

A high-angle photograph of a young man with short blonde hair, wearing a red tank top and dark shorts, climbing a dark, textured rock face. He is reaching up with his right arm, hand flat against the rock. The rock surface is uneven with various shades of grey and brown. The word "blot" is printed in large, white, lowercase letters across the top of the image, partially overlapping the climber's arm and the rock.

# blot

## ROCK IT

*Busting five myths  
about climbing*

## FIGHTING FLAMES

*UI students with a passion for  
fire gain hands-on experience*

## ABOVE THE CEILING

*Dust has never been  
so dangerous*



# WHICH IDAHO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT ARE YOU?

*Take our definitive quiz to discover your true Idaho identity*

## I feel most at home...

1. Nestled into the soil
2. Dancing in the wind
3. Sprouting toward the sunlight
4. 1 and 3

## The most attractive shape is...

1. Oval-ish round
2. Long and limber
3. Long and lumpy
4. Wide at the top and narrow at the bottom

## I would most like to live...

1. Along the slopes of a river valley
2. On hilly ground, under the open sky
3. In a drier climate
4. Where the sun shines all day and temperatures stay above freezing

## My personal weakness is...

1. Anything deep-fried
2. ALL THE CARBS
3. Chili ... and more chili
4. Candy, candy, candy

## People remember me because...

1. I'm kind of a big deal.
2. I run this town.
3. They don't, really.
4. I'm really sweet.

## My favorite color is...

1. Brown
2. Sandy yellow
3. Maroon
4. Off-white

## My favorite meal of the day is...

1. Dinner — bring on the meat
2. A hearty breakfast
3. A warm lunch
4. Dessert

You're an Idaho potato



If you got mostly 1s

You're wheat of the Palouse



If you got mostly 2s

You're dry beans



If you got mostly 3s

You're a sugarbeet

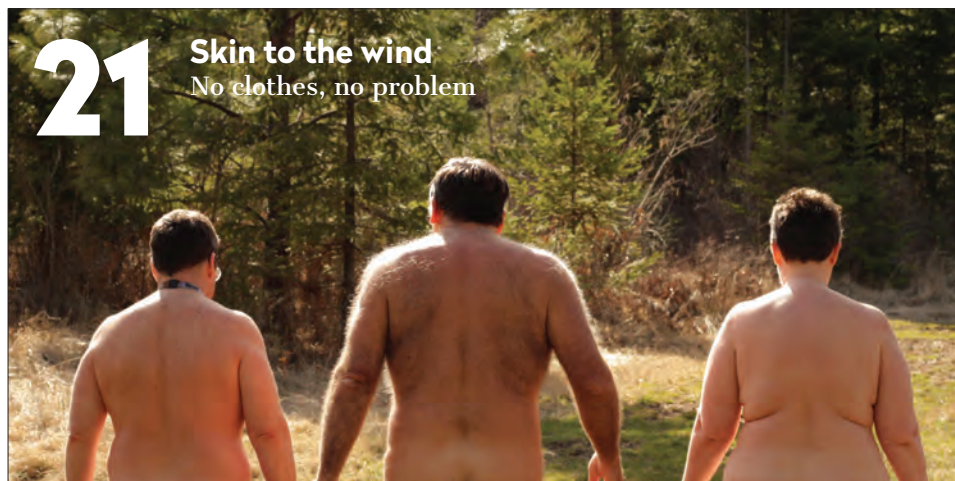


If you got mostly 4s

Information gathered from Idaho Agriculture and UI Extension websites.

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No clothes, no problem



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## Wild and Free

Wilderness doesn’t always get along so well with people.

It catches fire and crosses state lines. It springs anew beside roadways and lives unnoticed within human boundaries. Sometimes it’s tamed into garden-perfect plants or factory-molded footholds, sneaking into society’s most civilized corners.

But some prefer the wilderness in its less altered state, resting in the bare essentials of nature or learning to live without leaving a trace.

Regardless of how people interact with it, wilderness is not going anywhere. It messes with people almost as much as people mess with it.

It is temperamental and ever-changing. It is everything outside the human comfort zone, and a little bit inside the human heart.

It is fresh, and hot, and poky, and dark, and thrilling, and scary, and hope-filled, and authentic.

The wilderness doesn’t want your money. It is free.

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**Humans v Zombies**  
Some people love it, others hate it. An inside look at the campus-wide game.

**On the farm**  
Changes are coming to UI Soil Stewards program.





From left, Susie Everly, Sarah Rose, Sadie Grossbaum and Arte Rosales enjoy an afternoon on Moscow Mountain. All four UI students spent Fall 2013 in the River of No Return wilderness as part of UI's Semester in the Wild.

# Returning from the *UI's Semester in the Wild* River of No Return

Story by Miranda Rae Carter  
Photography by Cy Whitling

“*The wilderness gave them their first taste of those rewards and penalties for wise and foolish acts which every woodsman faces daily, but against which civilization has built a thousand buffers.*

*Aldo Leopold*

■ University of Idaho senior Sarah Rose credited the American author, scientist, ecologist, forester and environmentalist with her favorite wilderness quote.

“I want to make sure I get it right,”

Rose said, her freckled face open and slightly eager. “I wouldn’t want to misquote Aldo Leopold.”

Rose and the 10 other UI students and faculty members took part in UI’s first-ever Semester in the Wild program during fall 2013.

Participating students of all majors learned in a hands-on classroom at the Taylor Wilderness Research Station, nestled in the River of No Return Wilderness.

The property started as a trappers’ homestead claim in the early 1900s. UI purchased the plot in the ‘70s, and employed year-round managers to maintain the land and the cluster of cabins speckling the area. These cabins housed the Semester in the Wild group for the duration of their stay.

“We felt like we were a family,” Rose said. “There were 11 of us in one cabin.”

The cabin resembled a ski lodge, she said.

“I actually slept in a wall tent most of the time, because I felt like the cabin was a little too posh,” said Rose, who studies ecology and conservation biology.

