

MARCH 2023

# BLOTT

## **Home to Culture, Community and Creativity**

Field trips, study abroad, music and much more

## **Students, Staff and Faculty Collaborate to Introduce MyUI**

CAA and OIT are collaborating to design and test for the new university interface

## **Bridging the Gap Between Learning and Doing**

Engineering students in Steel Bridge Club work toward building a bridge for the annual competition

THE COLLEGE ISSUE

# Blot Magazine

MARCH 2023

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## Editor's Letter

Dear Reader,

Picking which university to attend is one of the biggest decisions you can make as a young adult pursuing higher education. If you're reading this, you're most likely a student, a parent, or a Moscow community member who is familiar with the University of Idaho, which means you've already made that great first step. However, picking which college to attend is an entirely different game. Which one suits your academic interests? Which one has the clubs and organizations that will help you form valuable connections with people going into the same field or industry? Which one feels like you? For some members of the Vandal family, these questions lead to unforgettable class experiences, involvement in exciting projects and initiatives, lifelong friendships and even job offers and career opportunities. In this issue, our team is highlighting every college and academic program UI has to offer. Whether you're interested in the colleges of Agricultural & Life Sciences, Art & Architecture, Business & Economics, Education, Health & Human Sciences, Engineering, Letters, Arts & Social Sciences, Natural Resources, Science, or even upper-level programs for Law or graduate students, our writers have the scoop on the best of each division. You can also learn about the ins and outs of the Honors Program, and read a thoughtful, reflective poetry piece on the joys of success and our complicated desire for achievement. Above all, we wish you the best experience in finding your college, and by extension, yourself, as you pursue your education at the home of the Vandals.



Katarina Hockema

Editor in Chief

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# Carrying the Torch: A Look into UI's Law Program

Read about a first-hand experience of being a student at UI's "Best Value Law School"

Story, Photos and Design By  
**MEGAN SCHWARTZ**

The University of Idaho College of Law is a welcoming and affordable program for people of every background and offers ample opportunities for the beginning of a successful career in the field of law.

It is a three-year graduate program offered on both the Moscow and Boise University of Idaho campuses. The degree programs include a juris doctor degree, concurrent degrees and the 3+3 law degree program. The program offers four different areas in which a student can emphasize in. These include Business Law and Entrepreneurship Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law Track, Native American Law and Natural Resources and Environmental Law.

The law program offers students a variety of ways to build their practical skills including things like clinics, competitions, externships, a pro bono program, magistrate judge research assistance, semester in practice, legislative

research assistance programs and a trial advocacy program.

There are approximately 400 students enrolled in the program across both campuses. No matter what campus you study on, UI's law program is one of the most affordable in the nation for both in-state and out-of-state students, being named a Best Value Law School by Prelaw Magazine.

UI's program has a lower tuition and fees rate and offers an abundant amount of money in scholarships. It participates in the WRGP, short for Western Regional Graduate Program. This program grants students from specific states with the opportunity to pay resident tuition rather than out-of-state. For example, in the fall of 2022, over 90% of the students in the law program were awarded in-state tuition.

John Hoffman, originally from Lafayette, California, received his undergraduate degree at Boise State University and now is a 2L (second year) studying at the University of





**“Being a student at the University of Idaho College of Law has a special purpose. Idaho and a handful of other states only have one law school within them. You feel as if you’re carrying the torch for the future legal practice in that state.”**

Idaho College of Law. He chose the University of Idaho for its community and the opportunities that it provides. Hoffman loves the environment of UI’s law program. It’s a smaller program with small classrooms, which gives him the opportunity to get to know classmates, comfortably approach professors and connect with others in the community. One of his favorite parts about the program is the fact that you don’t have to pick an area to emphasize in. You can test out different classes and subject areas to see what you like.

Law school is definitely a challenge. Vigorous studying with ample reading keeps students busy. “Students get cold-called, so you can’t get away with skimping on the reading,” said Hoffman.

Currently, Hoffman’s plans after graduation next year are up in the air. He’s thinking about going into estate planning, which entails assisting people in dealing with wills, trusts and estates. He’s hoping to make a law career for himself in Idaho, more specifically the Boise area. “I want to represent the people of Idaho,” said Hoffman.

“Being a student at the University of Idaho College of Law has a special purpose. Idaho and a handful of other states only have one law school within them,” Hoffman said. “You feel as if you’re carrying the torch for the future legal practice in that state.”



**HOFFMAN STUDYING AT ONE OF HIS FAVORITE CAMPUS STUDY SPOTS, MONICA’S COFFEE BAR AT ST. AUGUSTINES CATHOLIC CENTER.**

# Get Educated: Inspiring a Love of Learning

Meet one of the College of Education, Health & Human Sciences' very own, Dr. Andrew Scheef

Story By **DAKOTA BROWN**

Photo By **GIA MAZZARELLA**

Design By **GENESIS CORTEZ**

When wandering the beautiful hallways of the College of Education, Health & Human Sciences, it's hard not to notice all the hard work and dedication that went into not only the building's remodel, but also the continued care that its staff and faculty provide to members of the CEHH community. One of the faculty members who has acted as an inspiration and leader in the college is Dr. Andrew Scheef, an assistant professor of special education. He has been teaching at the University of Idaho for the past six years and has helped to create several opportunities for students interested in the field of education.

Before becoming an assistant professor here on campus, Scheef was an elementary school music teacher. In total, he has approximately 24 years of experience in the profession. He exclaimed that his position now in special education was not the original plan. "I kinda just fell into it. I taught music, then my family and I moved out here and there wasn't a position open for music so I subbed," Scheef said. "I didn't like subbing because of the inconsistent schedule, so I took a job as a paraprofessional and fell in love with it. I did my endorsement right after that."

Dr. Scheef shared that the College of Education provides a great spot for physical space on campus. "I'm lucky to have gotten started here after the remodel. Our building makes me feel good," Scheef said. "There's so much glass, and on a day like today when the sun is shining all over the common space and the classrooms...it's just so nice."

