Colleagues:

Happy New Year! 2016 is well upon us, and now is the time to start making plans to attend the vast and wonderful array of events and activities that our CLASSS faculty and staff host in the Spring. Here’s just a short list along with the links:

Music Concerts (http://www.uidaho.edu/class/music/news)
Confucius Institute (http://www.uidaho.edu/class/confucius-institute)
Borah Symposium (https://www.uidaho.edu/class/borah/2016)
Hemingway Festival (https://www.uidaho.edu/class/english)
Theatre Productions (http://www.uidaho.edu/class/theatre)

To stay connected with all CLASS events, visit http://www.uidaho.edu/class/calendar.

Sign up, attend, have fun! Make it your New Year’s resolution!

Go Vandals! Andy

- Andy

Note from Dean Kersten about the CLASS Faculty Workload Task Force

Shortly after the semester began, I empaneled a Workload Task Force to investigate faculty workloads and make recommendations to relieve pressures. The membership of the task force consists of all department chairs and school directors, Associate Dean Traci Craig, Associate Dean Rich Reardon, and me. Later this month, tenure-track faculty, tenured faculty, and clinical faculty will receive an online survey. This survey will have IRB approval and will be strictly anonymous. We will use the results to begin to understand faculty workloads, where the pressures are, and how we might address those issues. Department chairs and school directors will bring the results to faculty meetings where they will be discussed and recommendations proposed. For instance, we might explore team teaching or shorter term courses, more assistance for advising, reduction in meetings, removal of administrative burdens and the like. I plan that the Task Force will complete its work by the end of the term. Afterwards, we will take up other work-related issues that impact staff. In the end, working through some of these issues will help improve life in the College and will help propel us all forward. If you have any questions or comments, please don’t hesitate to contact me.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kurt O. Olsson Early Career Research Grant

The Kurt O. Olsson Early Career Research Grant program aims to help recently hired faculty develop scholarly/creative programs that promote research and creative activities in the humanities, arts, and social sciences that will attract outside funding, and/or that will result in publications, patents or exhibitions/performances. Drafts are due to the college office by March 21st for budget review (see application for details). Applications and more information available here: http://www.uidaho.edu/class/researchandcreativedworks/fundingopportunities

CLASS Key Fund

The CLASS Undergraduate Collaborative Research Key Grant is designed to encourage collaboration between CLASS faculty and undergraduate students on scholarly or creative projects, which may include articles or books, conferences, performances, productions, workshops, travel and professional development experiences. Final grant submissions due to the CLASS office Feb. 29 http://www.uidaho.edu/class/research-creative-works/resources/funding-opportunities

Faculty Gathering

Plan to attend the sixth interdisciplinary faculty gathering, co-hosted by CLASS and the College of Science on Monday, February 8 from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Pitman Center Vandal Ballroom. The conversation about the Vandal Ideas Project will continue. If you are interested in giving a pitch at the gathering, please send your pitch idea/title to Jennie Hall (jenniej@uidaho.edu) by 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 26. Pitches will be chosen and notified by the end of next week.

New Research Office Newsletter

The Research Office is producing a new monthly newsletter. It will be sent the last Tuesday of every month, beginning January 26. The first edition will be sent widely, but this is an “opt in” email, so please watch for the email and ensure you are opting in to receive it each month. If you would like to submit items to be included in future newsletters, please contact Tara Roberts (troberts@uidaho.edu).

Showcasing our Students, Staff and Faculty

The responsive web rebuild is nearly complete. The Dean’s office is working hard to ensure the college page and departmental pages are up to date with current and engaging stories about our staff, faculty and students. If you have ideas for stories for the web, press releases, or social media, please send your ideas to Jennie Hall (jenniej@uidaho.edu). We want to ensure we are promoting CLASS and the wonderful work we all do every day.
University of Idaho Unmanned Aircraft Systems Registration

Please contact the Office of Research Assurances at ored-uas@uidaho.edu if (a) you possess or plan to purchase an unmanned aircraft system (also known as a “drone”) for any use related to your institutional responsibilities or (b) you intend to use a personal UAS on University property. Every non-recreational UAS must be registered with the FAA. ORA will assist you with registration of your University UAS. The University UAS committee and ORA will also assist you in ensuring your operations comply with FAA regulations and University policy (A.P.M. 45.35 and 95.35). Contact ORA with any questions: 208-885-6162 or ored-uas@uidaho.edu.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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