

BIOT

MAY 2019



University
of Idaho

Editor's Note

Readers,

In this school year's last issue of Blot Magazine, our staff wanted to again share the stories that make the Moscow and University of Idaho communities so compelling.

As in past issues, we hope to provide an in depth look at an array of topics around the Palouse. In this fourth issue, you'll find stories about personal transitions, the area's long history with the logging industry and what student athletes are doing to make all students feel safe on campus, among others.

Of all these stories, we placed our greatest focus on a topic every University of Idaho student and reader has engaged with before — education.

Specific to Idaho's educational system, we spoke with current educators, education students and political leaders to focus on where Idaho's education system can improve and where they see it moving.

The biggest takeaway? Idaho can do better for its school children and teachers. While these educators and future teachers still hold a positive outlook for the future of Idaho education, the statistics are often bleak. Idaho ranks poorly in the nation on educational funding and support for both educators and students.

Keeping strong educators in Idaho schools is just as important as keeping children in well-supported schools. Whether you're still in school or 50 years past graduating, the impacts of a well-educated community are invaluable.

So when we think about education, we must think about the academics, the testing and the graduation rates. But more than anything, we must think about the people involved — the people investing in children's futures one school day at a time.

- Hailey St.

Hailey Stewart
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Humans of Moscow

Nate Dillon, a UI student, works at his parents' business, Panhandle Cone & Coffee

“It has always felt like black magic. Mostly chemistry. I feel like most industries they just have all these rules for things and they are not sure why they exist. So, people think you shouldn't use boiling water to brew coffee because you will burn it. But coffee is roasted at like 400 degrees, so it is like a cool bath. It is just one of those things where it is tradition or some guy thought it was a good idea. The coffee industry hasn't been scientific for a long time. There have been a lot of these rules and we aren't sure why they are there.”

– **Nate Dillon**



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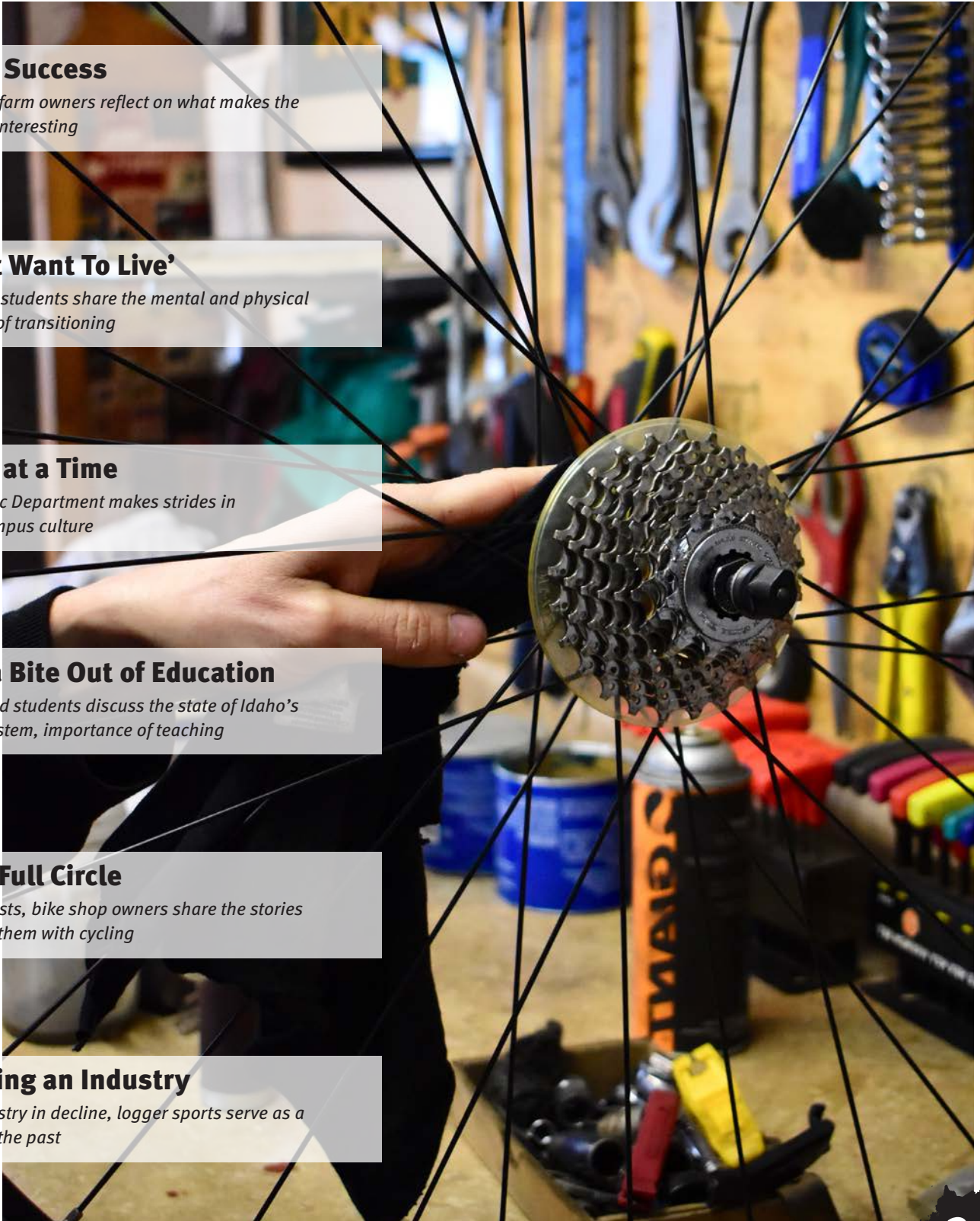
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BRED for Success

Local alpaca farm owners reflect on what makes the business so interesting

Run by Patch and Debbie Blakey since 2000, Stirling Ridge Alpacas is a local home and breeding ground for the unique animal, a member of the Camelid family often mistaken for the llama.

“The inspiration was entirely Scottish and Celtic, and each time we name one, it’s a reflection of that,” Patch said.

Currently home to 17 alpacas — four generations in total — the farm operates as both a storefront and a bed and breakfast, complete with a private entrance for guests.

Only a short walk separates the house from the hay-filled barn, so the alpacas are almost always within viewing distance — even for guests.

And for Debbie, a prior horse owner, the alpaca was immediately a welcome and relaxing change of pace.

IMAGE LEFT

Debbie Blakey spends time with her alpaca Kenzie

STORY BY *Max Rothenberg*
PHOTOS BY *Olivia Heersink*
DESIGN BY *Pepe Maciel*



Rhiannon



Elionwy



Kenzie



Wallace

She encountered her first alpaca shortly after moving to the area in 1995 at Grazing Hills Alpaca Ranch, a family-operated farm located nearby in Viola, Idaho.

“I was told how much they cost, and my response was ‘Oh my word,’” she said. “And then of course we bought our first one, a female, right after.”

Typically sold for thousands of dollars, the animal’s asking price tends to vary depending on the age and quality of fleece.

Compared to Debbie’s past experience, alpacas are low-maintenance, only requiring about 25 cents per day to feed each one. Aside from the low cost, she said it’s surprisingly easy to pick up after them.

“To put it into perspective, horses output more in one day than all of my alpacas do in one week,” she said. “So, you could say maintenance is pretty low.”

