

January 2019 Staff Council Newsletter

Kudos

December Staff Member of the Month

Lana Unger, Manager – Graduate Student Services

Lana was nominated by Dana McCurdy, Graduate Student AVS:

Throughout the final portion of my Master's thesis, Lana was right there every step of the way. She made sure I had the proper forms filled out on time and that all my paperwork was taken care of between myself and all faculty members I was in contact with. She checked in frequently and offered exceptional advice when I had some uncommon struggles. I will always appreciate the extra care she gave me especially because she didn't have to do as much as she did to help me. Lana, I appreciate you so much.



Lana Unger, December Staff Member of the Month

Seeking Staff Awards Nominations

The Staff Awards Committee invites you to nominate staff who have shown exemplary dedication and have gone above and beyond their normal job duties at the University of Idaho. The nominations are currently open, and they will remain open until Feb. 22, 2019. There are seven categories as follows:

- Senior Leadership
- Non-Faculty Exempt
- Technical/Paraprofessional
- Service/Maintenance
- Skilled Trades

- Administrative Assistance
- Team Award

If you are unsure of the category for the nominee, please submit a nomination regardless; the committee will review and ensure they are placed in the correct category. There is also the opportunity to nominate an exemplary student for the Staff Educational Award. The nominations are open to all University of Idaho employees, so please consider nominating someone who you feel is deserving of these awards.

Visit the [Staff Council Awards Page](#) for more information about the categories, how to nominate and to access the nomination forms.

McBride Prize

The Staff Awards Committee also wants to highlight the McBride Prize. The McBride Prize is given to a staff member in the Non-Faculty Exempt category, who emulates the example set forth by retired staff member, Larry McBride, during his nearly 20 years of distinguished service to the university. The prize recognizes service far beyond that expected from the job description. Selection criteria include the following descriptors: exemplary imagination, creative, can-do attitude, loyal, dedicated, supportive, enthusiastic, highest performance standards for him/herself and others, dependable and friendly. Please consider nominating someone who you feel is deserving of this award.

Visit the [Staff Council Awards Page](#) for more information about the categories, how to nominate and to access the nomination form.

Get those nominations in and we look forward to seeing you Monday, April 22 in the Bruce Pitman Center International Ballroom.

January Staff Council Meeting

Staff Council will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 9-11 a.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Staff Lounge. All University of Idaho staff are welcome to attend. You may also watch on [Zoom](#).

QPR Suicide Prevention Training

Recent suicides on the Palouse are stark reminders that we could all use better skills when interacting with people who are lonely or depressed.

Please consider attending *QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training* on Jan. 16 from 9:30-10:30 in the Commons Panorama. Participants will learn how to:

- recognize the warning signs of suicide
- offer hope
- get help
- save a life

Registration is available at www.uidaho.edu/qpr. Zoom link is available at registration.

Lewiston-Moscow Van Pool

Attention LC Valley Commuters!

Did you know the City of Moscow provides a Lewiston to Moscow 8-5 shuttle? The shuttle operates round-trip from Lewiston to Moscow, Monday-Friday with multiple drop-off points across campus.

The cost of full-time ridership costs under \$120 per month, with driver discounts of \$5 per day of driving. If interested in joining, please check out the [Moscow City VanPool](#).

Campus Recreation Specials for Staff

Go Red For Women

Join Go Red for Women to come together to fight the # 1 killer of women - heart disease.

On Friday, February 1, wear red shorts, shirt or Go Red for Women Pin to the SRC and get in free.

*Free admission includes SRC, Wellness Classes and Climbing Center. Basics Clinic and Equipment not included.

Faculty/Staff Ski Day at Lookout Pass

Date: February 23

Cost: \$51

Includes lift ticket and transportation

Sign up for trip at the outdoor program office

Lift Tickets

Lookout Pass: \$34/students; \$36 all others

Purchase at the Outdoor Program Office or call 208-885-6810

Traction Footwear Device Program Expands to Statewide U of I Locations

The traction device program is now expanded to include all U of I centers and sites. Submit a completed [Traction Device Program form](#), including shoe size, to your local safety officer (or designee). Requests without shoe sizes cannot be fulfilled. The safety officer will collect the forms, verify VandalCard information and email the forms to Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at safety@uidaho.edu. This single-batch process will help reduce mailing costs. Devices will be shipped to the safety officer for distribution. For employees on the Moscow campus, these devices are still available at EHS (1108 W. Sixth St.) or U of I Risk (TLC 048 and 049).



