

MCCLURE CENTER JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER



University of Idaho

McClure Center for
Public Policy Research

Dear Friends of the McClure Center,

In 2014, the McClure Center launched high-level applied learning experiences for students, both Vandals and future Vandals. These experiences, offered year-round, focus on public policy and have touched over 100 students! This number continues to grow!

Every summer, the McClure Center provides students exciting opportunities to engage with policy and policy making.

Partnerships serve as the cornerstone. We partner with the **Martin Institute** to support the Martin-McClure Ambassadorship for undergraduate students interested in exploring the intersection of international affairs and local policy. In 2019, we added the Water Policy Internship for an undergraduate to bridge field experiences and applied studies. Each year, we connect with a different University of Idaho entity: the **Idaho Water Resources Research Institute**, the **Rangeland Center**, and now **U of I Coeur d'Alene**. In 2021, we launched a doctoral fellowship with the **Department of History** for a current Ph.D. student to research and design the McClure Gallery exhibit. And, last year, we began to work with Boise State University's **TRIO Upward Bound** to host a high school student.

Jim and Louise McClure were active and intentional mentors to young minds and the McClure Center is honored to sustain this legacy. We are excited to introduce the students joining us for summer 2023!

Martin-McClure Ambassadors

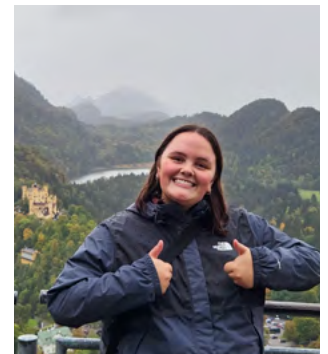
Taylor James:

Hello! My name is Taylor James and I am from Sandpoint, Idaho!

Currently, I am a junior at the University of Idaho, majoring in international studies and political

science, with minors in natural resources conservation and German. In my spare time, I love to read, travel, watch movies, and ride my bike. In Fall Semester 2022, I was fortunate to study abroad in Luneburg, Germany, where I learned more about the world and major issues.

This summer, as a Martin-McClure Ambassador, I am hoping to explore the role that Idaho plays at the international level and how even the smallest decisions domestically can shape the entire world. Being from North Idaho, I have been fortunate to grow up in a beautiful area, where I have been able to see firsthand just how important environmental protection is. Over the course of the ambassadorship, I hope to apply my knowledge of international relations to my passion for environmental protection and in doing so, better understand not only the international system, but Idaho as well.



TAYLOR JAMES

Rachel Feldman:

I was born in Laguna Hills, California and currently reside in Moscow, Idaho. I am a senior at the University of Idaho where I am working towards a Bachelor of Arts in international studies and political science. I



RACHEL FELDMAN

also am working towards two minors – one in French and the other in politics, philosophy, and economics.

This summer, working with the McClure Center, I am very excited to grow my passion for public policy research and hope to see how such passion can work to better our local communities and beyond. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and eager to see where my future brings me!

Water Policy Intern

Benjamin Ertz:

I'm Benjamin Ertz, a junior environmental science, sustainability sciences major, with a minor in ecology, from Boise, Idaho. I look forward to working with the McClure Center doing field work on Lake Coeur d'Alene and seeing how that important field work is translated into policy that impacts many different stakeholders.



BENJAMIN ERTZ

I have spent my whole life in Idaho and hope to use this as an opportunity to gain an understanding of how natural resource policy is crafted and passed in the state where I have learned to love the natural world. In my free time, I enjoy playing the guitar, camping, climbing, and exploring as far as I can go. I am extremely excited to learn more about the northern part of the state and help contribute to an understanding of our natural resource policies!

TRIO Upward Bound

We are excited to welcome our second TRIO Upward Bound intern, Caitlyn Ross, a student from Meridian High School. Caitlyn will spend 4 weeks with the McClure Center. We look forward to meeting Caitlyn!

McClure in History Fellow

Stephen Austin:

I grew up in College Station, Texas, but spent most of my summers at our familial stomping grounds in the Austin-San Marcos area. I attended Texas State University for my bachelor's and master's degrees, both in history



STEPHEN AUSTIN

and public history. Since graduating in 2014, I have worked full-time as a historian and architectural historian for various state agencies, including the Texas Historical Commission, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Department of Transportation.

After nearly a decade working in my career field, I decided to pursue a doctorate in history. The history Ph.D. program at the University of Idaho caught my attention. My family and I feel fortunate to be in Moscow and associated with the wonderful folks at the University of Idaho. I have two boys, ages 3 and 15 months, so any "spare time" I have is spent with them. We can usually be found at the local skatepark, the farmers market, or one of the many parks in Moscow.

My academic interests are related to administrative history, political history, the history of political thought, environmental history, and international relations theory. My tentative dissertation topic focuses on federal energy research in Idaho. This summer, I will work with Senator McClure's papers at the **University of Idaho Special Collections** to gain a better sense of Senator McClure's role in facilitating energy and policy development and potentially discover other avenues for my dissertation research.

2024 Celebration

The McClure Center will be celebrating in 2024! This would have been Senator McClure's 100th birthday. As part of the celebration, and to commemorate the legacy of two Idaho icons, we are gathering anecdotes and stories about Jim and Louise and about the McClure Center's impact.

We are asking you to share your experiences with us.

With your personal phone, please shoot a short (no-more-than 60 second) video that captures what the McClures and/or McClure Center mean to you and the impact on your life.

We would love for these videos to be personal, to be engaging, and to reflect your personality. Stories can run the gamut from heartwarming to moving, hilarious, or poignant. We do not have anything particular in mind, only that they allow your experiences with Jim, Louise, and/or the McClure Center to shine.

We know this is a big ask and that coming up with stories to share can be intimidating. If you are having a difficult time coming up with ideas, it may be helpful to think of Jim, Louise, and/or the McClure Center in terms of civility, nonpartisanship, working across the aisle, mentorship, natural resources, or the arts.

Your video will serve as a key piece in illustrating the throughline between who the McClures were and the impact they had on Idaho and the work of the McClure Center, which continues their legacy and dedication to public service in Idaho today and into the future. Your video may be used on our website, in our capital campaign materials, and/or on our social media. Of course, we will contact you for permission before your video is made public.

As an example, we are delighted to share Betzaida Gomez's story about what the McClure Center means to her. Betzaida was a TRIO Upward Bound intern last summer. [Watch her](#) describe in her own words her summer experience at the McClure Center and its impact.



BETZAIDA GOMEZ

We hope Betzaida's story inspires you to share your own.

We encourage you to share this request with your friends, colleagues, and family members who have memories of Jim and Louise and/or stories about the McClure Center.

When your video is ready, please contact us at mcclurecenter@uidaho.edu so we can work with you on the best way to transfer your video file. If you have any questions, please reach out!

Thank you so much for your help in kicking off the celebration of Jim's 100th year! Friends like you keep the McClure legacy alive.

With best wishes,

Katherine Himes, Ph.D.

Director, James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research

Based in Boise, the [University of Idaho's James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research](#) conducts nonpartisan public policy research, informs public dialogue and policy and engages students in learning about public policymaking. The Center's approach to addressing society's complex issues sustains Senator and Louise McClure's legacy of thoughtfully pursuing bipartisan collaboration and sound public policy.