In addition to breeding, growing and selling animals, Stirling Ridge sells raw fleece products — socks, scarves and hats — and provides boarding and rent-a-womb services as well.

As a means to prevent population overcrowding, gender separation is critical. The Blakeys split the alpacas into four distinct pens: one male and three female.

“Oh, they get along far too well,” Debbie said. “I would have at least a million babies, and I don’t think anyone can handle that.”

This particular alpaca group spends much of their time indoors, content with hay eating and back-and-forth humming — a communication method most frequently seen between mothers and their newborn babies. Occasionally, rolling around in the dirt serves as a pastime, as well.

And in the warmer months, the alpacas are released into the larger pastures for short periods of time — a decision they much look forward to, as they are able to run and eat grass to their heart’s content.

However, the animals’ thick fleece — often weighing up to 10 pounds or more — can quickly cause overheating and exhaustion upon exposure to the sun.

In part to help comfort the alpacas, shearing takes place once a year, typically toward the end of May.

“For an alpaca breeder, fleece is the harvest,” Debbie said. “And it’s not to be confused with fur or even hair. It’s fleece, fiber or wool.”

These samples are sent to nearby labs, where the various fibers are graded on their microns, the measurement of one fiber’s length that determines both its softness and fineness. For certain alpacas with worse results, it’s helpful advice on how to adjust the breeding process going forward.

Initially, the couple said they faced difficulties and uncertainty in their new career path.

“For a while the market was so low, and alpaca breeders were dissatisfied — we were just trying to live,” she said.

Yet after some time had passed, the farm’s future began to brighten.

Dirk, the couple’s 11-year-old prize alpaca, took home the first-place trophy in 2014’s national spin-off class. Still with an ultra-fine micron of 18, the male alpaca ranks in the 99th percentile.

“I don’t want to brag because he does have his downsides, but he’s phenomenal in several categories,” Debbie said.

A key grading component is how fine the fleece stays as it continues to age. Many alpacas gradually grow coarser fleece, but Dirk is an exception to the norm.

With only 193,000 registered alpacas in the United States, Debbie said she believes the rare South-American species is still growing in popularity.

“When we used to tell people we had alpacas, they would respond with, ‘That’s the bird, right?’” she said. “Sometimes people even got emus and alpacas confused, but now it seems like everyone knows the difference.”

Alpacas only weigh between 100 and 200 pounds and are defined by their pointed ears, soft pads, reserved personalities and long gestation periods — often up to an entire year.

“Everyone has the idea that they’re a cuddly animal, a people-lover,” she said. “But they’ll do their best to move away from you if they ever get the opportunity.”

Just like other members of the Camelid family, the gentle alpacas are capable of spitting when irritated or stressed.

“They’re shy, but sometimes they’re tolerating, too,” she said. “The earlier you can build that confidence and trust with them, the better off you’ll be.”

Alpacas can be one of 22 colors, the most natural color variety of any fleece animal. Many breeders prefer lighter fleece, as it lends itself better to certain dyes. But for the Blakeys, the color is not what matters.

“(Patch) has always been the handyman, I take care of the critters. It’s why we stay with it, it’s just so enjoyable every day,” Debbie said.

τ



IMAGE ABOVE

Zak Moreno wearing the binder he uses to constrict his chest

‘WE JUST WANT

Transgender students share the mental and physical experiences of transitioning

“So, is it a Zak day?”

It was a question posed by his partner nearly four years ago. With tears running down his face he relinquished his old identity and embraced his actual self: Zak Moreno.

Moreno, a University of Idaho student who now identifies as a transgender man, began his hormonal transition close to three years ago — Nov. 18, 2016, to be exact.

Part of Moreno’s everyday life includes using a binder, a constrictive bra-like material that binds down the breasts. Binders, hormones and surgeries can all be a part of transitioning.

For Moreno top surgery — an operation that removes breast tissue — is something he hopes to have done. The price point, however, has halted that decision. With a cost of \$7,000 dollars, Moreno’s current insurance plans will not cover it.

The surgical coordinator for Palouse Surgeons, Sarah Bergman, who identifies as a transgender woman, said many private insurance companies covers what they call gender reaffirming surgery. Medicaid, however, does not.

“I see myself as a guy body,” Moreno said. “I can see what I’m supposed to look like, but there are these two things (breasts) that are just stopping it.”

Unlike Moreno, Athene Peterson, a UI first-year student who identifies as a woman using “she” and “her” pronouns, began her transition three months ago.

However, Peterson began questioning her gender much earlier, having dreams about her true identity when she was just a child. But it took her until middle school to begin to understand what these thoughts meant for her.

“I tried to deny it, and pretend like, ‘Oh, that can’t be true. That’s not what I am,’” Peterson said. “Over time, I started to become more open to the idea.”

STORY BY Alex Brizee
PHOTOS BY Alex Brizee
DESIGN BY Ethan Coy

TO LIVE,

LGBCCQA+



“I see myself as a guy body. I can see what I’m supposed to look like but there are these two things (breasts) that are just stopping it.”

Students who find themselves questioning their identity, sexuality or gender can meet with Julia Keleher, director of the UI LGBTQA Office.

Keleher provides resources for students who identify as LGBTQA, including helping transgender students with name changes. Students can change their names on their student emails, but the school’s official record will show their legal name.

During fall 2015, Moreno shed his dead name — the birth name he used before transitioning — by beginning to tell his teachers his correct name and writing “Zak” in parentheses next to his dead name.

A professor at the time emailed Moreno asking him for clarification as he wanted to be clear in class. “Do you want to be known as Zak?”

“Yeah, that would be great,” Moreno said.

He remembers the change in his calf muscles from the softer roundedness of women’s legs to the sharper dip that men’s legs tend to have.

“I literally yelled and was like, ‘Come see this,’” Moreno said. “‘Look at that muscle definition.’ And it was like the silliest, stupidest thing and I was super happy about it.”

When people go through gender reaffirming surgery, they will have to go through mental health provider before they ever see the doctor, said Dr. Geoffrey D. Stiller.

Making sure there are no other mental health factors in the way of the surgery, the mental health provider will clear the patient to go on with the surgery.

“Their choice going through is solely because of their gender dysphoria,” Stiller said.

Although Peterson officially began publicly transitioning three months ago, she began her use of hormones six months ago.

The effects of hormones for transgender women aren’t as visible, taking two to three years to fully develop. She said this allowed her to experience some of the changes before openly transitioning.

Now, Peterson has also begun socially

She said the latter has been a helpful and influential piece of her life as she goes through her transition.

Peterson never expected to transition so quickly, but wanted to speed up the process after meeting other transgender people.

While Moreno’s family had accepted his sexuality, coming out as transgender was a much different story.

Moreno’s mother was the most accepting person of his transition, he said. However, other family members were initially less accepting of his new identity.

“Who I was before I transitioned and who I am now are completely different people,” Moreno said. “But like realistically, I’m still completely the same nerdy, weird kid.”

Keleher said since society is so deeply rooted in gender, societal systems largely don’t include those of non-binary identities.

Students such as Moreno and Peterson defy the social norms of gender roles.

“I don’t like gender roles — but I’d like to conform to them,” Peterson said.

While transgender surgeries can be controversial socially — in the medical world, it is not, Still said.

