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Designed by students, the Vandal Healing Garden and Memorial is dedicated to remembering students who died while attending U of I.

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The new Vandal Healing Garden and Memorial is a peaceful and reflective space on campus. At left, flowers in the garden were selected for their seasonal blooms and colors.

**Photos by Garrett Britton** 

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# SIGN UP FOR THE ONLINE MAGAZINE

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ur University of Idaho deliberately sets out to blaze new trails. The U of I was founded in 1889, one year before Idaho gained statehood. Now, 135 years later, Vandals still innovate and chart new pathways when it comes to creating opportunities for students.

Throughout this issue of Here We Have Idaho, you'll read about how the U of I experience elevates and illuminates students.

In the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences, the Vandal Finish initiative helps students finish their degrees, or earn an

associate degree, which leads to better career opportunities. Our inaugural class of associate degree graduates included more than 250 students last spring.

Students in the College of Natural Resources took on a project that included gathering public feedback and accommodating park users while preserving the natural landscape in McCroskey State Park. The project emphasized the importance of weighing different stakeholder viewpoints.

U of I College of Law students serve Idahoans while gaining real-world experience through the Idaho Heritage Project. Rural communities throughout Idaho face a severe shortage of lawyers, but the College of Law established internships in rural communities to help address the need.

Working professionals often have limited options to advance their careers. The College of Education, Health and Human Sciences offers a mostly online program for special education paraprofessionals to earn their teaching certificates and expand their options.

And the Vandal Healing Garden and Memorial represents the heart of the Vandal Family. Designed and built by students in the College of Art and Architecture with input from the community, the space is dedicated to all Vandal students who passed away while attending the U of I.

We're proud to build on our tradition of breaking new ground and providing transformative opportunities for students and our community.

Go Vandals!

C Jan Fren

C. Scott Green '84 President



# Here We Have Idaho

The University of Idaho Magazine Fall '24

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## Initiative helps nongraduating Vandals complete their degree

By David Jackson '93 Photo by Garrett Britton

commencement in Spring 2013. But she didn't actually graduate until 10 years later. Wanting to finish her degree but not knowing exactly how to start, she contacted a friend who worked at U of I Coeur d'Alene who led Sullivan to College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) Associate Dean Traci Craig.

arah Sullivan '23 walked at University of Idaho's

Craig and fellow CLASS Associate Dean Annette Folwell are leading CLASS's Vandal Finish initiative to help former, nongraduating students re-enroll in school and either finish the degree they started or complete a twoyear degree in general studies or a four-year degree in general studies or interdisciplinary studies.

Former students who return to finish their degrees often juggle jobs, family commitments and other obligations. In addition, they are sometimes unable to access traditional sources of financial aid.

To mitigate these barriers, CLASS established the Vandal Finish Fund, which awards unrestricted scholarships to alleviate costs associated with re-enrolling in college. Unlike restricted scholarships specifically designated for tuition and fees, unrestricted scholarships can be used for various education-related expenses.

"Many former students left college for all kinds of reasons," Craig said. "With Vandal Finish, we can either help you finish the degree you started or put together a degree based on the existing credits you've already completed."



From student to teacher

After dropping out of school for medical reasons in 2013, one class short of graduating, Sullivan settled in the Coeur d'Alene area, working an assortment of jobs including a pre-K program she ran out of her house.

Teaching, especially early childhood education, was always her passion. To establish a solid career in teaching and administration — and secure a job with higher pay and benefits — she knew she needed to complete her degree. She leaned on the example provided by family members to give her the confidence to finish.

"Both of my sisters got master's degrees at age 50, so I knew I could do it, too," she said.

Because Sullivan was only one class shy of a degree in psychology, Craig worked with her to help her finish her original degree instead of one in general or interdisciplinary studies.

Sullivan took two semesters of online classes while working 30 hours a week as a bookkeeper. In addition to completing the one class she had left, Sullivan needed to

complete additional classes to satisfy updated teaching requirements. In the majority of cases, however, classes taken many years ago — even if they are no longer offered — will count toward your total credits, according to Craig.

"Credits at the undergraduate level don't expire," she said. "As long as you took all of your core requirements, we can find a way to make other classes you took count for something toward your degree."

Sullivan is now the executive director and lead teacher at a nonprofit pre-K program in Missoula, Montana, that enrolls 30 children.

#### 'I didn't give up'

Over the past two years, Craig and Folwell contacted eligible former students to see if they were interested in completing their bachelor's degrees. After U of I rolled out its first associate degrees in 2023, Folwell began contacting former students who may be close to earning a two-year degree.

"Our first wave of communication concentrated on former students from the past 25 years," she said. "We understand some students have stops and starts in their journey, but whether they were away for one year or 50 years, we are happy to talk with any student who wants to complete their degree."

Jon McKenzie '24 knows a lot about stops and starts. After his service in the United States Army ended in 2001, he obtained his GED and started college at Spokane Community College (SCC), all while working two jobs.

Shortly after starting at SCC, he decided to become a full-time auto mechanic and left school.

While still working full time, McKenzie enrolled at North Idaho College in 2014. Struggling with his studies because of time constraints, he dropped out a year later.

After starting a heavy equipment and construction business, Red Castle Transportation, he again attempted to continue his education in 2022. He contacted U of I, was accepted, but got cold feet and didn't enroll.

But the desire to earn his degree — and be a good example for his kids — eventually won out. He reapplied to U of I in 2023, got connected with Craig and graduated in Spring '24 with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies.

"I don't take for granted how hard I worked to get here, and I'm so grateful I didn't give up," McKenzie said. I



#### **Story by Todd Mordhorst**

perating rooms could get safer and more efficient thanks to the ingenuity of a group of University of Idaho engineering students.

In Fall 2023, Dr. Douglas Hiller, an orthopedic surgeon at Whitman Hospital and Medical Clinic in Colfax, Washington, presented the U of I student team with a problem he's struggled with for more than 35 years. C-arm X-ray machines — large, C-shaped machines that capture live images during surgeries — need to be manually positioned and repositioned an average of 20 times during surgery, costing valuable time and exposing patients and staff to excess radiation.

"For surgeons, the C-arm is a huge distraction and cause of frustration," Hiller said. "It's cumbersome and difficult to move, and we end up with many more images than are needed. I've been thinking about this project since 1988."

The U of I students developed a simple marker for the exact coordinates of the C-arm at the time of each X-ray. The C-arm technician can then easily capture before and after images by returning to the exact position of the first image.

Hailey Faith '24 served as project manager for her student group, which included two mechanical engineers, two computer scientists and two bioengineers. The team began by interviewing Hiller and other hospital staff to learn the project's scope and gather ideas.

"We got to go to the operating room, put scrubs and lead vests on and learn how the C-arm works," said Faith, now earning her doctorate in biomedical engineering at Tulane University. "That gave us perspective and ideas about how to attack the problem."

The U of I team spent the academic year devising their solution.

