BLOT

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Editor's note

This summer, gun violence shook the country.

It began with the Orlando nightclub shooting and is punctuated by the startling news that Chicago is grappling with historical gun violence. The Chicago Tribune reported that homicides in the city have climbed to 522 deaths in 2016 alone.

This summer isn't the exception, either. For years, the U.S. has grappled with various acts of gun violence. There are even instances of children accidentally finding and firing their parents' guns, injuring or killing individuals in the process.

There are purposeful acts of violence and there are accidents, but regardless of the cause, a gun is still a powerful weapon. Guns are capable of extreme violence, but they can also be used as a means of protection.

It's the complexity of guns and the human relationship with these weapons that makes the debate so complicated. While there might not be a simple solution to gun violence, there are steps that students and community members can take to prevent accidents and to educate others about the nature of gun violence.

Understand how to safely handle a gun as well as how to properly store one. Learn more about gun culture in the community. Mostly, don't be afraid to have conversations about sensitive topics like gun control.

No solution to this problem is simple, but attaining a better understanding of firearms and the culture surrounding guns is one step forward.

— CB

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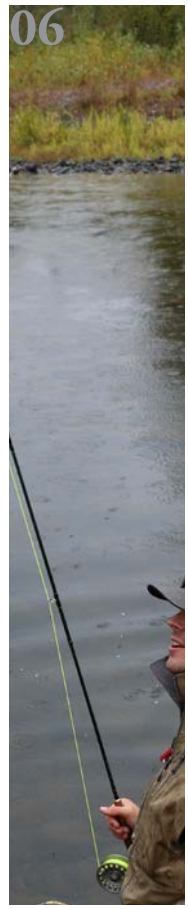
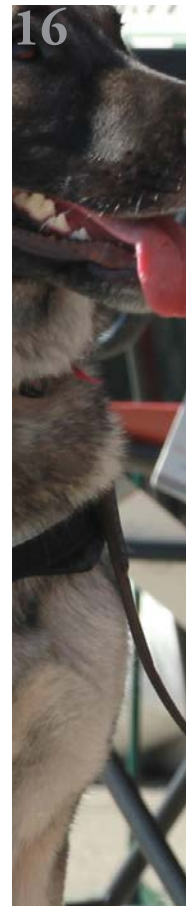




MOSCOW'S MODEL CITIZENS

THE NUDE MODELING COMMUNITY OF MOSCOW EXPLORES THE ART OF THE HUMAN FIGURE

STORY BY Austin Maas
PHOTOS BY Joleen Evans

A year-and-a-half ago, Moscow resident Sophie Fisher made the decision to cross one item off of her bucket list by becoming a nude model for figure drawing classes.

"I had it on my bucket list," Fisher said. "Also, I'm pretty much naked in all of my free time. It's really not an issue to me. It's more of an issue for other people that I'm naked so much."

Fisher said she understands that she's more comfortable with nudity than most, but she still has the same insecurities about her body that everyone else experiences. Through her interactions with the artists, Fisher said she's begun to care less about her imperfections.

"I think the coolest thing has been seeing different people's interpretations of my body," Fisher said. "They notice things about my body that I don't because I'm too busy picking on something else."

> **"I think the coolest thing has been seeing different people's interpretations of my body."**

Beyond being naked, Fisher said the most shocking part of modeling has been the technical skill required. Picking poses that she can hold for an extended period of time and controlling her breathing have been challenges she's faced on the job.

"I wasn't really sure what I was walking into at first," she said. "It was more of a workout

IMAGE LEFT: *Model Sophie Fisher poses for a figure drawing class Sept. 10 in the Art and Architecture North Building.*

IMAGE BELOW: *An artist works during a figure drawing class in the Art and Architecture North Building.*

than I was expecting."

Fisher was also impressed with the diversity of the models. From the art she has seen, she said the class features a variety of body types and genders.

When she began modeling, the artists were never surprised by her tattoos or piercings and often complimented her during breaks to assure she was comfortable.

Cody Magee, a University of Idaho senior working toward his BFA in studio art, drew figure models in the past and said the classes always seem to have a heightened sense of maturity.

He said he has seen tremendous progress in his art since he began drawing figure models.

"It's hard to explain, but there's something about drawing people that just changes your work," Magee said. "You become very aware of the subtle shapes and shades and even colors that can be present."

Magee said it was amazing to see the rapid growth in his work when drawing another person.

While drawing inanimate objects has its benefits, Magee said drawing people adds relatability to the work.

"Since we are humans and we see humans all the time, even if it just in the mirror, it's something that we can directly understand," he said.

Relating to the subject matter of his art, especially if it's a person, also increases the sensitivity with which he works. Magee once had the opportunity to draw a burn victim who had scarring across his chest. It was an experience that posed more than just a technical challenge for the artist.

"It's those kinds of challenging things that happen to a person during their life that make the art more personal and interesting," Magee said.

Magee's work became even more personal when a childhood friend of his, Patrick O'Farrell, began working as a figure model in the spring of 2015.

While O'Farrell worried that modeling in front of Magee would be awkward, he said the two have always been comfortable with one another and figure modeling was something he was interested in doing.

"I was nervous immediately before the class started, but as soon as I disrobed and started finding a pose, all my nerves just disappeared," O'Farrell said.

O'Farrell said he recognizes that he is more comfortable with his body than most, but being a figure model has still granted him a new appreciation for how he looks.

The experience has not only made him more aware of his own body, but also of the bodies of the people around him.

"When walking down the street and seeing someone, it makes me wonder, 'What makes them unique?'" O'Farrell said. "I wonder what their thoughts are on their own body and how they feel about it."

O'Farrell said his modeling has shown that the differences and intricacies of each body are what make them artistically interesting and beautiful.

He said, "Seeing how those things are valuable, not only in an artistic sense, but also in general, makes you realize how good it is to have a body, no matter what it looks like."

STORY BY Lyndsie Kiebert

PHOTOS BY Leslie Kiebe

FROM clovers *TO* trout

UI students learn to fly fish on grass, but their skills translate well to water

“It was just such a release to be so focused on something that I kind of forgot about thinking about the future”

Water dripped from Jim Casey’s hood and raindrops spattered the river’s surface as he waded to midstream.

Rod in hand, he demonstrated casts for dry fly presentation, different types of line mends and which way to set the hook depending upon which fish took interest in the fly.

The rain hadn’t stopped from Moscow to this gravel turnout on the St. Maries River, but students from the University of Idaho’s fly fishing course still stood clad in waders and jackets, ready to fish.

“You’ll feel a good difference on the water compared to the grass,” Casey said, nearly shouting over the rain and the sounds of the river.

UI offers a one-credit elective course on fly fishing through the Department of Movement Sciences. According to the syllabus, students will “develop confidence and proficiency with a single hand fly rod,” as well as how to tie knots, handle fish and follow proper river etiquette. Casey, who taught the course for the first time this semester, said he wants his students to develop good casting fundamentals and to be able to diagnose when they’re doing it wrong.

For most of the class, students learn to cast on the lawn of UI’s Physical Education Building but that does not concern Casey. He said while casting on water feels different, casting with a single hand fly rod involves mostly aerial maneuvers with the line — which makes the sport easy to practice anywhere.