“The most important thing to me is the person sitting in front of me,”

While the medical practice has yet to be perfected, Stiller said it is the best doctors have to offer at the moment.

While it may be easy to conform to these societal expectations, Moreno aims to be himself.

“We just want to live,” Moreno said. “We just want what everyone else has.”



transitioning, starting to dress and showcasing herself as a woman.

“(I’ve been able to) start acting the way I’ve sort of felt,” Peterson said. “And presenting the way I’ve sort of felt.”

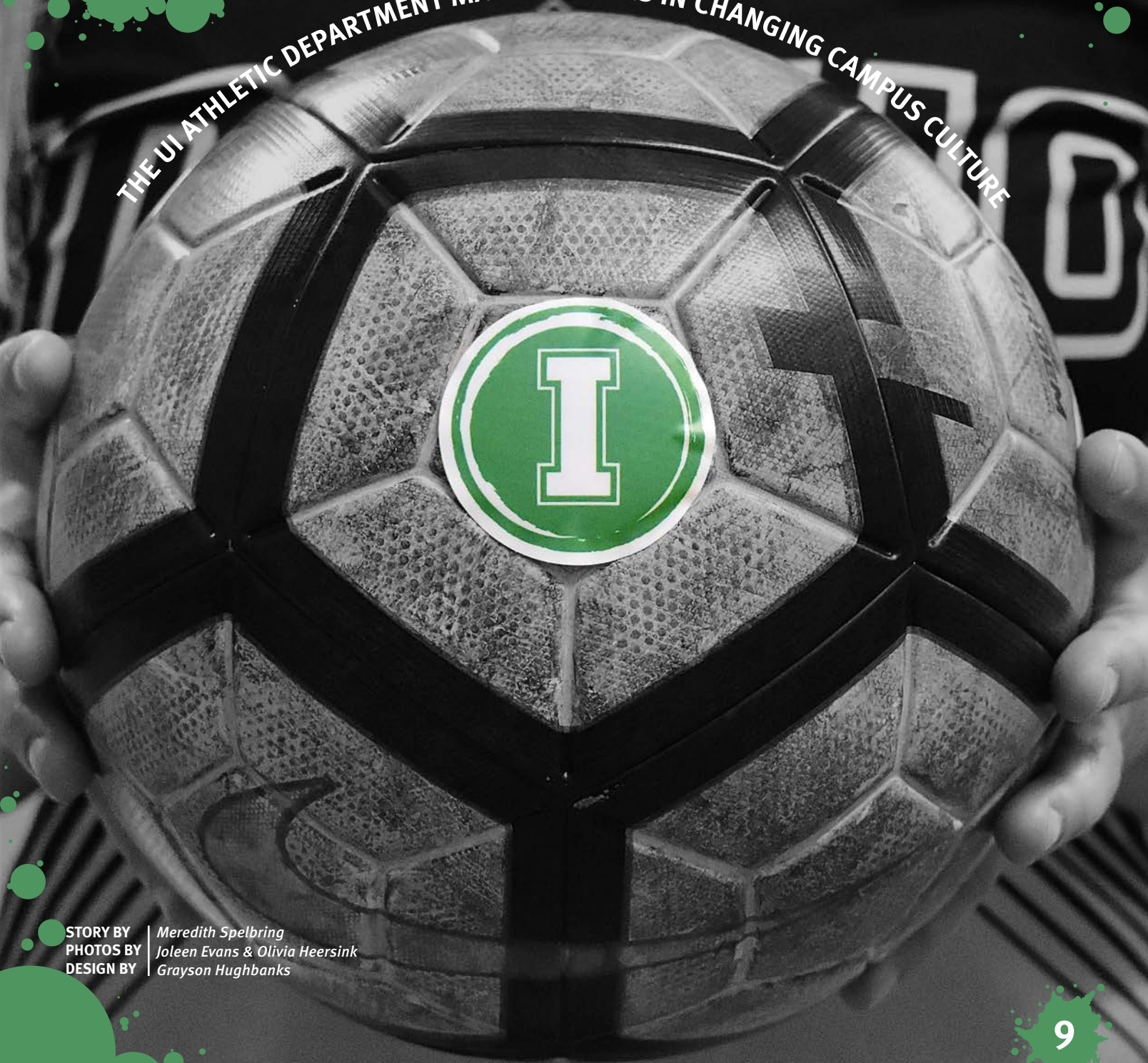
Peterson has not only found support in her family, but also in the UI transgender community and LGBTQA Office.

IMAGE BELOW

Athene Peterson began her transition six months ago

ONE DOT AT A TIME

THE UI ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MAKES STRIDES IN CHANGING CAMPUS CULTURE



STORY BY | *Meredith Spelbring*
PHOTOS BY | *Joleen Evans & Olivia Heersink*
DESIGN BY | *Grayson Hughbanks*

In June 2018, 40 University of Idaho football players crowded into the Kibbie Dome Lighthouse Center for training — a training without practice footage, pads or helmets.

Over the course of two days, the student-athletes completed a six-hour extended Green Dot Bystander training. The nationwide bystander intervention program focuses on giving people the tools and resources necessary to recognize and reduce interpersonal violence.

The hour-long Green Dot training is mandatory for all athletic personnel and student-athletes. However, the football program elected to take the extended six-hour training instead.

“Guys took it seriously,” said Conner Vrba, Idaho linebacker. “We’ve had people say they kind of feel better at parties when they know there is a football player there because they know if something is going on we have the confidence to step in and help out.”

The trainings, which vary in length, consist of videos, lectures and interactive activities, said Emilie McLarnan, UI coordinator for Violence Prevention Programs. The large group of athletes participating in the summer training not only engaged, but eagerly participated in the activities throughout the course of the program, she said.

“There was an activity where you look at a silent video and call out the warning signs of risky behaviors, and they were like, yelling so loud. Most of them were on their feet,” McLarnan said. “My ears were ringing for hours afterwards.”

The Violence Prevention Program began in 2007, McLarnan said. But Green Dot came to the UI campus in 2011 after the then-ASUI student government decided it was the best program to address issues surrounding violence and harassment.

“The intent is that it’s not a permanent fixture on a campus, that we get to a point where the culture on our campus has changed enough so that it doesn’t

need to be like its own thing because the norms on the campus have shifted enough,” McLarnan said.

The athletic department adopted Green Dot in 2014, when bystander training for all coaches, faculty, staff and student-athletes became mandatory.

While the program has been part of the department for several years, Claire Johnson, Student Athlete Advisory Committee president and former UI soccer player, said Green Dot’s role throughout athletics increased in recent years.