Faith's team is one of more than three dozen that presented capstone experience projects at last spring's Engineering Design Expo on the Moscow campus. They showed off their scale model of the C-Arm they used for small-scale testing and discussed the reviews they've received from Hiller and other professionals.

"We did testing with an X-ray operator and the feedback was really positive," Faith said. "We've also gotten good reactions at business pitch competitions, and I think we'll be exploring a patent for it."

If the team can acquire a patent for their device, the next step would be approval from the Food and Drug Administration, which could take years. However, Hiller believes the students' work could eventually lead to more efficient and effective operations.



Hailey Faith '24 (seated) and other members of the C-arm research team. Photo by Alexiss Turner '09.



ayna Buitron understands the practical details of the fruit orchards and agriculture fields of southern Idaho.

She knows them from the ground up and in Spanish.

Now, the University of Idaho microbiology student is learning about the inner workings of single-celled yeast and the toxins they produce to kill other fungi. The research helped earn her the Goldwater Scholarship, one of the nation's most prestigious undergraduate science scholarships.

When she was a young girl, Buitron accompanied her parents, immigrants from the Mexican state of Michoacán who speak little English, to the orchards around Caldwell where she and her family tended fruits and vegetables. It's where she learned about planting, pollination, germination, budding and fertilization.

"My parents couldn't afford a babysitter, so they took my brother and me to the fields with them," she said.

She didn't realize until much later, after having exhausted her high school's AP and dual-credit STEM and liberal arts offerings, that she grew up surrounded by a deep understanding of biological systems — although she couldn't name them, at least not in English.

"Everyone in the fields spoke Spanish, so it was difficult to make the translations," Buitron said.

She is working toward a degree in microbiology as an honors program student researcher in the College of Science. It was this research for which she received the 2024 Barry Goldwater Scholarship.

In Associate Professor Paul Rowley's lab, Buitron explores the interactions of virus-invaded yeast cells and the resulting toxins — called antifungals — that the infected cells produce. She explores how yeast toxins invade cell membranes of competitors to destroy their cell functions. The work is an ongoing investigation into antifungals and their potential to be developed as therapeutics.

When she was named as a recipient of the Goldwater Scholarship, Buitron called her parents to let them know.

"They have always supported my education and told my brother and me that we must go to college so we can live a better life than them," she said of her mother and father, who both have limited schooling.

"Get an education. Live a better life than us," she said. "They repeated that a lot."

Buitron attributes her interest in biology to her love of natural things learned while helping her parents with their daily work. She brings that same passion for living things to Rowley's lab.

"Dayna embodies all that is best about a curious student," Rowley said. "She has worked hard to build critical resources and is now on an upward trajectory that I am sure will lead to new discoveries."

Buitron was one of six Idaho scholars selected for the Barry Goldwater Scholarship from a national pool of more than 5,000 college sophomores and juniors. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to \$7,500.

# GEMS FALL '24

Shining examples of U of I's impact and excellence.
Read more articles at uidaho.edu/news or follow
University of Idaho on
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM and X.



Students received associate degrees last spring through Vandal Finish, an initiative that helps nongraduating U of I students complete unfinished degrees. Read more on page 4.

Consecutive semesters
of enrollment growth through Fall 2024.

**10.2** 

Ranking among the top five safest universities in the country by the analytics data group Academic Influence.



3.49

Average GPA of student-athletes in Spring '24, the **highest** in school history.

\$1.1 MILLION

Record-setting amount donated during April's Vandal Giving Day.

Thank you!







NO. 1

Best Value Public University in the West for five years running, ranked by U.S. News & World Report.



University of Idaho, Idaho Falls has been in the community.

# \$120,000

Grant to improve organic and sustainable crop production using artificial intelligence.

Students who performed at the 2024 Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival.





# **By David Jackson '93**Photo by Melissa Hartley

yan Collins '22,'24 knows the advantages of playing at home. He's counting on that as he prepares to create a basketball camp in Germany — one of the places he's called home.

After graduating in Spring '24 with a master's in kinesiology and leisure sciences with a specialization in recreation, sport and tourism management from the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences (EHHS), Collins is transforming his U of I experiences into his longtime dream of creating basketball camps for children of U.S. military members living on bases overseas.

He grew up playing basketball and recently completed his fourth Hoopfest competition in Spokane, Washington, along with current U of I student George Forsmann and two friends he met while living in Germany — Evan Sonka and Nate Brantingham.

"I lived at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, and we had over 1,200 students in our high school on the base," said Collins, who has lived in nine U.S. states and two foreign countries. "My friends and I played basketball all the time, but it wasn't organized. I want to help create an organized basketball camp for military kids."

## Getting down to business

After high school, Collins returned to the U.S. to attend U of I. He enrolled in the College of Business and Economics (CBE) as a marketing major, the idea of his basketball camp already percolating. One of the benefits of relocating to North Idaho was being close to family members in Spokane, including an influential uncle who was a longtime basketball coach at East Valley High School.

Collins chose CBE activities he knew would help bring his vision into reality. To obtain more experience speaking in front of an audience, he helped create CBE's Vandal Biz Talks, a student-led podcast that focuses on helping CBE students land meaningful internships and jobs after graduation.

"The first thing I noticed about Ryan was that he had a purpose for choosing everything he did," said Erick Larson, CBE's student engagement director. "Ryan always chose activities to gain experience in things that were important for his plan and to widen his network."

Another way Collins widened his network on campus was by becoming a volunteer practice player for the Vandal Women's Basketball team, thanks to a suggestion from his uncle. It was there that he learned different kinds of drills to run in practice.



Nate Brantingham, George Forsmann, Evan Sonka and Ryan Collins at Hoopfest 2024 in Spokane, Washington.

## **Completing his education**

Collins remained in Moscow after graduation, enrolling in the EHHS graduate program specifically to learn more about the inner workings of collegiate and professional sports.

He had a general idea of how he wanted to put his basketball camps together. EHHS faculty members like Professor Brian Fowler helped him refine his business plan to start with one camp before expanding.

Using his Ramstein connections and familiarity with the area, Collins plans to open his first camp there before expanding to other military bases around Europe.

He wants the camp to be a nonprofit organization so participants do not have to pay. To do that, he's seeking to leverage some of his relationships to obtain camp equipment donations and, down the road, sponsorships. Among the first people he contacted about those possibilities were his former Tau Kappa Epsilon big brother, who works for Jordan Brand at Nike and is a U of I alumnus who spent 12 years at Adidas.

"My time at U of I has been instrumental in getting me to this point," Collins said. "Ever since I arrived on campus, U of I has provided me with the space to learn and grow academically, professionally and personally."



## U of I-led team gets \$15M to study drought, fires

#### **Story by Danae Lenz**

#### Photo by Melissa Hartley

A multidisciplinary team led by University of Idaho researchers received a \$15 million grant to study the long-term impact of drought and fire on forest ecosystems.

The six-year award will create the EMBER (Embedding Molecular Biology in Ecosystem Research) Institute and bring together researchers from a variety of institutions and backgrounds, including experts across biological disciplines.

