
From: Office of the President <noreply@m.uidaho.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 6:01 AM
To:
Subject: Joe Vandal statue pays tribute to U of I student support

Letter from the President



Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu
Nov. 7, 2025

Dear Vandals,

Just outside the iconic P1FCU Kibbie Dome, a new tribute to unstoppable Vandal spirit and generosity will be unveiled tomorrow.

The new bronze Joe Vandal statue stands nine feet tall and serves as a centerpiece of Campus Spirit Plaza — the epicenter of Vandal game days. The unveiling takes place before the Vandal football game against UC Davis, as part of Parent and Family Weekend.

As we celebrate 50 years in the Kibbie Dome, it remains a beloved gathering place for students, alumni and the

community. But it would not exist without the steadfast support of our students.

In 1974, before he was the 30th governor of Idaho and later the U.S. secretary of the interior, Dirk Kempthorne served as ASUI president. He worked with my grandfather and athletic director Leon “Doc” Green on the funding plan for the Kibbie Dome roof that included student fee support.

Kempthorne visited with every living group on campus and presented the facts and figures of the financing proposal. He laid out the pluses and minuses. After gaining support from the campus community, Kempthorne and his fellow ASUI leaders presented their financial plan to the U of I Board of Regents and received the go-ahead for the Kibbie Dome roof.

Thousands of students contributed student fees over the years to make the Kibbie Dome, and many other U of I facilities, a reality. Earlier this year, the university partnered with ASUI leaders, past and present, to honor their generosity with a permanent tribute. Together, they chose a powerful, tradition-rich symbol — [Joe Vandal](#).

The sculpture was designed by renowned artist Gareth Curtiss. His collaborative process included a visit to campus in February for inspiration sessions, student workshops and engagement with the campus community. Nine months later, Curtiss produced a likeness that reflects both tradition and transformation.

We’re proud that the P1FCU Kibbie Dome is not just a football venue. It’s a world-class indoor track and field stadium, hosts our Vandal soccer games, a variety of intramural sports, commencement ceremonies and many other events throughout the year. It’s a special gathering place for the Vandal Family and we’re grateful to all of the students who helped make it a reality.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green

President



Snapshots

U of I events honor veterans and military members

The U of I will host two events to honor military members and veterans on Tuesday, Nov. 11. The annual wreath-laying ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. on the northwest lawn of the U of I Administration Building. A Military Appreciation Dinner, featuring U.S. Senator Jim Risch as the keynote speaker, will begin at 6 p.m. at ICCU Arena.

[Learn more.](#)

Professor shares story behind ‘Snail Hunter’ nickname

U of I College of Science professor Christine Parent studies the evolutionary biology of snails. She is featured in the latest episode of “The Vandal Theory” podcast, discussing her work

tracking snails in the Galapagos and how the tiny creatures reveal clues about species diversity and discovery.

[Learn more.](#)

U of I program helps high school teachers sharpen skills

The U of I's Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) is expanding its offerings for high school teachers. The school's FCS Base Camp invites teachers from Idaho and the region to Moscow for FCS training in subjects ranging from baking to financial planning.

[Learn more.](#)



The Vandal men's and women's basketball teams both beat Washington State on Monday in Pullman in their respective season openers. Both Vandal squads beat the Cougars by two points.



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