



**Spring 2024**

**LETTER FROM SOUTHWEST IDAHO  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CHANDRA ZENNER FORD**

I hope 2024 is off to an excellent start! I am happy to report that we are expanding programs and people here at the Idaho Water Center. We have increased the footprint of the lab space to service the Center for Ecohydraulics Research and added more expertise to the team of educators and researchers focusing on water. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has recently hired a hydrologist who will have an office in what I call the “water suite” on the fourth floor with Daniele Tonina, Elowyn Yager and Gianluca Blois. The hydrologist is Meetpal Kukal and will be moving to Idaho from Pennsylvania. We are the Idaho Water Center

after all, and I hope these developments help us live up to our name in bigger and better ways.

The College of Art & Architecture and Integrated Design Lab provided me with many bragging points for a recent interview with KTVB. You can watch the video below. I could not be prouder of the many student experiences, research that matters and relevant outreach that originates from our campus in Boise.

Daisy Gonzalez and her stellar team of recruiters based here and around the region and country continue to make sure the University of Idaho is bucking many national trends in terms of enrollment growth.

Johanna Kalb has announced that she will step down from her role as Dean of the College of Law at the end of this academic year and take on a new role as Dean of the University of San Francisco School of Law. Under Dean Kalb's leadership the College moved into its new space located on Front Street, expanded its incoming class, and enriched its experiential and clinical offerings. The University has begun a national search for a new Dean and anticipates that an appointment will be made in the coming months. I wish Johanna and her family the best as they discover all that the City by the Bay has to offer.

I wish you all a productive spring semester and look forward to hearing more about the impact this whole SW Idaho team continues to make for our students and for Idaho. Go Vandals!

**Chandra Zenner Ford**  
Southwest Idaho Executive Officer



# IMPORTANT UPDATES

## **New U of I Boise Spring 2024 Commencement Date**

There will be a new date for spring commencement this year. U of I Boise's Spring 2024 Commencement will be held on **Sunday, May 19**. The ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. MT at the Boise Centre (on the Grove).

---

## **PROGRAMS & RESEARCH**



## **U of I Boise Research Highlighted on KTVB's Idaho Today Show**

Listen in as Daniele Tonina, a University of Idaho Boise College of

Engineering professor, shares about the Center for Ecohydraulics Research and how he and his colleagues are advancing water research in Idaho and beyond.

[Watch Here](#)



## **Vandals Take On The Challenge of Affordable Housing**

U of I Boise Center Executive Officer Chandra Zenner Ford was recently interviewed on KTVB's Idaho Today show to speak about research projects the College of Natural Resources, College of Engineering and the College of Art and Architecture are working on. Watch the full interview to learn about the innovative solutions Vandals are coming up with to address housing affordability.

[Watch Here](#)



## U of I Boise Professor Jaap Vos Presents at 2023 POP Talks Event

In November, eight University of Idaho faculty members presented at POP Talks on the “Power of Possibility.” Jaap Vos, a U of I Boise professor of planning and natural resources, was one of those presenters. Vos presented his research on how population shifts, and landownership changes play a vital role in predicting the state's future.

[Listen in](#) as he points out the importance of understanding who is moving to Idaho, why they're coming, and how this affects everything from roads and schools to real estate prices.

---

## CTE Student & Faculty Members Publish Journal Article

College of Western Idaho education faculty member Scott Straub and U of I College of Education, Health and Human Sciences faculty members John

Cannon and Carol Billing recently published an article in the Journal of Research in Technical Careers entitled, "Perceptions of InSpIRE: Training for Idaho alternatively certified CTE teachers."

[Read More.](#)

---

## **ISTPF Call for Fellows**

The Idaho Science and Technology Policy Fellowship (ISTPF), a nonpartisan program, is thrilled to announce the fifth call for ISTP fellows. This is an opportunity for outstanding scientists, social scientists and engineers to learn firsthand about policymaking while using their knowledge and skills to address pressing challenges facing Idaho. An online information session will be held February 6, 1 - 2 p.m. MST, [registration required](#).