Free Footwear Traction Devices

Branch Campus News

Coeur d'Alene

U of I Coeur d'Alene staff support Dual Credit Computational Thinking Course expansion efforts

The U of I Coeur d'Alene program development, marketing and leadership staff have worked hard over the last two years to encourage the expansion of the dual credit Computational Thinking course into high schools statewide. In early December, CDA center staff as well as computer science staff and faculty hosted two Computational Thinking class tours in the computer science space in the Innovation Den. KHQ featured the [Sandpoint High School visit on the evening news!](#) If you know of any student groups interested in touring the CDA computer science space, contact Carrie Morrison, CS CDA Department Manager, at cmmorrison@uidaho.edu.

University of Idaho Research Park recognized for 20 years of community chamber membership



U of I Coeur d'Alene staff members Christina Cox, left, and Katie Marshall, right, accept a token of recognition for the Research Park's 20-year membership status with the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Idaho Falls



On Nov 1 the U of Idaho Falls crew welcomed some of the Career Services people who trekked all the way from Moscow! Lunch was a hoot!

U of I Idaho Falls had their annual Christmas Party Dec 10. It was a packed house and much fun was had by all.



February 2019 Staff Council Newsletter

Kudos

University of Idaho January Staff Member of the Month

Creg Empey, Enterprise Developer 2 - ITS

Creg did an outstanding job at diffusing a very tense situation with regard to important functionality that we weren't made aware would be missing with the Banner 9 go-live. He worked tirelessly and quickly to resolve the issues we were experiencing in a very professional manner.

Creg was nominated by Heather Nelson, Associate Director, Office of Sponsored Programs.



Creg Empey

Ken Baker Appointed Interim Director, Integrated Design Lab

Ken Baker has been appointed Interim Director of the [Integrated Design Lab](#) in Boise. IDL is dedicated to the development of high performance energy efficient buildings in the Intermountain West. Ken was one of five people who started the U of I Integrated Design Lab. He has directed his career toward design and implementation of energy efficiency programs for residential and commercial buildings.



Ken Baker

Congratulation to the Healthy Holiday Challenge Team Winners!



Speedbumps – Snowflake division



Fruitcakes – Mistletoe division



Max Traction - Blizzard division

Employee Development and Learning Announces Expanded and Updated Supervisor Training Program

Stay on top of your game by familiarizing yourself with the essentials, and be challenged with new approaches to leadership and management. Whether you are building your career or are a seasoned supervisor, the updated U of I Supervisory Excellence Program offers something for everyone in three tracks. The first track, Team Leader Program, is for non-supervisors looking for the essential skills to work effectively with others. The second track, the Basic Leadership Development for Supervisors Program, is for current U of I supervisors looking for the foundational concepts to successfully lead employees. The third track, Advanced Leadership Development for Supervisors, is for U of I supervisors who have completed the Basic Program, and are looking for continued professional development. Workshops begin in February, and enrollment is ongoing. Visit the [Supervisory Excellence Program](#) page for information or to register for upcoming workshops.



Professional Development and Learning

Staff Council and Committee Opportunities

If you are interested in becoming a member of Staff Council (three-year term, June-May), including off-campus staff representatives, and/or serving on a university-wide committee, please [review this information](#) and seek approval from your supervisor before applying.

Committees with open spots include:

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Borah Foundation
- University Budget & Finance (2 positions available)
- Campus Planning
- Classified Position Appeal Board
- Faculty and Staff Policy Group
- Arts
- Grievance for Student Employees
- Ubuntu
- Parking
- Staff Compensation (3 positions available)
- Student Conduct Board (2 positions available)

[Functions and structure of each committee.](#)

February Staff Council Meeting

Staff Council will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 9-11 a.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Staff Lounge. All University of Idaho staff are welcome to attend. You may also watch on [Zoom](#). The agenda is posted on the [Staff Council website](#).

Submit a Proposal for the Women's Leadership Conference

The Women's Leadership Conference is seeking proposals for the annual conference April 3 at the Best Western Plus University Inn, Moscow. The theme for this year's conference is "Finding Your Power: Cultivating Authentic Leadership." The conference theme speaks to the importance of culture change through individual and shared empowerment, cultivating leadership through positive relationships and building a diverse and innovative community. The review committee is particularly passionate about hearing from diverse voices about how they have found their power and cultivated their authentic leadership styles. [Learn more and submit.](#)



Board Games Collection

The U of I Library now has a Board Game Collection available for circulation.

