

October 16, 2007

Vandal Parent Newsletter

Homecoming Weekend was perfect! Clear blue sunny skies and bright fall foliage set the stage for a wonderful weekend. Living groups decorated their lawns with creative decorations and parade floats. An hour-long Homecoming parade was full of fun, music and pageantry. FarmHouse Fraternity alumni celebrated their 50th anniversary and a group of Marching Band Alumni formed a band for the weekend that seemed to play anywhere they could find an audience. Alumni returned to renew friendships, tell stories and simply enjoy a weekend at the University of Idaho. It was a great weekend to be a Vandal.

Ok...it was almost a perfect weekend. We didn't win the football game but Coach Akey is putting a team of very young players on the field who promise to be very good. He is also creating a football program with great integrity. Go Vandals!

Last week, mid-term tests left their marks on everyone. There was intensity in the air as students found quiet places to study and stayed up late to prepare. This would be a great time to call your Vandal to ask about mid-term grades. These grades are important indicators of what has been mastered and what needs to be done during the remainder of the semester.

In the last three weeks, Student Affairs staff and faculty have been visiting student living groups to meet with new students. We talk with them about their first weeks on campus and prepare them for spring semester registration. Here are a few items we discussed with them that also may be of value to you.....

- They must complete the academic advising process for spring semester. They need to make an appointment to meet with an academic advisor to select courses and talk about current academic progress. This needs to be completed in the next two weeks.
- October 26th is the last day to drop a class. This may be an important strategy for a student who is simply floundering in a course. I especially recommend this path for new students who need to begin their career with good grade point averages. After that date, students will simply need to do their best with their schedule.
- Registration for spring semester classes begins on November 5th and will continue for the remainder of the week.

This is also a great time to do a "health check" and act on your natural parental instincts. Tell your Vandal to get some sleep, wash hands and go to the Student Health Clinic if they are not feeling well. Thus far, students have been relatively healthy but this is the time in the semester when fatigue, weakened immune systems and close living quarters result in wide-spread colds. You may also want to push your Vandal to get a flu

shot. They are available at the Student Health Clinic for \$30.00. Send a care package with cookies, a twenty-dollar bill and some hand sanitizer. Be a MOM or DAD!

The Health and Wellness Fair will take place on October 25th and will be a great reminder of self care strategies. This annual event takes place at the Student Recreation Center and features great food, flu shots and free massages.

Approximately 1700 students use the Student Recreation Center each day!

Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) Fraternity closed last week. Their membership has declined during the last three years and could no longer sustain a chapter house operation. They will try to return in two years. Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) will move into the PIKE house for the remainder of the year, while the SAE's will be doing approximately \$2,000,000 in renovations to their chapter house.

Twenty-eight University of Idaho students will be traveling to Peru the day after Christmas to help build a school in a remote village. They are each paying for a portion of their trip and will dedicate two weeks of their time to help improve the human condition. They will also learn much about themselves as they navigate another culture. More than 75 students applied to go and make this commitment.

Many of you will receive a mailing any day regarding our Holiday Break Bus. We provide this safe, convenient and affordable service to southern Idaho for Fall, Winter and Spring Breaks and the Portland, Oregon area for Fall and Winter breaks. You can make reservations on line by going to the UI Marketplace at <https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/marketplace/web/index.jsp> (go to dean of students featured store); by calling our office at 208-885-6757 or by mailing in the registration form that you receive in the mail.

Sincerely,

Bruce Pitman
Vice Provost for Student Affairs/Dean of Students