"We are looking at how stress caused by increasing drought and wildfire affects forest recovery and resilience. By working together, we are not just investigating how trees or microbes respond but how organisms depend on each other to survive," said Tara Hudiburg, principal investigator for EMBER and professor in U of I's Department of Forest, Rangeland and Fire Sciences.

In addition to research, EMBER will partner with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to establish an Indigenous Innovation Lab for tribal and rural students, develop a unique teacher fellows training program and engage with citizens from across the political spectrum.

# U of I, Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium earn \$500K to advance clean energy

#### Story by Alexiss Turner '09

The U.S. Department of Commerce awarded the Intermountain-West Nuclear Energy Corridor (INEC) a \$500,000 Consortium Accelerator Award. The U of I College of Engineering is part of the Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium that leads the corridor.

Funding will be used to implement INEC's strategy and business plan focused on advanced nuclear reactor deployments, including technology advancements, workforce and supply chain development, and fuel support for the domestic nuclear industry.

The award highlights the INEC Tech Hub's continued role in strengthening U.S. economic and national security as the only advanced nuclear tech hub.

"U of I is proud to be part of the consortium of global leaders who are putting our region front and center as a powerhouse of competitive research and next-generation nuclear technologies," said Suzie Long, dean of the U of I College of Engineering. "INEC reaching this next step in the phased funding process is a testament to the



incredible advanced manufacturing capabilities our region has been strengthening for decades."

U of I was recently endorsed by the International Atomic Energy Agency for its nuclear technology management master's program. U of I is one of two U.S. universities to hold this endorsement.

# \$11M grant helps launch women's health research center

#### Story by John O'Connell Photo by Melissa Hartley

The National Institutes of Health have awarded University of Idaho more than \$11 million toward creating a biomedical research center focused on furthering studies on women's health and nutrition.

Shelley McGuire, professor of nutrition and director of the Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Sciences, received the NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant and will serve as project director and principal investigator.

"It's going to bolster our ability to do highlevel, federally funded research on a topic that should be important to every single human," McGuire said. "We are hoping to have impacts in the state, region and nation."



The COBRE grant will span five years in its initial phase, and U of I will be eligible to apply for two additional five-year phases of funding.

"The topic of health and nutrition in women is important from early life, through breastfeeding, through pregnancy and all the way until women get older when we have a higher risk of poor health outcomes like osteoporosis and specific types of cancer," McGuire said.



# Idaho Heritage Project introduces future lawyers to rural opportunities

#### Story by David Jackson '93

no lawyers are practicing within their borders.

Their situation is part of a not-so-pretty picture across the state — half of Idaho's 44 counties have 10 or fewer lawyers, including government attorneys who do not practice privately. A shortage of lawyers means Idaho residents with legal issues might have to pay for lawyers to travel to represent them or, in some cases, they will end up representing themselves.

esidents of Camas, Clark and Lincoln counties,

all in rural Idaho, face a looming legal crisis —

University of Idaho's College of Law is addressing the problem by introducing future law school graduates to these rural opportunities through the Idaho Heritage Project. The Idaho Heritage Project — Rural Services Scholarship Fund supports students by helping them obtain summer internships in rural communities statewide.

Eight Idaho Law students interned for prosecutors, public defenders, private practitioners and judges in four Idaho districts through Idaho Heritage Project awards in 2023.

Not only is there a need for attorneys in rural Idaho communities, but in many cases, for the right candidate, living and working in a small town can make for a perfect match.

"We know there is a need in our more rural communities, and we want to expose our students to the possibilities of practicing law in those areas," said Aviva Abramovsky, dean of Idaho Law. "We think it takes a real understanding of what a rural practice looks like for a lawyer in order to make that connection."

#### Finding the right fit

Dwight Baker '71 knows a lot about making connections. The U of I alumnus and retired attorney spent most of his legal career in Blackfoot, putting in as much time cultivating relationships as he did in the courtroom.

"I've always said that if you commit to practicing in a small town for 10 years, that town will take care of you for the rest of your life," he said. "When you find the right fit, it becomes a very strong bond."

In 2023, Baker and his wife created the Dwight and Ali Baker College of Law Scholarship, which supports, among other facets, the Idaho Heritage Project. Baker never had an intern while practicing in Blackfoot and understands guidance and financial assistance is necessary to connect law school students with rural law opportunities.

The qualities a small-town lawyer might need can vary, he said, but there are a few constants.

First, they should enjoy life outside the courtroom, especially in areas where outdoor activities are plentiful.

"When it's 5 o'clock, it's not unusual to be golfing, fishing or hiking," Baker said. "People come to small communities for a reason, and spending time outside is usually one of those reasons."

Second, they will be exposed to cases involving all aspects of the law and will need a broad knowledge base coming into the job.

"When I was in law school, there were no specialized classes, and we received a more broad, basic knowledge of law," Baker said. "Now, with a lot of specialization, I think some of that broad knowledge gets lost. Maybe law schools need a 'small-town lawyer' type of track."

While noting that many law school graduates look for higher-profile jobs in larger metropolitan areas, as well as higher-paying jobs to help pay off school loans, Baker said becoming a rural lawyer has many benefits for the right person.

"You have a chance to become an important part of your community and to really get to know the people you work and live with," he said. "And you get to enjoy life."



Ali and Dwight '71 Baker

Photo by Danae Lenz

"More and more people are leaving larger cities and moving to rural areas. That means they are bringing their larger, more complex legal issues with them. I think I've gotten a better education and exposure to the legal world here than I would have in a larger city."

#### JARRETT BROUGHTON '23

#### **Building relationships**

Jarrett Broughton '23 joined the law office of Muriel M. Burke-Love in Post Falls after graduating from Idaho Law, and it was an Idaho Heritage Project internship that originally introduced him to his future employer.

During his time in Post Falls, Broughton learned how crucial it is for smaller towns to have access to lawyers. He assisted clients from as far away as Bonners Ferry because they couldn't find anyone else to help.

"A lot of people have substantial legal issues but can't find representation, so they either represent themselves or have to pay an attorney to travel back and forth to come to court for them," he said. "If there are only a few lawyers to go around in a large rural area, clients are at a disadvantage."

Broughton also said establishing relationships with people you see in work settings is important because you don't have the anonymity that often comes with working in a larger metropolitan area.

"You often have to work with the same people day after day — judges, opposing counsel and others," he said. "It's not like a big city where you likely won't run into anyone you work with after hours."

Broughton, who recently left his firm in Post Falls to relocate to rural Colorado, is thankful for his time at U of I and is especially grateful for the faculty members who suggested looking at an Idaho Heritage Project scholarship.

Gaining experience through his internship led him to a perfect landing spot — an area where he enjoys a slower pace of life while gaining experience in more aspects of law than he may have had access to in a larger area.

"More and more people are leaving larger cities and moving to rural areas," he said. "That means they are bringing their larger, more complex legal issues with them. I think I've gotten a better education and exposure to the legal world here than I would have in a larger city."



