Colleagues:

Greetings at the end of a successful 2015!

This year we have made great strides in advancing our work with students, in making progress with research and scholarly and creative activities, in reaching out to communities across the state, and in building our teams.

I thought I would take a minute and share some highlights from the last twelve months. We have had a fantastic year in every way, from student achievement to scholarship and creative activity to development. And, we have been laying the foundation for a new CLASS. Among the emerging developments that will reshape our College are the six new online degree programs that we will launch next year. Faculty have been working hard this year to create and gain approval for online programs in General Studies, History, Organizational Science, Psychology, Public Administration (MPA), and Sociology/Criminology. These programs will be instrumental in reshaping our relationship with Idaho, particularly with the state’s adult learners.

In fact, CLASS is changing the ways in which we engage the state. For instance, the reinvigorated McClure Center has had a great year, working on issues that affect every citizen. By the time you read this, the results from the Go On Study should be released and provide us with information and analysis to increase the numbers of students moving on from high school to college. Next year, CLASS is also going to launch a new center, which will complement the McClure Center’s efforts in many ways. The new Center for Local Government Research and Outreach will help local government officials with economic development in the state.

Other academic changes are in store. Yet another center is forming. This one, the proposed Center for Digital Inquiry and Learning, is a partnership with the UI Library and has emerged out of CLASS’s interest in the digital humanities and digital social sciences. Additionally, next year, the Martin School will transform and become the Martin School of Global Studies and include both International Studies and Modern Languages and Cultures. In turn, CLASS political scientists and philosophers will form the Department of Politics and Philosophy. Soon we will be in an excellent position to develop new curricula and programs that will make us even more attractive to potential students. I know that there are many discussions in all departments and schools about the ways in which the curricula must transform to keep abreast of all the changes in higher education and in the world.

CLASS is well positioned to grow. When speaking with prospective students, I often am asked about undergraduate research opportunities, hands on learning, and majors that lead to jobs. These are our specialties! We have an amazing faculty and staff, whose excellence in scholarship, teaching and community engagement draws students to the University, helps to keep them here, and significantly are among the key reasons why they are so successful after graduation. And, we have been working to get
these messages out. Our new CLASS Messaging Team has done an excellent job of revitalizing the ways by which we reach out and tell our stories. Our new Facebook page, our new program fact sheets, and our new web pages are just the beginning.

We have also changed the Dean’s Office to help recruit and retain more students. Earlier this year, Kristi Overfelt became the new CLASS Director of Student Services. She and her team lead our efforts to grow the number of CLASS students. And, our new spotlight on recruitment and retention is working. Although the University enrollment numbers for out-of-state students did dip, our in-state numbers have increased. Furthermore—and this is critically important—our retention rate has dramatically gone up. For the 2013-2014 academic year, we had a 74.9% retention rate. In the 2014-2015 academic year, we had an 80.0% rate. This has been a team effort all around; faculty and staff have joined together to recruit and retain more students. Kudos to all of us!

This next year, we will become even more focused on planning for our future, and our thoughts and actions will be tightly tied to the University’s strategic goals. We will continue to do what we have always done: conduct cutting-edge research, publish meaningful articles and books, help our students inside and outside of classes, and put on inspiring theatrical productions and concerts. And, we will all help create the next College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences and the University of Idaho. I appreciate everyone’s hard work!

I wish you all a happy holiday season. Here’s to a bright 2016!

Go Vandals!

- Andy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas for Kids

You’re invited to celebrate the holidays in a very special way! Once again, we in CLASS look forward to sponsoring a “Christmas for Kids” family. Christmas for Kids is a local non-profit organization that provides gifts and warm clothing for children of families in need in Latah County – CLASS will be working together to collect children’s toys and clothing for them. **If you would be interested in brightening a family’s holiday in this way, please contact Alisa Goolsby and let her know.** Alisa will provide a link to the children’s detailed gift lists. The link will allow those interested in donating to select the item or items they wish to give. Please drop off all donations at the CLASS Dean’s office (AD 112) no later than December 8.

