



Dear Friends of the College of Science,

The fall semester has been extremely busy in the College of Science and there is a lot of great work to celebrate.

We continued our focus on student success through curricular innovation:

- Introduced numerous new career-ready [degrees](#) in the Department of Earth and Spatial Sciences, including an online [M.S. in geographic information science \(GIS\)](#)
- Finalized plans for a new B.S. in bioinformatics (starting fall 2024)
- Created 4+1 degree pathways for undergraduates in the chemistry, physics and GIS programs to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees with one additional year of coursework
- Innovated undergraduate laboratory courses in physics and chemistry, including purchasing a new tabletop NMR for students in lower division chemistry and dual credit high schools to analyze chemical samples

- Continued efforts in the Department of Mathematics and Statistical Science to overhaul the introductory mathematics curriculum

We are not resting and will continue this work throughout the current academic year. Be on the lookout for future updates about the Polya Math lab.

Here are other exciting updates in the college:

- We welcomed seven new faculty members this year:
  - [Rick Thompson](#) (Chemistry)
  - **Tim Boester**, [Mike Love](#), and [Ben French](#) (Mathematics and Statistical Science, Polya math faculty)
  - [Sarah Castle](#) (joint appointment in Mathematics and Statistical Science and Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences)
  - [Tiantian Yang](#) and [Fan Yi](#) (Mathematics and Statistical Science)
- We welcomed six new college and departmental staff:
  - [Jana Holbert](#) (Biological Sciences)
  - **Adam Valadon-Pillay** (Chemistry)
  - [Ashley Bogar](#) (INBRE)
  - [Roy Cruz](#) and [Lana Unger](#) (Mathematics and Statistical Science)
  - **Reynaldo Carson** (Physics)
- In Fall '23, the college hosted two College of Science Cool Science seminars via Zoom. Keep an eye out for spring seminar announcements.
- The 19th annual COS Student Research Exposition was held Oct. 26. In all, 35 graduate and undergraduate students participated, representing research done in all our COS departments. Two entries in each of the Graduate and Undergraduate categories were chosen by our judges as especially meritorious. [Learn about the winners here.](#)

There is lots of other good news in the Kudos section, so don't forget to take a look.

Congratulations to all our recent fall graduates! Commencement was a bit hectic with the playoff football game on the same day, but we proudly celebrated the successes of the students. I'm grateful to the staff and faculty

who make the College of Science such a great place to work, learn and grow.

Have a wonderful holiday season and Go Vandals!



Ginger E. Carney, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Science



**Give to the College of Science Excellence Fund**



## Calculus and Congress

Landing a Summer Internship in D.C. Became an Integral Part of Math Major's Education

[Learn More](#)



## U of I Granted First NIH Science Education Partnership Award to the State of Idaho

For the first time since its establishment 30 years ago, the Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the NIH has awarded funding to a project in Idaho.

[Learn More](#)



## **INBRE Supplement Taking High Performance Computing to New Heights with Powerful Equipment Upgrades**

A recently funded NIH NIGMS supplement (\$204,266) to the University of Idaho INBRE Program (Carolyn Hovde Bohach – Principal Investigator; grant # P20GM103408) will provide critical upgrades to high-performance computing infrastructure housed in the Institute for Interdisciplinary Data Sciences (IIDS) Research Computing and Data Services (RCDS) Core.

[Learn More](#)

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## **Kudos, Achievements and Awards**

[View our December 2023 kudos, achievements and award winners.](#)

To submit kudos, achievements or awards, please email [vandalsciencenews@uidaho.edu](mailto:vandalsciencenews@uidaho.edu).

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## Vandal Science News Puzzler

With each issue of the Vandal Science News we'll include a challenging puzzle. Send solutions by email to [vandalsciencenews@uidaho.edu](mailto:vandalsciencenews@uidaho.edu) - we'll post the names of those who submit correct solutions in the next issue.

[View the last puzzler solution and correct solvers.](#)

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## Puzzler for December 2023

This is a little bit of an unusual puzzler – I hope you enjoy it. What is the number of the parking space in which the red car is parked?



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