The Board Games Collection is up and ready for circulating. The games are on the first floor rolling shelves by the periodicals and circulate for three days at a time (with one renewal).

You can check out two at a time. We're adding more games in the next few weeks, but you can [find out more](#) and see the whole list of games.

Branch Campus News

Boise



If you are interested in food, then make sure to join their Chinese Food Club Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Rockies. RSVP to confuciusboise@uidaho.edu.



The Confucius Institute (CI) offers free lunch time Tai Chi to U of I students, faculty and staff, Tuesdays and Thursday noon to 12:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Idaho Water Center starting Jan. 15. Drop in when convenient.

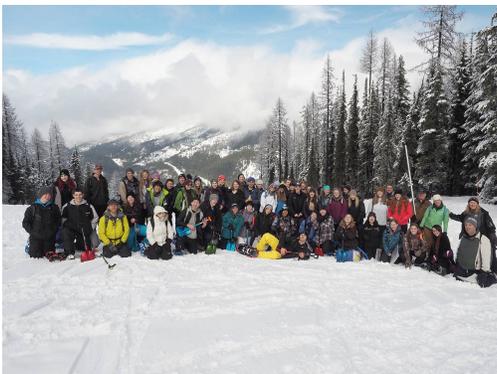
Coeur d'Alene

Coeur d'Alene Staff Lead Educational Expeditions to Teach Teens about Snow Science

Each year, The Confluence Project (TCP) takes hundreds of high school students snowshoeing in the mountains of North Idaho to measure snowpack. This winter, 500 students from 11 North Idaho schools will participate in digging snow pits, analyzing snow layers, and calculating snow water equivalency. They will study the relationship between snowpack and replenishment of streams, lakes, and the aquifer, and use their measurements to predict water availability for the coming year.

TCP is a year-long educational program focused on getting students outdoors to conduct hands-on science and better understand local water issues. TCP is coordinated by U of I Coeur d'Alene Community Water Resource Specialist Marie Schmidt and is a collaboration between U of I Coeur d'Alene, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Kootenai Environmental Alliance, and U of I Extension. It is funded by grants from the Kootenai Aquifer Protection District, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and Alliance Data.

If you'd like to know more about these amazing expeditions, email Marie, mschmidt@uidaho.edu.



University staff and volunteers gather with students from Lake City High School at Lookout Pass to learn about snow science.



University staff and volunteers teach students how to snow shoe.



Lake City students measure snow pack height and density.

Idaho Falls

It's been busy in Idaho Falls!

Of course, we started a new semester on January 9, and the following week was Welcome Week for new and returning students. The University of Idaho hosted a baked potato bar for students, faculty and staff on January 16, served by volunteers from our workforce in Idaho Falls.



Lidiia Ostrum, Min Xian, Misty Evans and Debbie Caudle all grin nicely for photographer Ryan Haworth.



Idaho Falls Director of Academic Programs Lee Ostrum breaks a smile while helping out during Welcome Week.

Melissa Bertram, Melinda Lent, Jill Randall and Cheryl Romero had their hands full with the 51st Annual University of Idaho Extension Potato Conference and 49th Annual Ag Expo on January 23-24 down in Pocatello. Over 700 attendees saw the latest in agricultural equipment and learned about issues facing Idaho potato growers.



Agricultural equipment dominates the floor in Holt Arena.



It's become a tradition in Idaho Falls to celebrate Groundhog's Day...well, maybe it's more of an excuse to get together, talk, laugh and eat...but anyway, the gang gathered together on February 4 to celebrate the groundhog NOT seeing his shadow! (Though there is still some skepticism among the ranks regarding an actual early spring...)



2018 Groundhog Medallion Keeper Melinda Lent passes the sacred Groundhog Medallion to its 2019 caretaker, Julie Moon.



A group of happy and camera-shy revelers.

March 2019 Staff Council Newsletter

Kudos

February Staff Member of the Month

Sharon Jemes, Senior Programmer/Analyst, Registrar's Office

Sharon is always very helpful and responsive when I have any questions or issues regarding degree audit. She even took time to come down to my office and explain new features a couple of times to my coworker Lana and I, which I'm really appreciative of. She also is always willing to look into ideas for us and find ways to make our jobs easier.

