

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

A Message from Jie Chen, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies



In this newsletter, we highlight a graduate student, who we believe serves as an excellent example of many graduate students at the University of Idaho. This story tells us what our students can achieve, and how our graduate programs can help them reach their goals in academic study and scholarly research. The university is fortunate to have these highly motivated and creative students, and students flourish in their graduate programs at our institution.

In addition, several important reminders for graduate admissions and thesis/dissertation submission are explained in this newsletter. We hope that these changes and tips can help graduate students pursue their graduate degree at Uldaho and assist faculty and staff members in managing graduate programs.

Finally, I want to let you know that the number of applications for our graduate programs for Fall 2014 has remained higher than Fall 2013!

CELEBRATING
125 YEARS

A Presidential Welcome

The College of Graduate Studies is excited to welcome the 18th President of the University of Idaho, Dr. Chuck Staben and his wife Mary Beth. Since 2008, President Staben has served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of South Dakota. Previously, he worked at the University of Kentucky in several capacities from 1989-2008. He served as the acting vice president for research, associate vice president for research and in faculty administrator roles, chair and acting chair in the biology department and professor, associate professor and assistant professor of biology. He is a long time supporter of land-grant universities and officially took the reins of the university on March 1, 2014.



"I love what the University of Idaho has to offer, and I'm excited to serve the students, faculty and staff and see where we can go together" says Chuck Staben, 18th President of the University of Idaho.

In This Issue

- Graduation Deadlines
- Tips for Thesis & Dissertation Submission
- 2014 Innovation Showcase
- Grad Faculty Membership
- Study Plan and Degree Audit Resources
- Graduate Writing Assistance
- Events and Dates to Remember
- Admissions Requirements
- Nora Roberts Leads Potato Association
- Ghanaian MFA Sculptor "Can" Do Art

FEATURE STORIES



Ghanaian MFA Sculptor “Can” Do Art

By Amanda Cairo

While the U.S. was ringing in the 2011 new year, people in Ghana were observing custom and remembering blessings of the previous year. In between the two countries, Master of Fine Arts student in art and design, Ghanaian Martin Nyarko was flying across the Atlantic to begin his studies at the University of Idaho.

Just as he straddled two cultures that night, he has been building a bridge to connect them through his art over the last two years. Along the way, he has won awards and garnered attention.

“I don’t really know why, but I really wanted to start the new year in Idaho,” says Nyarko, from Kumasi, Ghana. “I felt it was important to be here.”

From life on the equator to winter in the Idaho mountains, Nyarko is making a name for himself and his art, which is influenced by his home culture and by his experiences in Idaho.

As a youth, he and his friends would play with empty containers found in the local landfill. He’d make them into toys and crafts. While in the studio of another graduate student, a recycling bin full of pop cans with bright metallic colors at the corner of the room caught his eye and reminded him of his childhood games.

Inspired by the royal Kente cloth of the Ashanti’s of Ghana, he began making strips out of the cans. While paying attention to their forms and color, he started weaving them into patterns similar to the Kente cloth, silk and cotton fabric made of interwoven cloth strips, and garments.

“It started with my cultural background, and I wanted to connect this culture in America with my own,” says Nyarko. “The materials are from here, but my art work essentially communicates socio-cultural and trade influences. By upcycling, I create a second chance for the materials and offer viewers opportunity to learn a unique tradition (art) from mundane objects, something I started as a kid.”

As Nyarko transformed the nature of his materials into cloth and ultimately a dress, he sought to show the connection between soda and its effects on the human body.

“As you would not want to wear a dress made out of pop cans because it is stiff and uncomfortable, think about what the contents are doing to you when you drink it,” says Nyarko.

The sculpture — which earned an innovations award on campus — almost wasn’t though. When he talked to some faculty members in the department about his idea, they warned him it was too great a

task and too time consuming. Spurred by the challenge, rather than discouraged, Nyarko took to creating his award-winning sculpture and continues to work on more sculptures from pop cans on a similar theme. He also took the tops and bottoms of the can to create a train on the dress and as a background.

“I really wanted to use the entire can, showing that it is more than a can, and how all the parts can become something different,” says Nyarko.