More wall tents are in order for fall 2014 to accommodate an expansion of the program.

Tom Gorman, associate dean for the College of Natural Resources, played a large part in creating the program, and said he expects application numbers to increase as word spreads. Last semester, approximately half of the students participating in the program hailed from outside Idaho, including North



Carolina, Texas, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Most students who have interest in the program are involved in a wildlife resources or outdoor sciences major, but applicants from all fields of study are considered. In fact, Gorman said two of the courses fulfill humanities requirements.

Limited space in the research center's accommodations means a spike in applicants wouldn't inflate the program's enrollment. Gorman said expansion is limited due to wilderness integrity, so applicants are selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We would like to really have enough demand for the program that we get to hand-pick," he said.

The first group of students managed to hand-pick themselves.

"They knew they were ready for the experience, and came ready to engage," Gorman said.

When a forest fire endangered the area and officials advised the group against trekking the 3 miles from the trailhead to the station, students discussed the possibility of waking up early to hike it anyway.

The students were flown to the station. For the next few months, they took on the challenges and triumphs of a 16-credit workload, rotating cooking-crew duties and living in the constant companionship of the natural elements and each other.

Rose said the average day started at 7 a.m. Those responsible for making meals that day prepared hot coffee and oatmeal for the group before classes, each of which were intensive 400-level courses led by one of five faculty members. Classes ended in the afternoon, and students were free to spend the time before dinner, homework and bed however they liked.

Flown-in food deliveries forced students to plan ahead and manage their limited stores. Electricity and Internet access are powered by solar and hydroelectric energy, and the stoves run on propane.

"It was the most challenging semester I've ever had," Rose said.

Gorman and Rose agreed that students left the wilderness with a new level of maturity and self-awareness.

"They know they can be independent and

*Applications for fall 2014 are available online at [uidaho.edu/cnr/wild/apply](http://uidaho.edu/cnr/wild/apply)*



take care of themselves," Gorman said. "They probably have a stronger feel about their career direction, had time to reflect on what they're doing and why."

Rose described her return to civilization as strange and overstimulating.

"I think the weirdest thing I remember was going to get a hamburger and walking in the bar ... the bar had, like, 12 TV screens all playing different things, and no one was watching them," she said. "And all I could think about was how many solar panels that you would (need) to run those TVs."

She plans on returning to the Taylor Research Station this summer as an intern. On top of her other responsibilities, Rose plans on continuing the station's sustainability efforts by planting a garden.

"It was the most experiential education I have ever had," she said. "You should go. You should definitely go." ■



# IT'S A MAPTHING



*Story by Nate Brown*

*Photography by David Betts*

■ An agate is a microcrystalline type of quartz usually formed in volcanic cavities. Agates changed forever the lives of two Idaho geologists: Reed Lewis and Loudon Stanford.

“We go back a long ways,” Lewis said.

Lewis and Stanford grew up on opposite sides of Idaho, and now work on opposite sides of the same office for the Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) as interim director and data manager. They didn’t know each other as kids, but even then they were connected by geology.

Lewis was born in Moscow, graduated from Moscow High School and the University of Idaho and still lives in town. But he found geology while collecting agates in Central Idaho.

Stanford grew up in Caldwell. He, too, was influenced by his father, a biology and geology professor at the College of Idaho — albeit in a more roundabout way.

“I swore when I was in eighth grade, that I’d never be a geologist; that would be the last thing I do,” Stanford said.

But during high school his father got sick, and the family pur-

chased land in Central Idaho. The land sat on a moraine, a deposit left by glaciers long ago. Like Lewis, Stanford started a rock collection.

“I used to find agates,” he said.

It was mystery. Where did they come from?

“I started hiking up and found the source,” Stanford said, “And that kind of hooked me.”

Lewis interrupted him: “It was out of the same rock unit.”

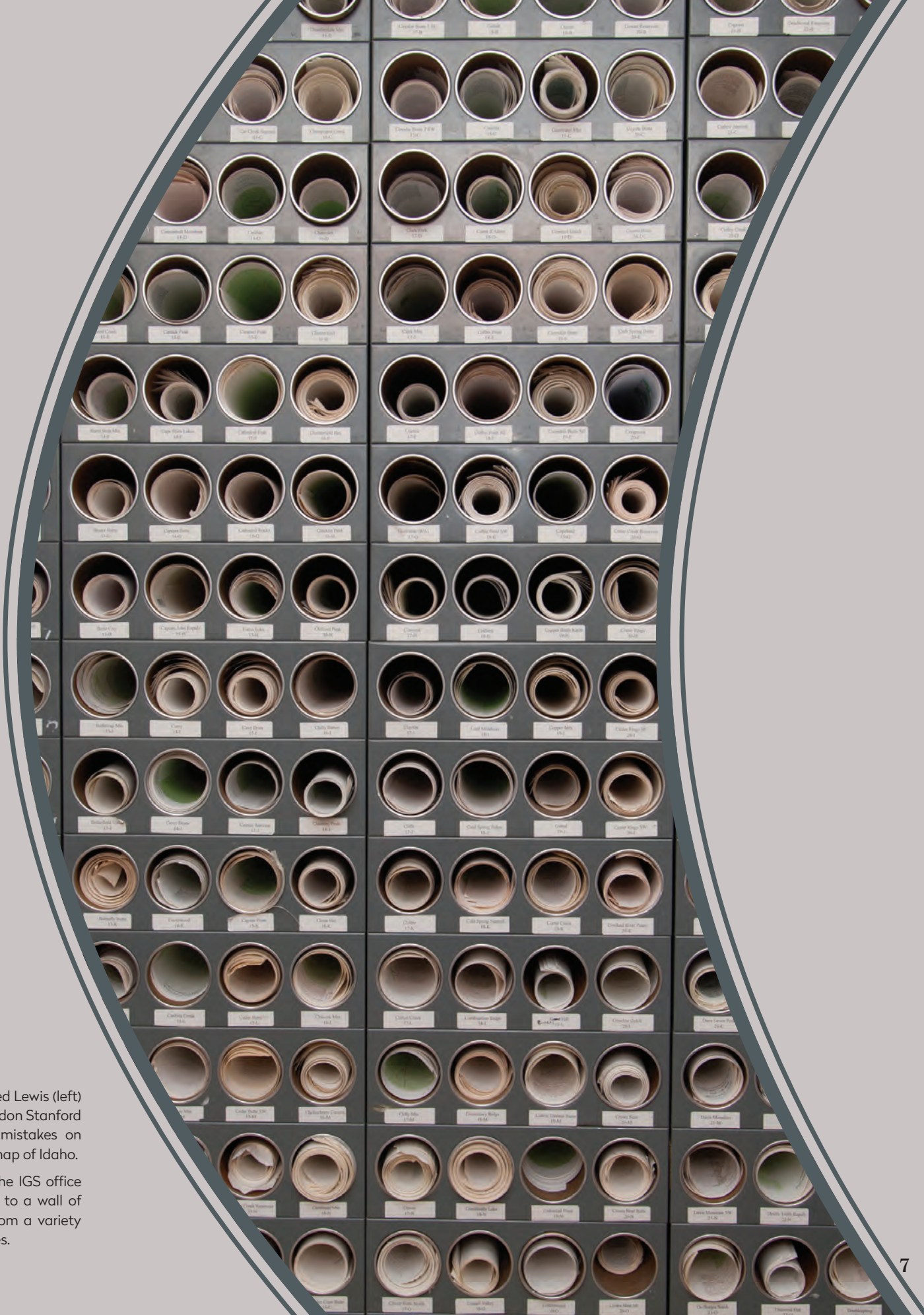
Lewis and his father used to go to the East Fork of the Salmon River, on the other side of the mountains from where Stanford found his agates.