Claire Smith '24

# Student closes the divide in wearable tech by crafting a biometric sports bra for female athletes

**Story by Amy Calabretta '03**Photo by Rio Spiering '22

earable technology to capture biometric data like heart rate and respiration isn't a new concept. However, most of the products in the marketplace are designed for male athletes — something Claire Smith '24 aimed to change through an undergraduate research project at University of Idaho.

Currently, most wearable data collection devices focus on the chest area, using a chest band or vest structure with sensors. This creates a problem for female athletes who must wear sports bras for support. Vests worn over sports bras create too many barriers, leading to inaccurate readings for female athletes.

Joshua Bailey, an assistant professor in the Department of Movement Sciences, brought the problem to Lori Wahl, senior instructor in the Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Sciences. Wahl knew Smith, an apparel, textiles and design student, was looking for a project that combined problem-solving, technology and apparel.



"When I came here, one of the major things I wanted to do was work with other departments. I was told this is a research university, so a lot of people are collaborating and working together. I'm excited to be creating this and working together to come up with solutions to problems we didn't know we'd have."

**CLAIRE SMITH '24** 

"So, the issue I had to solve was, how do we make a sports bra that has biometric sensors in it and make it adjustable so that it fits female athletes," Smith said.

# **Collaborating across** campus

Smith recruited Vandal volleyball players as her models and began making digital patterns and prototypes while gathering feedback from the players about comfort and fit. Soon, she had a prototype that included an adjustable chest band with embedded sensors. When the band is adjusted, wires move and stretch as needed.

"The patternmaking for the sports bra is easy," she said. "It's not the actual pattern that's the challenge; it's figuring out how to get those biometric sensors in correctly so we can get those accurate measurements."

However, what started as a relatively simple project to design an adjustable sports bra with sensors rapidly expanded once Smith realized she needed help accessing the data she was collecting. Wahl suggested she contact James Frenzel, associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

"It went from a tiny little project trying to make a sports bra to where now we're involving our third department," Smith said.

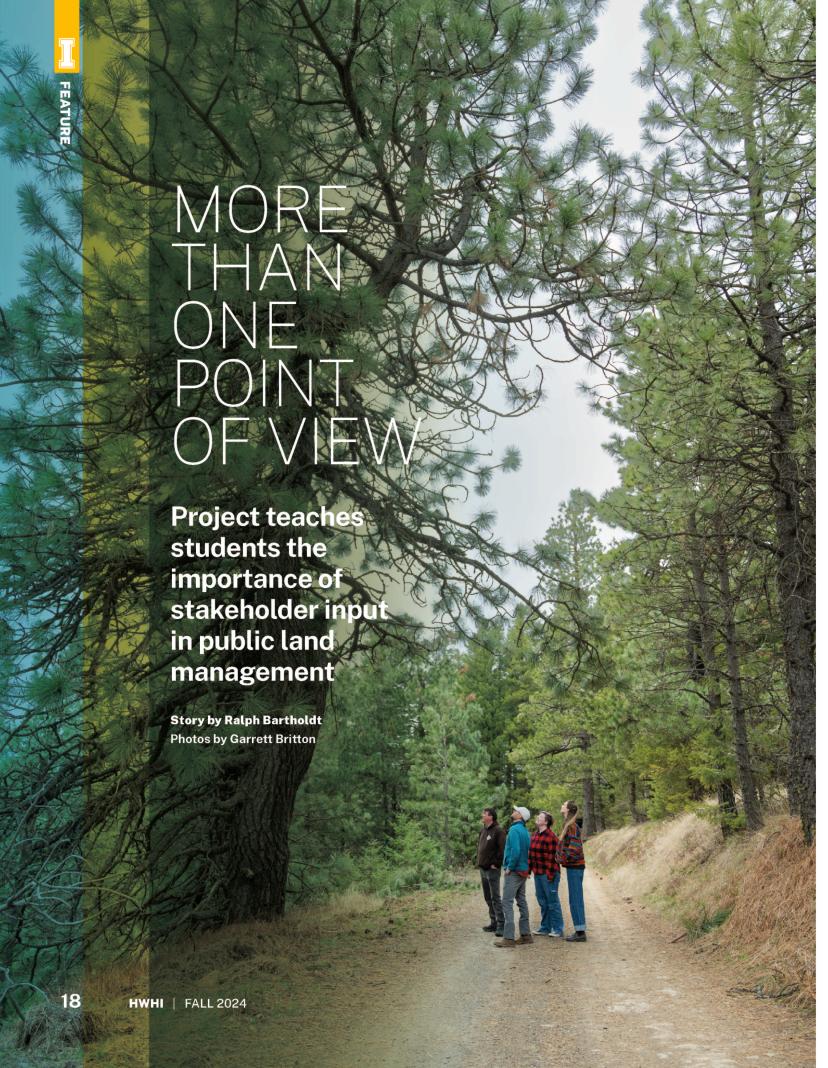
Frenzel introduced Kellen West, a senior studying electrical engineering, who joined the team to examine technical components.

"When I came here, one of the major things I wanted to do was work with other departments," Smith said. "I was told this is a research university, so a lot of people are collaborating and working together. I'm excited to be creating this and working together to come up with solutions to problems we didn't know we'd have."

West developed code that transfers data from the motherboard located in the back of the bra to a small SD card that can then be transferred to a computer.

"It's been really fun to try out something that's not part of the curriculum," Smith said. "I've been left to my own devices and so I'm allowed to play, and it's fun to stretch those skills and work them in a way that will, down the line, be really helpful in a professional setting."

Smith will continue her research into wearable technology and further explore her interests in adaptive apparel as a family and consumer sciences graduate student at U of I.



ike a pine-fringed finger, Point Sublime in Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park gestures across the rolling Palouse grasslands east of Farmington, Washington.

With a grand view of its surroundings, Point Sublime was named nearly a century ago by Virgil T. McCroskey, who found the landmark so enticing he endeavored to set it aside for posterity for others to enjoy.

Now, a University of Idaho class offered by the Department of Natural Resources and Society has the expansive view in its sights as part of a project to prepare for a picnic shelter at Point Sublime. It's teaching students one of the realities of managing public lands: You can't please all the people all the time.

"Gathering public input and using that to move ahead is a big part of what park managers do," said Chris Zajchowski, assistant professor of Parks, Tourism and Recreation Ecology.

Students in the class were tasked with apprising stakeholders of improvement plans and finding ways to accommodate park users while preserving the natural landscape.

"One of the projects being considered by the state is a day-use area at Point Sublime that may include a picnic area, gazebo and paved parking lot, so more visitors can enjoy what is right now a pretty bare and rustic spot along the trail," Zajchowski said.

The trail he references is an offshoot of Skyline Drive, a bumpy, meandering 25-mile road that connects Highway 95 at Marsh Hill north of Moscow with Farmington. The narrow route winding through the park was built by McCroskey beginning in 1939 and marks the northeastern edge of the Palouse.