Scheef also commented on the community in the college as being in the regrowth process since COVID-19, but he still feels that it is a supportive community. "I've got great colleagues, great students. It helps that people who go into teaching are often good students," Scheef said. "Once students get to me, they have a sense that they want to be a teacher and take it seriously. They're motivated."





**DR. ANDREW SCHEEF, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF UI

One of the other things that Dr. Scheef has helped to develop and put on over the past few years is the Vandal Summer Academy, a summer program for students in high school who are interested in learning more about the college experience. Over five days, the participants partake in career workshops and attend presentations on college and available resources. They also have time during their visit to explore areas of Moscow and see different housing options on campus like the residence halls and Greek life. “For me, selfishly, Vandal Summer Academy is the highlight of my year because I get to reconnect with

**“Part of teaching in general is teaching people how to teach, but you can’t have a cookie-cutter teacher because you have to be you.”**

students, I get to have those experiences with them, and watch them start to understand what college is like,” Scheef said. “I hire UI students who serve as peer mentors and resident assistants during the week, and I think that informal experience is one of the kids’ highlights, too.”

Dr. Scheef completes interviews at the end of each spring semester to determine hires for Vandal Summer Academy. These students generally learn about this position through their connections with the CEHH community. As a member of the college, I was one of the lucky few who learned about VSA and applied for a position.

During the last two summers, I have been fortunate enough

to work for Dr. Scheef and the university in a peer-mentorship role for Vandal Summer Academy. It has been a wonderful opportunity to form genuine connections with kids and show them what they are capable of accomplishing on their own while visiting here. This role helped to solidify my interests in the field of education, and Dr. Scheef will be someone I always look to as an inspiration for taking positive action to find what a community needs and delivering it.

When discussing teaching up-and-coming future educators and valuable advice given by a colleague, Dr. Scheef was quite insightful.

“You have to be yourself. Part of teaching in general is teaching people how to teach, but you can’t have a cookie-cutter teacher because you have to be you. You have to have your own teaching personality,” Scheef said. “If someone were to hand me a presentation to go off of, I would still need to make it my own. I need to be true to myself as a person and recognize my strengths and try to play to those. We want our students to play to their strengths and persevere.”

Dr. Scheef mentioned the importance of evaluating our past experiences to prepare for future ones. He has helped to pioneer so many things for students involved with the college and has one of the biggest hearts in the community. His love for educating is more than evident, it is enough to ignite the passion for learning and for helping others in everyone who meets him. It is our hope to see many applicants for the Vandal Summer Academy this upcoming cycle. If you happen to meet Dr. Scheef on the pathway to class, give him a wave or smile. He deserves it.

# Let's Get Down to Business

The College of Business & Economics has many exciting things to offer

Story By **VANESSA WERNER**

Photos By **GIA MAZZARELLA**

Design By **JACQUELINE WALKER**



The College of Business & Economics is one of the many colleges at the University of Idaho. It offers eight majors and provides various opportunities for its students.

Undergraduate degrees that the CBE offers include accounting, business economics, financing, marketing, management information systems, management and human resources, online business administration and operations and supply chain management. It also has a master's and juris doctorate in accounting, as well as certificates in areas such as applied finance, business leadership, enterprise systems integration, sales management and technical program management. People may complete their degrees at the Moscow campus, online or a combination of both, depending on the major.

The CBE also provides several opportunities for students to gain experience in their fields and apply concepts that they have learned in the classroom in a real-world setting before graduating.

For example, students can go into the Barker Trading Program. This program allows students to build their knowledge of markets, get a better understanding of trading capital, learn how to manage risk strategically and learn skills on managing financial assets. It is offered for both academic credit and a trading certificate.

Another organization for CBE students to get involved in is Beta Alpha Psi. The goal of BAP is to provide recognition for the field of business, including a sense of ethical, social and public responsibility, give opportunities for personal and career growth; promote the study and practice of different careers within the CBE and provide a welcoming environment to meet people and make new friends. BAP has opportunities to develop professional and leadership skills while providing tutoring and mentoring for those who may be struggling in their classes.

The Professional Golfers Association is also a part of the CBE. The PGA is a four-and-a-half-year program for students who are interested in playing golf professionally, and is one of only 18 PGA of America accredited





programs. Students complete a Bachelor's of Science degree in one of the business majors offered by UI, the Professional Golf Management 3.0 program and 16 months of internships in the golf industry. More information about the PGA can be found on the UI website for the CBE.

There are also many hands-on learning opportunities for students. These include student businesses, an entrepreneurship program and student-managed investments. More real-world learning opportunities and related programs can be found on the UI website.

The CBE also has an Executive Shadow Program that is available to all students in the college. The Chicago-based program lasts for two to three days over spring break and allows students to meet with experts and learn what day-to-day life looks like in their fields. Upon returning to campus, students give a brief presentation about their experiences to CBE faculty and advisors. All expenses are paid for, to alleviate worry about finances.

Other organizations in the CBE include the Business Process Center, the Davis Investment Group, the Economic Impact Center, the Idaho Entrepreneurs and Vandal Solutions, all of which provide great hands-on learning experiences for students. They are a great way for students to become more successful in their potential future careers.

In addition, there are clubs that are specific to the CBE. These clubs include the American Marketing Association, Vandal Hat Hackers and the Human Resource Management Club. These clubs are an excellent way to get involved in various activities while learning new things and greatly benefit students who join them.

The CBE also offers scholarships for students. There is a fund available for people to donate to, with funds used to award students with scholarships. The link to the fund can be found on the CBE website.

With many amazing opportunities and chances for real-world experiences in related fields, the CBE is here to help students succeed and get a head start in their future careers while still in school. Anyone working toward or considering a major within the CBE should take advantage of the resources available for them.

