

January 16, 2007

Happy New Year!

I hope that you had a great holiday season and some quality time with your Vandal(s). No matter how much you enjoyed their company, you were probably ready for them to return to campus for spring semester. Most families AND students indicate that this vacation is a little too long. Even younger siblings generally rejoice when they get their space back and return to their "rightful" place in the family order.

Students returned to a snow covered campus with temperatures hovering near zero for several nights in a row.

Spring semester begins quietly compared to the fanfare and frenzied activity of fall semester in August. Spring semester has a gentler rhythm. The three-day weekends associated with MLK Jr. and Presidents' Day and spring break that make the first half of the semester seem a little less intense.

We began spring semester with sadness. On January 4, 2007, Angie Cabrera died in an automobile accident near Boise. Angie was a freshman from Payette who was a Journalism major, a UI cheerleader and a resident of Theophilus Tower. We have extended much sympathy and support to her family and friends. We will conduct a campus memorial service on January 17, 2007.

Many of you have asked for the date of Dad's Weekend for fall semester but it has not yet been scheduled. The Western Athletics Conference will announce the fall schedule in mid-February. Once the WAC announces the fall match-ups, then we are able to establish dates for Dad's Weekend and Homecoming. We will send the information to you as soon as the dates are set. I will try to beat the media release with an e-mail to you so that you will have more opportunity to make reservations. The dates will also be posted on the Parents Website as soon as they are announced. You can watch for that update at [www.uihome.uidaho.edu/parents](http://www.uihome.uidaho.edu/parents).

Mom's Weekend is on April 21-22, 2007. A link to more information is available from the parents' website.

UI student leaders and staff will be visiting many places in Idaho, Washington and Alaska to talk with prospective students and their parents about the University of Idaho. We will help prospective students navigate financial issues, promote academic programs and campus life. All programs begin at 7:00 pm. More information about these events can be obtained through New Student Services at 208-885-6163. Please encourage prospective students and their parents to join us at one of the following locations.

January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Idaho Falls, ID

Red Lion at the Falls

January 23 <sup>rd</sup> Idaho	Twin Falls, ID	Herrett Center, College of Southern
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Boise, ID	Boise Centre on the Grove
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Kennewick, WA	Three Rivers Convention Center
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Coeur d'Alene, ID	UI Coeur d'Alene Center
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lewiston, ID	Red Lion Hotel
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Anchorage, AK	Captain Cook Hotel

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the UI will host a very special event. Martin Luther King III will be our featured speaker at a major convocation at 7:00 pm in the UI Kibbie Dome. You are invited to attend if you are in the area and please encourage your Vandal to attend this convocation. Special events and speakers are an important part of a university education.

It is that time of year again! It is time to apply for financial aid for fall semester. Your applications materials must be submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact our Financial Aid Office at 208-885-6312 or at [www.uidaho.edu/finaid](http://www.uidaho.edu/finaid) for assistance with this process. FAFSAs may be filed online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You do not need your tax returns completed in order to file.

Did you know, the UI has the largest number of National Merit Scholars attending a public university in the Pacific Northwest except for the University of Washington. Sixteen (16) UI students are national merit scholars. More national merit scholars choose the UI than Washington State, University of Oregon and Oregon State. There is only one other national merit scholar attending a university in the State of Idaho and that student is enrolled at a private university.

Yours truly,

Bruce M. Pitman  
Vice Provost for Student Affairs/Dean of Students