Two boys — destined to share an office — on either side of a mountain range, scoured the same granite bedrock for the same agates. For the last two decades, they’ve been in Moscow. They inhabit the third floor of Morrill Hall, which Lewis pointed out, like all of Moscow and its surrounding hills, is set in basalt.

Stanford’s office is cluttered but neat, and is filled with computers, maps, charts and scientific instruments.

Over the past year, the IGS has been moving in a new direction, hoping to push its meticulously put-together maps out of academia and into the mainstream. A large part of that effort is





Left: Reed Lewis (left) and Loudon Stanford discuss mistakes on a 2012 map of Idaho.

Right: The IGS office is home to a wall of maps from a variety of locales.





Stanford and Lewis spent 10 years developing the most recent 2012 IGS Idaho state map (below).

the 2012 Idaho Geological Map. The last statewide comprehensive geological map was produced in 1978.

“A lot of work has been done since then,” Lewis said. “There’s more detail.”

The product of more than a decade of work, the 2012 map uses a service called the Geographic Information System (GIS). Computer-Assisted Design and GIS are the two primary tools in digitalization, as maps have moved from paper to computers.

“Basically you’re taking spatial objects (points on a map),” Stanford said of the GIS system, and putting them in a database. “These databases keep track of the special coordinates for the objects. Then you want to assign different attributes.”

GIS allows users to tag any spatial coordinate with different types of data, including elevation, geology and in urban areas, even housing data. With GIS, the amount of data is essentially limitless, and can be added as new layers, like you might find on Google Maps or your favorite weather app.

Stanford and Lewis hope the maps will appeal to the average outdoorsperson,

as well as the scientist. And so IGS has made nearly all of its maps available for download.

“We reach more people than we ever did before with our website,” Stanford said.

IGS Facebook and Twitter pages have appeared, and an Android app for the 2012 Idaho Geological Map is in development.

Though it’s been more than 30 years in geology for Lewis and Stanford, the fuel that fires their passion is inextinguishable.

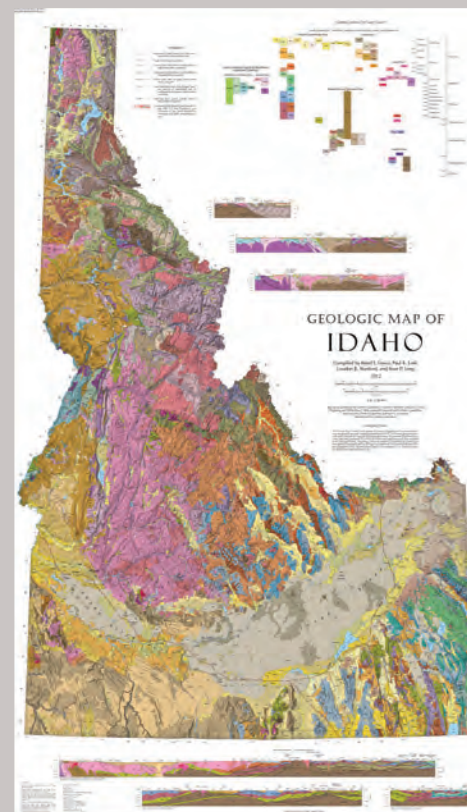
“A lot of people get into geology because they like to be outdoors,” Lewis said.

But a good excuse for fresh air isn’t what keeps these ex-adolescent agate hunters working in the field.

“It’s just the whole science part,” Lewis said. “It’s trying to figure out the story, improving on the story, trying to get the history of the Earth.”

He leaned back in his chair and glanced at Stanford.

“We never ever figure out the story perfectly, but I think we’re improving on it.” ■





*UI is the place for students with a passion for fire*

# **FIGHTING FLAMES**

*Story by Amber Emery*

*Photography by David Betts*



Kristopher Cunio and Steven Elsbury are both UI students and wildland firefighters. Cunio is in UI's Fire Ecology program — the only one of its kind in the nation.





Top: 2012 Steep Corner fire blazes on a hillside. The fire covered 400 acres.