# An Honors Love Letter

A student's reflection on her time being a member of the Honors Program at the University of Idaho

Story and Photos By **DAKOTA BROWN**

Design By **GIA MAZZARELLA**

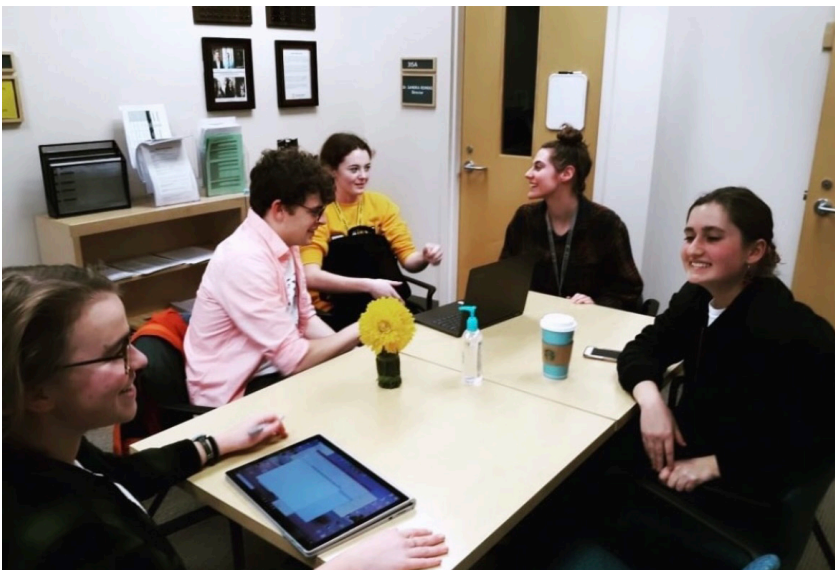
When I first arrived at the University of Idaho, I knew I wanted to be involved with a community on campus that would understand my love of learning on a deeper level than the average student. What I didn't know, at the time, is that this program would not only help connect me to other nerds, but it would give me some of the best experiences I could ever ask for throughout my time completing my undergrad. In my freshman year, I lived on one of the honors floors of Theophilus Tower. By the end of the first semester, a group of approximately 13 of us were meeting regularly on Thursday nights for "Dungeons and Dragons" ("D&D"). This was the highlight of my week, and it tethered me to so many students across different disciplines on campus. Through our initial connection with the Honors Program, I made some of my best friends. Not to mention many other exceptional opportunities being presented to me that I otherwise wouldn't have encountered in other programs.

I was able to participate in many things that related to areas I wish to pursue after graduation because of people in the program like Dr. Sandra Reineke, our program director, and Dr. Diane Carter, our faculty fellow. I had access to gaining editorial experience through working on *The Looking Glass* literary magazine for two issues, serving on the Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB) for two terms, attending the Western

Regional Honors Conference (WRHC) and finishing an honors thesis project in preparation for graduate school. I even served as a Resident Assistant (RA) during my sophomore year to continue developing the next cycle of our community. I adored that position, not only for the coworkers I was able to befriend in housing but also for the women in honors I had the privilege of getting to know throughout the school year. This is only the tip of the iceberg. Being part of this program has offered me so much more beyond the common eye for positions and presentations—it has helped to refine my skills in communicating with others.

I learned that the most important thing about our program was the people who took part in it. There is nothing more valuable than those you choose to spend your time with because, in reality, time is our most prized currency. I knew that I wanted my home away from home to be filled with those with whom I could really be myself around. That nerdy, bookish, dork who has way too much determination in making a lasting impression on this place before leaving. That girl with a desire to keep this love of learning and drive for growth continuing beyond our time at the University of Idaho.

That was the true gift given by this program; others who would keep going with me.



**“That was the true gift given by this program; others who would keep going with me.”**



# Bridging the Gap Between Learning and Doing

Engineering students in Steel Bridge Club work toward building a bridge for the annual competition

Story, Photos and Design By **GIA MAZZARELLA**

Each week, engineering students are at work building a 20-foot-long steel bridge.

Steel Bridge Club is a team of students that participates in the annual Student Steel Bridge Competition. The competition is organized by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), a not-for-profit technical institute and trade association dedicated to “serving the structural steel design community and construction industry in the United States,” according to the AISC website.

The University of Idaho Steel Bridge Club student chapter has been participating in the competition for over 20 years. Each year AISC releases a new set of rules that the team uses to design their steel bridge. Students

Brandt said. “That’s where the real engineering challenge comes.”

The team begins the project at the start of fall semester and meets weekly until the regional competition in the spring.

Students first design the bridge using a structural engineering software, SAP2000, that tests the bridge’s strength under loads. They then build a scale model on a design software, Civil3D, to create building plans. The team references this model when building the physical components.

Once the steel is delivered, the students begin fabrication. There are also specific rules for the individual components of the bridge.

“We have to make sure we design all of our pieces to be able to be rapidly assembled, and still meet the requirements of being bolted connections that fit inside the given dimensions,” Tommy Dittman, club member, said.

Students gain hands-on experience building physical models of their designs, learning how to cut, drill and weld steel.

“One of the coolest things about this club is how we relate the engineering theory and design principles that we learn in classes to a physical product, that we are then able to test,” Julian Collins, this year’s Steel Bridge Club team captain, said.

The 2023 Pacific Northwest regional competition will be hosted

**“...we relate the engineering theory and design principles that we learn in classes to a physical product, that we are then able to test.”**

must create the physical pieces and practice efficient assembly to prepare for the competition where the bridge will be load-tested and judged by assembly time, weight and aesthetics.