Nominated by: Mikyla Wood, Management Assistant, College of Graduate Studies



Staff Awards

Winners to be posted soon on our [Staff Awards webpage](#).

Have a Statewide State of Mind

The Campus Inclusion Committee has been working on increasing communications across the state for both telephone and video conferencing. After meeting with VP of Finance, Brian Foisy and VP of Information Technology, we have two documents worthy of sharing with the campus community. Please post or share the accompanying Best Practices sheets with your colleagues and in all your conference rooms.

Best Practices

Conference Calls PDF

Video Conferencing PDF



Staff Council Committee Opportunities for the 2019-20 Academic Year

Staff Council is looking for enthusiastic board-appointed staff members to fill positions with a start date of June 1, 2019.

Staff Council's mission is to promote recognition, empowerment, advocacy and leadership necessary to create a professional, collegial environment and work experience for staff members employed at the University of Idaho. Our purpose is to study the issues, problems, the welfare and working conditions for staff members, to advise on salary and promotion matters. We envision a safe, professional, collegial and equitable environment for all staff members.

If you are interested in making a difference there are several opportunities to serve on a number of University committees. The committees are as follows:

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Borah Foundation
- University Budget & Finance (3 positions available)
- Campus Planning
- Classified Position Appeal Board
- Faculty and Staff Policy Group
- Arts
- Grievance for Student Employees
- Ubuntu
- Parking
- Staff Compensation (3 positions available)
- Student Conduct Board (2 positions available)

[Functions and structure of committees.](#)

If you are staff and are interested in serving on a university-wide committee, please seek approval from your supervisor and then [complete the application](#). If you have questions or concerns regarding the details of serving on Staff Council, please contact either [Erika Crossland](#) or [Stephanie Fox](#).

Presidential Candidates Meet Staff Council

During one of our snowiest weeks this winter, we were lucky enough to have five candidates on campus for the President position. Each day, Staff Council came together for the opportunity to interact with the candidates, ask questions and see if they were Vandals at heart. We all learned so much and believe all the candidates each have something unique to bring to our statewide campus.

- Diane Chase referred to the University of Idaho as the ‘Best Kept Secret’ in the state. Her current university has seen huge success in marketing online programs to students who departed the university before finishing their degree.
- Elizabeth Spiller had a unique take on strategic planning by stating the plan needs to have a 30% emphasis on who we want to be. She is drawn to schools that do the most public good.
- Christopher Callahan was able to grow the graduation rates by 75% and increase research expenditures tenfold at Arizona State University.
- Scott Green, the Vandal Alum with Moscow roots often referenced ‘we’ when talking about the U of I. He is already one of us.
- Paul Tikalsky has removed himself from the consideration for the position.

Now that the Search Committee’s work has concluded, the decision falls on the State Board of Education. Their decision will be made before we know it and we can then welcome our new President with open arms moving forward together as a team! Go Vandals!

Free Tobacco Cessation Resources Available

Are you or a colleague looking to cut back or quit tobacco use? Freshstart, a nicotine cessation program, is offered on the Moscow campus every Thursday, noon - 12:50 p.m. This four-part class is geared to help participants increase their motivation to quit, learn effective approaches for quitting and guide them in making a successful quit attempt. All classes are free to U of I faculty, staff, and students and are held in the Student Health Center. Pre-register for Freshstart [online](#). Please e-mail [Jeneba Hoene](#), Alcohol & Other Drug program coordinator, if you are interested in a cessation class on campus, but are not able to attend the currently scheduled sessions. Additionally, staff and faculty outside of Moscow are encouraged to reach out to [Jeneba](#) to arrange a time for a phone or Zoom Freshstart session or support locating resources in their area.

Branch Campus News

Boise

Vandal Voices

Vandal Voices, a bi-monthly speakers series organized and presented by U of I Boise, is designed to inform and engage Idahoans in the Treasure Valley about research and educational topics presented by university experts in an informal setting.

The February event was “Profound Learning: Embedding Profundity into Learning and Living” presented by College of Education, Health and Human Sciences faculty members Michael Kroth and Davin Carr-Chellman.

Our next Vandal Voices will be in April (date and location TBD) and will feature “How I Built an Engaging Community Using Social Media” with College of Law Boise Assistant Director of Admissions Diana DeJesus, who will share her success as a Boise Instagram influencer.