Showing his work is something that as a young artist he can be proud of. Nyarko has exhibited in several venues in Moscow, including a recent show at the Reflections Gallery in the Commons.

It’s an experience he wasn’t able to have during his undergraduate education in Ghana. It was an unexpected benefit of a program he researched online while looking at graduate schools in the U.S. and U.K.

He found the UI through a personal connection, a friend working on a doctoral degree in chemistry here and who encouraged him to look at the MFA program in Idaho.

“I looked at the program and saw that it was a perfect fit for me,” says Nyarko.



The College of Graduate Studies encourages you to submit feature stories. If you have a news item you would like to highlight in our fall newsletter please forward it to

Sue Branting at sueb@uidaho.edu.

UI Researcher Nora Olsen Leads Potato Association of America



KIMBERLY, Idaho – March 14, 2014 – University of Idaho Extension potato specialist Nora Olsen of Kimberly leads the Potato Association of America, the group's sixth president with UI ties.

The association includes representatives of more than 30 nations around the world. Her term is notable twice over: she was elected during the association's centennial year and she is the first woman to serve as its president.

"We are really a world-wide organization, even though the majority of our membership is in North America," she said. The group has a sister organization, the European Association of Potato Research which she will address later this year.

Potato production tends to follow population. China is the world's leading producer. India's another major producer. In those countries, however, potato production typically occurs in quarter- or half-acre family plots. In Idaho and across North America, potato farms can span thousands of acres.

Markets vary widely, too. "We are a global market. We are growing potatoes to export and feed the world," she said.

The Potato Association of America represents a wide spectrum of production, from scientists to potato farmers, she noted.

"We encompass all of the people who want to be part of this strong scientific exchange," Olsen said. "That's what's remarkable about the organization. It's not just academia, it's industry people. We have the unique ability to bridge industry and academia together to talk about the science and where we need to go in the future."

As the latest in a UI leadership line that stretches back nearly half a century, Olsen was preceded by at least five University of Idaho potato researchers, beginning with Walter Sparks in 1965. Others included Dennis Corsini, Joe Guenther, Stephen Love and Phil Nolte, who served most recently in 2010.

The association is focusing on the future in several ways, she noted. Last year it converted to electronic voting. "We are updating the website, we touched on Facebook and Twitter. We are evolving," she said.

It won't take another century for the next woman president, either. Loretta Mikitel, a potato specialist for New Brunswick's Potato Development Centre, serves as the group's vice president, which puts her in line to become president in 2015.

Olsen joined the UI faculty in 1998 after completing her doctorate in horticulture at Washington State University.

Her research focuses mostly on maintaining quality for both fresh pack potatoes sold in grocery stores and for potatoes used by processors to make fries and other products. Olsen spends time in the field and at the Kimberly Research and Extension Center's potato storage research facility.

In 2011, Phil Nolte, a UI Extension potato disease specialist at Idaho Falls and past association president, received a potato with zebra chip symptoms. Olsen did the ground work, examining the field. They became the first researchers to confirm that zebra chip had arrived in Idaho.

The bacterial disease is carried by tiny cicada-like insects, potato psyllids. Until Nolte and Olsen's work, scientists believed the Northwest was free of the pests. Subsequent checks found the insects in Washington and Oregon, too.

The discovery worried potato producers and processors. Although the bacterial disease presents no health threat, it does undermine infected spuds' value by creating dark bands in fried potatoes, hence the name zebra chip.

Much of her work focuses on keeping potatoes fresh and healthy in storages by studying how to keep sprouting to a minimum and to combat microbes that cause spoilage.

Olsen noted that next year's president will be Andy Jensen, research director for the Idaho, Washington and Oregon potato commissions. The association's annual meeting is planned in Spokane July 27-31.

The bacterial disease is carried by tiny cicada-like insects, potato psyllids. Until Nolte and Olsen's work, scientists believed the Northwest was free of the pests. Subsequent checks found the insects in Washington and Oregon, too.

The discovery worried potato producers and processors. Although the bacterial disease presents no health threat, it does undermine infected spuds' value by creating dark bands in fried potatoes, hence the name zebra chip.