Gabe Brandt, treasurer of Steel Bridge Club, said the rules are the hardest part of the project. “Anyone can build a bridge that stands but now it’s like we’re building a bridge with our hands tied behind our backs,”

TOP **DITTMAN HOLDS A COMPLETED CONNECTION.**

MIDDLE **STUDENTS BEGIN FABRICATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SPRING SEMESTER. PHOTO COURTESY OF GABE BRANDT**

BOTTOM **BRANDT SHOWS PRACTICE WELDING PIECES.**



by Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont. from April 14–15. The UI student chapter will compete against teams from schools in Montana, Oregon, Alaska, British Columbia and Washington. The top teams from the regional competitions are invited to the national finals to be held in June.

The last three competitions have been canceled or held virtually due to the pandemic. Dittman looks forward to participating in Bozeman at the regional competition this spring. “It’s exciting to actually be able to go and compete with other schools,” Dittman said.

Collins also noted his excitement toward competing in person this year. “I think I can speak for the rest of the team in saying that keeps us motivated to stay on top of our design and fabrication work,” Collins said.

Brandt said a great reason to join Steel Bridge Club is to gain engineering experience and to learn important skills in metal fabrication. “We always need people to join because we need hands on the project,” Brandt said.

“Because we’re a smaller team we, as a club, are constantly learning and passing on knowledge relating to engineering design or metalworking skills, so even if you’re not a structures-related engineering student, we’ll get you on the same page as everyone else!” Collins said.



# Students, Staff and Faculty Collaborate to Introduce MyUI

The College of Art & Architecture and the Office of Information Technology are collaborating to design and test for the new university interface

Story By **KATARINA HOCKEMA**

Photos Courtesy Of **DAVE GOTTWALD**

Design By **JACQUELINE WALKER**

The College of Art & Architecture has a special mission to make the University of Idaho, Moscow and beyond a more resilient, vibrant, sustainable and efficient place. Home to six undergraduate degrees and four graduate degrees, this college allows students to pursue their passions in everything from interior architecture and design to virtual technology and design. One of the recent initiatives the art and design program has taken part in is the design and user experience of MyUI, the new-to-come university interface for Vandals at UI, supported by the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Dean of Students Office.

Currently, students use a variety of resources to get information about campus, their schedules, payments, student programs and more. VandalWeb, the UI website and Canvas are the main websites and programs available with a wealth of information for students. However, it can often be difficult for students to track down specific information, and they may find themselves needing to visit multiple different platforms to find the data they need.

The main premise of MyUI is its convenience and acces-

sibility for students, allowing them to access everything they could need during their education all in one place. As well, with its interface being available through a downloadable mobile app, students can take MyUI wherever they go.

Dave Gottwald is an assistant professor of the art and design program and coordinates the interaction design emphasis at UI.

Working in coordination with Parking and Transportation, the International Programs Office and MyUI, Gottwald taught an interaction and experiential design course in fall 2022 in which undergraduate students and graduate students assisted with the design of the MyUI app, either for regular course credit or a practicum credit, depending on their standing.

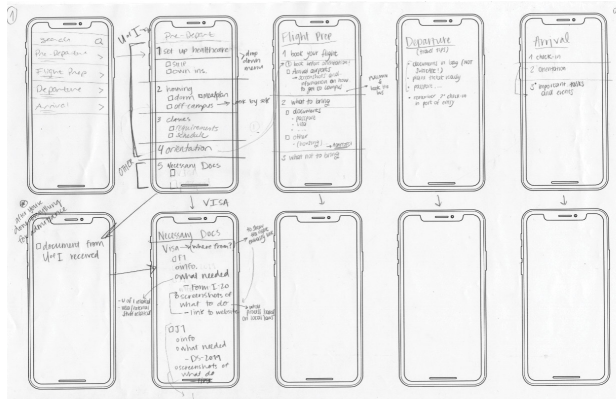
Gottwald recruited students who had taken previous interaction design courses of his and had other experience with digital design tools for the 300 level studio that aided in designing two MyUI cards. These students helped with the appearance of the individual buttons and screens of the app, illustrations and graphics and other student-facing elements. They were split into two teams, one tasked with designing a PTS card, and the other with an IPO card.



**THE PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES GROUP HOSTING AN IDEATION SESSION WITH THE STAKEHOLDERS.**



**LOW FIDELITY DESIGNS BEING SKETCHED DURING THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE IDEATION SESSION.**



WIREFRAMES OF THE IPO CARD.

“They were given an XD (Adobe) file that already had a number of screens in it, and then already had what are called components ... the little buttons and the form fields, and then they were provided with the website for all the other assets,” Gottwald said. “They were able to reference those to make new things, so if they needed to design a particular checkmark or an illustration, they would go to that website and look at the icons that already exist and design stuff off of that. So, they were kind of given a blueprint at the start out of the gate.”

**“...we’re trying to take our time and really listen to the students and figure out what they want and then deliver something that’s a really great experience,” Armitage said.**

Besides the hard work that the design students have already put into the app, they have also been involved in what Gottwald refers to as “ideation”, or brainstorming sessions, in which students, staff, faculty and stakeholders from multiple university offices and departments have collaborated together to produce all of the essential elements of the app, from visual design to functionality.

“The students all said that the highlight of the process for them was having the stakeholders, the client, in the room working with them on solutions, and it was really high energy,” Gottwald said. “It was really positive because the stakeholders were thrilled that students were working on this, because I think in the past they may have felt like software was just kind of done far away somewhere, and they weren’t able to participate in it, so everyone felt like they were part of the design team.”

Kali Armitage, the director of enterprise applications at OIT, acts as a sponsor for the project and manages many of the teams that are collaborating to design and produce MyUI for a more user-friendly experience. In her role, she aids the team by contracting digital design work, consultants for programming and others that provide work that helps improve the user experience.

Having been in her role for two years, with the last year

wielding real, tangible results, Armitage emphasizes the importance of the student perspective on MyUI’s design, and truly building the app for the optimal student use.

“Other people had met with ASUI and other students about what their needs were, looking at what the digital experience was now, and what products were available that we could utilize to give the students what they were asking for, which was more of a customized, interactive, personalized, mobile-friendly interface,” Armitage said. “It’s really about bringing all the things that a student needs to do together in one place, and organizing them in a meaningful way.”