Left: A pumper truck, used to spray water on the wildfire, gets refilled. Steven Ellsbury was a member of the team fighting the Steep Corner fire for 5 days.

Right: Sunrise over smoke-filled air outside Orophino, Idaho.

“  
After somebody dies on a fire, there’s a lot of things that change in a hurry.

Steven Ellsbury

■ In the middle of a warm summer night, Steven Ellsbury stood guard over flames that danced among the trees as a wildland fire scorched more than 300 acres of north-central Idaho.

Ellsbury, a University of Idaho student and former firefighter with Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association, arrived about 60 miles outside Orofino, Idaho, to fight the Steep Corner Fire in August 2012. The blaze began after a small logging accident turned into a fatal forest fire.

“Being there at night the whole time was a different experience,” Ellsbury said. “When it gets really hot, fires kind of start to create their own weather. So you’ll get fire tornados for instance, which are exactly what they sound like — whirlwinds of flames.”

He spent about a week working the night crew on the Steep Corner Fire before returning to “fire camp,” where he lived during the summer, hiking, training and responding to smaller fires started by lightning strikes.

Ellsbury, a senior in mechanical engineering, isn’t the only UI student who

has spent time fighting wild fires. In fact, fire fighting is a common summer job for UI students — especially those studying fire ecology and management.

The UI Department of Forest, Rangeland and Fire Sciences is home to the only Bachelor of Science program focused on wildland fires in the U.S.

UI professor Penny Morgan, who specializes in fire ecology, said the study of fire is a rich area of research, because of its history and impact on the environment’s ecosystems.

“It’s such an interesting challenge,” Morgan said. “How do you balance this need as a society to want to protect people and their houses from fire, and at the same time know that we live in a fire environment and fires are going to happen? These are the kind of topics we talk about with students in our program.”

The National Association for Fire Ecology recently recognized UI’s program as an exemplary effort in fire education, Morgan said.

“They highlighted our program as a model for the kinds of programs we need elsewhere,” Morgan said. “I think it’s because we have a lot of

fires in Idaho and in the West that the faculty started studying fires, and then they found out students were interested too.”

One of the required courses for fire ecology and management students is a prescribed burning lab, in which students plan, execute and study a controlled fire. This year, a group of students went to Nebraska during spring break and worked with The Nature Conservancy to set and manage a series of fires.

Fire ecology and management sophomore Kristopher Cunio participated in the controlled burn, and said the group successfully burnt about 2,100 acres of prairie land in one day.

They used a technique called blacklining to control the fire’s size. Cunio explained that burning 10- to 15-foot strips along the perimeter of the area contained the blaze within a boundary of usable fuel. When flames reached the already-blackened patch, they died out for lack of flammable material.

Cunio came to UI for the country’s only four-year fire ecology and management program. He has fought fires for two seasons in Canyon City, Colo.,





and will return there for summer 2014. He said fire has always been interesting to him because his father fought fires.

“It was awesome,” Cunio said. “Every summer my dad would come clumping through with his big boots and I’d go, ‘Well yeah, my dad is about to go beat up a fire.’ I guess that’s what got me thinking seriously about fire-fighting as a career.”

Cunio said his goal is to join a “hotshot” crew, a group of advanced firefighters that takes over when fires become especially dangerous. He said the ability to take control of a fire is essential in ensuring the safety of everyone involved.

Back in the 2012 Steep Corner Fire, Elsbury recalls the conditions becoming unstable after day two — so much so that 20-year-old firefighter and Moscow native Anne Veseth died after a tree fell on her.

“After somebody dies on a fire, there’s a lot of things that change in a hurry,” Elsbury said. “For one, safety is paramount with fire to begin with, but everything ramps up a lot after an accident happens on a fire. Everyone becomes more aware of the chain

of command, protocols and duties assigned to them. The dangerousness of the situation becomes surreal.”

Morgan said fire students often focus on fatalities in wildland fires so they can learn how to prevent them. Morgan recognizes the dangers of fire, but said she doesn’t see fires as all bad.

“One of the paradoxes in the fire world is that if you keep suppressing fires, the fuels accumulate,” Morgan said. “And the next fire would be a lot worse. So, when we have fires they are consuming fuels and that sometimes has benefits.”

UI’s fire ecology and management program continues to produce firefighters through classroom instruction, which includes case studies and hands-on courses that introduce students to the realities of fire.

“It definitely tells you something when I can bring my personal experiences to the classroom and learn more about them,” Cunio said. “So far in the program, I’ve found that it’s the best training for fire professionals, and that just tells you they’re doing something right.” ■





# ROCK IT

*Dispelling the most common misconceptions about rock climbing*

*Story by Daphne Jackson*

*Photography by David Betts*



## **Myth: Rock climbing is extremely dangerous**

The idea of leaving the safety of solid ground to cling to a wall 50 feet in the air, supported only by a rope, can be unsettling for some people.

## **Fact: Rock climbing risks can be minimized**

Andrew Harmon, vice president of the University of Idaho Climbing Club, said climbing is only dangerous when people are unprepared. Rock climbing requires at least cursory knowledge of basic skills and techniques, familiarity with climbing equipment and observance of safety protocols.

“It can be very dangerous, if you don’t know what you’re doing,” Harmon said. “You need to know the risks. If you know what you’re doing, it’s not dangerous at all. I think more people get hurt in football than climbing.”



Liz Warner (left and above), Kevin Townsley (top) and Andrew Harmon (far right) boulder outside Moscow, at a spot referred to as “the Moscow Boulders.”





### Myth: Rock climbing only appeals to a specific group of people

Some may think rock climbing is only for thrill-seekers majoring in recreation. Rock climbing can seem like an intense activity, and may appear unapproachable to people not already interested in other outdoor sports.

### Fact: Rock climbers are a varied group of people

Members of UI's Climbing Club come from a variety of backgrounds, and participate in a variety of study programs that range from biology to law school. An even more diverse group of people use the facilities at the UI Climbing Center, including non-student community members.