“It’s a limiting factor, but I don’t think it’s insurmountable by any means,” Casey said.

Though he grew up trolling for salmon in Puget Sound, Casey wasn’t serious about fishing with flies until six summers ago, when he and his dad went on a guided fly fishing trip on the Deschutes River in Oregon. It was then that Casey first felt the meditative power he said accompanies the sport.

“I have kind of an anxious mind, I’m a thinker,” he said. “It was just such a release to be so focused on something that I kind of forgot about thinking about the future.”

Casey said since he’s immersed himself in the sport, he’s found there are several misconceptions about fly fishing. He said despite popular belief, fly fishing is not an “old person’s sport.” Getting started doesn’t have to cost a fortune and lack of patience isn’t a legitimate excuse to not try it out.

“People say, ‘I don’t have the patience for fly fishing,’ which is interesting. It’s not necessarily a lack of patience, it’s all of the other little details that keep you from being able to do it right,” he said.

Another misconception seems to be that Moscow is not a great location for avid anglers, he said.

“Fly fishing has given me this level of connection to this area that I don’t think a lot of people get,” Casey said. “People think that the Palouse is just this sea of wheat and there’s no rivers around here. But if you drive two hours, there’s all

LEFT IMAGE: *A student casts their line on a rainy day on the St. Maries River.*

kinds of fishing opportunities."

Casey graduated from Washington State University in 2012 and began teaching at UI's McCall Outdoor Science School soon after. He said he applies his background in outdoor education to teaching UI's fly fishing course, and that his teaching style transcends simply teaching the techniques of the sport.

"I think the bigger point is that (the students) have a connection to the rivers that are surrounding us, and that level of engagement," he said. "That connection to contemporary issues is part of the class, especially when the weather deteriorates a little bit. We're going to be inside tying flies and talking about natural resource conservation issues."

This connection to rivers is something Casey said he wants to bestow upon his students not only for their well-being but for the environment's sake as well.

"Rivers need friends," he said. "The age of secrecy about rivers and spots basically has to go, because there are too many development projects that are always being pushed forward. If there aren't people to stand up and say, 'Hey, I love this place,' they're just going to get destroyed."

Heidi Holubetz, a student in Casey's class, said she's appreciated Casey's ability to tie the elective course to real-world issues.

"I think he's done a great job of teaching us how to fly fish, but also encouraging us being good stewards of the rivers," she said. "He's kind of bringing to light what's going on in the political side of rivers, and I think that's important for every fisherman and woman to know."

Holubetz caught her first fish on a fly when she was five years old. Her father, a fisheries biologist, taught himself to fly fish as a teen and passed his love of the sport onto his daughter.

"I personally love it, but I love watching my dad's face when I catch a fish, too," she said. "That's kind of how we relate."

Still, Holubetz didn't always love fly fishing like she does now.

"I remember, we were in Montana and he was trying to teach me how to fly fish and I was just whipping (the rod) around," she said.

Her dad tried to tell her to slow down and practice a more patient technique, but she didn't want to take his advice.

"It's definitely good that I'm taking instruction from somebody else," she said. "It will be fun to reconvene with my dad and show him everything I've learned, and catch some fish, hopefully a steelhead on the Clearwater this fall."

Holubetz said spending every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon with her fly rod on the lawn outside the PEB took some getting used to. She said at first she felt silly.

"But now I realize it's a really great place to focus on your cast and not worry about what the water is doing or what the fish are doing," she said. "You could catch a clover, but you're not going to catch a trout on the grass. It's a good place to focus on your motions with no distractions."

During the Sept. 17 field trip to the St. Maries and St. Joe Rivers, Casey continued his one-on-one teaching style — this time waist deep in river water and drenched in rain. He navigated the shoreline and waded continually to help his students choose flies, perfect their casts and practice realistic fly presentation.

Casey said he was impressed with everyone's confidence on the river.

"Everybody is wading out and getting after it," he said. "Now it would be really cool if someone connected with a fish."

IMAGE BELOW: *Fly fishing student Heidi Holubetz casts her line on the St. Joe River.*

SENTIMENTS *on* *self-care*

STORY BY Cassidy Callaham
ILLUSTRATION BY Le Hall

Students glamorize not taking care of themselves for more reasons than one

More than a few drinks at the bar, only four hours of sleep, a greasy breakfast and a 20 oz. coffee to fix the hangover — it's a scenario many University of Idaho students can relate to.

Kacy Pula, an assistant professor in the psychology and communications department, said romanticizing poor health habits like getting little sleep, drinking too much caffeine or alcohol and going long periods of time without food can have a social appeal.

"It is certainly not unique to college students, especially with the sleep issue," Pula said. "We want to have commonalities with our peers, and if that's what people are doing, it might be one of many ways that college students try to form connections with their peers."

Pula said part of the idea behind students bonding over poor health habits is that the stress of being thrown into the adult world while also being in the bubble of an educational environment might increase a student's tendency to not take care of themselves.

"Drinking alcohol or not getting enough sleep may be that those are partly influenced by peer pressure as social norms, but maybe they are also coping mechanisms for dealing with that stress," she said.

"Everybody brags about how much they drink or how they haven't slept. It's almost like casual conversation, especially after the weekend."

Another significant factor is the lack of knowledge about healthier adaptive behaviors. As freshmen, students learn how to act in college, and Pula said the behaviors they learn might not be the best for their health.

"Sometimes you know you are doing something that's bad for you or not the most adaptive pattern of behavior, but in other cases, you might not really think about it," Pula said.

Michelle Fish, a fourth-year psychology student at UI, said when people think of college, they think of drinking, staying up late and doing a lot of homework. She said the idea that students don't take care of themselves is already engrained in students' minds before they arrive at school.

"Everybody brags about how much they drink or how they haven't slept," Fish said. "It's almost like casual conversation, especially after the weekend."

Fish compared the way college students brag about these behaviors to the way comedians might joke about controversial issues but be struggling with some dark thoughts internally. In such cases, she said the comedy is used as a coping mechanism and as a way to relate to people.

"Connecting with people makes you feel better, and it's a way of coping," Fish said. "It's a way for people to be like 'Yeah, I relate to that, and it's funny.'"

Beyond using poor health habits to bond socially and cope with the stressors of college, Fish said many students also operate under the perception that they're invincible, or can go without taking care of themselves and walk away unharmed.

"People are always bragging about how high of an alcohol tolerance they have and why do people brag about that? Because that just means you're really unhealthy," Fish said.

It's more difficult to sit down with someone and have deep conversations than it is to brag or joke about serious things, which makes those problems lighthearted and, in a way, socially acceptable, she said.

"Everybody has things about them that are unhealthy, but if you can relate to someone about that, for some reason it makes it OK," Fish said.

In addition to the feeling of invincibility, Fish said college-aged individuals are at a difficult developmental stage, as many students are away from their homes for the first time.

"We aren't really taught how to take care of ourselves," Fish said. "It's kind of left up to your friends, and that's going to be a lot of unhealthy habits in most circumstances."