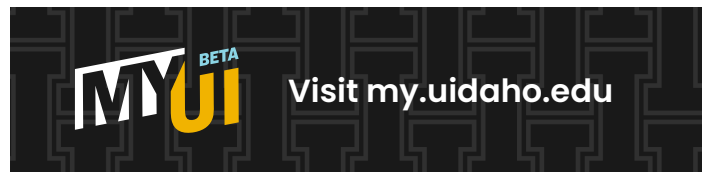
Examples of what will be available for students through a “card” display include library resources, payment balances and information, parking maps and permits, campus maps, dining options and study spots.

Although all of MyUI’s features have not fully launched yet, there is a beta version that is available for students to view by visiting [my.uidaho.edu](http://my.uidaho.edu). There are already many features and resources available for experimentation. The team plans to gradually release the program, eventually fully replacing VandalWeb, VandalStar and other current programs, websites and software used by students. Eventually, Armitage hopes for there to be integration with Canvas to allow students to access their grades and class modules directly within the MyUI app.

However, MyUI isn’t just for students. Staff and faculty can expect their own improved experience as well for everything from submitting tax forms, to pay sheets, to viewing and submitting grades.

If students are interested in being beta testers for in-progress versions of MyUI and are interested in providing feedback to the team, the information to sign up and volunteer is located at the MyUI Dashboard page on UI’s website.

“There’s a lot of work that goes into the development of the actual cards and that functionality, and we’re trying to take our time and really listen to the students and figure out what they want and then deliver something that’s a really great experience,” Armitage said. “We’re trying to make it so that you know the majority of the things that you need are right there in the app.”



# Feeding, Nourishing and Clothing Our Nation

The College of Agriculture & Life Sciences provides many opportunities for students to get involved



According to the University of Idaho, “The University of Idaho College of Agricultural & Life Sciences addresses the world’s most critical challenges in order to create and sustain an abundant food and energy supply, a healthy environment and successful families and communities. The college leads research and Extension efforts related to various issues and our faculty and students are finding solutions to the world’s most critical challenges in order to create and sustain an abundant food and energy supply, a healthy environment and successful families and communities.”

The College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CAL S) has many undergraduate programs to choose from such as food science, crop science, agriculture systems management, family and consumer sciences and many graduate programs.

With CAL S, there are several clubs and organizations for students to

**OLIVIA REDMOND AND MIGUEL MENA EXAMINING THE SOIL PROFILE IN A PRACTICE PIT. THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE SOIL JUDGING TEAM CLUB, ONE OF THE MANY CAL S CLUBS.**



**JUDGERS WORKING TOGETHER ON A TEAM SOIL DESCRIPTION. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOIL JUDGING TEAM**

Story and Photos By **ROSE OWENS** Design By **JACQUELINE WALKER**



get involved in and make a difference. Conley Martin is a freshman here at UI, and agriculture has been a huge part of his life. He has grown up farming and ranching with his family for his whole life. Conley is majoring in animal vet science production, and classes such as feedlot management have given him the scientific side of everything that he has been doing back home.

“I think that the University of Idaho’s CALS program as a whole provides a great opportunity for young agriculturists, and allows everyone wanting to be involved in agriculture to do something positive in the future, whether that’s for the environment or for their own systems or producing food,” Martin said.

Conley explains how great UI’s CALS is with the amazing professors and programs with many outgoing people. “If you want to be involved, you can be involved in almost anything you want,” Martin said.

There are many facilities here on campus that give students hands-on learning experience. One of these is Vandal Brand Meats, a USDA-inspected facility. They harvest beef, lamb and pork, and make sausage, hams and bacon. The profits from Vandal Brand Meats goes towards supplies to offset costs of business and to pay student employees. They also make all of the “Vandal Dogs” for sporting events in the Kibbie Dome as well as the ICCU Arena.

Some of the other CALS facilities on campus include a dairy farm with around 200 cows, a sheep center with 300-800 sheep and a small feed yard with the proceeds going towards scholarships.

There are specialized on-campus living communities for those in CALS. This year, the 3rd and 4th floors of the Ballard wing within the Wallace Residence Center are designated for first-year CALS students.

UI is a land grant institution, signed into law by President Lincoln for the federal government to establish this college system. This was done during the midst of the Civil War in order to help the country prepare for feeding itself. It was crucial to build an agriculture system to maintain the ability to feed the nation under the Morel Act. So the idea was to teach agriculture and mechanics at an affordable cost, it wasn’t just for the privileged anymore. The Hatch Act of 1887 incorporated research and allowed students to learn from a scientific standpoint. Now, we have research stations throughout Idaho, including potato research in Parma, dairy and economic research in Twin Falls and fish research in Hagerman, to name a few.

**“If you want to be involved  
you can be involved in  
almost anything you want.”**



**LAMBING SEASON IS UNDERWAY! SAYDEE HENNING IS A SOPHOMORE AND ENJOYS WORKING AT THE SHEEP CENTER.**

Dr. Phil Bass is an assistant professor in animal veterinary food science, specializing in meat science. He discussed his role and involvement in CALS, describing his teaching, resource and extension position.

“The extension part of my position is a great opportunity to get out into the industry and share knowledge... I am also learning and bringing it back to my class and bringing it back to research,” Bass said. “That’s the cool thing about a land grant mission, if indeed a school is still following that. And I believe the University of Idaho has maintained that mission.”

