



# Letter from the President

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

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Dear Vandals,

The University of Idaho's new director of alumni relations doesn't need to look far to find the Vandal Family. Of the 117,000 U of I alumni worldwide, 21 are Vicki Renfrow Sell's relatives. She's eager to engage and activate thousands more in her new role.

After working at two of the state's largest employers for decades — Albertsons Companies and St. Luke's Health System — Sell understands the importance of building networks and reaching out to communities across the state and beyond.

"I'm so excited to return home to the University of Idaho," Sell said. "My roots here run deep, and I'm honored to serve in a role that strengthens engagement across our broader Vandal Family. This is about building connections that last, across generations, geographies and life stages."

Growing up on a family farm near Kendrick, Sell never considered anything other than becoming a proud Vandal — just like both of her parents and the majority of her siblings. Her family's deep connection to the university shaped her early experiences and fueled her commitment to the Vandal tradition.

While a student in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Sell made the most of her time on campus. She was Greek Pledge of the Year and served on the Student Alumni Relations Board. She excelled in the Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Sciences, became president of her house, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and was named Greek Woman of the Year as a senior.

"As a student, I was fortunate to learn from incredible role models," Sell said. "Those experiences helped shape me, and now I have the privilege of giving back in a professional capacity to help create those same opportunities for future generations."

Sell hit the ground in Moscow last month. She plans to launch listening tours to connect with alumni and the Vandal Family across Idaho and beyond. Her goals are to hear stories, understand the needs of alumni and build a strategy that deepens engagement for years to come. Alumni play a vital role in the success of the university through networking, brand awareness and financial support.

"We live in a time when people have endless choices for where they choose to invest their time and energy," Sell said. "To keep the Vandal spirit strong, we must listen first, then create meaningful ways for alumni to want to stay connected and make

an impact.”

Like many of us in the Vandal Family, Sell's relationship with her alma mater goes well beyond the memories and her diploma. Through engagement and investment, Vandals gain meaningful connection and the chance to pass on the life-changing experience to future generations.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green  
President



## Snapshots

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### U of I professor leads research to detect PTSD

Professor Colin Xu is leading the development of machine learning models to improve detection of adverse health outcomes for military service members and their families. The research is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense and explores how wearable devices, biochemical markers and signals can be integrated to improve PTSD screening and diagnosis.

[Learn more.](#)

### Calder School turns to U of I for helping hand

The UI Extension office in Benewah County plays an important role in the success of students at Calder School in Avery. The 15 students benefit from after school programs, STEM learning resources and outdoor education through the Extension office, along with staff at the Coeur d'Alene and Moscow campuses.

[Learn more.](#)

### U of I grad interns at INL's Cybercore Integration Center

Andrew Bonilla, a cybersecurity graduate from the U of I, spent last summer gaining hands-on industrial control systems training at Idaho National Laboratory. He landed the internship through the CyberCorps Scholarship for Service program, which provides support for up to three years of education at undergraduate and graduate levels.

[Learn more.](#)



Kolton Mitchell scored 32 points to lead the Vandal men's basketball team past Eastern Washington, 84-81 in their Big Sky Conference opener last week.



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University of Idaho  
875 Perimeter Drive  
Moscow, ID 83844  
[info@uidaho.edu](mailto:info@uidaho.edu)

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