Since I started as dean in 2016, we’ve been so focused on doing that we haven’t spent as much time sharing. Without further ado, here’s what’s new in the College of Business and Economics.

Students in the Barker Capital Management and Trading Program competed well in the TD Ameritrade ThinkorSwim Challenge and the CME Challenge in 2017, and got to meet financial wizard Tom Sosnoff (who invented the software our students still use in the trading room) and learn how to “change the game.” A $2 million gift from the Idaho Wheat Commission this spring is enabling us to expand collaboration with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to bring in an Endowed Chair of Risk Management focused upon agricultural commodities, so we can continue to provide valuable hands-on integrated learning opportunities in risk management.

Our Idaho Entrepreneurs continue to dominate regional competitions and launch successful businesses. We plan to build on this success and introduce a minor in entrepreneurship next year. Recent successful pitch teams and startups include products such as a videogame that teaches players about evolution, a shower that both preserves and purifies water, and a snowmobile-like track system that converts dirt bikes into snow bikes. Graduates who went through this program are running nonprofits that give girls access to education and for-profit companies that are patenting technologies that save lives of linemen and first responders.

PGA Professional Golf Management is now an option for any business major (not only marketing). To further enhance the experience of students in the program, a brand new simulator in our state-of-the-art hitting room enables students and other golfers to virtually play on famous courses worldwide and track all aspects of their swing to improve their game.

Student leadership is transforming the Albertson building basement into a student-centered community space. Students and faculty from the CBE and Interior Design and Architecture formed a collaborative team, used student input for design, and presented their results at the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) conference in Chicago. They led a student crowdfunding campaign to make the redesign a reality, raising far more than anticipated ($10,200 for an $8,000 goal). Thanks to our students and others who contributed to the effort, construction is underway on the $450,000 project, and we look forward to opening the Albertson building Student Learning Center in fall 2018.

We still believe students best learn business by doing business. We’re responding to industry changes with opportunities, including offering a marketing analytics degree. We’ve also focused on expanding networks and supporting students as they transition from college to career. This spring, we sent six students to shadow executives at companies as familiar as Starbucks and as far away as Chicago—all of whom employ Vandals—and we’re already planning the next round. If you’re interested in hosting a student, please let us know.

We’ll be in touch again soon,

Marc

Danica Davis (who’s studying Accounting and Management Information Systems) spent part of spring break in Chicago shadowing Patrick McDaniel ’02 (right), Senior Vice President at Kepler Group, for our Executive Shadow Program. Photo courtesy of Danica Davis.
In 2017, four Idaho Entrepreneurs founded S H E (Style Her Empowered), a Boise-based company that empowers young women in Togo, Africa by improving access to education and providing year-round skills training.

CBE alumni Allison Mattson, Payton McGriff, Dylan Raymond, and Christine Gillaspie launched the company before graduating, thanks to their winning the “Triple Crown” of business competitions in spring 2017. S H E took first place in the Idaho Entrepreneur Challenge, the Northwest Entrepreneur Challenge, and the Idaho Pitch and Business Plan competitions. In total, they won $35,000 to cover startup costs for their business and opened their Togo office in July 2017.

A $150 sponsorship gives a girl in Togo a new uniform (required for school), a full year of tuition, free health care, mentoring, and other personal development and leadership opportunities.

Though S H E is a nonprofit, their earned revenue model is what propelled their business to success in entrepreneurship competitions.

With the goal of scaling their impact, S H E is currently raising capital to establish an ethical apparel manufacturing facility that will employ local seamstresses in Togo and provide paid internship opportunities for students. At S H E, girls don’t just receive school uniforms, they learn to sew their own—giving them the skills to help end the cycle of poverty.

S H E sponsored 65 girls in its first year, with the goal of putting 150 girls through school in 2018. Learn more at www.styleherempowered.org.
Dustin Cheney didn’t know where he wanted to go to college, but he knew he wanted to make a positive change in the world.

“I thought when I had signed up for a campus tour that I was going to be with the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS),” Dustin said. “For some reason, I wound up taking a tour of the College of Business Economics (CBE) and after meeting the faculty and staff there, it just felt right.”

Dustin is a National Merit Scholar, and a member of the Economics Club and Beta Alpha Psi: an international honor organization for finance, accounting and information systems students that helps with leadership and professional development.

Dustin appreciates the social and academic opportunities U of I offers. As an honors student, he participates in the Vandal League of Legends Club, an e-sports club where students compete within their own college and play against college teams from all over Idaho. He’s also an active member of the Graue Scholars.

“There are a couple aspects to the Idaho Graue Scholar Program that are really great,” he said. “There’s the social aspect, where veteran students typically help first-year students find professors who might be best for them within their major, and there is a professional development side where we get to work with Dean Chopin in order to learn more about the college and be up-to-date on current events and even take trips to companies like Nike and Columbia.”

Dustin isn’t sure what the future holds, but he has decided that whatever he does, he will be working toward the greater good.

“I’m leaning toward pursuing a master’s degree in economics,” he said. “I’m interested in how we can bridge the gap between rich and poor countries.”

Dustin plans on getting an internship that will allow him to work on international development. In spring of 2019, Dustin will graduate with his bachelor’s degrees in Business Economics and Accounting, with a minor in Political Science.
Students Finds Her Path to Excellence and Helps Others Navigate Theirs

Written by Josh Nishimoto

Coming to the University of Idaho from The River Academy, a small private school in Wenatchee, Washington, Alyssa Hudson was intimidated by the size of U of I.