A pharmacist and conservationist, McCroskey bought up land endangered by logging in Latah and Benewah counties along the Idaho-Washington border. He stitched his purchases into a 4,400-acre parcel that became the park, naming it after his pioneer mother who homesteaded with her husband and children in eastern Washington near Steptoe Butte. When McCroskey gifted the park to the people of Idaho in 1955 after building the road and viewpoints for visitors, it became the third park in the state.

At first, the state didn't want his gift. Idaho had no parks department and no funding to care for the parkland McCroskey offered. He addressed the Legislature three times and battled county commissioners who feared turning the land into a state park would remove it from county tax rolls. He kickstarted a publicity campaign that included essays by schoolchildren to ensure the Legislature would accept his pro-bono proposal.



Nathan Blackburn, Jacqueline Snow and Chris Zajchowski

The real-world challenges McCroskey faced are included in the new Natural Resource Enterprise coursework taught by Zajchowski's department.

This new major teaches students how to identify and manage projects on public land and includes lessons in balancing the interests of conservation and visitors, as well as uncovering funding mechanisms.

"It's hands-on, real-world instruction where students spend time in the field, write proposals and then work with the entities involved," Zajchowski said. "They weigh if their projects are feasible and, if they are, who will pay for them."

For Zephryn Andrews, one of Zajchowski's students, the course has been eye-opening.

Andrews, a junior studying environmental science, grew up near Seattle with an acute focus on conservation.

"I wanted to make sure vulnerable land would be preserved," she said.

She enrolled at U of I for its coursework in restoration ecology and joined Zajchowski's class on a whim. The class provided a perspective she had not considered.

"I had to realize there are tradeoffs; it's not just strict preservation, but sometimes you have to allow more access to help get money to pay for and maintain the land," Andrews said.

Case in point: Part of the Sublime land is untouched Palouse Prairie never frequented by plow or livestock. The local chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society — a park stakeholder — has urged that any construction in the area, even a paved day-use area, vaulted toilet or fire pit, could adversely affect the fragile vegetation.

Park Manager Nate Blackburn said that any work done in the park requires a diligent process that includes the input of stakeholders and pinpoints the required funding. Working with the university and helping students understand that process has been rewarding.

"I provided the students with a list of people to interview who were heavily invested in the park," Blackburn said.

The list included native plant groups, surrounding landowners and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, as well as ATV and equestrian groups.

"The students balanced the desires of stakeholders to come up with a good plan to achieve our goals," Blackburn said.

Drawing from students' interviews, Zajchowski asked each student to write their own proposal for the Point Sublime site.

The outcome surprised Andrews, who had not considered the many facets involved in passing a proposal for something as simple as a wayside rest and viewpoint on public land.

"The class taught me to escape that black-and-white mindset, because sometimes there's no perfect answer," she said.

Andrews, who hopes to one day manage state projects similar to the McCroskey Point Sublime viewpoint, said she believes that lessons learned in the course will pay dividends in her future.

"Sometimes the best answer, given what you have at your disposal, is the one that is for the greatest good and the best for the money that's available," she said.



Jacqueline Snow and Zephryn Andrews

# **UIEXTENSION:**

# Nurturing Idaho's agricultural legacy



University of Idaho Extension is one of U of I's most powerful tools for meeting the land-grant mission of statewide service and outreach. Extension professionals serve all of Idaho with a physical presence in 42 counties, three tribal reservations and at research and Extension centers statewide. They provide reliable, research-based education and information to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

#### Advancing Idaho agriculture

From the start, what we broadly know as Extension had a statewide mission. A combination of legislation empowered the Idaho Board of Regents in 1892 to authorize the creation of agricultural experiment stations in several locations. While the Morrill Act established public colleges and universities that advanced national agricultural and mechanical interests, the Hatch Act called for experiment stations to conduct original research or verify experiments. Three of the first experimental stations were near Grangeville, Idaho Falls and Nampa.

#### **Providing research-based solutions**

From the start, as one early bulletin explained, "the work of the stations belongs exclusively to the farmers of Idaho. In this work the authorities of the station have one end only in view, and that is the rendering of definite, practical assistance to the farmers of the state"

UI Extension services evolved with Idahoans' changing needs. When growing conditions changed, markets shifted or technology advanced, the university worked alongside producers to identify innovative solutions to real-world problems.

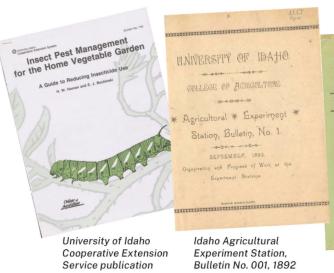
#### **Educating the community**

Farmers and ranchers weren't the only ones to benefit from UI Extension programs. In 1914, the Cooperative Extension Service was established by Congress through the Smith-Lever Act, which supported a community educational system in order to diffuse useful and practical information to U.S. citizens. Local volunteers in small towns statewide formed the Home Demonstration Council. Extension supported council affiliates with teaching materials and training opportunities. In turn, lay leaders offered hundreds of workshops and classes on topics from public speaking to grocery shopping on a budget to first aid and civil defense.

#### **Empowering youth**

For more than 100 years, Extension has coordinated a robust 4-H program benefiting generations of future leaders. Through practical experiences such as learning to sew or raising an animal for market, club members learned the importance of responsibility, respect, civic-mindedness and more. 4-H youth go on to make meaningful contributions to Idaho's communities in many ways.

Records related to UI Extension's diverse history are preserved by the University of Idaho Library's Special Collections and Archives. A small selection of materials can be viewed online at lib.uidaho.edu/digital/uiext. Many more collections, including scrapbooks, publications and service reports, can be accessed by visiting the archives in person.