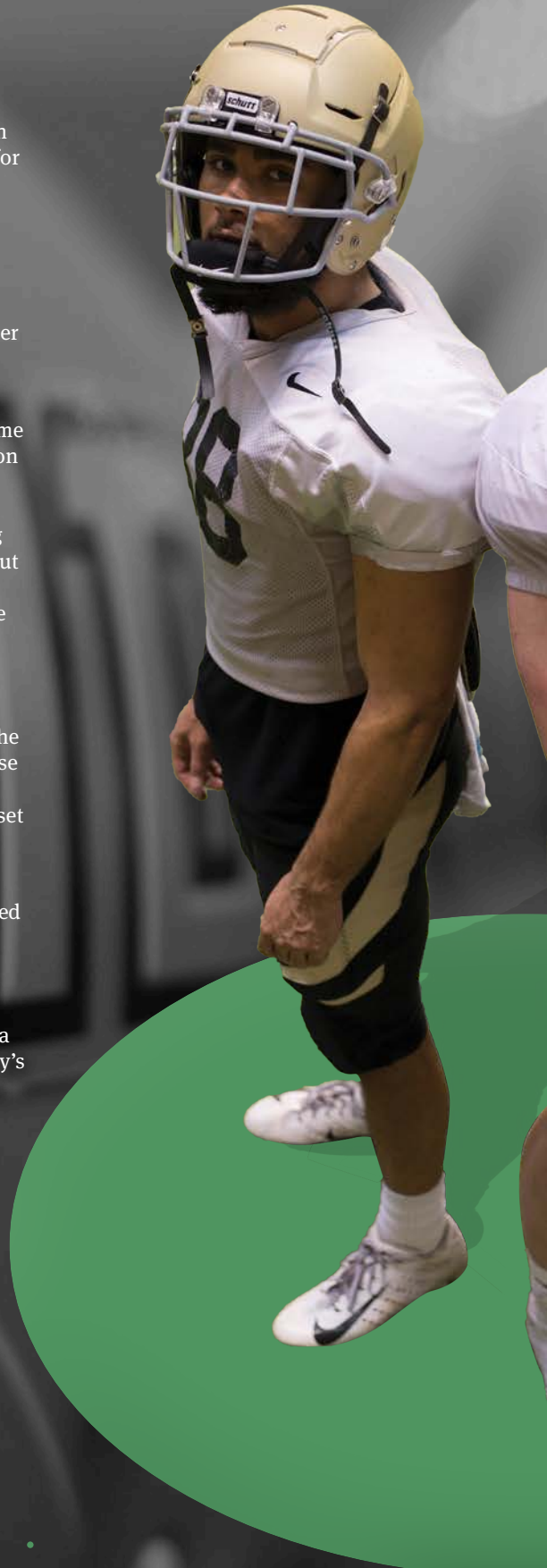
“It (violence prevention) has just become more of a regular topic in a conversation — and I think it needs to be,” Johnson said. “It is being brought to attention in the right ways. People are becoming informed, people are being taught about it, they are being given the tools so it is not just discussed and then left to be discussed and forgotten about.”

Since coming to the UI campus, Green Dot trainings have occurred in many different programs and departments. The training is one that not only equips those who go through it to identify violent or harassment situations and step in, but set a strong example on campus.

As recognizable names and faces on campus, student-athletes are often expected to set these examples in their community.

“That’s what comes with the territory when you chose to sign your name on the dotted line that you want to play for a university, then you bring that university’s reputation with you everywhere you go whether you like it or not,” linebacker Rahsaan Crawford said. “At the end of the day, when you chose to be a student-athlete for a university, you chose that responsibility whether you like it or not.”

The athletic department’s adoption of the program is part of ongoing communication between Green Dot and the department, said Bekah MillerMacPhee, Office of Violence





Against Women project director.

“Having people in different places like the athletic department buy into it makes a big statement,” MillerMacPhee said. “But (when) you have our athletic director go through and talk about how much he likes it, people are going to listen to it a different way because it’s not his job to say that.”

The emphasis on the program starts at the top, wide receiver Jeff Cotton said. The importance of preventing interpersonal violence not only comes from the trainings, but from coaches as well.

“Coach (Paul) Petrino does a good job of always telling us to treat women with respect,” Cotton said. “Some of us got sisters and we all got mothers, so think about how you would feel if someone put their hands on your sister or mother.”

The ongoing relationship between the athletic department and campus resources is one MillerMacPhee said is a unique back-and-forth partnership.

“I do think it’s unique. And I do think it’s pretty special,” MillerMacPhee said. “I think it really benefits all of our students, not just student athletes.”

The strong relationship between the two department is one Crawford is proud of.

“To know that I am a part of it, it is a pat on the back. But it is also a task. You got to get people to do the right thing,” Crawford said. “As I take on this responsibility, it feels rewarding.”

As survivors come forward with personal #MeToo stories, the conversation surrounding sexual assault and interpersonal violence continues to move forward, MillerMacPhee said.

“It’s a conversation starter. I think it’s given people language to talk about sexual violence,” MillerMacPhee said. “Which is really important, because it’s a hard thing to talk about. And if

you don’t have somebody modeling vocabulary around it, or how to have conversation, how to start a conversation, then it’s just a big huge barrier to talk about something.”

The conversation is one that has hit home within the athletic department.

In January 2018, former UI swim and dive athlete Mairin Jameson came forward about her assault from 2013, where a football player — Jahrie Level — reached up her skirt at a local bar and groped her. He continued harassing her and other women in the athletic department.

Jameson’s story eventually led to the firing of former Athletic Director Rob Spear last year amid allegations of Title IX mishandlings.

After, Johnson said there was a noticeable shift in conversation and an emphasis on Green Dot trainings — what used to be simply a mandated training became a necessary learning experience.

“It was something our athletic department needed in the sense that it needed to be brought to light, and I think that it for sure did,” Johnson said. “It is unfortunate that things have to happen for people to feel passionate about it, but I think our look on it as an athletic department has completely altered in the past four years — they’ve been progressing so much.”

Green Dot and its participants continue to strive toward shifting the conversation surrounding interpersonal violence. Recent cases coming to light on campus not only capture the program’s importance, but emphasize its necessity, MillerMacPhee said.

“It has confirmed the need to be committed to this education,” MillerMacPhee said. “It would be really nice if once we started implementing this programming, those things would just stop. But they won’t. It takes time. And so, I think that it has really confirmed the need for that commitment.”

IMAGE RIGHT

Jeff Cotton No. 88 and Logan Kendall No. 32 went through the Green Dot training.

Taking a Bite



e Out of Education

Educators and students discuss the state of Idaho's education system, importance of teaching

STORY BY | Hailey Stewart & Olivia Heersink
PHOTOS BY | Joleen Evans
DESIGN BY | Alex Brizee

Olivia Remmerden knew she wanted to be a teacher at 8 years old.

“I have this distinct memory from my second grade class where we had to draw pictures of ourselves and what we wanted to do with our lives,” Remmerden said. “It was me teaching in a classroom.”

The 21-year-old University of Idaho third-year student said she didn't know exactly what triggered that early desire to teach, but it has stuck with her ever since.

Remmerden, who is studying elementary education with an endorsement in English as a new language, said she not only hopes to teach academic lessons, but social and emotional ones, hitting all aspects of life.

“From so many experiences along the way — through middle school, high school and even college — it's been so obvious that I made the best decision,” said Remmerden, who is also minoring in Spanish. “We deal with academics, we deal with emotions, we deal with any sort of problem that a student is having in their lives, which I'm fine with — that's why I love it.”

Like Remmerden, Kathryn Bonzo was set on being an educator since the second grade.

Coming from a family of entrepreneurs, Bonzo said her career choice was often questioned.

“All I grew up with was, ‘Why are you going to teach? You're never going to make any money,’” she said.

Nonetheless, Bonzo knew the importance of an education as an 8-year-old, and in 1986, she graduated with her teaching degree from the University of South Alabama.

Now, 30 years into her career — with more than half of those spent in North Idaho — she has taught a variety of grade levels in several states and countries, including the Dominican Republic and Singapore. Currently, she teaches fourth grade at Moscow Charter School, where she's been for the past six years.

