



U of I Boise Fall 2024 Newsletter

LETTER FROM SOUTHWEST IDAHO EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHANDRA ZENNER FORD

Welcome back to fall semester 2024. It was great to see many of our new students during orientation, and of course, many others at the Vandal Block party last week with President Green. And thank you to Mother Nature for the beautiful night for what we think is going to become an annual gathering of the Vandal community in Boise.

This week, we co-hosted a reception with Micron in Legacy Pointe, which launched a summit aiming to engage more than 60 universities to develop curriculum for students to gain skills for professions in the semiconductor industry. Micron's Chief People Officer, April Arnzen, is a proud Vandal alum and she was the keynote speaker launching the summit. Our Dean of the College of Engineering, Suzie Long, has been a leader in the network and I look forward to seeing how the University of Idaho will play a role in this effort.

To me, hosting an event like the one I just described is what we are all about. The promise of a better future and helping our students find a path that inevitably leads to a brighter one is why I love working for the University of Idaho. This summer, I was fortunate to attend the Harvard Institute for Education Management. I met education leaders from all over the globe and gained insights and inspiration. I learned University of Idaho does a lot of things really well and I brought home many ideas to share with colleagues.

I will share a quote from one of my colleagues at the institute who said the beginning of fall semester "brings a unique energy and joy to campus." I hope you feel it and I hope you have an amazing fall semester. Thank you to all our students, faculty and staff who bring energy and joy to work every day. The Vandal family is unique because of you.

Go Vandals!

Chandra Zenner Ford
Southwest Idaho Executive Officer



OUTREACH & EVENTS



Vandal Block Party in Downtown Boise

Last week, Vandals from across Southwest Idaho gathered in downtown Boise to show their Vandal Pride and enjoy each other's company at the second annual Vandal Block Party! There was an awesome turnout of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends, and attendees enjoyed live music by U of I alumnus Spencer Batt and delicious food and drink options onsite. If you didn't attend this year, be sure to grab your friends and join us next year for one of the largest Vandal events of the summer!



U of I Foundation Team Volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Boise

The University of Idaho Foundation Team in Boise had the honor of volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Idaho in Boise. During their visit, they prepared a warm meal for the families staying at the Warm Springs facility. RMHC of Idaho plays a vital role in supporting families during some of the most challenging times in their lives, providing them with a place of comfort and care as they focus on their child's health. This experience was a reminder of the importance of giving back to our community.

The volunteer team included: Mahmood Sheikh, Melinda Jean Stafford, Brittany Sundell, Chris Hammond, Stephanie Ballis, Sheila Hennessey, Kate Walker, Sandy Larsen and Chelan Lippincott.

PROGRAMS & RESEARCH



10 CAA Students Participate in London/United Kingdom Architecture Summer Study Abroad Program

Over the summer, ten students (7 based in Moscow and 3 in Boise) from the [Architecture](#) and [Interior Architecture & Design](#) programs participated in the London/United Kingdom Architecture Summer Study Abroad Program. The students called King's Cross neighborhood their home for 4 weeks.

Led by Boise-based [College of Art and Architecture](#) Associate Professor [Carolina Manrique Hoyos](#), students engaged in interdisciplinary research activities understanding multi-layered sustainable and regenerative approaches in the continuous transformation of London and four cities in England (Bath, Oxford, Cambridge and York). Scheduled visits included iconic heritage buildings such as St. Paul's Cathedral and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, renowned architecture and engineering firms and award-winning contemporary buildings and sites.

Presentation topics during visits included innovative efforts in sustainability and regenerative design, approaches to urban renewal and adaptive reuse, façade engineering, and architectural design for extreme climates. The capstone project was a design charette drawing on research done during the required preparatory seminar (spring) and coursework while abroad during the summer for an alternative (Green) Serpentine Pavilion. The United Kingdom architecture program was created by Distinguished Professor Emeritus [Bruce Haglund](#) in 2006 and has been happening since then every other year during the summer.



Idaho Water Center Tours & Visitor Sign-in

Building tours of the Idaho Water Center are available for prospective students, external contacts, Moscow campus employees, or anyone that is interested in learning more about the building and U of I Boise offerings. For more information and to schedule an appointment for a tour, please reach out to IWCtours@uidaho.edu.