***Applications are due by Friday, March 29, 2024, and the fellowship year begins in late August 2024.***

For more information about the ISTPF and how you can apply, [please visit the ISTPF website](#).

---

# **STUDENT SUCCESS**



*Left to right: UIdaho Associate Chair of Architecture, Dwaine Carver, Master of Architecture, student awardees, Tavia Dahl and Jacee Hammons, AIA Central Idaho President, Leah McMillan, and AIA Central President-Elect, Ian Hoffman.*

## **Master of Architecture Students Receive AIA Central Idaho Scholarships**

University of Idaho Boise College of Art and Architecture students, Jacee Hammons and Tavia Dahl, each received a \$2,000 American Institute of Architects (AIA) scholarship award for their outstanding design studio works. The annual AIA/UIdaho-Boise scholarships and guest lectures are made possible by the continuing support of the American Institute of Architects and the AIA Central Idaho Chapter.



## CAA Graduate Students Win First Place at Hacking for Homebuilding Competition

Congratulations to University of Idaho College of Art and Architecture graduate students Tavia Dahl, Jim Severt and Mallory Bermensolo! Last fall, the team won first place at Boise Entrepreneur Week's 2023 Hacking for Homebuilding competition for their PrinTimber submission in collaboration with the University of Idaho's College of Engineering and Auburn University.

[Read more about the competition.](#)

## McClure Center Welcomes Spring 2024 Students

The McClure Center is welcoming four students this spring.



**Sean Falconer**, a U of I College of Law 3L (Boise) is spending this semester with the McClure Center as a legal extern. He is supporting the [Gem State Air Quality Initiative](#), also working with a supervising attorney in the natural resources field.

In Sean's words: "I was born and raised in North Dakota and earned my B.S. in Criminal Justice from North Dakota State University. I furthered my education by receiving a M.A. in Criminal Justice from Washington State University with emphases in quantitative statistics, corrections and re-entry programs. Upon graduation I worked as a faculty member in the Boise State Department of Criminal Justice, teaching a variety of classes, including Research Methods, Statistics and Criminological Theories. I also spent nearly a decade working for the State of Idaho, originally for the Idaho Department of Corrections, and then for the Administrative Office of the Idaho Supreme Court. I am in my third year of law school and have a strong interest in policy making at the state and local level. In my spare time I enjoy being outdoors and spending time with my family."



**Sean Falconer**  
Martin-McClure Legal Intern

Since 2015, the McClure Center has partnered with [U of I School of Journalism and Mass Media \(JAMM\)](#) to bring undergraduate student reporters to Boise for a semester of professional development. Legislative interns are JAMM News Service correspondents, covering the Idaho legislative session and other happenings at the State Capitol. Legislative interns join the Idaho Press Club and receive full press credentials to use while reporting on policy construction at the State Capitol, with stories published in rural newspapers across Idaho.

This year, **Sophie Spanbauer**, a senior majoring in public relations with

minors in political science and history, is the JAMM-McClure Legislative Intern. Sophie Spanbauer “enjoys spending time with her golden retriever, fishing on the Boise River and volunteering at the humane society. She is thrilled to be spending this semester with the Idaho State Legislature.”



**Sophie Spanbauer**

JAMM-McClure Legislative Intern

New this year, the McClure Center has partnered with the [U of I Department of Politics and Philosophy](#) and the Office of Government Relations to launch a Government Relations Internship. This year, two students, **Erika Amaral** and **David Berriochoa**, joined the U of I office in the Capitol Annex to spend legislative session focused on the fast-paced research needs of the U of I’s Office of Government Relations.

In **Erika Amaral’s** words: “I am a first-year student coming in with my associate degree at the University of Idaho. I am majoring in political science with a minor in Spanish. I am also a Diversity Scholar here at the University, as well as in the Prelaw Society, ALPFA, OELA and MAS. I also enjoy reading, being outside and talking to everyone!”



