

# Winter walk

About 300 take final strides at Idaho

By Adam Wilson  
Daily News staff writer

Just before the 106th University of Idaho commencement Saturday, faculty members were talking under the goal posts in the Kibbie Dome.

Their ceremonial gowns indicated their doctoral degrees — belled sleeves with three velvet bars on them and hoods 4-feet long.

Faculty members were waiting to lead the newest UI graduates to the seating area.

The graduates were massing behind signs indicating their college and the mood was light.

"I took a shot (of Jack Daniel's whiskey) before I came here because that's what got me through college," said Betsy Whitehead who, like most of the graduates, was earning her bachelor's degree.

Her white tassel denoted the college of letters and science and she wore the bachelor's hoodless gown with pointed sleeves and mortarboard hat.

Jason Mayer, an information systems major, was standing behind the sign for the college of business and economics.

"I can't wait to start repaying my loans," he said.

Mayer's wife, Kristy, also was graduating, with a bachelor's degree in public communication.

The bleachers on one side of the Kibbie Dome were crowded with parents and friends of the graduates when the University Wind Ensemble played the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" to begin the proceedings.

A core group of faculty and officials led the procession and the graduates filed past faculty who stood at each side.

Some 600 students graduated from the UI this semester and about



Anne Drobish/Daily News

**NASA administrator** Daniel Goldin delivered Saturday's commencement address.

half were present to receive their degrees. No exact numbers were available, because students may choose to "walk" or not on the day of the ceremony and must still pass their final examinations this week.

The commencement address was given by Daniel Goldin, the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"If you do not have failure, you do not have success," said Goldin, who used examples from NASA's history to highlight difficulties that can be overcome.

He said people once considered building a space station cooperatively with Russia impossible, but now the international space station Alpha is a tribute to working together.

"When we break down barriers, we move from the twilight and into the bright sunshine," he said.

Goldin also announced a memorandum of agreement between the university and NASA to work

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together on mutually beneficial projects, including research in computer systems security.

UI President Bob Hoover awarded five people the President's Medallion, an accolade he began in 1998.

Holly and James Akenson were given the medal for their efforts to protect the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station from wildfire. The station is a research site deep in Central-Idaho forests.

Aviator Ray Arnold also was awarded the medal for repeatedly flying into the ranch to evacuate UI personnel and students.

Gregory Carr, one of Hoover's former students from Utah State University and an Idaho native, received the medal for his founding of the Carr Center for Human Rights, which organized construction of the Anne Frank memorial in Boise.

And Maurice Hornocker, a former UI professor and leading wildlife biologist, was honored with the award for excellence in his field.

Hoover supervised conferring



Anne Drobish/Da

**Madeline Jacobson, 2**, tussles with her father's tassel. Jacobson earned a degree in range livestock management and received a diploma Saturday.

the graduates, handing out degrees — first bachelor's, then master's, then doctorates.

Over its 111-year history, UI has graduated almost 83,000 students, Hoover said.

John Walker, president of the Alumni Association, welcomed the students as new alumni and reminded them to stay in touch with each other and the school.

"The University of Idaho always be a bright shining star to guide you along life's path," Hoover said.

To conclude the ceremony, Hoover asked for a final round of applause.

"Congratulations," he said to the graduates. "All you have to do is pass the final exam and pay your parking ticket."