This lack of education can affect students' lives in and out of the classroom. Students consume unhealthy amounts of caffeine to make up for lack of sleep, poor diet and hangovers. Marissa Rudley, UI's campus dietitian, said that many college students use coffee as an artificial energy source.

"It might feel really normalized to drink high amounts of caffeine," Rudley said. "It might give you this feeling of energy, motivation and focus, but it is definitely short-term. It can leave you feeling more drained."

Every person is different, which means healthy caffeine levels vary. Rudley said a 120-pound person would not need to consume more than two cups of coffee daily and 300 mg should be the maximum caffeine intake per day for everyone.

"When you get to a point where you are exceeding that, there really is diminished returns," she said. "Instead of giving you that energy, maybe you start developing high tolerance levels, making it harder to focus and cause sleeping difficulties."

Caffeine can affect the deep restorative REM cycle sleep that a person needs to feel rested. Rudley said to maximize sleep, people should stop drinking caffeine eight hours before they plan to go to bed.

"If you're relying on caffeine for that boost for that late night study session, you might not be able to be rested the next day," she said. "That starts another cycle of relying on that caffeine for that pick-me-up, and that goes hand-in-hand with other quick pick-me-up items like high-sugar foods."

During a student's college years, it's important that they take small steps

toward healthier eating habits, since it can also help them in school. Rudley said by eating well and getting natural energy from food, students won't suffer caffeine crashes. She often hears from students in nutrition counseling that with time and scheduling constraints, finding fast and easy nutritious food can be challenging when trying to eat well.

"This stage of students' lives in college is a really formative time for developing positive eating habits," Rudley said. "All sorts of things like whether or not you eat breakfast, what type of snacks you eat, cooking skills, shopping skills — all of these little things can add up."

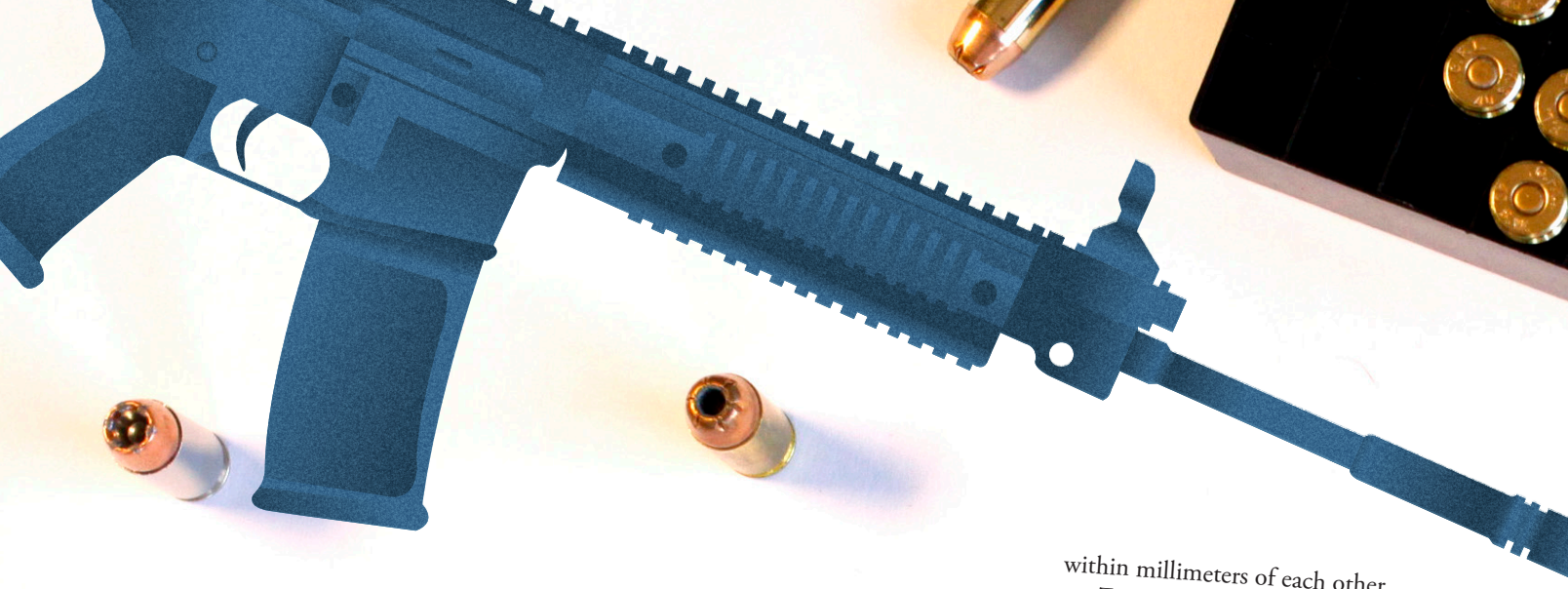
Rudley said it might take a mental shift for students to put aside those 10 minutes a day to prepare snacks for school. The time is well spent, as getting natural energy and eating well can help students focus better and experience more restful sleep.

UI's Alcohol and Other Drugs statistics from 2015 showed that 70 percent of students used alcohol at least once within a 30-day period. Sixty-seven percent said the last time they partied they had between zero and four drinks. These numbers are similar to most public universities, said Brian Dulin, UI's Alcohol and Other Drugs program coordinator.

"As we are dealing with all the stress, sometimes we reach for alcohol and other substances to blow off some steam, and occasionally going out and having drinks can be a fun part of the college experience," he said.

Dulin said there are many demands on college students. Many take a full credit load and have jobs, which gives them a tremendous amount of work to complete.

"Sometimes, people start reaching for stimulants whether it's tobacco, caffeine or other substances to give them a boost," Dulin said. "Then, once we develop that cycle it's hard to break. Ideally if we are sleeping right, eating a good diet and exercising, we'll have enough energy to get through the day." ■



Idaho's complex relationship with guns affects Moscow and the University of Idaho community

Armed and Idahoan

STORY BY Erin Bamer
PHOTOS BY Tess Fox
ILLUSTRATIONS BY Cody Muir

His feet planted in the dirt, Zack Albanese set his eyes on his target.

The .22 rifle was a steady weight in his arms. His left hand cradled the forestock with his elbow tucked against his ribs. The butt of the gun nestled against his right shoulder, and his chin rested on the stock.

A few seconds of silence, then he switched the safety off with his index finger and moved it to the trigger. He took a deep breath in and let it out, squeezing as he did so.