We also invite everyone to take part in wrapping the gifts. We’ll get together in the CLASS Dean’s office on the afternoon of December 9—this is great fun too!
Commencement Regalia for CLASS Faculty

The CLASS Dean’s office (AD 112) has regalia available for CLASS faculty to borrow for the December 12 Commencement. To reserve a cap and gown, please contact Jean Planagan (885-6426) as soon as possible, noting your height, as quantities and sizes are limited.

Call for Proposals: The John Smith Memorial Fund

The John Calhoun Smith Memorial Fund Committee of the University of Idaho invites applications for financial support for projects to be conducted in 2016. The fund supports the study of any subject connected with the history of the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, or Montana, for which a portion of the chronology occurred during the territorial and early statehood period. Proposals must originate with or be sponsored by a University of Idaho faculty member, and the sponsor, in addition to his/her signature on the cover page, must give a brief statement assessing the value of the project.

Proposals must contain:
1. Cover page: project title; inclusive dates of research; amount requested; proposer’s name, email address and signature; sponsor’s name, email address and signature (if applicable); department chair/director’s name, email address and approval signature
2. Description of the project
3. Justification (including, when appropriate, a brief review of the literature and bibliography)
4. Time schedule for the project
5. Statement about how the results of the project will be made available to scholars and the public
6. Budget
7. Sponsor’s assessment (when applicable)
8. Proposer’s current curriculum vitae (do NOT include sponsor’s C.V.)

The committee will give priority to proposals that further the professional development of faculty members and that may result in follow-up funding from other sources. Submit a single PDF file to: Mark Warner mwarnner@uidaho.edu, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Phinney Hall, Room 210. Proposal deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15, 2016.

Call for Proposals: Seed Grants

The Seed Grant program is sponsored by the UI Office of Research and Economic Development, with the objective of promoting research, outreach, and creative activities in all branches of learning that will improve competitiveness for external funding, and/or which will result in publications, patents, or exhibitions/performances appropriate to the PI’s discipline. The primary purpose of the program is to support early career faculty establishing a scholarly program; early career faculty are those who have been at the UI 5 years or less and/or are still Assistant Professors. Proposals that support a change in direction for established investigators will also be considered, but must be well-justified. Proposals are due Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

Application instructions and information about the program are available at the Seed Grant website: http://www.uidaho.edu/research/fundingagencies/seedgrant. Program contact: Sarah Koerber (skoerber@uidaho.edu)
KUDOS AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Professor Pingchao Zhu Publishes New Book

Congratulations to Pingchao Zhu on the publication of her new book *Wartime Culture in Guilin, 1938-1944, A City at War*. The book examines the development of wartime culture in the Chinese city of Guilin during the Japanese invasion between 1938 and 1944. Controlled and protected by a nationally powerful Guangxi warlord group, Guilin’s liberal atmosphere attracted intellectuals of different social and political backgrounds who engaged in various forms of literary production, making the city a new wartime cultural center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

“A Christmas Carol” Opens December 3

Celebrate the holidays with “*A Christmas Carol*” in the Hartung Theater December 3-13. Adapted by Ann Hoste and directed by David Lee-Painter, this show promises to delight and astound with fantastic, larger-than-life puppets, wonderful music and a talented cast of live actors.

- December 3-6: 10:00 am, 12:00 pm 7:30 pm
- December 5-6: 2:00 pm
- December 12-13: 2:00 pm

Tickets are available at BookPeople, Shoup Hall in Room 201 or by calling 208-885-6465. Tickets will also be available at the door as supplies last.

Confucius Institute – Upcoming Events

Please learn more about upcoming events presented in January and February by the Confucius Institute.

IMPORTANT DATES

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<td>Fall no exam week</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
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<td>December 14-18</td>
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<td><strong>December 22</strong></td>
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