Much of her work focuses on keeping potatoes fresh and healthy in storages by studying how to keep sprouting to a minimum and to combat microbes that cause spoilage.

Olsen noted that next year's president will be Andy Jensen, research director for the Idaho, Washington and Oregon potato commissions. The association's annual meeting is planned in Spokane July 27-31.

Story by:

**Bill Loftus, Science Writer
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences**



Thesis/Dissertation Corner



Some Things to Remember

Spring 2014 Graduates

- April 18** Last date to submit your document for the FIRST format review if you are planning to make the May 16th deadline. Submitting later may delay the review of your document and delay the approval of your format.
- May 2** Last day to submit the final version of your document in ETD (this is the fully revised—both content and format—version of your document that will be published online). If you are unable to meet this deadline please contact Melinda Deyasi for assistance in submitting your document.
- May 16** Final day that the bond copy of your document can be delivered to Morrill 207; this is the print copy of the final ETD version that will be housed in the library; final day for NTR submissions. Any theses or dissertations that come after this date will push your graduation date into Summer.

Additional deadlines for 2014 summer graduates

Need Help with Thesis or Dissertation Binding Fees?

Application Form



The [Graduate and Professional Student Association](#) (GPSA) supports graduate students with an aid of up to \$50.00 to be used for thesis and dissertation printing and binding expenses. Any current graduate student enrolled at the University of Idaho (Moscow Campus) is eligible for this award, unless the applicant's department is in default with the GPSA due to the lack of attendance by department representatives at GPSA Senate meetings. Priority will be given to students with no other source of funding (i.e., Department funds, Major Professor, Grant). Deadlines are: third Friday of November for students graduating in the Fall Semester, third Friday of April for students graduating in the Spring Semester and the third Friday of July for students graduating in the Summer Term.

Thesis & Dissertation Handbook

A reminder to faculty and students that the College of Graduate Studies encourages you to read the [Thesis & Dissertation Handbook](#). We also encourage you to visit the ProQuest/ETD website www.uidaho.edu/etd as they offer many informative tutorials regarding the submission process and technical support.

For additional information regarding the electronic submission process please contact: [Melinda Deyasi](mailto:Melinda.Deyasi@uidaho.edu) at melindad@uidaho.edu, Morrill Hall room 207 or by phone at 208-885-6242

2014 Innovation Showcase

[The 2014 Innovation Showcase](#) is a student competition to highlight the research and creative successes of our [graduate](#) and [undergraduate](#) students in all disciplines at the University of Idaho. Students compete for monetary awards based on poster and/or technical presentations. We encourage students to register by the deadline below. [Awards](#) up to \$500 are given out as scholarship.

- ⇒ **Student Registration Deadline: April 1, 2014**
- ⇒ **Judging Registration Deadline: April 4, 2014**

Register Online Today

Writing Assistance

Are you daunted by your thesis or dissertation? [The Writing Center](#) (Commons 326) has a dedicated consultant for graduate students who need help or support with these or any other writing issues.

Graduate Writing Consultant Ryan Kalis is available to help you through the writing process, from comprehensive issues such as focus and organization to stylistic concerns of grammar and citation. Graduate students of all backgrounds and disciplines are welcome.

Become a Member of Graduate Faculty

Review of Graduate Faculty Membership:

As per COGS regulations, all major professors must be members of Graduate Faculty and at least one half of a student's graduate committee must also be members.

Study Plan and Degree Audit Resources

- [Office of the Registrar | Study Plan/Degree Audit](#)
- [Creating & Entering a New Study Plan](#)
- [Entering Transfer Work on a Study Plan](#)
- [Entering Special Titles & Variable Credit Courses on a Study Plan](#)





10 Things UI Faculty and Departmental Staff Need to Know About Graduate Admissions

Pam Beutler

Int'l Applicants

208-885-4665

beutler@uidaho.edu

Roxane Fredrickson

Domestic Applicants / A-M

208-885-4663

roxanef@uidaho.edu

Tammy Renfrow

Domestic Applicants / N-Z

208-885-4422

trenfrow@uidaho.edu



The purpose of the [Graduate Admissions Office](#) is to gather applications and supporting documentation from students applying to graduate programs at the University of Idaho. Following policies established by Graduate Council and the University, our goal is to provide academic departments timely information about prospective students so decisions can be made about admission to graduate programs.