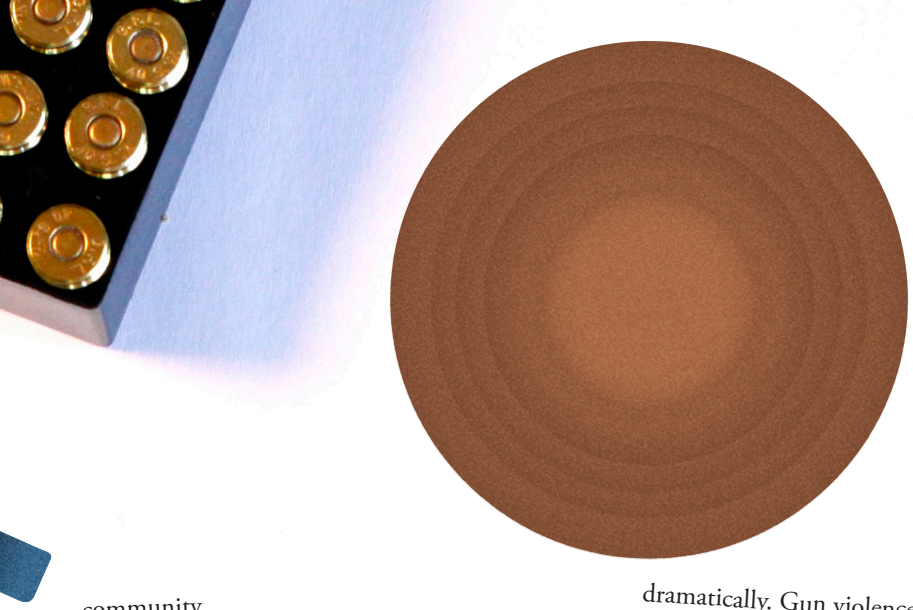
Bang — he fired.

The sound of the bullet echoed through the trees. It faded out before he fired another shot, then another, and another. He never flinched. All four bullets hit within millimeters of each other.

Zack and his wife Hanna teach various firearms training courses offered through Tri-State Outfitters in Moscow. They said public interest in their classes has gone up since this summer, after the country saw a spike in the number of publicized mass shootings.

"It's the American mentality," Zack said. "You know, you tell somebody that you can't have something, or you might not be able to have something, and they'll want three."

This response to the shootings and the national debates it caused spurred mixed reactions from the rest of the Moscow



community.

University of Idaho freshman Toliver Thompson said he didn't notice much of a change in people's attitudes about guns. If he saw any shift at all, he said it was that people felt more passionate about their right to bear arms more than ever, and he wasn't surprised.

"I've gotten used to the idea of people just walking around with guns, and because I've gotten used to it I've actually become disgusted by it," Thompson said.

Benjamin Barton, a criminology professor at UI, said he didn't notice a dramatic transformation in Idahoans' perspectives on guns either, but he didn't think that was a bad thing. He said the mass shootings of this summer were outliers, and most people in the area know that the chances of them or a loved one being a victim of a mass shooting are still low.

Terressa Benz, a criminology professor at Oakland University, said the number of mass shootings didn't actually go up this summer, but rather the publicity of the incidents increased dramatically. Gun violence has always been common, especially in low-income areas, she said.

"It's not an epidemic," Benz said.

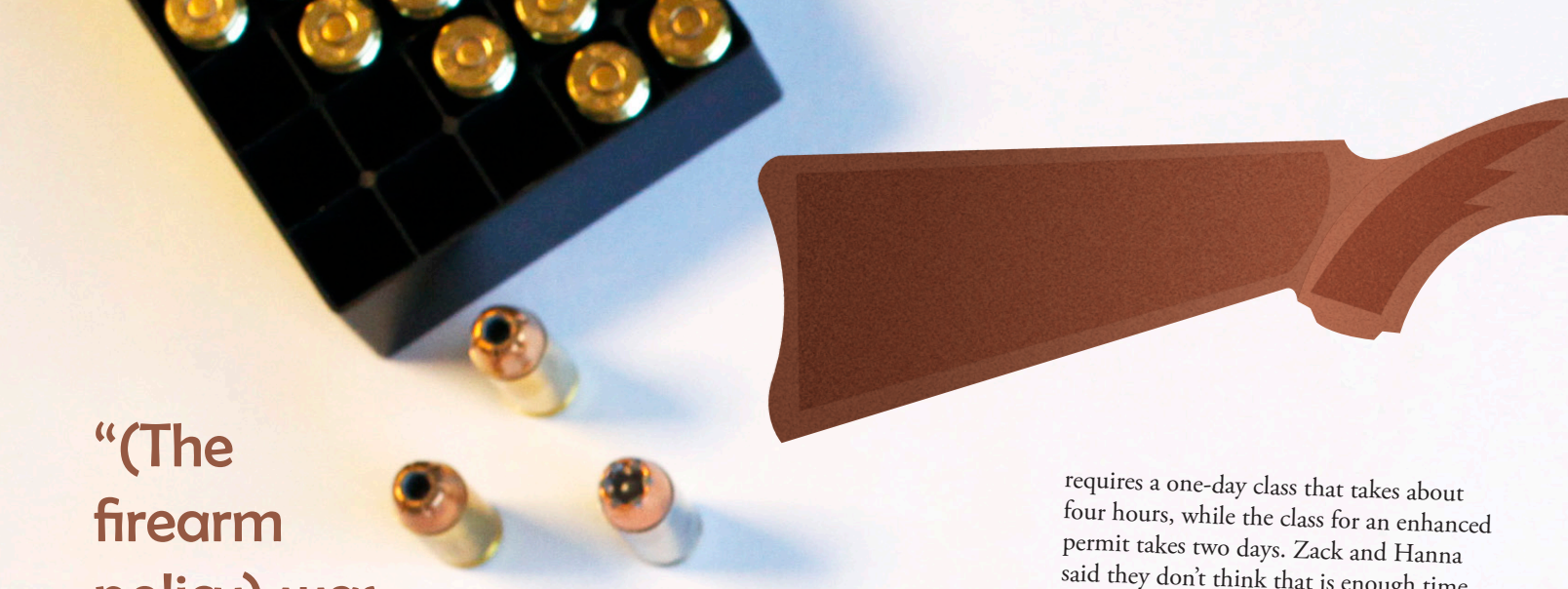
Before moving to Detroit, Michigan, to teach at Oakland, Benz worked at UI. She said people who live in the state of Idaho hold a different philosophy about firearms compared to people in cities like Detroit.

Most people in Detroit don't support guns, but they are a begrudging necessity due to the high murder rate in the area, she said. Idaho doesn't have nearly as high of a crime rate, but people are more protective of their Second Amendment rights because the area is more conservative.

Barton said attitude is an important factor of responsible gun ownership — if not the most important factor — and quality gun training courses will assess the students' attitude while handling firearms.

Gauging the attitude of gun users is something Zack and Hanna are no strangers to.

"It's not an epidemic."



"(The firearm policy) was voted for by people who do not live and work on campus."

"Not to obviously hate on men, because I am one," Zack said. "But men usually have that macho mentality, 'Oh, I know this. Get out of my way. There's nothing that you can teach me.' And somebody that goes into it like that is generally the sort of person who is going to cause an issue."

Zack said complacency is what leads to many accidents and injuries involving guns. When people who know how to handle them forget the basic rules, it increases the chance of someone getting hurt.

In his class, safety is Zack's first priority. He said there are five rules that prevent gun accidents — treat every gun as if it were loaded; don't point at anything you don't intend to shoot; keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you intend to shoot; keep the gun on safe until you're about to shoot; and always know your target and what's beyond it.

"As long as you follow the rules and treat them with respect, no one will ever get hurt," Zack said.

Guns are weapons in the same way as motor vehicles, Zack said, because they are dangerous if people don't have the proper education on how to use them.