If you have a topic you are passionate about and would like to present at a Vandal Voices event, contact Maria Ortega at mortega@uidaho.edu.



Michael Kroth speaking at the February Vandal Voices.

Confucius Institute Chinese Lunar New Year Potluck

The U of I Boise Culture and Climate Committee supported the Confucius Institute’s Mandarin instructors “Sidney” Yini He, “Robert” Guowang Luo and “Anna” Yiqun Feng in executing a fun and informative Chinese Lunar New Year potluck on Tuesday, Feb. 5. The room was decorated with bright red ‘lucky’ ornaments, and small red envelopes with chocolate coins were passed out to everyone who attended, as a symbol for an auspicious 2019. Delicious Chinese dumplings were boiled on-site, as well as sweet Tangyuan sesame rice balls. We had a great turn out of participants, including staff from the U of I Boise College of Law, who joined the Idaho Water Center employees. Traditional Chinese Calligraphy was demonstrated, soft Chinese melodies were played in the background, and everyone enjoyed sharing homemade dishes and great conversation. Thank you to everyone who attended, and an especially big thank you to our Confucius instructors, who worked so hard to bring us an afternoon of their beautiful culture.



College of Engineering

As part of its outreach efforts, the Center for Ecohydraulics Research had students from Boise's Whitney Elementary visit the flume last month. Learning is always fun when you mix science, water and kids!



Capital City Market - Free U of I Booth on Saturdays



The University of Idaho is a proud sponsor of the Capital City Public Market in downtown Boise for the fourth year in a row.

Sign up today to utilize U of I's booth to highlight the amazing research and programs in your college or department. The time commitment is about four hours.

The market runs from April 13 through Dec. 14 with an average of 15,000 attendees each Saturday. Part of our sponsorship package includes a U of I-branded tent each week for us to showcase the diverse programs we have at U of I. This is a huge marketing opportunity, allowing us to extend the university's reach into our communities and beyond.

The booth is free for the day and slots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up online to reserve the date or dates that best serve your program. We will then contact you with additional details. [Sign up today!](#)

Coeur d'Alene

That's a wrap! Snow Science trips conclude as temperatures are slated to rise.

U of I Coeur d'Alene's Marie Schmidt concluded the Confluence Project Snow Science trips on March 14. Over four hundred high school students from the region participated, learning about the importance of snow pack and how to traverse winter conditions in snow shoes. Big thanks to all the collaborators who support this North Idaho outreach effort, including the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Kootenai Environmental Alliance.



Jim Ekins and Marie Schmidt of U of I; Bob Witherow, Jen Lennon and Jamie Brunner of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; and Rebecca Stevens of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe stop to give a big smile after a rewarding bluebird day on Lookout Pass.

Professional Nonprofit Leadership Program courses begin; still time to sign up!

Professional Nonprofit Leadership Program classes began Thursday, March 14 in U of I Coeur d'Alene's Harbor Center. Classes are open to anyone interested in learning skills that support healthy organizations. In addition to flexible evening classes, two all-day seminars will be taught in Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint. [Learn more about the remaining courses.](#)



Professional Nonprofit Leadership Program

Idaho Falls

Hello from Idaho Falls! It's been pretty quiet this month. We're gearing up for our staff appreciation fete next month, and we'll have some fun stuff to share in April.

BUT... we do have some great pictures to share from the Chinese New Year celebration! On Saturday, February 23rd Min Xian hosted a great party featuring traditional Chinese food.



April 2019 Staff Council Newsletter

Kudos

March Staff Member of the Month

Jeff Robbins, ITS - Tech Region 7

We were having a bit of an issue with students being able to run the video systems in Moscow during a class originating in Idaho Falls. I had sent a few emails where I got little response and someone that told me we should have the students make an appointment between their 8:00 to 5:00 schedule to learn how to use the video system.

I had worked with Jeff before and sent him an email asking if he could help. He called right back asking what was needed. He said he would be in the room to help the students understand the use of the equipment. Did I mention, the class time starts at 6 p.m. Pacific Time? Thank you Jeff Robbins for helping the students. This is greatly appreciated.

Nominated by: David B Anderson, ITS Resource Manager - Idaho Falls



Jeff Robbins

Staff Council Positions Open for FY20

Staff Council is looking for enthusiastic board-appointed staff members to fill positions becoming available starting June 1, 2019 for fiscal year 2020.