1979-80 4-H scrapbook

Council, 1963-64 annual reports



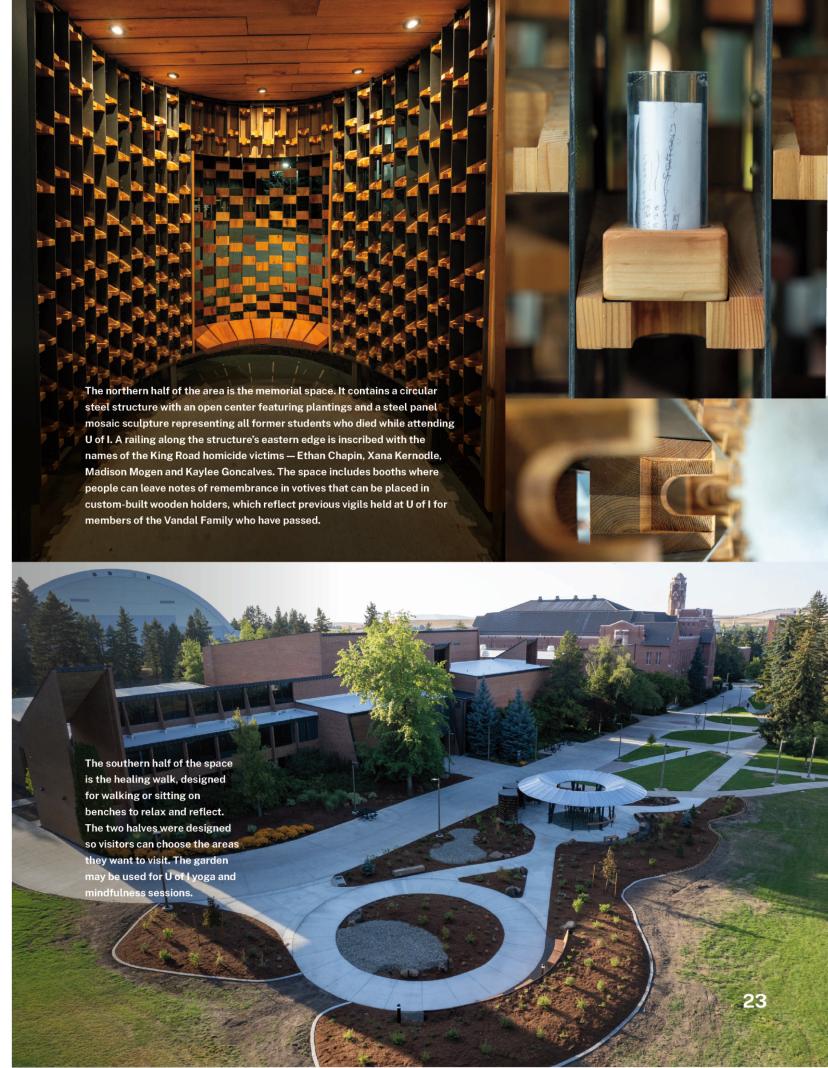
# OASIS of reflection

# **By David Jackson '93**Photos by Garrett Britton

As students arrived on campus for the Fall 2024 semester, they discovered a new outdoor space designed to create peace and comfort. Next to the Physical Education Building (PEB), a looping concrete walkway lined with bright flowers and green trees leads visitors to a large steel memorial pavilion next to alcoves with wooden candleholders.

Tour the Vandal Healing
Garden and Memorial,
designed by students and
dedicated to remembering
former students









Students worked closely with local and regional suppliers to source materials for the project. Wood used for the retaining wall behind the benches in the healing walk came from unused material from the construction of the ICCU Arena. Black locust used in the benches came from a fallen tree on campus. The bent steel beams of the memorial pavilion were specially fabricated by a manufacturer in Athol.





Trees in both spaces were carefully selected to ensure the space always looks healthy and vibrant. In addition to many evergreens, other trees were selected based on seasonal blooms, including late-fall-blooming maple trees. Dogwood plants were chosen for their stem color and hydrangeas for their ball-shaped flowers to display color and shape.

Students gathered input from the family and friends of those being memorialized when selecting the colors of the flowers and plants. Blooms around the memorial section are mostly white, pink and purple to convey a serene mood. In the healing walk, students chose more vibrant colors, including reds and oranges, for a livelier feel.







## Criminal justice student earns top ROTC nomination

#### **Story by Ralph Bartholdt** Photos by Rio Spiering '22

n high school, Matt Angelo dreamed of continuing his family's military history, but instead of joining the United States Army to chase that goal, he enrolled in college to attain it.

Angelo '24 earned a degree in criminology with minors in business and military science after joining University of Idaho with an Army ROTC scholarship, which paid his tuition. He will spend the next five years leading a field artillery unit.

"Being guaranteed a job right out of college is one of the things that drew me to University of Idaho's ROTC program," Angelo said. At first, there were hurdles.

The biggest one: Angelo questioned his decision.

"When he first came to see me, he was timid; he seemed overwhelmed but he was earnest," said Lt. Col. Thomas Warren, the commander of U of I's Chrisman Battalion.

Although Angelo appears enthusiastically squared away today, he said stepping on campus and being introduced to camouflage troops in the basement of Memorial Gym four years ago gave him the jitters.

"I wondered if I had made a wrong decision," he said.

He sought the camaraderie he knew while playing sports in Coeur d'Alene, but it took several months before he found his groove in the green machine. "I stuck it out the first semester, but it was tough," he said.

He soon found that competition and companionship he missed from high school in the Chrisman Battalion.

"In ROTC we have to wake up early for physical training and get after the day," he said. "I started making friends with other cadets who also had this new experience."

Once he acclimated, he began to excel.

"ROTC set me up for success, and it kept me on track," he said.

In Spring '24, after placing among the top 20% of cadets in the nation based on his scholarship, leadership, physical fitness and involvement in extracurricular programs, Angelo traveled to Fort Knox, Kentucky, as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He attended the U.S. Army Cadet Command George C. Marshall Awards and Leadership Seminar, where he participated in lectures and roundtable discussions with Army and defense experts.

Two years earlier, he made five parachute jumps and earned the Army's coveted parachutist badge.

"It was really cool," he said. "It's not every day that you get paid to jump out of airplanes in college."

As part of his minor, Angelo earned an Excel certification through the College of Business and Economics. The training bolstered his business acumen, which he says may come in handy after the military. He also joined the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity where he practiced the leadership knowhow he acquired as a cadet.

"It's super beneficial to use those leadership skills in a practical setting," he said.

After four years at U of I, Angelo's high school goal was made real.

"I wanted to jump out of planes and use cannons to control the battlefield," he said. "I am glad I am getting the opportunity to do it."





Matt Angelo '24

# BRAVE.BOLD. UNSTOPPABLE.

# For students. For Idaho. For the world.

When Vandals come together, we are unstoppable. Thousands of Vandals are boldly investing in University of Idaho, taking us 90% of the way toward our \$500 million funding goal by the end of 2025.

We're proud to share a few stories of the trailblazing success produced by the Vandal Family. We invite you to join us in what's next as, together, we create brave opportunities for the people, communities and economies in every corner of Idaho.

Every gift makes a difference for Idaho.

Make a bold impact today for what matters to you.

go.uidaho.edu/giving24

In 2021, the Vandal Family kicked off the public phase of the university's \$500 million philanthropic campaign.

Your generosity is amplifying our priority areas: Student Success, Sustainable Solutions for the Gem State and a Thriving Idaho for All.

#### YOUR IMPACT TO DATE

\$1<mark>42</mark>
Million

raised for student scholarships \$<mark>217</mark> Million

raised for research, faculty and academics

\$93

raised for facilities, campus enhancement, community outreach and more

"Our vision is a thriving Idaho — and world — for all, powered by the University of Idaho. And we Vandals have the courage, grit and unstoppable generosity to get it done."

C. Scott Green '84 President



# **BRAVE IMPACT**

#### IS ELEVATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Our shared commitment to student success is creating greater opportunities for students to enroll at U of I, explore their highest potential and graduate with little to no loan debt.



"There are few scholarships available for graduate students in education, so being selected to receive my scholarship was an honor. It has allowed me to continue my educational journey."