At Tri-State, citizens can enroll in courses to get basic and enhanced concealed carry permits. The basic permit requires a one-day class that takes about four hours, while the class for an enhanced permit takes two days. Zack and Hanna said they don't think that is enough time for people to really learn how to handle firearms safely.

The couple doesn't teach the classes people take to get a permit, but they said those courses don't offer hands-on instruction about how to use guns, either. A lot of their business comes from people who got their permit and want to learn how to shoot, they said.

At UI, law enforcement officials and civilians with enhanced concealed carry permits are allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus. This was added to the university policy to comply with official state law enacted in 2014. Since then, Vice President for Infrastructure Dan Ewart said he is unaware of any gun-related incidents on campus.

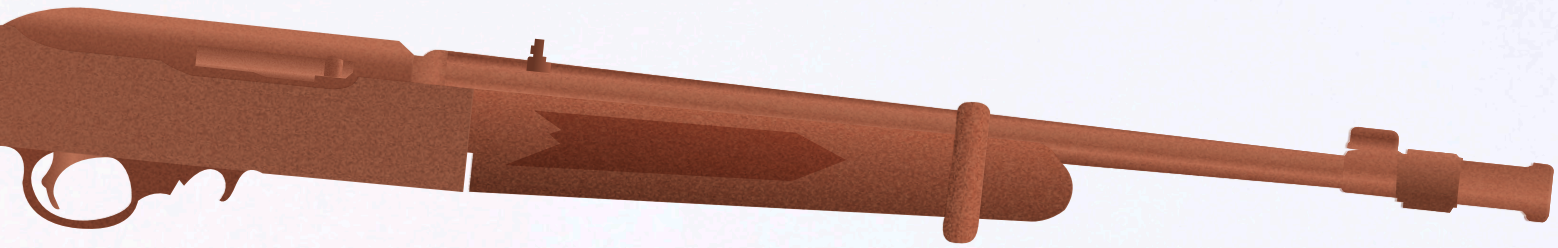
But that doesn't mean there was wide support for the firearms policy from the community when it was being discussed.

Benz worked at the university when the policy was passed and she said she observed no support from UI faculty, staff, students or administrators for the legislation. Even Moscow police officers didn't back the policy, she said.

"It was voted for by people who do not live and work on campus," Benz said.

After the legislation passed, employees altered their behavior on campus, Benz said. People who normally would leave their office doors open opted to close them. Faculty reduced the amount of time they remained on campus grounds.

She said firearm policies on campus can have a destructive effect on the relationship



between faculty and students. As an instructor, she said she suddenly found herself considering her students' capabilities for violence while she attempted to do her job.

"If I was going to fail a student, or even give them a 'B,' I had to first stop and think about guns and make sure that I didn't consider them volatile," Benz said. "And also if they wanted to come meet with me … I would let somebody else in the hall know they were coming."

On the student side, Benz said most were not aware of the policy after it passed. Those who did were concerned about it, she said. They didn't feel safer. In fact, she said many of them felt more vulnerable.

Thompson said he is used to the firearms policy on campus, the same way he is used to how others acted about guns while he grew up.

He spent his childhood in Idaho Falls — a more conservative part of Idaho than Moscow, he said. There, the culture is more gun-friendly, and he grew up hunting and maintaining firearms.

Thompson said the way he grew up broadened his perspective on guns. Many people in Idaho Falls owned firearms, but he didn't feel safe being around them. He said certain individuals shouldn't have the capability to access guns.

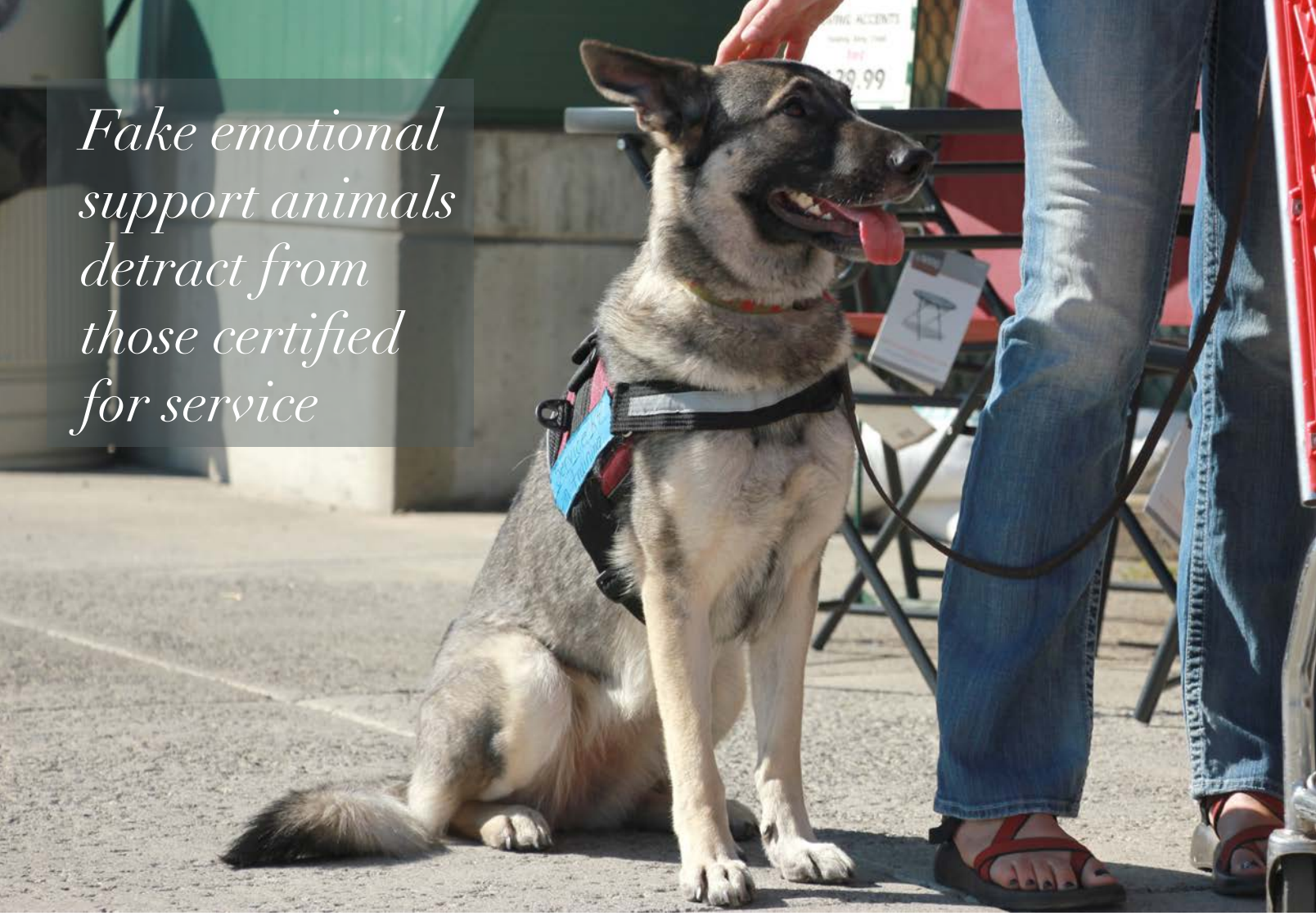
While the Moscow community may be less conservative than other areas of Idaho, Barton said UI and the rest of the town aren't as against guns as some may believe. He has completed several research projects centered on firearms, and he said a small study he conducted within the Moscow community showed that most people in the area fall in the middle of the debate.

