



# Letter from the President

Office of the President, [president@uidaho.edu](mailto:president@uidaho.edu)

Nov. 28, 2025

Dear Vandals,

The generosity of strangers changes lives and U of I seniors Claire Shelton and Lynara Bennett take full advantage of the extra opportunities scholarships afford them. They both maintain near-perfect GPAs, and their many activities outside the classroom are propelling them toward rewarding careers after graduation.

Inspired by her experience overcoming a speech impediment and her U of I journey, Shelton is working toward a career in medicine as an ear, nose and throat specialist. Her studies as a double major in medical sciences and animal science: pre-veterinary enable her to gain experience in classrooms, labs and fields. She also stays busy as an FFA state officer, a College of Science ambassador, a peer mentor in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the Honors College, and U of I Panhellenic President among other activities.

"College is not just about the degree — it's about the experiences you have along the way," Shelton said. "I gained community here and it's made my U of I experience awesome. Without scholarships I would have to be working to support myself and I wouldn't be nearly as involved on campus."

Among Shelton's many honors and awards, the George T. Warren Scholarship stands out. It goes to a student who receives accommodations through the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CDAR). Shelton has Type 1 diabetes, which creates unique challenges. Her scholarship has helped alleviate some of those.

"This scholarship was the first one I've seen that recognized that students who have accommodations from CDAR have more challenges," Shelton said. "Type 1 definitely makes things harder, but this scholarship has made a huge difference for me."

Warren was a 1914 and 1917 graduate of U of I and set up the scholarship endowment through his estate plan. It has been awarded to 417 students to date and will continue to support students in perpetuity.

Bennett splits her time between the College of Business and Economics and the Martin Institute in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences. Donor funding allowed her to study abroad in Barcelona, Spain, and intern at both Shaw Shooting near her hometown of Gooding and at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa in Wisconsin.

While in Gooding, she met a U of I donor and made a strong impression. She was offered the Mary E. Donnelly scholarship, which continues to boost Bennett in her final year as a Vandal.

"Scholarships have been so vital to my experience," she said. "Usually when you're a junior and senior the scholarship opportunities diminish. But thanks to scholarships I can keep myself afloat and I've been able to have experiences I'll carry with me forever."

Unlike many universities, we purposely began our campaign focusing on scholarships as we understand their power to elevate and illuminate our hard-working students.

Thanks to the generosity of the Vandal Family, more than 30% of the total raised through the Brave. Bold. Unstoppable. philanthropic campaign has been given to scholarships. Donor-supported scholarships have assisted more than 46,000 students like Shelton and Bennett and will go on to lift up many more in the future.

We're now looking to finish the campaign the way we started it, by supporting our students. [Join us](#) in helping our industrious Idaho students reach their full potential and graduate ready to make a difference in our state and our world.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green  
President



## Snapshots

### **Etienne helps Idaho farmers make wise business decisions**

As the U of I's Wheat Commission Bill Flory Endowed Chair in Commodity Risk Management, Xiaoli Etienne helps growers navigate turbulent agriculture markets. She recommends cutting costs this year as a strategy to deal with low wheat prices around the globe.

[Learn more.](#)

### **Vandal sophomore connects with alumni in D.C.**

U of I student Zoe Lindner gained career insights and confidence after a trip with the Martin Institute to Washington, D.C. earlier this year. She was one of eight students who joined two faculty members for the five-day visit to the nation's capital.

[Learn more.](#)

### **U of I partners with ISU to expand natural history museum**

The Idaho Museum of Natural History is introducing a North

Idaho Affiliate through a partnership between Idaho's public universities. The new affiliate will be housed in the U of I's Department of Earth and Spatial Sciences and will serve as a regional hub for community access, student learning and state-based research.

[Learn more.](#)



The Vandal swim team dominated at the NW Collegiate Invite in Boise last weekend, taking first place among eight teams.



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