

November 6, 2007

Vandal Parents Newsletter

Classes have become a grind for many. This is the longest period of academic activity without a vacation during the academic year. However, we have been blessed with beautiful weather and students seem to be in good spirits. We are less than two weeks away from Thanksgiving vacation and I can feel the anticipation growing. Many students will have a third round of tests in the next few days before leaving campus.

There are still some open seats on each of our holiday buses. We sponsor bus service to southern Idaho and the Portland, Oregon area (with intermediate stops) so that students will have safe and low cost transportation. Students wishing to go to the Seattle area can check out Wheatland Express's website at <http://www.wheatlandexpress.com/index.htm> or call Wheatland Express (509-334-2200). This is the service used by WSU students. If you wish to make reservations through the UI Holiday bus service, simply call the Dean of Students Office at 208-885-6757 or go to the marketplace from our website www.uidaho.edu/dos to make reservations via the internet.

Here is some holiday advice to parents:

Tip 1. Fill the refrigerator no later than November 14th.

Tip 2. Plan a gathering of your son's or daughter's friends at your house . . . so that you can see yours at least one night.

Tip 3. Give them a significant lecture about safe holiday travel be blunt!

Tip 4. Let sleeping Vandals lie they probably need the rest.

When they arrive home, you will want to ask a million questions and seldom will you get information with the direct approach. Here are some less direct discussion starters.

- What have been the best parts of the semester?
- What have been the harder aspects of the semester?
- Has it been what you expected?
- What do you expect from the rest of the semester?
- You may need to "text message" them from an adjacent room to start the conversation.

Beware of excessive complaints about roommates or a particular professor. They may be preparing you for bad news. Some complaints may be authentic but some may be creating cover for poor performance.

Other news

Students are registering for spring semester classes this week. They can make adjustments in their schedule until early January. You will **not** receive a billing statement for spring semester through the mail. That transaction will be charged to their student accounts in December. Ask your Vandal to print a copy for your records when their accounts are charged. I will alert you to that billing when it occurs.

New UI commercials will be unveiled throughout Idaho in the next few weeks. We will also host several events in the Boise area next week in connection to the football game with Boise State.

Many fall sports teams are ending regularly scheduled competition with much success. Our women's cross country team won the Western Athletic Conference championship and the men's cross country team finished second in the conference. Women's soccer and volleyball teams have battled to a good seasons in the very tough WAC. Their regular season schedules will end soon.

We have just announced plans to begin \$110,000,000 in much needed renovations. The State Board of Education recently approved the issuance of bonds to finance the renovation of Wallace Residence Center, Brink-Phinney Hall (faculty office building), safety code issues in the Kibbie Dome and retrofitting older campus buildings to reduce energy use. These are all important projects that will improve this beautiful place.

Many seniors are ordering caps and gowns and enjoying their last month of being a student at the University of Idaho. They are preparing for Winter Commencement which will take place on December 8th. Commencement will begin at 12:30 pm in the Kibbie Dome. If you are a parent of a graduating senior, you can find more information about the Winter Commencement ceremony by accessing link from the academic calendar on the Parents website at www.uihome.uidaho.edu/parents.

This past week, our campus community was saddened by the death of Cody Howard. Cody was a freshman from Nezperce, Idaho and was majoring in Animal Science. Cody died in a weather-related automobile accident near his home. Cody has a sister who is attending the University of Idaho and many other Vandal friends who are grieving his death. Our support and sympathy has been given to Cody's family and friends.

The University of Idaho will be closed on November 21st and 22nd for the Thanksgiving Holiday. I hope that you have a restful and joyful time together.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Pitman
Vice Provost for Student Affairs