The subject of gun rights versus gun control is a touchy one, Barton said. Few individuals enjoy talking about their feelings on the subject. He said the topic of guns is normally regarded as a private matter, similar to money, so people avoid talking about it.

However, Thompson said it would be beneficial if more people felt comfortable expressing their opinions on the subject, regardless of which side they're on.

"I just would encourage anyone who has strong beliefs on this subject — whether they be for or against guns — to not shut themselves out from a discussion or a debate," Thompson said. ■

"I just would encourage anyone who has strong beliefs on this subject … to not shut themselves out from a discussion."



Fake emotional support animals detract from those certified for service

Emotional support for sale

STORY BY Claire Whitley
PHOTOS BY Yishan Chen

Jon Allen, a Moscow native who attended the University of Nevada Las Vegas, does not have a disability, nor does he struggle with mental illness.

He has no use for a service animal of any kind, and neither does his wife. When the couple decided they wanted to have a dog in their apartment, Allen and his wife went to talk to their rental agency to learn about breed restrictions and fees.

That's when apartment complex employees encouraged he and his wife to fill out an online form that would certify the dog as a service animal, specifically an emotional support animal, so they could avoid regulations on dog breeds and house the animal without paying any fees.

"There wasn't much of a conversation," Allen said. "We were both on the same page that we were obviously not going to do that."

Allen said the employees seemed surprised when the couple said no. The fees were expensive and several people in the complex had already filled out forms as a way to circumscribe the process.

ABOVE IMAGE: *German Shepherd Uma waits for her trainer's orders outside Tri-State Outfitters in Moscow.*

"Most of those dogs weren't even remotely trained," Allen said. "It has a negative impact on how people view (support) animals because they are grouped together with them."

There is no certification required for emotional support animals or any national rules regarding the process, which dog trainer Jennifer Greer said is a large part of the problem. There are internet sites that will send letters signing off on people needing an emotional support animal.

Greer said emotional support service dogs don't have to wear any visual signs or identification that they are service animals, which makes it that much easier to fake.

"There are a lot of fake service dogs in Moscow," Greer said. "More than I have ever seen."

If anyone knows how much work it takes to fully train a service animal, it's Greer. She has eight years of experience training dogs,

RIGHT IMAGE: *Dog trainer Jennifer Greer shops at Tri-State with Uma and her son, Micah.*

a master's degree in physiology and a bachelor's degree is in animal behavior. Greer said she trains service dogs for people with a variety of needs, ranging from autism to post-traumatic stress disorder.

In the past, there were generally only seeing-eye dogs, but now Greer said it is harder to tell visually what a service dog does for a person. For example, dogs are trained to be diabetic-alert dogs as well as seizure-alert dogs. In general, a fully-trained service animal costs between $3,000 and $5,000 — the kind of training that Allen said was not present in his neighborhood's dogs.

Greer said another part of the problem is that businesses don't know what they can or cannot do or how to approach service animals.

Allen said he was surprised that the complex would encourage people to fill out forms to skirt fees rather than trying to gain more money from the individuals.

"I also remember thinking how insensitive it is," Allen said. "People need those animals."

University of Idaho sophomore Katie Lester has a support animal, a Maine Coon cat named Dante. She currently resides in university housing with Dante, who provides comfort and emotional support.

Lester has had Dante for almost a year and she said she has seen a huge improvement in her emotional health since he came in to her life.

"He's like my little buddy," Lester said.

Dante has little to no training and is there to help her emotionally, rather than to perform a specific task.

"He is a pet that is prescribed to me, is the way I like to describe it," Lester said.

Lester said that going through the process to get permission to have Dante in her room made her feel more supported by housing and Disability Support Services. She said it helped her learn about her rights as a person and advocate for herself.

"It is important to go into it with the mindset that people aren't faking it," Lester said.

Allen said he believes it can be easy to view emotional support animals as not a big deal. He said this generates a negative viewpoint on something that is a real necessity for some people. Allen said in order to combat the negative public perception, emotional support animals need to be treated as a big deal. There has to be accountability, he said, and maybe the process of getting a support animal shouldn't be so easy and unregulated.

"There is a stigma with mental health in general, so it is already looked down upon," Allen said. "If someone doesn't respect (mental health issues), they won't respect the animal."

Lester said she hasn't received much negative attention or remarks, but rather dismissal. When she originally was prescribed Dante, she said her friends thought she was kidding, which caused some self-doubt. However, Lester said self-doubt is important because it shows that a person needs the animal if they don't just accept it and move on.

Greer said right now the system is just an honor system, but eventually she believes it will become more structured. Fake support animals are taking away from those who do need them, Greer said. She said once people realize there is a loophole, it will become even more of problem.

"A service dog is medical equipment," Greer said. "You wouldn't abuse other forms of medical equipment. You wouldn't abuse a wheelchair."

Lester said she believes the root of the problem is selfishness and lack of awareness of mental illness. She said she hasn't seen much progress made in raising that awareness because people inherently want to stick to what they know. Education is all that can be done, but Lester said people have to be open to it too.

"If you don't know anyone who has a need for a service animal … still try to be understanding," Allen said. "Think 'If this is something I was going through, what would it feel like?' Think about others than yourself and just try to be understanding."

Lester said it is important to be open and unafraid to ask questions.

"Have the courage to ask and don't be hesitant, because that puts a lot on the person with the animal," Lester said. "But be respectful, be tolerant." ■

STORY BY Corrin Bond

PHOTOS BY Tess Fox and courtesy of Florence Barker

The true measure of love

Two UI alumni celebrate their 50th year as graduates and their 50th wedding anniversary

Decades ago, Florence Barker gave her husband, Sam, a greeting card brandishing a Johann Wolfgang von Goethe quote.

It read, "This is the true measure of love: when we believe that we alone can love, that no one could ever have loved so before us, and that no one will ever love in the same way after us."

At the time, she purchased the card because she felt that the quote described her relationship with Sam. After 50 years of marriage, Florence said it still holds true.

The couple first met as juniors at Kootenai High School and attended the University of Idaho two years later. Although they dated on-and-off throughout high school and college, the two had intended to enroll at the university before they met. Florence was carrying on the Vandal tradition that three of her five brothers had established. Sam, who lived in the Coeur d'Alene area, was looking for a university close to home.

As students in the 1960s, their college experience was far from that of a student's today. Female students, like Florence, could not wear pants unless the temperature dropped below zero degrees Fahrenheit and were required to abide by a 10 p.m. curfew.

The country was experiencing a wide range of political and social change as well. From the Civil Rights Movement to the war in Vietnam, Florence said she and Sam were studying at the university while transformational events were happening in the country around them.

"A lot of things happened during that time that were critical to U.S. history," Florence said. "The missile crisis happened when we were freshmen, JFK was shot and killed when we were sophomores. We were in German class when the professor announced that President Kennedy had been shot. We got back to the dorm for lunch and it was announced he had died."