Spencer Payne, a Climbing Center employee, said some people think rock climbing involves a drug culture, but he thinks this is an inaccurate depiction of rock climbers as a whole.

"Normal people go rock climbing," he said. "It's not all hippies and hipsters. Anyone and everyone does it."

### Myth: Rock climbing is expensive

Climbers carry a lot of equipment — chalk, harnesses, shoes, ropes — for sport climbing, a classification that includes several types of climbing, all of which require the climber to be attached to the wall in some way. All that gear often gives the impression that any form of rock climbing must involve a large initial investment.

### Fact: Some types of rock climbing require little to no money

At the UI Student Recreation Center, students are required to take a \$7 basics course to use the climbing gym. After they learn key safety rules, students can "boulder" for free. Bouldering involves climbing to about the level of a high ceiling without a rope. Climbers recommended climbing shoes, because they provide more foot control and sensitivity to the wall, but Warner said it's possible to climb in tennis shoes.

### Myth: Rock climbing only requires intensive upper body strength

Liz Warner, financial coordinator for the Climbing Club, said many people think it's necessary to have really strong arms and well-developed biceps in order to climb well.

### Fact: Rock climbers have to use other body parts too

Warner, who has been climbing for four years, said climbers use their arms a lot, but other muscle groups are not to be forgotten.

"One of the most valuable pieces (of advice) I got when I was climbing, as far as how to become a better climber, was 'use your legs more,'" she said. "If you can get a high foot and stand up on that leg, it's not so much pulling up with your arms. It really is kind of a full-body workout in the sense that you have to engage your core and bring your legs up."

3

4



### Myth: Rock climbing requires a high level of expertise

Some people are deterred by the perceived difficulty of climbing.

### Fact: There are many opportunities for beginners

Kevin Townsley, Climbing Club president, said he started climbing with his dad when he was 7 years old, continued through middle school and high school and learned a lot in the process. He said climbers improve with time, and develop an understanding of climbing routes in much the same way piano players develop an understanding of sheet music.

"If you're not developing physical strength, you're at least developing technique, which can carry you farther in a lot of cases," Townsley said.

He said even if a person is already strong, it doesn't necessarily mean they will be able

to successfully traverse a wall, adding that many muscular people initially struggle as climbers.

The UI Climbing Center also offers top rope climbing, a type of sport climbing where the climber's rope runs through an anchor at the top, and back down to a belayer, who keeps the right tension on the rope to prevent the climber from falling too far. Payne works as a route setter at the climbing gym, and aims to provide appropriate climbing routes and bouldering problems for people at all skill levels.

"Don't be afraid to stop by the rock wall and give it a try," Payne said. "Even if you don't know anything, the staff there knows how to teach you what you need to know, and there's equipment there so you can do anything in the facility."

5



# WHERE THE CATTAILS GROW

*Beavers living close to campus cause damage to trees but have their own set of advantages. And they're cute.*

*Story by Victoria Hart*

*Illustration by Sway Harner*

■ Suppose you had a distant cousin. Suppose she had thick brown hair and dark, bright eyes. Maybe her teeth kind of stick out and she has an appreciation for woody flavors. Suppose she takes pride in her young family and lives beside a stream in a lodge of her own design.

Suppose she is a beaver.

"If people could just be respectful of them and not hassle them, the beavers and I would really appreciate that," said Ed Galindo, a beaver advocate and University of Idaho researcher. "They're just trying to make a living and understand how to live."

Galindo said beavers have a long history in the Palouse region, but the population took a hit when people started trapping beavers for their pelts. That was just the beginning of humanity's impact on the river-dwelling mammals.

"They only get in too much trouble to this day when beavers and mankind collide," Galindo said. "There's a lot to be learned about Mr. and Mrs. Beaver."

Beavers raise their young in streamside lodges, Galindo said, and the kids stick around for a year to help raise the next generation. After that, the newly independent beavers set off on their own to find their place in the world.

"They're a lot like teenagers that I know about," Galindo said. "They like to go and have fun and explore."

During the spring they're especially visible and on the prowl to test a new set of choppers. Galindo said young beavers run into mankind more often than their parents do. These interactions have potential to escalate, but so far UI landscapers have maintained a diplomatic relationship with their chew-happy neighbors.

"The only time there's an opponent is when these beavers start taking trees on campus, which they will — it's what they do," Galindo said.

Galindo said he's already received calls from UI maintenance and facilities workers who observe the aftermath of juvenile beavers gnawing their way through newly planted trees. He said landscapers want to protect young plants without harming local wildlife.

Last fall, Galindo got a call from Chris Dixon, who helps manage an 8-acre patch of wetland west of campus. Dixon and her students have been developing Stateline Wetlands since 2006, and she understood the sudden appearance of beavers as proof of their success.

"I'm really happy the beavers are there," she said.

Students in her class take on individual projects that range from building an observation deck, to designing informational signs, organizing outreach programs, planting native species and raising grant money. The group has earned nearly \$40,000 in small grants to support the project, and Dixon's passion for the space is unflagging.

"We want to make that place as amazing as we can make it because they want so little," Dixon said. "They thrive when just we let them."

Jessie Balbiani, a student in Dixon's class, said the 120 species of birds, the family of geese and even the mink caught on a motion-detecting camera were less remarkable than the beavers' arrival at Stateline.





“

*They're just a really good, gentle animal. What they do affects many, and usually in a very good way.*

*Ed Galindo*

“It’s a small creek to support such — what I consider to be — a large mammal,” she said. “I guess it must be pretty healthy to sustain them.”

Galindo said the young family probably moved downstream after recent construction on upper parts of Paradise Creek turned grassy banks into concrete culverts.

“(The wetland) is a gorgeous area where the water can collect and grass can grow,” he said. “Now there’s beavers and there should be, but they like to chew things and the problem is they started to chew some of the young trees.”