1. The Graduate Admissions Office collects all application materials from all applicants so complete admission applications can be provided to the academic departments. Therefore, all applicants should be directed to send all of their application materials directly to the Graduate Admissions Office.
2. The basic admission requirements are —application, application fee, transcripts from all colleges attended, Statement of Career Objectives, Resume/CV, 3 letters of recommendation and English language exams (from international applicants) .
3. Specific admissions requirements for all students and for all departments can be found on the Graduate Admissions website: <http://www.uidaho.edu/graduateadmissions>
The required [English language exam scores](#) can be found there, as well.
4. The [Priority Deadlines](#) established by Graduate Council are February 1 for summer & fall and September 1 for spring. Completed applications received in the Graduate Admissions Office by the priority application deadlines will receive priority processing and these students are being informed they will receive priority consideration for admission Applications received or completed after the priority application deadline will be processed as quickly as possible.
5. Making early admission decisions is highly recommended to ensure that departments get the most qualified students. Also, international students need time to obtain their student Visa and make travel arrangements. [Domestic students](#) often need to make travel and living arrangements, as well.
6. There are several ways that departments can track the status of applicants to their graduate program. An email containing application status information by semester is sent to each department contact weekly. Upon request, departments are granted access to run their own Graduate Admissions Statistics report (SZRWKGR) directly from Banner. Once an application has been received in the Graduate Admissions Office, an applicant record is created and maintained in the Banner computer system and can be viewed at any time by those with Banner Student training.
7. Reviewed files should be returned to the Graduate Admissions Office as soon as possible after the decision has been made. Official notification of the decision is sent out by the Graduate Admissions Office as soon as the file been returned and the decision has been entered into the computer system. Only after this Graduate Admissions decision has been entered, may departmental offers of admission or financial assistance be made.
8. If new [international students](#) are offered departmental funding of any kind, the Graduate Admissions Office needs to be notified. This information is used in issuing the student an I-20, the document that allows them to apply for a student (F-1) visa to enter the United States.
9. When recommending Provisional Admission or full admission to applicants with low GPAs, remember to submit the required memo of support and/or list of recommended provisions. Submitting the memo at the same time as the routing sheet will greatly aid the College of Graduate Studies in making timely decisions on these files.
10. If students want to change their major and/or program after they have enrolled as graduate students at UI, they will need to process a [Change of Curriculum](#) with the College of Graduate Studies. These students do not apply through the Graduate Admissions Office again, but they do need to be accepted by the new program.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Congratulations, **Cheri Cole!**

You have been selected as
University of Idaho's

Staff of the Month

Cheri Cole, Management Assistant | COGS Dean's Office

Cheri is an outstanding representative for the College of Graduate Studies. Each and every day her main focus is student advocacy and customer service. I overheard a student say to her today, "Cheri, you're the best administrator I've ever dealt with at this university!" We could all take lessons from Cheri Cole... WAY TO GO! — Sue Branting,
Management Assistant/COGS Dean's Office

Also Receiving KUDOS

Melinda Deyasi, Thesis and Dissertation Advisor | College of Graduate Studies

Melinda "stepped outside the box." As a Thesis and Dissertation Advisor, her main duties come at the end of a student's career. However, this didn't stop her from stepping in and helping out our office (Graduate Admissions) during the February 1st deadline rush. Melinda rolled up her sleeves and jumped right in opening tubs of mail, matching documents to files, and keeping our filing system organized. Thanks to Melinda's willingness and hard work (and overall great attitude), the Graduate Admissions Office was able to focus on completed application files and credential evaluation. — Pam Beutler, Roxane Fredrickson, and Tammy Renfrow, Graduate Admissions Office

Contact Us

College of Graduate Studies

Dean's Office

Morrill Hall Room 104
Moscow, ID
208-885-6243

uigrad@uidaho.edu

<http://www.uidaho.edu/cogs>

Graduate Admissions

Morrill Hall Room 205
208-885-4001

graduateadmissions@uidaho.edu

<http://www.uidaho.edu/graduateadmissions>