“I feel so lucky to have been able to do it as long as I have and I love it,” she said.

But it hasn't been without its challenges, Bonzo said, who is also a Moscow City Council member. One of the biggest? Funding — a common issue for many educators.

‘We are last of the pack’

In her 33-year teaching career, Cindy Wilson learned the importance of earning a good grade.

So when Idaho received a D-plus grade in Education Week's annual Quality Counts national rankings in 2018 for the second year in a row, she knew Idaho's funding needed reform as the educational landscape continued to change.

The D-plus grade, Wilson said, encompasses spending per educator and per student.

“The way we educate is changing on so many levels,” Wilson said. “There are so many things to teach and so many things teachers need to teach than ever before.”

Wilson ran against incumbent Sherri Ybarra in 2018 for Idaho superintendent of public instruction. Ybarra could not be reached for comment on this subject.

Wilson lost by three percentage points, but said she hopes the platforms she ran on during the campaign can still be implemented for Idaho schools. One of those priorities is investing in Idaho schools and students.

“Teachers who are in the field are working hard and doing the best they can with what they have,” Wilson said.

Of the young educators who begin teaching in Idaho, Wilson said many leave the state within their first five years for surrounding states such as Washington, Oregon and Utah — areas with either more educational support programming or more robust funding.

As part of that Quality Counts ranking, Idaho spent approximately \$8,000 per student per year, compared to the national average of \$12,000 per student per year, putting Idaho in one of the lowest spots in the country.

“We spend a good portion of the state's general fund on education,” Wilson said. “But maybe that just isn't enough anymore.”

Bonzo, who received her master's degree from UI, said her job performance is often reduced to a number. If students aren't succeeding on standardized tests, neither is she.

But it isn't just her abilities or her students who are questioned, it's the entire state. She said the problem isn't just inside the classroom — it's the amount of resources schools are receiving as a whole.

Even with the most recent legislative session, Bonzo said no additional funds were put toward education. They were just divided differently.



IMAGE ABOVE

Kathryn Bonzo instructs a student at Moscow Charter School.

“When we are only measuring it financially, we are last of the pack,” she said.

Growing up in a family of educators, Hannah Cartwright knows the difficulties teachers face, from funding to support.

The UI third-year elementary education student with an endorsement in literacy and new language, said growing up in the Genesee, Idaho, educational system made her want to teach in a rural Idaho district.

“I want to stay in Idaho, but I can see where we need to improve,” Cartwright said.

Those improvements, she said, need to come in the form of funding for all districts.

Often joking about the lack of resources and pay for teachers with her classmates, Cartwright said that deficit has steadily become an “ever-present cloud” over her education.

“We’ve all come to the realization that we aren’t going to get paid well or that our future classes won’t be funded well,” Cartwright said. “It’s a truth that we’ve just had to come to terms with.”

Kristin Rodine, spokesperson with the Idaho State Department of Education, said the No. 48 is widely associated with Idaho’s education system, but it can be misleading.

Rodine said that ranking comes from the

same 2018 Quality Counts report released by Education Week. The group graded each state using 39 different indicators.

“Many of these indicators do not reflect education quality, school performance or student performance, but instead measure states on such factors as whether parents speak English, the education level of parents and the annual income of citizens,” she said.

Rodine said a more accurate national ranking of K-12 education in Idaho comes from U.S. News and World Report, which puts Idaho in the middle of the pack at No. 25 — just ahead of Washington state.

Since the beginning of his political career, Idaho Gov. Brad Little said he has made education a top priority of his.

“It’s the right thing to do,” he said.

Recently, Little signed a bill increasing a teacher’s starting salary to \$40,000. He’s also passed bills increasing scholarships offerings for students seeking higher education, as well as doubling the amount of money going toward early childhood schooling.

With the help of the Idaho Legislature, Little hopes to also increase access to education for those interested in more career technical fields.

“(Education) is a lifelong skill,” he said. “It’s incredibly important and we need to help our students to realize that.”

Since there is a direct relationship between the state’s economy and its education systems, Little said they want at least 60% of the workforce to have a degree or certificate by 2024.

As education and economy are so closely tied, Kevin Cahill, a local economist, partnered with the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation to write the Idaho at Risk report, which details the ways in which Idaho lags behind the rest of the country, especially in educational funding and investment.

One of the pillars of the report is to

“There’s nothing quite like helping a child who needs help.”

“Leverage state income to increase school funding and make it equitable.”

“The intersection between Idaho’s educational system and our knowledge-based economy leads to a problematic picture for the future,” Cahill said. “As the economy has evolved over the last few decades, Idaho’s education system seems to be coming up short.”

The target audience for the report, Cahill said, is legislators and the Governor’s Office. However, he said anyone reading the report will see a “very bleak picture” if support for Idaho’s education system doesn’t change.

“Generally what we would like to signal to policy makers is Idaho can muddle through and get by — that’s the status quo,” Cahill said.

Cahill said he looks at education as a sort of life cycle that involves educators, students, funding, investment and support. Idaho, he said, ranks poorly in most categories of that life cycle.

“Future employers aren’t thinking about Idaho for highly educated workers, but our state can change that cycle,” Cahill said. “The key to change is our education pipeline. What can we improve to change the dynamic in Idaho’s favor?”

‘Do more with less’

Taylor Raney’s journey to becoming an educator has been anything but conventional.

Raney said it took him seven years to complete his teaching degree at UI, ending with a lower GPA than what is required to currently enter the education program.

“My head wasn’t in the game yet,” said Raney, who later received his master’s and doctorate degrees from Northwest

Nazarene University. “But I feel like those of us who struggled in education are better able to reach learners.”

He went on to teach English, French and Spanish in the Boise area before becoming a principal and director of teacher certification and professional standards for the Idaho State Department of Education.

Now, back at his alma mater, Raney oversees all programs leading to teacher certification through the UI Department of Curriculum and Instruction as the director of teacher education.

Raney said the university offers innovative education experiences to best prepare students for their eventual classrooms and provides multiple degree paths such as primary, secondary and special education, as well as a career technical focus.

“It’s important to have all of these high-quality offerings, but still as many offerings as you can, so that they fit anyone who might want to be a teacher. We have a pathway for them,” he said.

Since many teachers often change professions in the first few years of their careers, Raney said the education program is realistic about the later challenges their students could face, which is why they are required to complete so many practicum hours before student teaching and graduation.

“It is a tough job and it’s also a rewarding job,” Raney said.

For Wilson, education is more than just teaching a structured curriculum — it’s being part of a child’s life.

“There’s nothing quite like helping a child who needs help,” Wilson said.

However, because of lacking resources,

teachers often don’t have the time to fully help develop a child’s skill set as much as they would like to, Wilson said. This is where significant teacher preparation and training comes into play, especially for younger educators.

“Teachers are being asked to do more with less,” Wilson said.

IMAGE ABOVE

Olivia Remmerden studies in the UI Education Building.

It’s the difficulties of that broad task, Wilson said, that make teaching both demanding yet rewarding.

Bonzo said teachers have and always will fund their own classrooms due to a lack of necessary resources. Although, it isn’t just their salaries that need to be increased, but support staffs and schools in general.