So beavers and people crossed paths again. This time, though, death was not the consequence for a beaver’s masticatory lifestyle. Galindo suggested steel cages to protect the pines that lack natural defenses against beaver-caliber bites.

Native willows and cottonwoods, with their persistent and abundant shoots, are beaver-proof and grow happily strong while the dam-builders munch away at just the newest sprigs.

“They just have a different management technique,” Dixon said. “They’re managing for brush and we’re managing for trees.”

Beavers look at trees as a food source, Galindo said, and their wood-eating habits intrude on human structures across the state. They flood roads, chew expensive

saplings, fell trees over homes and everyone calls Galindo to take care of the pests.

“Whatever humans don’t like, that’s what beavers will do,” he said.

Instead of killing the animals, Galindo said he’s found alternate methods. Steel cages protect most trees, but in some cases the whole family has to be removed. Galindo is working to improve the process of live trapping and relocating beavers.

“Sometimes when we transplant them, they don’t tend to stay,” he said. “I can sit down and say, ‘This looks like a good place for a beaver,’ but we didn’t ask the beaver.”

Sometimes there may not be enough water or food in an area, and other times there may be too many predators. Galindo said he’s also looking into how genetically similar beavers from different regions are, because such a drastic move could negatively affect non-native species.

“It would take a long time for a beaver to walk from Southern Idaho to the U of I campus,” he said. “It’s stressful on the beavers ... we don’t want to stress our beaver friends out if we don’t have to.”

Galindo said beavers are what biologists call a keystone species. Their dams collect nutrient-rich sediment, which plumps up riparian plants, which shade the water, making it cooler for fish and aquatic

insects, which birds like to eat.

“They’re just a really good, gentle animal,” he said. “What they do affects many, and usually in a very good way.”

Native cultures consider beavers a sacred animal for many of the same reasons. The Shoshone Paiute tribe of Southern Idaho holds beavers in a special place, and Galindo said respect for the tribe’s four-legged brethren remained unchanged even when the critters plugged up routes to higher ground.

Beavers are a lot of different things to a lot of different people, but the big-toothed, paddle-tailed, camera-shy creatures have made it clear that, for now at least, they are Moscow residents.

Dixon recalled a quote from a Native American friend, “These aren’t resources, these are relatives.” ■



# Center for supp

*UI students find comfort, camaraderie at Native American Student Center*

*Story by Arianna Anchustegui  
Photography by Philip Vukelich*

■ Being a campus minority isn't the issue for University of Idaho sophomore Brittney Salinas, it's getting fellow students to understand her culture.

"Sometimes I tell people different things and they don't understand, because this stuff didn't happen to their ancestors," Salinas said. "There isn't any racism, they are just uneducated about us."

Salinas is a member of the Spokane tribe, and said she might have dropped out after her first year of college if not for UI's Native American Student Center (NASC).

The center works to develop a sensitiv-

ity and appreciation for Native American culture among students, faculty and staff.

The NASC offers an environment for Native American students to meet and mingle with other students, as well as staff. The center also offers a wide range of academic resources from tutoring to financial and academic advising.

"We try to make it sort of a home away from home and have somewhere comfortable where they can go," said Yolanda Taylor-Pagaduan, NASC's programs coordinator.

Taylor-Pagaduan is enrolled in the Lummi Nation, but was born and raised on a Nez Perce reservation. Taylor-Pagaduan and Sydel Samuels, co-supervisors of the Native American Student Association, facilitate meet-

ings, discuss programs and plan socials and fundraisers.

Taylor-Pagaduan attended UI, and her first interaction with the center's programming began when she started receiving emails about events she could attend around campus.

"I knew what it was like to be a Native American student on a college campus and not feel — not necessarily welcomed — but out of place," Taylor-Pagaduan said. "So I mean if I was in school back then, I might have used the center a lot more than I had, whereas now we push for students to have a reason to want to use the center."

Taylor-Pagaduan is the niece of the late Arthur "Art" Taylor, a Nez Perce tribe member and UI's former indigenous





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*I don't want to see lines and dividers,  
I want to see people helping people  
because we're all family.*

*Samuel Torpey*

Members of Vandal Nation Singers practice native drumming styles and singing at the Native American Student Center.



affairs officer. He died last November in a car accident.

“He made me feel comfortable,” Taylor-Pagaduan said. “Seeing him interact with students, you could just tell that he was letting them know to feel comfortable and confident within themselves to go to any university for higher education. He was always pushing for native people to get an education.”

Taylor’s position has recently been filled by Yolanda Bisbee.

“We use that as strength and motivation as we would know he would have wanted, which is for Native Americans to get a higher education,” Bisbee said.

Native Americans make up less than

1 percent of UI’s campus population, even though UI is on Nez Perce land. Taylor-Pagaduan said administrators such as Don Burnett, Kathy Aiken and Carmen Flores support the NASC’s work on campus, but the relationship between UI and Native American students will always have room for improvement. The most important thing to her is making sure Native Americans who enroll at UI stay until they earn a degree.

“A lot of people on the reservation don’t even know the process of putting in an application,” said Samuel Torpey, a Coeur d’Alene tribe member and a fifth-year senior at UI.

Torpey said UI has a large potential

for recruiting Native Americans.

“I really don’t think it should be just an American Indian center — what about just the people center,” Torpey said. “I don’t want to see lines and dividers, I want to see people helping people because we’re all family.”

Torpey said he feels very comfortable on campus, something that would most likely be different away from UI. He is a member of the Vandal Nation Singers — a drum group that meets at NASC weekly.

“When someone asks you who you are the next question is where do you come from,” Torpey said. “Wherever you come from in the world, that’s who you are.” ■





# ABOVE THE CEILING

*Asbestos-laden dust has frozen the College of Education building for decades, but change is on the way.*

*Story by Ryan Tarinelli  
Photography by Philip Vukelich*

**D**ead bugs lie visible in the light fixtures, the water-stained ceiling tiles are unmoved and fire alarm cables protrude from the walls along the halls of the College of Education building, all due to asbestos. The building was constructed in 1968 — at the peak of asbestos use, said Raymond Pankopf, director of architectural and engineering services at the University of Idaho. He said asbestos was a popular, high-performing, fire-resistant insulator with no known dangers.