With so many learning and involvement opportunities, CALS is able to efficiently teach and excite students in the agriculture industry, while successfully maintaining the University of Idaho’s establishing mission.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CYNDI ENDERLE

# Home to Culture, Community and Creativity

Field trips, study abroad, music and much more

Story By **ZINNIA SHRESTHA**

Photos By **COURTESY**

Design By **JACQUELINE WALKER**

**“...CLASS ensures student success and helps them turn their passions into fruitful careers.”**

The University of Idaho is a diverse community of ten different colleges with the College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences being the largest one. Within nine different departments, this college currently offers 47 degree programs to roughly 2,000 students, most of them being customizable, and seven offered fully online. The dean, Sean Quinlan, says that student experience and student success are their number one priority.

“We often talk about the ‘four pillars’ of experiential learning: study abroad, internships/professional experience, undergraduate research and creative activity and service learning,” Dean Quinlan said. “We are hugely proud of our students, faculty and staff,” he adds. With numerous supports available like tutoring, scholarship opportunities and events, CLASS ensures student success and helps them turn their passions into fruitful careers.

Saloni Khetan is a sophomore majoring in psychology and criminology. She is highly involved on campus, serving as the director of sustainability in ASUI as well as the Alternative Service Break lead for the Department of Student Involvement. She is also a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority and the criminology club in CLASS. “The criminology club has helped me a lot in the past year as I get to listen to different guest speakers such as FBI agents that give me insightful information about the field as they are already involved in it,” Khetan said. One of her favorite experiences so far in her academic journey is when she toured the Moscow Police Department last year with the criminology club. It was a wonderful opportunity for her to see the new department and learn about the different services it has to offer. CLASS has helped Khetan in her professional and personal growth by networking and branching out her thought process and ambitions for the future. It has helped her make valuable connections and gain different skills related to her field. “I am thankful for all the constant support and services offered by CLASS,” she said.

Studying abroad is another huge part of CLASS. With scholarships and support from faculty and staff at the International Programs Office, students like Cyndi Enderle are able to make their study abroad dreams come true. Enderle is a senior double majoring in history and English with minors in Asian studies and religious studies. She spent the fall semester of 2022 in Chiang Mai, Thailand exploring the culture, learning traditional music and dances, and traveling. For her, this was an eye-opening, life-changing experience. “I wanted to learn about different perspectives of the world and also connect with my Asian ancestry, and with this opportunity, I was able to walk around and experience things for myself that I never thought I would be doing,” Enderle said. With awards like the Freeman-Asia scholarship, CLASS’s David A. and Mary Alice Poe Study Abroad Scholarship and support from faculty and advisors, this study abroad experience solidified for Enderle that she wanted to have an international career, possibly working for the government or a non-governmental organization. Studying in a completely different environment in non-Western culture allowed her to realize her weaknesses when it came to adapting to new places and working on those weaknesses. “A lot of the times in my history classes here, I felt like I was taught a Western hemisphere perspective of things,” Enderle said. “I was curious about the rest of the world and being there, I realized that the frameworks of what we are taught about understanding history here do not apply to those places, as they are so different.” She hopes to go back someday and do things she did not get a chance to do before. Enderle

**“Studying abroad is another huge part of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.”**

recommends that everyone should do a study abroad program as it helps you understand your boundaries when it comes to being in another part of the world with a different culture and confronting yourself about them.

Besides research, creativity, study abroad and various other opportunities, CLASS is also known for its big events in theatre arts and music. One of the biggest events put on every year is the Lionel Hampton School of Music’s annual Jazz Festival. Jazz Fest is one of the biggest and oldest jazz festivals in the world. With student performances, workshops, concerts and more, it honors the legacy of Lionel Hampton’s music career and honors jazz music in its true form. This year, the festival is running from April 19 to April 22 with over four hundred student performances, a dozen world-class artists and nearly a hundred workshops, clinics, and special exhibits. Since the 1960s, this jazz festival has brought together music masters from elementary to high school and college students to share and celebrate the history of jazz music.

With limitless opportunities like this and no bound to creativity, CLASS is home to thousands of optimistic, gifted Vandals. It is proudly the biggest and most diverse college at UI and is an important part of the Vandal community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UI

# AFTER- SCHOOL ADVICE:

## Insight from a Recent College of Science Graduate

Life lessons for students and people outside of the education ecosystem

Story By **DAKOTA BROWN** Design By **GIA MAZZARELLA**

**“It always ticks me off when people say to do something that makes you happy because it’s as if that is all that matters; it isn’t.”**

Admiraal described not only his time with his particular program, but as a student

The education ecosystem is made up of several types of students, but in the College of Science at the University of Idaho, one thing binds them all together—a love for learning beyond the traditional classroom.

Undergraduates have the option to get involved early on with different labs on campus. One of the mottos found on the college site states, “Learn science by DOING science” because, in this field, the work being completed by professionals is done through practice that extends beyond the walls of campus classrooms.

The College of Science encompasses many degree programs. A recent graduate, Joseph Admiraal, discussed his experience with studying geography at UI.

Admiraal mentioned that one of his favorite classes he took to complete his degree was an elective course, GEOG 220: The Geography of Middle Earth, which examined the masterworks of J.R.R. Tolkien’s imaginary worlds. He spoke about how the ideas presented in Tolkien’s work were applicable to our reality, and that the class had a fun way of making imagination impactful to the real world.

Admiraal also noted his overall experience with the geography program at our institution.

“There were ways that every single person in that department supported me, if I had to choose one that I connected with the most, it would be Dr. Dezzani. Looking at the students, we were a small group, and a lot of people who took geography classes were not geography majors,” Admiraal said. “The instructors worked together really well; they complemented each other and provided for us, even if we were seeking different things.”

in general. “I do miss it, but I know that it was time for me to move on. I miss high school sometimes too, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that I want to go back.”

Admiraal was busy doing many other things outside of getting his B.S. in geography. During his senior year, he managed an entire staff team and continued fulfilling his requirements as a member of ROTC on campus. He devoted much of his time to being a role model for others. The College of Science motto applies to a core trait of Admiraal outside of scholastics, learning through taking action.

When discussing what advice he would give to a current college student, Admiraal took it upon himself to expand this to general life advice for everyone that he personally tries to practice.