In their biochemistry class, they learned about DNA for the first time.

"We'd never heard of that before," Sam said. "We had no idea that cells had a way to reproduce themselves — that was astounding."

Sam said learning about the shifting sociopolitical environment of the time period while attending UI contributed to the views of the world they would later adopt.

"We learned a lot of tolerance here," Sam said.

In addition to the national history they experienced while on campus, the couple also created a history of their own. The first time Sam told Florence that he loved her was on the UI Golf Course. At a basketball game, he gave her a blue

"The little things that happen regularly remind us of events long ago, and we share the happiness we felt then or sometimes the disappointment."

plastic ring from a box of Cracker Jacks and while at the Dipper, a former student hang out spot in the basement of the Bruce M. Pitman Center, he proposed.

The two were married in a church in downtown Moscow shortly after their graduation from UI in 1966. This year they celebrate their 50th anniversary as Vandal graduates and as husband and wife.

During the first 10 years of their marriage, Florence said their friends would often remark on how lucky she and Sam were to have chosen each other. However, she did not think the secret to their marital success was based solely on luck.

"It was careful choosing. We'd had a long courtship, off and mostly on, in the six years we'd known each other," Florence said. "We'd explored our ideas thoroughly during that time, discussing most everything. Not much was left to chance. But when trouble hit, I discovered that luck did play a part."

Florence said she and Sam were struck by illness early on in their marriage. It was a significant obstacle that they worked to overcome.

"When you promise to love for better or for worse, you're thinking for better," Florence said. "When you vow in sickness and in health, you're not planning for sickness."

Despite the challenges posed early on in their marriage, the couple pursued graduate degrees at the University of Wyoming, where they decided to start and raise their family.

"That's when we adopted our three children," Florence said. "They were all adopted as infants. I was 25 with our first child, Reneé. Two years later, we had Scott, and in another two years, we had Natasha. Now they're all grown up, and they're all still beautiful."

When Florence looks for old photos of her and Sam, she said she often can only find photos of their children and grandchildren. Above all else, Florence and Sam said they value their family.

"I find a zillion pictures of our children, of Sam with our children," Florence said. "In later years there is a multitude of pictures of grandchildren and Sam with our grandchildren. These pictures bring home a truth that we've acknowledged before. We place a high value on our family, and we are very child-centered."

Today, they are heavily involved in their grandchildren's lives. Florence said that while their marriage wasn't always perfect, she and Sam have cherished their time together.

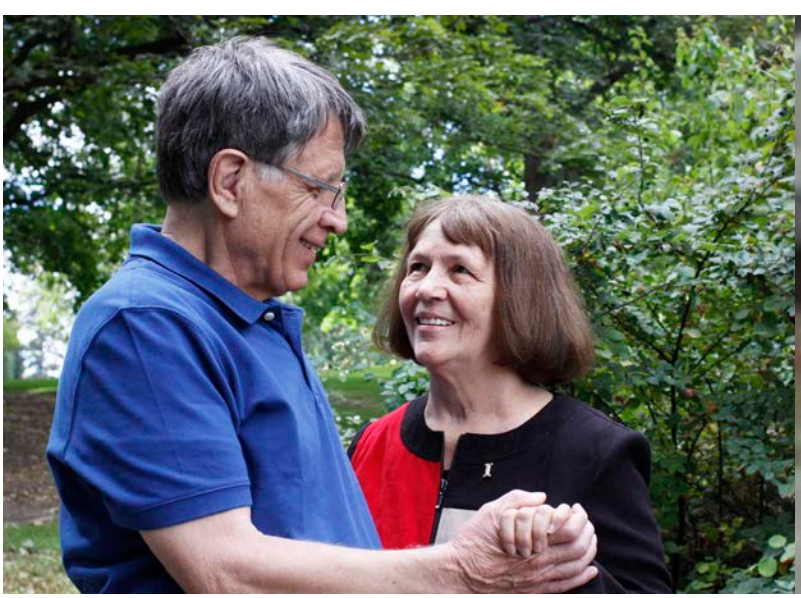
"The little things that happen regularly remind us of events long ago, and we share the happiness we felt then or sometimes the disappointment," Florence said. "The sense of humor that helped form the bond in the beginning still exists today. The fact that we can still make each other laugh helps us over rough spots."

Florence said among the secrets to 50 years of marriage is remembering the good times, even something as small as one dance, during times of turmoil.

One winter, Florence said she and Sam took their family to Hawaii. They were celebrating New Year's Eve in Honolulu when their children urged the couple to dance.

"I was willing, but Sam resisted," Florence said. "Finally, he made a deal that he knew he could win. 'I'll tell you what,' he said, 'If the next song is "Moon River," I'll dance.' The next song began, 'Moon River, wider than a mile ...' In a mild state of disbelief, he took me in his arms and we danced to the music we'd called our song since college." ■

IMAGES BELOW: *Florence and Sam visited the UI campus in Sept. for their 50th reunion.*



FOUR TIMES THE LEGACY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY Tess Fox

The Linehan brothers carry on a family legacy through Vandal football

Matt and Mike Linehan started their football careers together, but they didn't always get along. The brothers lived in Florida at the time, where teams were formed by size, rather than age. Matt, a fifth grader, was on the same team as Mike, a third grader.

On the first day of pads, Matt said the team was doing hitting drills when his younger brother was laid out by another player.

"My mom was on the phone with my dad, my dad was watching practice," Matt said. "They did (the drill) and this kid hit Mike so hard that my dad dropped his phone and went, 'Oh my god ... Mike just got killed.' From then I was unsure if Mike would like football, but he's grown to be a competitor and good at what he does."

After three years, the brothers don't only share the field again as University of Idaho football players, they also voluntarily spend time together.

"He pops into my apartment every now and then or I'll go over to his house," Mike said. "Even if we're 10 years down the road and in different places, we'll always stay close. Obviously, we're brothers and stuff like that, so we have to kind of like each other."

Matt, a UI senior, even considers his younger brother to be one of his best friends. The relationship between them is unique, he said.

"It's been helpful for me to have my brother around," Matt said. "We've really bonded over the last couple years. Better than we did probably growing up."

Mike, Matt and the youngest Linehan, Marcus, have moved across the country

TOP LEFT IMAGE: *Freshman Mike Linehan talks with teammates between plays Sept. 10 in Seattle.*
TOP RIGHT IMAGE: *Junior quarterback Matt Linehan searches for an open receiver against Washington.*
BOTTOM LEFT IMAGE: *Redshirt freshman Mike Linehan fights off the Washington defense.*
BOTTOM RIGHT IMAGE: *Junior quarterback Matt Linehan shouts instructions against Washington.*

together several times. Their dad, Scott, a former Vandal quarterback and career football coach, changed jobs every three to four years. Mike said he believes the constant moving brought his family closer.

"Me and Matt and my little brother, we gained an appreciation for each other because when you first go to a place you really only knew each other," he said. "You would just hang

number their dad played under while attending UI.

"It really wasn't my choice to have the number," he said. "So I didn't even think about it until someone brought it up to me. I talked to him about it and we really kind of dispelled the special notion of that. You know, a number's a number. What matters is what you do on the field. But there is a part of me that does think it's special."