James Gregson, associate dean of the College of Education, poses in front of the west entrance to the College of Education building. The iconic Kiva Theater, pictured to the right, will be torn down as part of the upcoming renovations to the College of Education building.

“There are a lot of materials in that building that contain asbestos for one reason or another,” Pankopf said. “The general public was not aware that asbestos was a potential issue, and it had not yet been dealt with by any federal agency.”

Inhalation of asbestos dust was linked to cancer-causing lung diseases such as Asbestos Disease and Mesothelioma in the early 70s. Pankopf said asbestos fibers only become hazardous when the dust is disturbed and becomes airborne. In the years since builders sprayed asbestos on metal beaming and concrete support structures between floors, he said the compound has deteriorated into hazardous dust and settled on top of ceiling tiles on all five floors.

If disturbed, Pankopf said the fibers would be sucked into the air handling system, and distributed throughout the building. The ventilation system is no longer compliant with building codes, he said.

“We don’t want to release any of the fibers, and because it’s so hard to create a containment, we don’t do renovation work above the ceiling,” Pankopf said.

So facilities workers installed fire alarms and Internet cables along the walls in order to avoid upsetting dangerous dust above.

Dawn Sundman, a custodian at the College of Education building, said she and her colleagues are not allowed to remove dead bugs from light fixtures because it might disturb asbestos fibers above the ceiling tiles.

Pankopf said asbestos can also be found inside many building materials, including vertical white rock sheet panels around the outside of the building. He said panels bend inward under their own weight, causing holes in the building.

“There’s areas where you can stick your finger through the wall to the outside, and there is ivy growing in,” Pankopf said.

UI Facilities would have replaced the failing rocks sheets, but the improvement would expose a large amount of asbestos to the rest of the building and the surrounding environment.

James Gregson, associate dean of the UI College of Education, said more than a third of the cost of classroom renovations goes toward asbestos abatement, which has limited the college’s ability to educate future teachers with modern technology.

“It really has inhibited our ability to update the building and the classrooms, because of the huge cost of asbestos abatement,” Gregson said. “When this building was built, they did not anticipate all the radical changes in technology.”

Pankopf said even installing a basic ceiling projector would be difficult and costly, because of asbestos-laden dust above the ceiling tiles.

“They want to create teaching environments that allow future teachers to work with this technology in their collegiate careers,” Pankopf said.

Gregson said the lack of access to modern technology in the classroom has had a tremendous impact on students. He said school districts across the state rely on the College of Education to produce teachers who can operate modern educational technology.

“We have tried to make the best out of a challenging situation,” Gregson said. “It’s been OK, but OK is not good enough. We want to do a stellar job.”



“

***We're going to demolish everything, down to the steel framing and the concrete footing, and then we're going to rebuild.***

*Raymond Pankopf*

Despite the large amount of asbestos present, UI Environmental Health and Safety has not recorded any asbestos fiber disturbances within the building, said Megan Grennille, an industrial hygiene specialist. She said she takes air samples of the building to test for asbestos every two years to ensure the safety of the building.

Pankopf said the growing number of asbestos-related problems prompted one of the largest asbestos abatement projects in UI history, set to commence this summer.

“All of that has combined to force the issue to where we're having to look at it on a whole building basis rather than on a room or case-by-case basis,” Pankopf said.

The process will take six to eight months, and will likely include 30 asbestos removal workers for about two years.

Kenneth Hites, hazardous material coordinator for UI Facilities, said asbestos abatement is a labor-intensive process that often involves multiple teams for larger projects.

Pankopf said the entire remodel will cost \$17.2 million, and will be funded through a combination of university and state funds. He said UI will fund the

project through bond activity and gift donations.

Gregson said state funding will help cover the cost of the asbestos abatement and other structural problems, while UI funding will allow the new building to be innovative and modern.

“The state dollars allowed us to solve the problem, it didn't allow us to really be innovative in our spaces,” Gregson said.

Pankopf said the renovation will keep intact the “skeleton” of the building, while removing the majority of its infrastructure, including the Kiva Theater.

Pankopf said the state will begin accepting bids from contractors July 1, and will start the abatement process Aug. 1.

“We're going to not only clean out all of the asbestos,” Pankopf said. “We're going to demolish everything, down to the steel framing and the concrete footing, and then we're going to rebuild.”

Pankopf said the only other asbestos abatement project of similar size in UI history was the renovation of the Teaching Learning Center in 2003. He said the TLC, like the College of Education building, was built during a period when use of the fire resistant insulator was common.

Gregson said he is ecstatic about the renovation, because it will provide students and faculty with proper facilities. He said the building will also feature sustainable elements to reduce the college's environmental footprint.


Gregson said he hopes to see the new building attract students from across campus, and create a stronger sense of community within the college.

“We're using this as an opportunity to make the building just feel even differently, so that when you walk in, it feels good — it feels like a strong sense of community,” Gregson said. ■

Buckets and trash cans line the hall in the College of Education building to collect water. When it rains, the roof of the building leaks, waterlogging the asbestos-coated ceiling tiles. These water-loaded tiles have fallen in the past, and pose serious health risks to students and faculty in the building.







Mike Capshaw, Randy Crockett, and Terri Capshaw walk on one of the hiking trails at Sun Meadow Resort. Mike and Terri helped found and build the resort which is located an hour north of Moscow in Worley, Idaho.

# *In the flesh*

Story by Claire Whitley  
Photography by Cy Whiting

■ Nudism, as a way of life, has flashed across the big screen in films such as “Eurotrip” and “Wanderlust” since the 1960s. But like most things, nudism in real life is different than nudism in Hollywood.