“To me the heartache is, as a society,

“My field is controlled by people who don’t do my job — that’s hard.”

people talk about the importance of educating children, but if that was the case, we would fund it,” Bonzo said. “My field is controlled by people who don’t do my job — that’s hard.”

Bonzo said she works with dedicated people who are making the most of what they have.

Remmerden said her professors do whatever they can to help prepare students for their eventual classrooms, providing potential scenarios, ideas for lesson plans and real-world experience.

“I think I’ve been prepared the best that I can, but you don’t know what’s going to happen until you enter that classroom,” Remmerden said.

The preparation she has received at UI, she said, is a balancing act between utilizing outdated resources while needing to think ahead in connecting with students.

“One of the biggest things I’m learning is the way we are being taught and need to teach is changing. It’s very different from the way people were being taught 10 to 15 years ago,” Cartwright said.

Hoping to work with young Idaho students, Cartwright said she is focused on setting the standard for a good education early in their academic careers.

“The younger we are, the more potential we have for learning,” Cartwright said.

‘The right direction’

However, the key to true success in the classroom isn’t just related to funding or prior preparation — it’s the relationships between teachers and parents.

Bonzo said if a student’s parent had a bad experience at school, those negative feelings are then passed on to the child.

“People like to think I have a ton of

influence, but the people who have the most influence are the parents,” Bonzo said. “It’s when we work together for the good of the child that you see them really move forward. I’m in the relationship business.”

Overtime, Bonzo said teachers have lost the respect and autonomy their job demands, with parents often thinking of themselves as teachers.

“People used to respect education, so they respected educators,” she said. “In our society, we have said you have value if you are highly paid, not if you’re highly educated.”

Like Bonzo, Raney said he has dealt with people who believed their K-12 experience is representative of everyone’s experiences.

Teachers are responsible for making all other professions, Raney said, but the importance of their role is often lost or forgotten about, being written off because they aren’t working in the summer or on-call shifts. They also aren’t able to just leave at 3 p.m. when their students do.

“Teachers are working long, long hours. I remember 12 to 15 hour days,” Raney said. “I’d challenge anyone who thinks teaching is easy to go teach a group of kindergartners for a day and maintain their sanity.”

Remmerden believes anyone who disregards education or teaching majors hasn’t spent enough time within a classroom. However, the importance of

their work makes any additional hardship or inconvenience worth it, especially the negative comments.

She said each person has had a teacher or professor who has changed their lives at least somewhat, opening their minds to new ideas and guiding them toward their future paths.

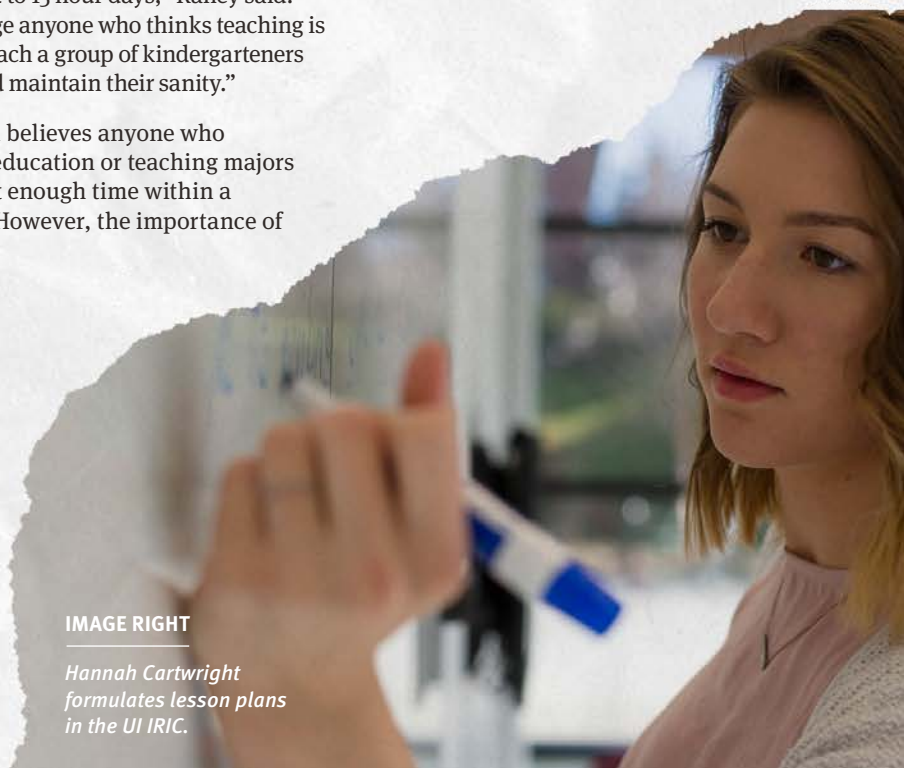
“I can only hope that I’m going to do that for even just one child, and I will be happy,” Remmerden said. “No matter where I’m teaching — whether it’s in Idaho or even another country — I want to make sure that the kids know I’m there to support them.”

Cartwright said it will be a challenge to overcome some of the stigmas and barriers holding back young teachers when entering the educational workforce. But with a confidence in her abilities to connect with young learners, she is excited to give back to Idaho students.

“With enough people working in the right direction, we can make change. I want to make Idaho better because I know that there is a lot of potential,” Cartwright said. “It can change.”

IMAGE RIGHT

Hannah Cartwright formulates lesson plans in the UI IRIC.



CYCLING FULL CIRCLE



IMAGE ABOVE

Jen Jackson repairs a bike tire at Palouse Bicycle Collective.

MOSCOW CYCLISTS, BIKE SHOP OWNERS SHARE THE STORIES THAT CONNECT THEM WITH CYCLING

STORY BY | *Kyle Pfannenstiel*
PHOTOS BY | *Olivia Heersink*
DESIGN BY | *Alex Saucedo & Alex Brizee*

When T.J. Clevenger saw a stranger enter his shop with his childhood 1982 Schwinn World Sport on his first day of ownership, he gave the man a choice.

“I don’t know if you stole it. I don’t care if you stole it. I’m not even going to ask the question,” he said. “But I will give you any used bike out front for the price I paid for it.”

The alternative he offered to his very first customer was to call the Moscow Police Department, as Clevenger reported the bike stolen six years ago after he discovered it was taken from his porch.

The stranger left without a bike that day.

Clevenger originally bought the Schwinn with help from his parents, who split the \$450 price. Clevenger’s half was money saved from mowing lawns. He said he rode it through middle and high schools, even bringing it with him on his naval deployment in the Persian Gulf War.

After leaving the Navy in 1995, Clevenger became a truck driver before moving to Lewiston to study nursing. He said he then moved to Moscow one year later because he preferred that city’s culture.

He used the Navy’s G.I. Bill to pay for school at the University of Idaho. There, he began working at Paradise Creek

Bicycles largely for grocery money.

Six years after graduating, the then-owner offered to sell the shop to Clevenger while he was doing soil moisture monitoring in Pullman. About a year later, in August 2008, he became owner and operator of the shop, with his brother and father as business partners. He’s now been in Moscow for 22 years.

Clevenger’s story is unique, but he isn’t alone. Other cyclists throughout the Palouse have plenty of stories to share about how they became connected to cycling, as well.

Jen Jackson is the executive director for the Palouse Bicycle Collective, which began in 2017. She got into cycling because she went to school without a car. The fact that she doesn’t like driving much also contributed to her love for cycling.