Since their arrival, the brothers have enjoyed their time in Moscow. Mike said he has heard stories about his father and other family members from alumni. Some stories he doubts his family would want them to know, but Mike said it was still fun to hear them. Mike and Matt aren't the first generations of Linehan to attend UI. Scott and several of his brothers attended the university, as did their parents.

"It's been a lot of fun to carry on a legacy," Mike said. "Not a lot of people get to do that. It's cool to represent our family and see if we can put the same mark as they did way back when."

As proud as the brothers are, Mike said it's important that they leave their own mark.

Mike took a redshirt season in 2015. He grabbed six tackles Sept. 1 against Montana State in the Kibbie Dome and three tackles Sept. 10 against Washington in Seattle.

He also started all three years at St. Mary's High School in Michigan. When Scott took a position with the Dallas Cowboys, the family was uprooted to Texas.

While Mike said transitions are always hard, the younger Linehan brother transferred to Highland Park High School, where he earned a Dallas Morning News Defensive Player of the Week honorable mention.

"You never really get used to (moving)," he said. "We gained kind of an adaptability to different environments and different, newer big cities and small cities, different kinds of people. I know me and Matt wouldn't change a thing."

In high school, Matt was honored as a blue chip player by the Detroit News after he led St. Mary's to a state championship football game. He threw for 1,500 yards to help the school win the Catholic League title. Matt also played basketball, which he said he planned on playing in college.

"I told my parents, 'If I don't get any offers

to focus on basketball,' Matt said. "That was

dream, and part of me still wants it to be the dream, but it's still a fun hobby."

San Diego State recruited Matt. He found out at the last minute he wouldn't have a scholarship and said he decided to call it quits with football. That is, until UI hired Idaho coach Paul Petrino. Matt said his father sent Petrino his highlights tape, and the Linehan family got a call three days later.

In a week, Matt went from football dropout to quarterback at a Division 1 school.

"That was a great feeling for me," he said. "I really appreciate and really feel appreciation for coach Petrino for giving me this chance."

He started 10 games in his first season as a Vandal and had more than 300 passing yards. Matt's 56 passing attempts against Ohio University Sept. 20, 2014 are the most by a freshman in the school's history.

In 2015, Matt led the Sun Belt Conference in completion percentage, with .63 and was ranked second in the conference for 22.55 completions per game. His completions also earned him No. 19 in national rankings. Matt made 187 passing yards against Washington Sept. 10 in Seattle.

Mike said he is inspired by his brother's journey as an athlete and a student.

"He was always kind of a smaller guy," he said. "He was a late bloomer, but he always had a chip on his shoulder. That inspires me a lot. It's taught me a lot."

Matt said he strives to be a good role model for his brothers, including Marcus, a sophomore in high school who hopes to play collegiate football.

"He's a great kid," Matt said. "He aspires to be like us. I know we've set the standard for him, but I don't want to give him too high expectations. I want him to be on his own. He's got his skill set that he works on and he's grown a lot." ■

"Me and Matt and my little brother, we gained an appreciation for each other."

HUMANS
OF MOSCOW

"My favorite way to spend a Sunday would probably be with the people I most enjoy being around. Nothing is better than waking up and doing that. No matter what you do you always have fun because you are with them. That is probably what I will miss the most about Moscow. They are always there and always so close to you. It's the best.

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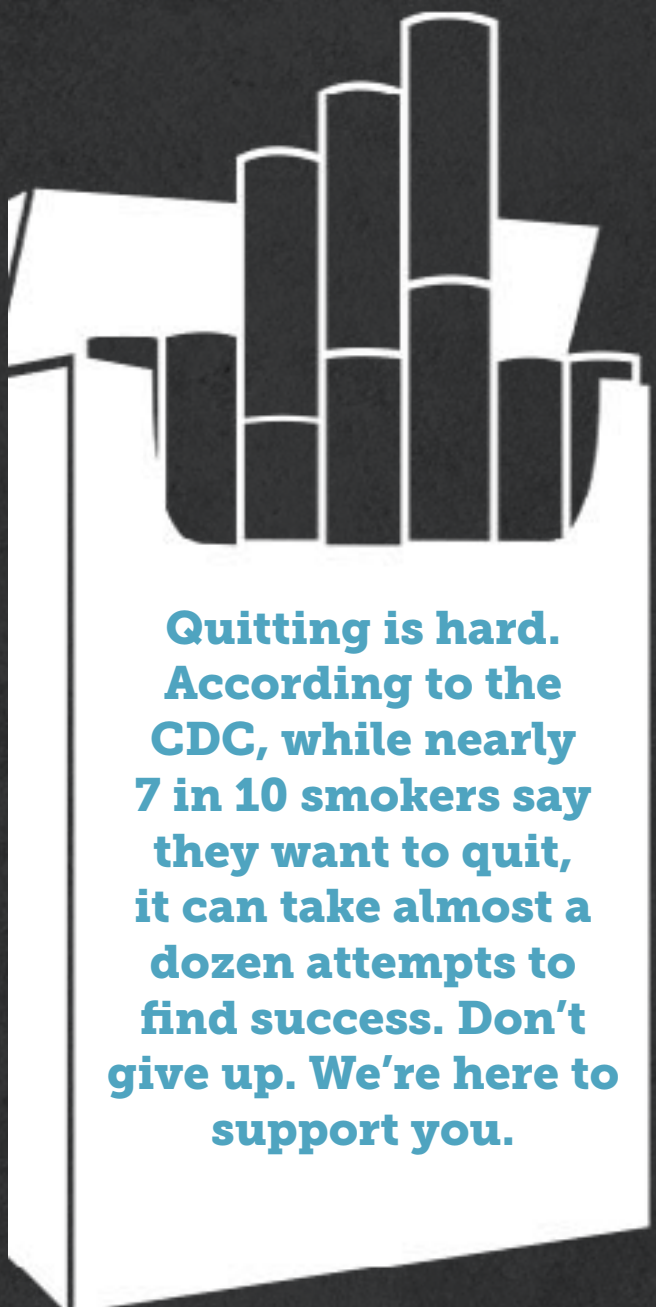

Quitting is hard. According to the CDC, while nearly 7 in 10 smokers say they want to quit, it can take almost a dozen attempts to find success. Don't give up. We're here to support you.

UI students have free access to

- Eight weeks of tobacco cessation products — like the patch, nicotine gum or lozenge
- Tobacco cessation classes offered on campus
- One-on-one and group counseling sessions
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Why should I quit using tobacco?

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- Be healthier: Quitting tobacco use lowers your risk for many types of cancer, heart diseases and strokes.
- Breathe easier: If you quit using tobacco, you may find yourself coughing less, wheezing less and experiencing less shortness of breath when climbing our UI hills.
- Save money: The average price for a pack of cigarettes in the U.S. is $6.36. If you smoke a pack a day, that's more than $2,300 a year going up in smoke. You could buy yourself a nice laptop with that change.

Want help kicking the habit?

Go to uidaho.edu/tobacco-free or stop by Vandal Health Education in the Student Health Center.

University of Idaho

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