“If I go to the grocery store, generally I will be wearing something to the grocery store,” Margie Cantlon said. “Going to church, we’ll probably wear clothes. If we are cold, we’ll put something on.”

Cantlon, a practicing nudist, said her mother cried when her daughter took up the no-clothes lifestyle. Mike and Terri Capshaw received a sympathy card when they declared their nudist ways.

Northern Idaho may not be known for its free spirit tendencies, but Worley, Idaho — approximately an hour

north of Moscow — is home to a nudist community.

Sun Meadow Family Nudist Community and Resort is located on 75 acres of wooded land just outside the small town.

“We grew up in Idaho,” said Mike, co-founder of Sun Meadow. “The Northwest is our home.”

Sun Meadow almost fell apart before it got started. When the Capshaws began the community in 1998, a local citizen brought a lawsuit against them, Terri said. This local believed the Capshaws and their resort were breaking zoning laws. Terri said she thinks they just wanted to avoid development in the area.

But the court ruled with the Capshaws and their community came into existence.



“

*It's good for your body, and it's good for your soul.*

*Terri Capshaw*



Everyone is comfortable by themselves nude, Terri said, but being nude in front of others is something people lose touch with as they age.

“You have to teach children shame,” Terri said. “If you are not taught that the body is something to be ashamed of, then they are as unafraid as anybody. They are enthusiastic to go without clothes.”

Terri said she thinks of nudism as any other aspect of being healthy. It is the same as good nutrition and exercise, and she does not see it as any more odd or fringe than being vegan.

“It’s just naturism,” Terri said. “It’s good for your body, and it’s good for your soul.”

Cantlon, a partner in the resort, said that without the protection of clothing, people are more vulnerable, but they are also more willing to share their stories. She said there is no way of telling a janitor from a doctor without their respective attire.

“They are just all people so you share yourself – what you have inside, your own core,” Cantlon said. “Nudity becomes insignificant. You just don’t notice it after a while.”

The Capshaws agreed that without clothes, or “borders and barriers,” people look normal. Whether they are short, tall, skinny or fat, they just look normal, Terri said.

And no one is judging them, Mike added.

“When you take your clothes off you feel rather vulnerable, especially women,” Terri said.

In a nudist community, though, women do not need to feel vulnerable, Terri said. Men are not looking at them with any lewd intent, she said.

Mike said that when people ask him about nudism he tells them to imagine going to the beach on a beautiful day, but then someone says to wear boots.

“It’s not a bad day on the beach with boots, but it sure would be a whole lot nicer barefoot,” Mike said.

Sun Meadow is open year-round to anyone willing to leave their clothes at the door. ■

Randy Crockett plays volleyball in the indoor pool. Many of the residents enjoy swimming and exercising in the pool.



# DEVELOPMENT IN THE DIRT

Story by Jake Smith

Photography by Philip Vukelich



Jack Brown, a geneticist and plant-breeder at UI, inspects a crop of experimentally bred canola in a UI greenhouse.

■ Life blooms in a dark basement not far from Moscow's Main Street. This year, 50 varieties of sprouting tomatoes reached toward grow lights and cuddled a dusty, electric heating pad for two weeks.

Joel Hamilton, professor emeritus of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, beamed at these tomatoes and said, "Clearly, I go for diversity."

Hamilton's garden includes Ida Gold tomatoes for the first time — given to him by Bill Loftus, who coordinated the distribution of three types of seeds to celebrate the University of Idaho's 125th anniversary.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences began distributing seeds for Ida Gold tomatoes, Idelight Green Beans and Red Blanket Flowers in January — three seed varieties developed by UI researchers during the last half-century. Master Gardener Programs in counties throughout Idaho received the first seed deliveries.

"We wanted to get the seeds to them so they could try them and enjoy them and spread the word about them," Loftus said.

The college also sent UI County Extension Offices their share of Idaho-made seeds for promotional events and advertising

About 3,000 packets of Idelight beans and Red Blanket Flowers made it into the hands of Idaho gardeners, and nearly 2,500 packets of Ida Gold tomato seeds dwindled to 20 in a few months.

Idelight Green Beans, a cross developed in 1951 by Leslie Dean at the Bean Research Laboratory near Twin Falls, bears thin, 5-inch pods that are resistant to virus strains.

UI researchers Arthur Boe and Margaret Luckman developed Ida Gold tomatoes in 1982. The plants produce their small, golden fruits in 58 days.

UI extension horticulturist Stephen Love cultivated Red Blanket Flowers — perennial, native wildflowers known for their showy displays — at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center, then bred them selectively for several generations. Today's leggy plants are drought-resistant and grow up to 30 inches tall.

UI's involvement with plant breeding and genetics rarely makes headlines, but genetic modification of seeds and crops has become a controversial issue.

Jack Brown, a geneticist, plant breeder and professor at UI, said modification at the recombinant DNA level seldom occurs at UI. Recombinant DNA modification brings together genetic material from multiple sources, creating an organism that wouldn't occur in nature.

Brown said people think genetic modification is gene splicing — taking a gene from bacteria, combining it with a couple of genes from a daffodil and sticking it into rice, so that the rice produces beta-carotene, which is a precursor to vitamin A and will help prevent blindness.

In reality, Genetically Modified Organisms do not always feature genes from more than one organism, Brown said.

He said he has never genetically modified a plant using recombinant DNA. Partially because he said he's never needed to, and partially because those funding him didn't want him to.

Brown said the newness of genetic modification makes people uneasy about its implementation. But most people don't even understand the process, he said, and many believe it involves something like putting monkey genes into potatoes.

That isn't what it is.

But Brown isn't about to promise that this technology can make the world a better place.

"Frankly, it's not done that yet," Brown said. "I'm not saying it's not going to do that in the future, but it's certainly not done that yet."

Genetically modified or not, Loftus said Ida Golds, Idelights and Red Blanket Flowers have affected and will affect Idaho's economy and population for years to come. ■



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