Lori Manzanares '97, '24
Ph.D., Adult Organizational Learning and Leadership

# VANDAL PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS

It started with a simple idea: Provide immediate scholarship support for students facing a \$5,000 funding gap every year of their educational journey. Since 2021:

90

students have received this scholarship

With continued investment from the Vandal Family, scholarships will create more success stories for more students and their families.

"The ability to be able to even attend school was made possible by these scholarships."

Vandal Promise Scholar Kaylee Moody

Animal, Veterinary and Food Sciences, Class of 2027



# **WHAT'S NEXT**

U of I offers nearly \$60 million in student scholarships and waivers annually — and together we can do even more for future Vandals. Please consider a bold gift today to:

- Establish an endowment that will provide scholarships for generations of Vandals.
- Grow undergraduate scholarships to make our trailblazing education available to more hard-working students.
- Expand scholarship opportunities for graduate students to take their careers to the next level.

# **BOLD IMPACT**

#### IS CREATING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE GEM STATE

U of I's research drives positive and lasting change across Idaho because we work statewide — in classrooms, communities, forests, farms, rivers and rangeland. Vandals deliver immersive learning, power workforce development and solve Idaho's biggest challenges.

#### MCCALL FIELD CAMPUS

# HOME TO MCCALL OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL (MOSS)

U of I's 80-year-old outdoor classroom is growing to meet Idaho's increasing need for STEMeducated employees. Since 2017, donor-backed infrastructure improvements include:

- · Two new bunkhouse buildings.
- New shower facilities.
- · New dock on Payette Lake.
- Safety and accessibility improvements.

Additional philanthropic investment will ensure 80 more years of place-based, hands-on learning and research for K-12, undergraduate and graduate students.

# MEAT SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER HONORING RON RICHARD

In 2023, U of I broke ground on its USDA-inspected meat processing and training facility. When complete, the center will provide:

- More space for learning and industry engagement.
- · Hands-on training in meat science.
- Modern infrastructure for worker safety and humane treatment of animals.
- Expanded teaching programs, research and workforce development.

With strong donor investment, this state-of-the-art facility will open on time in Fall 2025.





# **WHAT'S NEXT**

Idaho — and the world — needs the solutions only U of I can create.

Please consider a bold gift today to:

- Build a teaching and learning center, four new bunkhouses and a kitchen and dining facility to host more than 3,000 learners and researchers annually at the McCall Field Campus.
- Complete construction on a new meat science lab to serve more students, meet growing industry needs and facilitate cutting-edge research.
- Grow student research scholarships and assistantships to advance bold solutions and career development.

# **UNSTOPPABLE** IMPACT

#### IS BUILDING A THRIVING IDAHO AND WORLD FOR ALL

A thriving Idaho begins with healthy, prosperous and resilient communities. U of I is tackling Idaho's critical shortages in health care professionals, teachers, legal representation and affordable housing by training future professionals to work in the communities where they are needed most.

# IDAHO WWAMI MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Idaho's medical school is improving the health of rural and underserved communities through:

- · Community-based experiential learning for medical students.
- Free continuing education to train health care professionals where they work.
- Scholarships that help keep Idaho-trained doctors practicing in Idaho.

The Gem State ranks 50th in the nation for practicing physicians per capita. Idaho WWAMI is changing that with the support of generous donors.

"One of the best ways to address Idaho's physician shortage is to support Idaho WWAMI."

John Huckabay, Idaho WWAMI donor since 2019

The support of the Vandal Family can maximize University of Idaho's impact. We invite you to be brave, bold and unstoppable for students, for Idaho and for the world.

#### **GIVE NOW**

go.uidaho.edu/giving24



# WHAT'S NEXT

Please consider a bold gift to:

- Upskill more heath care providers to improve health outcomes throughout the state (ECHO Idaho).
- Provide medical students with more learning opportunities in rural areas (NI-AHEC).
- Increase Idaho WWAMI scholarship support to reduce student debt so more Idaho-trained doctors can practice in Idaho.





Kaylee Baldwin

Associate Professor Aleksandra Hollingshead

aylee Baldwin didn't listen to those who told her she couldn't possibly become a teacher. And even though she's only two years away from doing just that, her focus is not on proving the doubters wrong — it remains on the students.

"I want to be what my teachers were to me," said the 21-year-old from Burley. "My heart is with my students."

Baldwin is one of 11 students taking part in Idaho's Model Paraeducators Advancing to Certification (IMPACT), a program created by the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences (EHHS) to address the special education teacher shortage in Idaho and across the country.

"There's a huge teacher shortage nationwide, and special education teachers are one of the most in-demand roles," said Andrew Scheef, EHHS's special education program coordinator. "The idea is to start with paraeducators who are already in special education classrooms. They've been in the trenches. They know what it takes."

The two-year online program is free to participants through a grant from the U.S.



U.S. Department of Education. Upon completion, graduates are eligible to obtain a certificate to teach special education in Idaho.

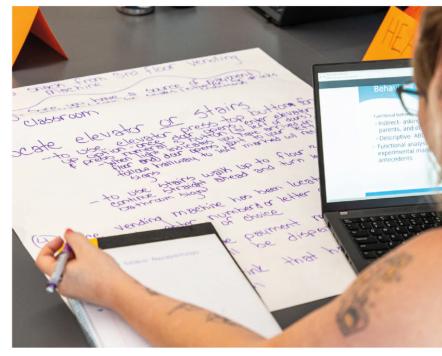
## Someone special

As a paraeducator — someone who works under the direction of a teacher, usually in personalized support roles — in the Burley School District, Baldwin is proving she belongs in a classroom.

Told she wouldn't amount to much because she came from a broken home and was not at the top of her class in high school, she ignored what she heard and followed her heart.

"I jumped into this position, and it was kind of sink or swim," she said. "But I'm growing into it. I've gotten emails from people telling me I've already made a difference in my first year. That's really helped me stay with it."

The IMPACT program is online except for two summer cohorts in Moscow. At the initial session this summer, Baldwin enjoyed sharing stories with her classmates about connecting with special education students. Although last year was her first year in the classroom, she already understands that connection is the key to success.



An IMPACT student creates a task analysis for students with disabilities.

"I work with one girl who's on the autism spectrum, and I spend a lot of time with her one on one," Baldwin said. "Because she will only work with me, I'm building a relationship with her and watching her flourish like she never has before. That's why we do this."



Student Logan Sanborn

#### **Smooth transition**

In the workforce since 1997, Jennifer Karlberg recently restarted her higher education journey, obtaining an Associate of Science in Child Development from North Idaho College last year.

As a developmental preschool paraeducator at the Lake Pend Oreille School District in Kootenai County, Karlberg learned about IMPACT from the school district's director of special education and was encouraged to apply by her lead teacher, Sara Smith '04.

Karlberg wants to become a full-time special education teacher not only to fill an important role in public education, but also to provide a better future for her two children as a single mother.

Karlberg appreciated the teamwork and bonding she developed with classmates in Moscow this summer. That was Scheef's hope for the cohort.