“Don’t just do something because it makes you happy. It always ticks me off when people say to do something that makes you happy because it’s as if that is all that matters; it isn’t,” Admiraal said. “The only reason you’re here is that people before you decided to do something beyond what made them happy. If you’re only focused on what makes you happy then you’re not going to do a lot of great stuff.”

Currently, Admiraal is tackling a new ecosystem outside of the college atmosphere, working for the United States Marine Corps (USMC). He is stationed in North Carolina, and wakes up every day with the knowledge that he is a part of something greater. This is something we should all be striving for, finding a community that we believe in so strongly that fulfillment is gained simply by doing our part to sustain it.

To be a member of anything comes with responsibility and opportunity. For the College of Science, students seek to do great things in their field by continuing to improve their skills through practice and taking action.

When you think about it, that is the bigger message behind being a Vandal too.

A photograph of four students sitting on a large log in a forest. They are dressed in outdoor gear like jackets, hats, and backpacks. One student on the left is writing on a clipboard. Another student next to him is looking towards the camera. The student in the middle is looking to the right. The student on the right is looking down at a piece of paper. In the background, there are tall trees and a wooden building. The text "Passion for the Natural World" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# “Passion for the Natural World”

CNR readies and excites students for careers in the natural resources field

Story and Photos By **ROSE OWENS**

Design By **MEGAN SCHWARTZ**

**PHOTO COURTESY OF GARRETT BRITTON**

Not many people realize that the College of Natural Resources is the third largest college on campus. With nine undergraduate programs, multiple outdoor campuses across the state, various clubs and organizations and over \$10,000,000 put into research funding, CNR creates a great reputation for itself at the University of Idaho.

According to a professor of natural resource policy, Dennis Becker, Ph.D., “The College of Natural Resources was ranked number one in value for education in 2018, and continues to be ranked among the top 10 natural resources colleges in America by College Factual. Many of our individual programs are recognized as among the best.”

For those who are interested in CNR, there are quite a few routes to take major-wise. The undergraduate majors include: ecology, conservation biology, environmental science, fire ecology and management, fishery resources, forest and sustainable products, forestry, rangeland ecology and management and wildlife resources. There are also multiple minors and certificates, as well as graduate programs. Something unique about CNR is that it has the first three associate degrees offered at UI. One of these is wildland fire management, which is an online degree. This allows for firefighters to pursue an associate’s degree while still fighting fires.

There are experimental forests here in Moscow, such as the Pitkin Forest Nursery. The Pitkin Forest Nursery is the

only operational research nursery at a university in the United States. There are also other outdoor classrooms outside of this community. The Frank Church Wilderness is 2.4 million acres of federally-designated wilderness, and UI has a 65 acre campus embedded in it. The McCall Field Campus is another asset that CNR utilizes. It started out as a 10-week field based training in 1940, and every CNR student was required to go. It morphed over the years and became a three-week course for forestry students, eventually stopping the training program. Around 2001, they started an outdoor science school for K–12. A few years later, they added a graduate program where graduate students were learning their teaching practices while serving the program by teaching K–12 outdoor schools.

NR 101: Exploring Natural Resources, is a class for first-year students. During this course students learn about natural resources majors and careers. They also take a weekend trip to the McCall field campus and experience a real outdoor classroom.

For nearly every CNR degree program, there is a club or association for it. The Logger Sports Club is one of these. Students participate in competitions throughout the Northwest in events such as pole climbing, obstacle pole, ax throwing and more. Delaney Snaadt is the secretary and the safety officer for this club. She is a senior studying wildlife resources, with a minor in natural resource conservation. For Delaney, the club is “a

way to get outside and exercise, getting to go outside and just whale on a piece of firewood, or throw an ax, or run a chainsaw is really fun. And it's a lot of practical skills, so some of our team members are forestry students so they get a lot of practical hands-on work with chainsaws."

Among the different Living Learning Communities (LLC), on campus there is the CNR building. There are many advantages to living in the CNR LLC. You can gain strong relationships with other residents with similar interests. Because residents often share many of their classes, it is easy to form study groups and work collaboratively.

Steve Hacker is the chief operations officer for CNR. He oversees all of the base operations, the financial administrative operations, assets and campuses throughout the state. "Everybody here has a real passion for the natural world that we live in, in one way or another. And if you have that passion, you're going to find people here that have that same passion. You'll also find a job," Hacker said. "If you have a passion for it and you earn a degree here, we don't necessarily have 100% placement, but we're as close to 100% placement in the beginner degree field. So if you study forestry here and you want a job in forestry, you will get a job in forestry."



**RIPLEY SCHULTZ GETTING READY FOR HER EVENT AT THE LAST HOME SHOW. PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT CAMPBELL**

UT's excellent CNR program includes hands-on learning, countless involvement opportunities and experienced educators, and continues to produce valuable workers in the field of natural resources.

"We provide critical science-based knowledge, technology and leadership that educates, supports and inspires our society," Hacker said. "We value the integrity of the earth's biodiversity, ecosystems and heritage. We play a leadership role in empowering present and future generations to make informed resource management decisions for a prosperous and sustainable future."

**HAVE YOU SEEN "THE SNAG?" IT IS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION IN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING. THE SNAG IS A 90-FOOT-TALL WHITE BARK PINE. IT RESTS AT THE BASEMENT AND REACHES ALL THE WAY TO THE 3RD FLOOR OF THE BUILDING.**



# Make Way for M.F.A.: An Interview with UI's Hemingway Fellow

Meet Laur A. Freymiller, an M.F.A. student attending the University of Idaho to pursue their passion for writing fiction

Story By **DAKOTA BROWN**

Photo Courtesy Of **LAUR A. FREYMILLER**

Design By **JACQUELINE WALKER**

Walking across campus, you might run into Laur spending their time at the library working on their graduate thesis or perusing the downtown Moscow area for some literary inspiration. In an interview, we asked some questions about life as a graduate student in Moscow, Idaho, and dove into the most rewarding and less desirable parts of Laur's experience.

