each week and share it with each other."

The three live in a duplex in Moscow where they have a practice area set up in the living room.

"We practice given our schedule. Usually once or twice a week," Mills said.

Listeners might not be able to tell after listening to one of their songs from their new four-song demo album. The band also records at Budwig's home studio and played two shows during Halloween weekend one at the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house and the other at One World Café.

"It's such a rush being in front of people," Mills said. "Putting yourself out there and performing while having fun. It's about doing what you love."

Stephens maintains that the band doesn't tend to write songs about specific people or events, but more of what goes with the mood of the song.

"Most of the time we write everything instrumental. We haven't written a song based on lyrics. We write about life," he said.

Despite the fact that he was never taught how to play, Stephens has found ways of teaching himself.

"It's something I just started doing. I've never been professionally trained and I had to figure out on my own. If I hear a song that I like the next level is to learn how to play it so that's what I do," he said.

Looking at the big picture, it is unlikely fans will see any of the three on the stage of the 2010 Grammy Awards, but they have become local heroes in Moscow. Fans can keep their eyes open for the Daniel Botkin Band, The Nameless and the Swimmers of West Oz as each have the potential to expand their music throughout the state of Idaho and possibly the whole nation.

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