"We began by meeting in person for the first week because we wanted our scholars to have a built-in support system as they started," he said. "Most of the group work they'll be doing will be online, but because of the time they spent together, that strong connection will be there."

#### Home improvement

Gia Paul, who has spent the last 27 years as a paraeducator in Idaho, is also excited about becoming a special education teacher. She says there is a need for change in the current system and thinks programs like IMPACT will help bring about those changes.

Paul, who works as a reading intervention specialist with the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance, has experience in both brick-and-mortar schools and digital learning platforms and appreciated hearing stories from the other IMPACT scholars about best practices.

She has also worked in Genesee and Lapwai and is a member of the McDonald Elementary PTO in Moscow. Paul wants to absorb as much information as she can about success stories in special education so she can share them with her network of those involved in special education.

She also appreciates the idea of completing her online program while working, saying it's a perfect match.

"I think when you have a hands-on experience with your employer and then you have support and learning opportunities in the educational system, it's a wonderful way to learn." I



U of I congratulates these Vandals on their achievements.

## 1970s

Kenton Bird '76 retired from the School of Journalism and Mass Media after 24 years on the University of Idaho faculty.

## 1980s

William "Bill" Holman '87, '96, '02 retired as the principal of Moscow Middle School in June after serving in public education for 36 years. During his career, Holman taught math and physics for 14 years and was a school administrator for 22 years.

## **1990s**

Fred Dunhour '94, '01 retired in December 2023 from the U.S. Department of Energy in Lexington, Kentucky.

Tom Cubit '96 finished the Umstead 100-Mile Ultramarathon in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Angella Broesch '98 was promoted to vice president of human resources at Boise Cascade.

#### SIGN UP FOR THE ONLINE **MAGAZINE**

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#### 2000s

Tim Welker '00 was promoted to chief of the Threatened and Endangered Species Section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Omaha District in Nebraska.

Pete Evans '01 was named director of production process and operational analytics at Monrovia Nursery Company.

Megan Todd '02 was promoted to associate at CO Architects and oversees its San Diego office.

Erin (Nightingale) Whitesitt '02 was promoted to associate teaching professor of sociology at Northern Arizona University.

Tom Lloyd '03 joined the Boisebased law firm Miller Nash, which serves the financial services industry.

Trevor Young '03 has been promoted to senior vice president of Mountain West Bank in Coeur d'Alene.

Beau Johnston '04 joined Integrated Water Services as regional vice president, field services, for the Western Region.

Kim Campbell '07 was named one of the top 50 leaders of Alaska for 2024 by Women We Admire magazine.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

U of I extends its condolences to the family and friends of our departed Vandals.

Garry Farmer '53, '59,

Wickenburg, AZ, March 12, 2024

Mary (McVicker) Bonnett '54, Trent Woods, NC, Aug. 24, 2024

Jay H. Jeppson '55, Bountiful, UT, Sept. 8, 2022

Louis W. Oblock '55, Kirkland, WA, Dec. 3, 2023

Denis Long '56, Grangeville, Feb. 26, 2023

William Higgins '58, Mesa, AZ, Dec. 5, 2023

Thomas Trail '58, Moscow, Nov. 2, 2023

William L. Woods '59, Boise, Jan. 31, 2023

**Leo Hansen '60**, Provo, UT. Oct. 23, 2022

**DeLance Franklin '61**, Miami, FL, April 15, 2024

Robert R. Harrington '62, Covington, WA, Jan. 19, 2024

**Cecil Leonard '62, '67,** Tiverton, RI, Dec. 18, 2023

Carolyn (Vest) Bowler '64,

Boise, March 7, 2024

Malcolm Bohlman '65, Walla Walla, WA, Jan. 16, 2024

Martin Morua '65, Arlington, TX, Sept. 13, 2023

Rosalie (Bishop) Storment '65, Post Falls, Jan. 18, 2024

Stuart Barclay '66, Eagle, Feb. 5, 2024

**Truman A. Kohtz '67, '70**, Twin Falls, March 31, 2024

**Duane Fulgham '69**, Whidbey Island, WA, Oct. 11, 2023

Dr. W. Scott Rudeen '69, Twin Falls. Oct. 27, 2023

James B. Drewelow '70, Wenatchee, WA, Nov. 27, 2022

Richard Greenfield '70, Olympia, WA, Dec. 21, 2023

Mary L. (Nelson) Jewett '71, Spokane, WA, June 1, 2024

Maxine Kaiser '72, Saint Paul, MN, Nov. 19, 2022 Bruce L. Best '77, Lees Summit, MO, May 11, 2024

**Joseph A. Scorcio '77, '84**, University Place, WA, Feb. 14, 2024

**Terry W. Lewis '78**, Folsom, PA, Oct. 7, 2023

**Daniel Moore '79**, Kila, MT, Feb. 12, 2024

**Glen Fisher '82**, Hayden, April 16, 2023

Robert Butts '83, Palm Beach, FL, Nov. 8, 2023

**Kevin Howerton '93**, Boise, Jan. 6, 2024

#### **FACULTY/STAFF**

Thomas McKean, Redmond, OR, Oct. 17, 2023

William Coyle "Bill" Wharton, Moscow, June 28, 2024

**George Canney**, Moscow, July 7, 2024



University of Idaho wishes these Vandal newlyweds lots of love and happiness.



Sarah Smith '20 to Tristin Hafer '20 May 2024



**Leah Uptmor '18** to **Justin Nesbitt '18** October 2023

#### **FUTURE VANDALS**



















- Zyan Cook, daughter of Trezlyn Cook '21 and David Cook '19, granddaughter of Jeff Bartschi '79
- 2. Theodore Forsmann, son of Christine '18 and Jacob Forsmann '16
- 3. Everett Jeremiah Hansen, son of Michelle Lynn Hansen '06
- 4. Owen Wyatt Karel, son of Anthony and Chynna (Wilcox) Karel '22, grandchild of John Wilcox '95 and Jeannette Nuxoll-Wilcox '94, and Dan Karel and Laurie Terhaar-Karel '84

- 5. Emmy Kate Langland, daughter of Ashley Brink Langland '24
- **6.** Emma Jaymes Lorentz, daughter of Evelyn and **Jason Lorentz '14**
- Reece Paul (left) and Riley Paul (right), sons of Maddy Lyons '18 and Ryan Paul '16
- Samuel Anthony Rosenau (left) and Jessa Joan Rosenau (right), children of Jerrica '11 and Nathan Rosenau '11
- Elizabeth (left), Charlotte (middle) and Weston Uhrich (right), children of Kara (Riordan) '10 and Bret Uhrich '09

## To be featured in Class Notes:

Submit your news at **uidaho.edu/class-notes**. You can also email your information, including your graduation year, to **alumni@uidaho.edu**, or via regular mail to **Class Notes**, **Alumni Relations**, **875 Perimeter Drive**, **MS 3232**, **Moscow**, **ID 83843-3232**. Please limit your submission to fewer than 50 words.



Moscow, ID 83844-3232