One day, while riding her bike home in Hawaii during her college days, the tire became flat. As she walked past a nearby cycling shop, an employee came out and noticed her issue. Even though they were closed for the day, they helped her repair the flat and sent her on her way.

“It started from there. That’s how I got into it,” Jackson said.

She became good friends with the manager and soon became a barista and bike mechanic who trained in triathlons.

“Flat tires are a part of cycling,” she said.

Jackson said she is a life-long cyclist, from riding mountain bikes with clipped-in pedals during her childhood to eventually moving to more expensive road gear.

She eventually moved to Moscow, where she finished school at UI with a degree in exercise science.

Jackson has directed the Palouse Bicycle Collective for nearly three years now. The cooperatively owned bicycle shop helps riders fix their bicycles by teaching them about mechanics and repairs, letting them use the shop’s tools to fix their bikes and offering assistance when needed.

Jackson said the shop is the only cycling collective in the area. She said a unique aspect of managing the shop is seeing people interested in learning begin to grow as personal mechanics.

“If you’re not riding bicycles, you’re not breaking anything,” she said.

Jackson said the shop recycles some 2 to 5 tons of metal yearly, in hopes of keeping the waste out of landfills.

The shop also offers trades for work in exchange for bicycles or repairs for its customers.

She said working at the shop is a beautiful thing, especially when the employees have the opportunity to teach customers about repairs.

“Having someone find enjoyment in it is really why we’re here,” Jackson said.

Gavin Scoles, an employee at the collective for nearly three years, said he also enjoys working at the shop. Moving to Moscow when he was 5 years old, he grew up cycling on the Palouse.

Scoles became a personal mechanic because he was “too poor to pay people to work on bikes,” buying parts and tools while watching repair videos on YouTube.

He said he picked up some bad repair habits from his younger days, but the



SAFETY TIPS FOR CYCLISTS

A bicycle is considered a vehicle when on the roadway. If a bike is on the sidewalk or at a crosswalk, a cyclist is considered a pedestrian.



SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR CYCLISTS

Wear reflective vests. Use flashing lights, headlights or lamps when it’s dark.

Safety tips provided by Moscow Police Cpl. Casey Green.

more senior mechanics at the collective are quick to correct him.

Scoles has four or five bikes currently, but one of his favorites is undoubtedly his dirt jumper. He has sunk hundreds of dollars into the bike, with it needing constant repairs to keep going.

“My dirt jumper is a constant money pit,” Scoles said.

The drive train issues put constant strain on the chain, leading to it going through three chains or so each year.

“There is a constant flow of cycling parts on that bike,” Scoles said.

Still, he’ll continue to sink money into it for the foreseeable future.

“It’s a pain in the butt, but I like the bike,” said Scoles, who is taking a break from UI while working.

Clevenger doesn’t believe in religion, but he does believe in something greater than himself. That something gave him a hint that owning a bike shop is a career path he should follow, he said.

“I’ve had hundreds of bikes in my life,” Clevenger said with a smile. “But this is the only bike that’s ever made it through since 1982.”

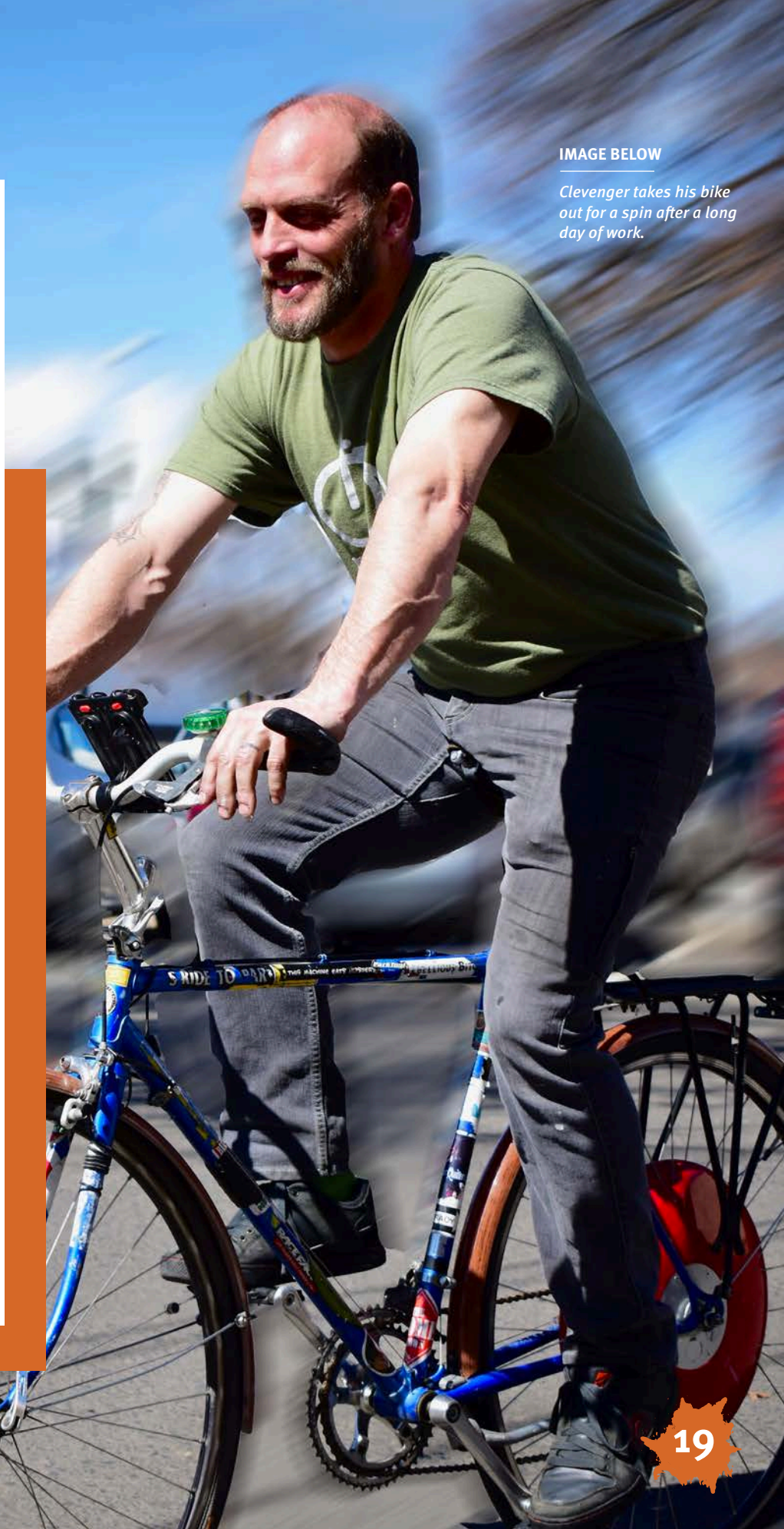
A new stem and handlebar, along with a pannier rack, sit on the bike. But the fork, crank and headset have made it through the various decades.

Clevenger said his bike recovery story solidified his belief he was pursuing the right career.

“A college education is fantastic, but if it’s in something you’re good at instead of something you love, you might not be happy for the rest of your life,” he said.

IMAGE BELOW

Clevenger takes his bike out for a spin after a long day of work.