Along with the new tours, there will soon be a new process for visitors to the Idaho Water Center. All visitors will need to sign in at the security desk on the first floor. Signage will be placed at the first floor Front Street entrance and in the elevator lobby as you enter from the parking garage. Please alert visitors of this new process when you are inviting guests to meet at the Idaho Water Center.

STUDENT SUCCESS



College of Art and Architecture Master's Student Featured on KTVB's Idaho Today Show

U of I Boise College of Art and Architecture master's student Mallory Bermensolo was recently featured on KTVB to share about U of I's PrinTimber project. U of I is developing technology to make housing more affordable nationwide. Bermensolo and the PrinTimber research team are combining sawdust and other wood byproducts with bio-based glue to create a medium for 3D-printing buildings and stackable bricks.

[Learn More](#)



Vandals in D.C.

This summer, the McClure Center celebrated our first Vandal in D.C. scholarship recipient, Martha Smith. Martha is a University of Idaho senior, majoring in political science and economics, and incoming ASUI president.

From Martha: *"This summer, I lived at The Washington Center and participated in their academic internship thanks to the Vandals in DC Scholarship. I worked in political consulting at Whitmer and Worrall, LLC. Through this, I have a much deeper understanding of federal agencies and Congress's external interactions regarding lobbying. While I was there, I attended meetings with clients to further their legislative goals, covered Congressional meetings, and provided supplemental research to client facing reports.*

In addition to my internship, I took a media and American politics course with a former C-SPAN producer. This was informative and useful in understanding political news that emerged this summer.

As I begin my senior year at the University of Idaho, I feel prepared with a clear vision of my career path and those who I will support in my professional pursuits. Here's to one more year at Uldaho!"

The McClure Center will support one University of Idaho student per semester with a scholarship to attend a semester of The Washington Center's Academic Internship program. The scholarship covers The Washington Center Academic Internship application, program and housing fee for one semester.

NEW FACES



Meetpal Kukal

CALS has hired Meetpal Kukal, an assistant professor of Hydrologic Science & Water Management, from Penn State University, as a new water modeler within the Department of Soil and Water Systems based

in Boise. Kukal's research is on hydrology of agricultural and natural landscapes; how global change stressors impact water resources, and solutions for sustaining and improving agricultural profitability and water security.

[Learn More](#)



Kendra Kaiser

As previously announced, Kendra Kaiser is U of I's new IWRRI Director. She's located in the Idaho Water Center and hit the ground running in July. Kendra's office is on the 4th floor with colleagues and students affiliated with the Center for Ecohydraulics Research.

[Learn More](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vandal Football Watch Parties – Every Vandal Football Game

Join us for watch parties across the country. Cost to attend is free and locations are 21+ only unless otherwise indicated as "Family-friendly".

[Learn more.](#)

West Ada VSF Chapter Luncheons – Every Wednesday at Noon

The luncheons will be every Wednesday beginning at noon. Anyone is welcome to join. Our first 3 speakers will be Jason Eck (8/28), Jeremy Clevenger (9/4) & Dean Abramovsky (9/11).

Rangeland Fall Forum 2024 – Digging in...to Soil Health – October 3 & 4

Soils are a key driver to rangeland diversity, and also crucial for healthy rangelands. But how do management decisions connect with soil health? We'll examine the science of soil health on Idaho's rangelands, and the management practices and policies that come into play.

Interactive conversations will start Thursday, Oct. 3 in Boise, followed by a field tour highlighting soil health out on the range near Marsing on Friday, Oct. 4.

[More information and registration.](#)

Save the date! Idaho's Minerals and the Energy Future at the Egyptian Theatre – October 29

The McClure Center will be hosting bestselling author and Reuters journalist Ernest Scheyder to discuss his book, *The War Below*, and explore challenges and opportunities with Idaho leaders.

In the News

U of I Boise to hold second annual Vandal Block Party

U of I Led Team Gets \$15M to Study Drought & Forest Fire

252 Former Students Return to U of I to Finish Their Degrees

Connect with us!