**Erika Amaral**

McClure Government Relations Intern

**David Berriochoa** is a senior at the U of I studying political science and

Spanish. In David's words: "I was born and raised in Boise, Idaho and I am the middle boy between an older and a younger sister. We all attended St. Joes Catholic K-8 school then Bishop Kelley. I am really hoping to gain some practical career experience and possibly build connections for the sake of networking through this internship. In ten years, I see myself practicing some type of law and I believe that this internship will help me gain the discipline I need to pursue my dreams to my utmost capability."



**David Berriochoa**

McClure Government Relations Intern

---

## **SPACES & PLACES**

### **U of I Boise Food Cabinet**

In our commitment to student well-being, we have launched a food cabinet initiative to support students who may be facing challenges. Please consider donating non-perishable items to our dedicated food cabinet on the first floor of the Idaho Water Center. In addition to shelf-stable foods, we also accept toiletries. To donate, please place items in the bin on the first floor just inside the door of Suite 190 or feel free to bring items directly to Lili or Denise in Suite 190.

---

### **Idaho Water Center Classroom Technology Upgrades**

In 2023, upgrades were made to two of the Idaho Water Center's existing classrooms on the 1st floor and a new small classroom on the 4th floor was

added. In room 150, a new high-definition projector, new microphone system, new cameras and touchpad controls were installed to bring the room more in line with the standard classrooms in Moscow. Room 162 received the same upgrades as 150, except the projector was removed entirely and the room is now equipped with two 85" TVs. In room 448a, a single 85" TV, an Aver videoconferencing system, and an adjustable podium with a dual monitor setup were installed to be used for smaller classes that may not need the space the other classrooms offer.

---

## EVENTS

### **2024 Statewide Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition – Tuesday, Feb. 6**

Join graduate students from the University of Idaho, Boise State University, and Idaho State University as they present their research to a panel of judges in just three minutes or less. [Learn more and watch the livestream event.](#)

---

### **Parma Ribbon Cutting Event – Tuesday, Feb. 20**

Please join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the new Idaho Center for Plant and Soil Health at the Parma Research and Extension Center. [Learn more and RSVP.](#)

---

### **Vandal Scholarship Fund Gala – Friday, Feb. 23**

Join the University of Idaho Alumni Association to celebrate alumni award recipients and network with fellow Vandals! [Help us celebrate and learn more.](#)

---

### **Vandal Ski Days at Bogus Basin – Sunday, Feb. 25**

Join the University of Idaho alumni and friends on the slopes at Bogus Basin! [Learn more.](#)

---

## **Policy Pub at Pengilly's (513 W. Main St., Boise) – Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 5-6 p.m. MT**

Save the Date! Panelists from local government agencies and local businesses will share perspectives on agriculture and food waste, solid waste and landfills and wastewater and water reuse. These experts will explore connections with human health, policy and risk management.

---

## **Vandal Bowling Day at Caldwell Bowl – Saturday, Mar. 2**

Roll on over to the Caldwell Bowl for a day of strikes and spares with Vandal alumni and friends. [Learn more.](#)

---

# **NEWS**

**Read: U of I is Creating Waves in Hydraulic Research**

**Read: Creating Solutions for Affordable Housing**

**Read: UI Students Translate Story of Atomic Bombing Survivor**

**Read: PrinTimber Team Wins Hacking for Homebuilding**

**Read: U of I and CWI Partner to Further Student Education**

**Read: Dual Credit Information Night Offered by U of I Boise**

---

**Connect with us!**



Copyright © 2023 University of Idaho, All rights reserved.

You received this email because of your affiliation with the University of Idaho.

University of Idaho Boise  
322 E. Front Street  
Boise, ID 83702

208-334-2999  
[boise@uidaho.edu](mailto:boise@uidaho.edu)  
[uidaho.edu/boise](http://uidaho.edu/boise)

Not the email you wanted to receive? Customize the emails you receive from University of Idaho by [updating preferences](#) for . You can also [unsubscribe](#) from this email.