PRESERVING AN INDUSTRY

STORY BY | *Brandon Hill*
PHOTOS BY | *Leslie Kiebert*
DESIGN BY | *Cadence Moffitt*

WITH AN INDUSTRY IN DECLINE, LOGGER SPORTS SERVE AS A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

On firm Moscow soil, Paul Riebe stands poised and ready with a chain saw in hand.

As the timer starts, Riebe sprints around a log balanced precariously with one end pointing to the Palouse sky. He begins his careful yet urgent ascent up the makeshift obstacle course, constructed to resemble a see-saw with the bottom end planted firmly in the ground.

At the top of the pole, Riebe is expected to drop-start his saw, using a single hand to throw the bladed machine away from his body. But before he even gets a chance, his foot — along with most of his body weight — lands on the end of the skyward bound log.

The single screw holding the tip of the already severed log gives way. Riebe and the saw both spin wildly through the air.

His hands are sliced on the log and Riebe's midsection takes a beating. But it is all part of the job for the captain of the University of Idaho logger sports club.

"If I was worried about it, then I probably wouldn't be doing it," Riebe said.

ROOTED IN HISTORY

The idea of logger sports, Riebe said, is a simple one. Born straight out of the industry, logger sports began as most games often do — an argument.

"A dispute arose and that evolved into who was the best axe man or the best sawyer," he said. "They agreed to settle it on even terms, and all of a sudden it wasn't just about them anymore."

Logger sports and the many techniques utilized during Saturday practices and occasional competitions serve as a snapshot of an industry on the decline, he said. Members of the club saw away at the many blocks of cottonwood off U.S. Highway 8 near the university's Pitkin Forest Nursery, keeping the longstanding traditions of logging alive — despite the dropping number of forests actually being cut across Idaho and beyond.

Since the late 1990s and early 2000s, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, America's consumption of timber has sharply

IMAGES

Members of the UI Logger Sports club compete April 6 at the UI experimental nursery.



decreased. With the rise of the internet and computer industry, as well as increased concerns surrounding endangered species and environmental protection concerns, the country's need for loggers has fallen.

Adam Sowards, a UI professor and director of Pacific Northwest studies, said the industry found its way to Idaho and its surrounding states at the dawn of the 20th century. After the northern Midwest became over harvested, sections of land resembling a checkerboard pattern were sold to different private logging organizations or were designated to the federal government.

“The U.S. Government gave land to railroad companies, so they would build rail lines across the country,” Sowards said. “Railroads often sold their land to timber companies, so that’s what happened here in the Northwest and northern Idaho.”

But as the industry took a hit nearly 100 years later, logger sports became the premier place for those not heavily invested in the practice to witness the sheer physical skill it takes to succeed as a logger.

TESTING GRIT AND SKILL

Riebe and the six logger athletes who frequent Saturday morning practices set their sights on multiple events testing the grit and skill of those not directly involved in the industry.

Competitors partake in vertical chopping contests, where contenders stand atop a block — or log — and chop down beneath their feet. Events such as this can be measured by either the number of hits it takes to split the wood or the amount of time to do such.

Loggers can also chop horizontally, as if felling a tree, or partake in the choker obstacle course. Runners take in hand a metal cable made for cinching around logs, which would be attached to a helicopter and air lifted out of the forest. With the cable, competitors race through tunnels, crawling over and under obstacles before fastening it around a log.

“My uncle, when he was a logger in high school, he used to be a choker setter and it was right after the Vietnam War,” Riebe said. “They had a lot of old helicopter pilots who had just gotten out of the war. The choker setters on the ground are kind of the grunts.”

Meanwhile, Kylie Reich said her specialty lies in the more grueling event — cross cutting. Competitors use a much longer saw, with wooden handles attached on either end, nicknamed the “misery whip.” In either pair of solo events, competitors use nothing but their arms and torso to drag the saw across the log, attempting to shave off a “cookie” or small slice of the log.

“It’s pretty miserable. When you run it, you whip your body, so you have to have the right motion,” Reich said. “But it’s pretty miserable. Most people hate single bucking.”

A DANGEROUS GAME

While Riebe said most competitors are fluent enough in the necessary skills to operate safely, accidents do happen.

Outside of Riebe’s run-in with the chain saw, he and Reich have both witnessed serious accidents during competitions at other schools.

Riebe said he witnessed a woman slip in a much similar way as him, also on the obstacle pole. However, her fall proved to be much more life-threatening.

“I heard a story about a girl that fell off the pole, lost her balance and she let go of the wrong part of the saw,” he said. “She let go with her left hand but held on to the trigger. She’s pinwheeling off the pole with a full RPM saw.”

Luckily, Riebe said, no one was hurt. Reich, meanwhile, said she witnessed a male competitor prepping a block for a vertical chop. While swinging down between his feet, the extra sharp axe sliced right into his foot.

Necessary safety measures are taken by most who partake in the event, such as wearing socks made of chain mail or cleated shoes made to dig into the wood. However, these methods are not always fool-proof, as Reich

said she too fell off the obstacle pole with chain saw in hand.

“You wear corked shoes that have spikes on them. I was in the wood pretty good. I started the chain saw, lost my balance, fell with a running chain saw in my hand,” she said. “I turned around and grabbed the pole, so I fell on my back. I knocked the wind out of myself, but besides that I was OK.”

SUSTAINING THE CULTURE

As the logging industry continues to decline, Riebe said those economic troubles have translated into the club’s inability to sustain many members. Just after he had earned the title of captain, Riebe said he faced the possibility of being the sole competitor for the club, which had been part of the UI community since 1902.

After a strong recruiting push in the fall, Riebe was able to secure enough members for a proper team. Now a UI graduate student, Reich was one of those members.

While the club focuses on competition and training on a week-to-week basis, members also try to create a positive impact in the Palouse community.

Riebe said the club cuts and sells chords of wood before the winter

months hit Moscow.

The club also volunteers at the annual Orofino Lumberjack Days event, where the team helps clear the competition ground. In exchange, those hosting donate unused logs for the team to practice with.

And while the team gives back to the community, alumni who competed in years past help train the up-and-coming logger athletes.

Amanda Chenowith, a 2016 UI graduate, still spends the occasional Saturday with the team, helping set up for competitions.

Chenowith said she came to school with no idea she would ever become so enthralled in the logger sports world. But after a brief introduction, she was hooked.

After graduation, she took her talents to the big stage and now stands as the 32nd best competitor in the country and the single best in Idaho.

Chenowith said she plans to compete in the STIHL Timbersports Series, an event described by Riebe as the “World Series of logger sports.”

“I love it. This is how I got started. Might as well help those who need it,” she said. “To get good at this sport, you have to have an open mind. Just like any sport, you have to be teachable and coachable.”

IMAGES LEFT

Member of the UI Logger Sports club chops a block April 6.



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Humans of Moscow

One semester from retirement as a UI professor of law, Elizabeth Brandt reflects upon her decision to go to law school in the first place.

“I found out that I loved law school. I did better in law school than I’ve ever done in school before. In terms of what inspired me, I’ve always had these interests in free speech. I’ve always cared about the downtrodden. I’ve been a crusader on those issues. My work in theater got me involved early in crusading for LGBTQ rights. Law seemed like something where maybe I could do all of those things.”

– Elizabeth Brandt



Because stories are worth telling.