**Q:** First, let's talk about programs. You attended Carleton College during your undergrad with a focus on ecology and evolutionary biology; what inspired the transition to creative writing at the University of Idaho?

**R:** Well actually, I've wanted to be a writer since I was like ten when I read *Lord of the Rings* for the first time, but then when I got to college, I wanted to get into something other than English literature. Not because I don't love it, but because I wanted another approach to fiction—I also just found ecology fascinating. I love animals and DNA is really cool. It was always in the back of my head to get back into writing eventually.

**Q:** Who has helped you the most during your creative journey in the M.F.A. program?

**R:** Woah, that's tough. Just because so many people have done so much to support me. I have worked the longest with Daniel Orozco who





retired two years ago, but he has very generously and selflessly continued to work with me. He's on my thesis committee and has been really great about reading my stuff, suggesting books that might be interesting, providing feedback and etcetera. Also, Leah Hampton just got hired for prose. She's been really great and helpful with the practical side of things. She gives me concrete suggestions and ideas and is one of those people who asks really tough questions about writing. The "Where's your soul?" type questions.

**Q:** Was this university the right choice for you; why?

**R:** Well, I very frequently make big life changes based on intuition. When I was in California (where I was before this) I got this feeling that I should be in Idaho. I started looking into the area. The Palouse is beautiful and my stepdad worked at WSU in Pullman. I researched the current students at the University of Idaho and I knew that a lot of writers here were interested in environmental writing. It just felt right.

**Q:** Are you currently working on any creative projects that you would like to notify others about?

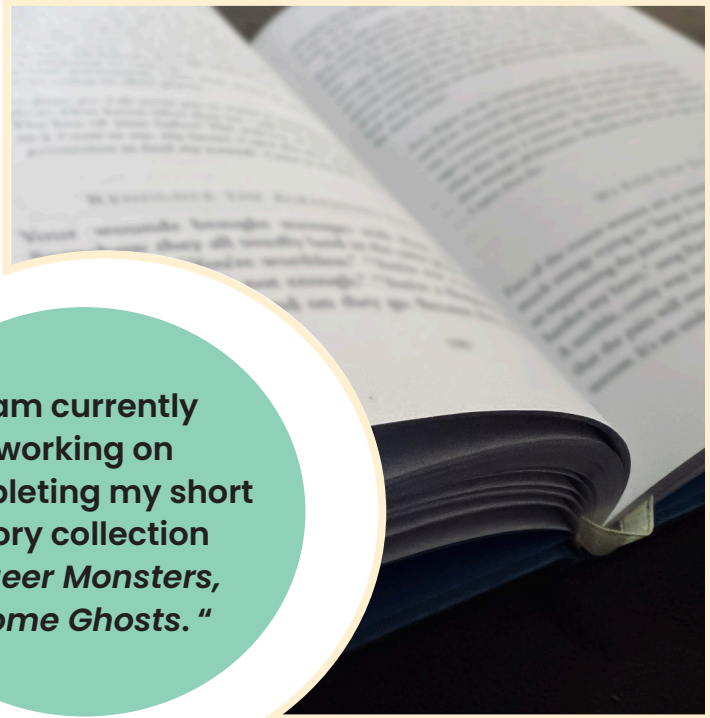
**R:** I am currently working on completing my short story collection *Queer Monsters, Some Ghosts*. It's got nine short stories; some have been published previously but in different drafts. I do have a story coming out in *Blood Orange Review*, and that's exciting!

**Q:** What is something you wish you would have known before attending a graduate program?

**R:** Oooh. I think it was something I knew intellectually but didn't fully grasp...it's really hard! This is something I have wanted to do my whole life, having time to really commit to my writing seriously, but there is also this intense emotional aspect where I finally get to do the thing that I have wanted to do for so long and I have to get it right.

**Q:** If you could give one piece of advice to students who are considering pursuing graduate school, what would it be?

**R:** For me, it's been really cool and fun to take classes in other genre areas, and I think it is good for anyone going through the M.F.A. application process to keep in mind if they'll get to do that wherever they go. My advice is to do your research. Know about what



**"I am currently working on completing my short story collection *Queer Monsters, Some Ghosts*."**

faculty you'd want to work with, and what they specialize in. Think about the students who are already there. Also, if you're applying to an M.F.A. program, the most important part is your writing sample. Really consider what you're sending in.

Take it from a seasoned graduate student, there is so much to be offered by continuing your educational experience; whether that be through a college program, independent study, or professional development—there is something to be said for always putting a foot forward to better yourself. YOU are in charge of your destiny. Everyone's path looks a little different, but at the end of the day it is all about leading a life that makes you proud to be who you are.

You can follow Laur on Twitter @freyedfoods and find their work published at the following locations: *Hobart*, *The Fabulist*, *Fractured/Lit*, *Entropy* and *Nightmare*.

# Blood Orange

I carry around a lot of weight in my life.  
I lull it and lug it to every new place,  
Every new job, every new person.  
They never cradle it the way I want them to.

I hold a sour taste in my mouth,  
Citrus-soaked, bottle-capped cola.  
The kind that makes lips pucker  
Because of untapped bitterness.

In first grade, I receive an enthusiasm award  
And I hang it on the wall of my room.  
It sleeps below glowing plastic stars  
And reminds me how much I love winning.  
I grow accustomed to this flavor.

A little like lemonade,  
A little like honey.

Most likely to, First place,  
Certificate of merit.  
Blue ribbon, Excellency,  
Presidential.

I think a lot about how we take things  
From their purest forms  
And mold them to our liking—  
Our preferred flavors.

We use juicers to tear fruit from flesh,  
To make something perfect out of it.  
A little more sweet, a little less bitter.  
Award-worthy, even.



