

September 30, 2009

## Vandal Parents Newsletter

Fall weather arrived today (it was 38 this morning) but summer heat has been dominant for the first weeks of the semester. The rhythm of the semester has been established but it becomes easier to study when it begins to rain. Even new students have settled into the discipline of classes, homework and responding to their alarm clocks.

Fall semester enrollment is up 1.4 % and our freshmen class was 4.2% larger than last year.

The Kibbie Dome has been reopened with a new west-end wall that fixes fire safety issues and also allows light into the building through translucent panels. The Kibbie Dome is one of our more heavily used spaces and is now safer and more attractive.

Last weekend, 35 freshmen devoted their energy to a housing restoration project in Kellogg, Idaho. They hung sheetrock, painted, and ran power tools. They also reflected deeply on the importance of service and their ability to make a difference in the world. This project is one of many opportunities to do service throughout the year. These service projects change lives.

Vandal athletic teams are bringing excitement to campus this fall as they enjoy much success. Our women's soccer team has started with a winning record of 7-4, which is their best record in the history of the program. The men's golf team and women's volleyball teams have begun with early success. The football team also has a remarkable 3-1 record against meaningful opponents. This past weekend, the Vandals beat a strong Northern Illinois team in an away game. Northern Illinois had beaten Purdue the previous week and had lost a close game to the University of Wisconsin.

In a couple days, families will be arriving to enjoy Dads' Weekend activities. There is a significant change of schedule that may impact some of your plans. The football game with Colorado State has been moved from the afternoon to a 7:30 pm kickoff and the Volleyball match has been moved to 1:00 pm Saturday afternoon. This change is being made to accommodate an opportunity for the football game to be televised. If you plan to go to the game, you may also want to wear a black Vandal t-shirt or sweat shirt. Fans are encouraged to "black out the Dome".

Dads...if you are in the spirit to black out the dome and feeling bold... you may just want to do away with a black t-shirt and just go with the black body paint. A number of fans come to games with black body paint with gold letters spelling I-D-A-H-O. If you go this route, make sure that you are standing in the right order with folks who also have letters painted on their chest. Maybe you can pick one of the rounder letters and really impress the folks back home. But, if you are caught on TV, you may have some explaining to do when you get to the office on Monday morning.

Several weeks ago, I wrote to you about the H1N1 flu. While there are still reports of illness, the first significant wave of infections seems to have passed. Fortunately, the greatest number of infections hit during the second week of classes rather than during a critical examination period. It was a hard way to begin a semester but there is much opportunity to complete work that might have been missed. We do not know when H1N1 vaccine will be available but CDC information about H1N1 vaccine seems to be

positive. We are promoting seasonal flu vaccines and will advertize the H1N1 vaccine when it is available. If you would like updates, you can access our website at <http://www.uidaho.edu/H1N1>.

Early in the semester, two UI students were critically injured in separate accidents a couple weeks apart. Both accidents took place on fraternity property and we are working with Greek leadership to improve chapter house safety. Both students are slowly recovering but each will require much care. We are heavily involved with both families and others who were impacted by these accidents.

Five weeks of classes and first examinations have been completed. We are now devoting much energy to identifying students who need early support or adjustments in their schedule. We are taking an early snapshot of freshmen grades and we are also working within the context of living groups to identify students who need attention. This is the time in the semester when meaningful changes can still be made to help students succeed. Contact me if you feel that your Vandal is struggling. We can't make them study but we can tell them that we care and guide them to resources.

The next few weeks will be busy and important.

Midterm examinations will begin within the next two weeks and midterm grades should be available in the third week of October. This will be a great time to send cookies!

On October 7- 8, 2009, a Career Fair will be held at the University Inn Best Western. It will begin at 9:00am and will last until 2:00pm. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, majors in engineering and computer science will meet industry representative; October 8<sup>th</sup> the fair will be open to all majors. Encourage your Vandal to attend if they plan to be in the job market in the next couple years. This is not just for seniors. Students should bring fresh resumes, face book pages should be purged of incriminating material and shoes should be shined. This is a terrific opportunity to practice the job search and prepare for the day when they must be ready.

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, an all campus leadership retreat will be held to help foster lifelong leadership skills. Our key note speaker will be Paul Wesselmann. You may want to encourage your Vandal to participate. Registration should be completed by October 5<sup>th</sup> at Register@asui.uidaho.edu.

On Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, the University will celebrate the inauguration of President Duane Nellis as our 17<sup>th</sup> President. The Presidential Inauguration ceremony will begin at 10:00am in the Kibbie Dome and will be followed later that day with a Leadership Summit with many of Idaho's business and community leaders.

Please contact me if you feel that we might make a helpful contact with your Vandal.

Go Vandals!

Bruce Pitman  
Vice Provost for Student Affairs