After receiving help from professors, she decided to take full advantage of the opportunities at the College of Business and Economics (CBE) and was able to engage in her college experience.

“Dan Eveleth and Yun Chung are two professors who have inspired me so much,” Alyssa said. “They encouraged me to focus on my studies and participate in extracurricular activities.”

After discussing her options with her professors, Alyssa decided to apply for an internship at Career Services as a representative for the CBE. She started interning with Career Services her junior year, researching different career development theories and helping fellow students. She continued this work as a Senior Career Advising Intern this year.

“My internship has allowed me to work closely with CBE students,” Alyssa said. “I have the opportunity to learn about their hopes and dreams, and help them navigate their paths to successful careers.”

Alyssa is an honors student double-majoring in Accounting and Human Resource Management. She is a member of the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program, a regional tuition-reciprocity agreement that enables students to pay in-state tuition with participating universities. Alyssa also receives the C. Randall “Randy” IBC scholarship and the Thomas Thorsen scholarship.

“Scholarship support means a lot,” Alyssa said. “U of I donors who give to my scholarships have allowed me some insight into the U of I legacy. I hope to give back in the same way as an alumna.”

Alyssa plans to graduate in May 2018, and although she had a challenging first year of college, she says her overall college experience was more than she could have hoped for.

“The College of Business and Economics is devoted to excellence through hands-on learning and real outcomes, and that is something I firmly believe in,” she said. “I never thought I would fall in love with a place like U of I as I have.”

The university has grown on Alyssa and as graduation comes closer she’s looking at taking on her next big challenge. This summer Alyssa has plans move to Boise and work as an audit associate for the Deloitte accounting firm.
Scholarships Empower Community Leader to Graduate Debt-Free

Written by Josh Nishimoto

Tim Skinner discovered his passion for marketing analytics and finance through his professors, the Sigma Chi fraternity and the scholarship opportunities he received at the University of Idaho. His love for numbers and people has his eyes set on a future career in helping others with their finances.

“My career goals include becoming a financial analyst for a big company like Boeing or Nike, and maybe having them pay for more school if need be,” Tim said. “I’m also interested in someday working with my own clientele as a financial adviser. I’d like to help people make money and then manage their money.”

Tim’s love for his community stems from the relationships he has formed with his brothers at the Sigma Chi fraternity. During Tim’s sophomore year of college, he served as vice president of finance for Interfraternity Council (IFC), a leadership group that sets goals for all Greek houses on campus.

“Stepping into that leadership role taught me responsibility and prepared me for my future as a leader in my career,” Tim said. “I was able to work with Excel and budget over $100,000 for the organization.”

Tim is also a member of the Vandal Solutions Marketing Group and the Davis Group, one of which develops marketing solutions for real businesses and the other provides corporations with investment advice.

“I’ve really had a lot of hands-on learning experience over the last few years,” he said. “Surprisingly a lot of those experiences have come from being a member of Sigma Chi and other scholarship opportunities.”

Tim is currently a member of the Graue Scholars and receives the C.W. Moore scholarship. These two scholarship programs have helped Tim be able to not only afford to attend the U of I, but graduate debt-free.

“I decided to come to U of I because I knew I was receiving the Graue Scholarship,” Tim said. “Last year we visited companies like Nike, Boeing and Microsoft. It was a unique experience. I don’t think a lot other universities give students the opportunity to take those kinds of trips and interact with the faculty the way we do.”

Tim expressed his respect for his professor’s ability to put their students ahead of themselves. He likes all his classes, but his favorite class is finance with professor Darek Nalle.

“I probably like Darek Nalle’s class the most because he doesn’t always teach directly from the book,” Tim said. “His passion for teaching lessons based on what he thinks is crucial young business professionals know has really motivated me continue to pursue finance as my main focus.”

Tim is scheduled to graduate in May of 2019. His love for his fraternity brothers at Sigma Chi and gratitude for professors Erick Larson and Darek Nalle have placed Tim in a position to accomplish his goals and pursue finance as a way to help build up his community.
Reids Help Turn Student-Led Initiative Into Reality

The J.A. Albertson Building, home of the College of Business and Economics (CBE), is undergoing an exciting basement renovation.

In 2016, students in CBE and the Interior Design program created a strategic plan to transform the underutilized CBE basement space into an innovative and welcoming space designed to enhance the CBE learning experience.

When Jim ’70 and Tedde Reid first learned about the collaborative, multidisciplinary and student-led design concept for the Albertson basement, they were impressed. Not only did the students have a clear vision and strong plan, they had a contagious passion to move the initiative forward and provide a solution for an identified student need.

“We were excited to support a student-initiated project like this and help turn their vision and design into a reality,” the Reids said.

Their excitement resulted in a contribution that established the Garth Reid Conference Room, named in honor of Jim’s late brother and CBE alumnum.

“We were excited to support a student-initiated project like this and help turn their vision and design into a reality.”

For more information about giving to CBE and/or the “basement project,” contact Brian Mitchell at bdmitchell@uidaho.edu or 208-885-2634.

Jim ’70 and Tedde Reid contributed to the new Student Learning Center, creating the Garth Reid Conference Room, named in honor of Jim’s late brother and CBE alumnus. Photo courtesy of Jim and Tedde Reid

Construction on the J. A. Albertson building basement began in spring 2018 (left), with the new Student Learning Center scheduled to open for the fall 2018 semester (artist’s concept, right).
It is U of I policy to prohibit and eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. This policy applies to all programs, services, and facilities, and includes, but is not limited to, applications, admissions, access to programs and services, and employment.