Staff Council's mission is to promote recognition, empowerment, advocacy and leadership necessary to create a professional, collegial environment and work experience for staff members employed at the University of Idaho. Our purpose is to study the issues, problems, the welfare and working conditions for staff members, and to advise on salary and promotion matters. We envision a safe, professional, collegial and equitable environment for all staff members.

Participants will be required to attend the Staff Council meeting every month, from 9-11 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Paul Joyce Faculty-Staff Lounge, September through May. There is an all-day retreat on Moscow campus in mid-June.

We are looking for all facets of board-appointed staff members (exempt, classified, off-campus and maintenance and skill craft positions) that want to make the University of Idaho a better place with a focus on our above mission and purpose. If you have additional questions or concerns regarding the details of serving on Staff Council, please contact either [Patricia Baker](#) or [Erika Crossland](#).

Once you have researched this opportunity and received the support of your supervisor, [please submit an application](#). Any applications for positions that are not open at the initial time of election will be held for consideration as positions become available.

Staff University-wide Committee Opportunities for the 2019-20 Academic Year

Staff Council is looking for enthusiastic board-appointed staff members to fill university-wide committee positions becoming available June 1, 2019.

If you are interested in making a difference, there are several opportunities to serve on a number of university committees. The committees are as follows:

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Borah Foundation
- University Budget & Finance
- Classified Position Appeal Board (1 classified position)
- Faculty and Staff Policy Group
- Grievance for Student Employees
- Parking
- Staff Compensation (3 positions available, one off-campus)
- Student Conduct Board
- University Security & Compliance (Non-Moscow Representative)

Read the [functions and structure of each committee](#).

If you have questions regarding the details of serving on a university-wide committee outside of that can be found on the previous link, please contact either [Erika Crossland](#) or [Patricia Baker](#).

Once you have researched this opportunity and received the support of your supervisor, [please submit an application](#). Any applications for positions that are not open at the initial time of election will be held for consideration as positions become available.

2019 Staff Awards Luncheon

Awards will be given to staff who have shown exemplary dedication and have gone above and beyond their normal job duties at the University of Idaho. Staff who qualified for the award were nominated by their peers and reviewed through an award process conducted by the Staff Council Staff Awards subcommittee. Additionally, those staff retiring from the university will also be recognized along with the longevity awards of current employees for service of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 etc. in five-year increments. [See award winners](#).

Training: Handling Disclosures of Interpersonal Violence

Come learn more about the role of a university employee as it relates to Title IX processes. Employees will gain increased confidence in handling disclosures and increased knowledge of resources, referrals and after-the-fact care. This training is hosted by the Women's Center, Violence Prevention Programs, the Office of Civil Rights and Investigations and CETL. Training will be held Tuesday, April 23, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. in the Whitewater Room of the Idaho Commons, Moscow. [Register online](#).

Teleconference: Listen to the Hiring of the New President of the University of Idaho

The Idaho State Board of Education will hold a special board meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 10 a.m. Pacific Time to consider a contract and hire the next president of the University of Idaho. The meeting will be held via teleconference. The location will be the Albertson Building Board Room on the University's Moscow campus. Those wishing to listen to the meeting may do so by calling 887-820-7829, participant code: 9096313. After the meeting, Board Member Don Soltman will introduce the new president to students, faculty, staff, alumni and media in the Administration Building Auditorium.

[Details](#).

Activities for Staff Health and Wellness

Celebrate the end of the spring semester by engaging in the "**Dash After Dark**" 5K run or 2K walk through campus starting and ending at the Student Rec Center. Event starts at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24 and includes glow sticks and snacks at the finish line! [Details and registration](#).



Help reduce prescription drug misuse in our community by safely disposing of unused or expired prescription drugs or other medication to the **Prescription Drug Take Back** event on campus. "Donuts for Drugs" is hosted by Vandal Health Education and Moscow Police Department. Bring your unused medications to the Commons Plaza, Wednesday, April 24, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in exchange for a donut! Dispose of drugs safely at any other time by taking them to the Moscow Police Department in downtown Moscow.

Free yoga available for staff at the Student Rec Center during Dead Week, April 29-May 3. [Class schedule will soon be posted online.](#)

Branch Campus News

Boise

U of I Boise's Graduate and Professional Student Gala

The University of Idaho Boise's Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) is hosting the 5th annual Graduate Student Gala on Saturday, April 6 at the Downtown Residence Inn. The Gala is a highly anticipated event which includes food, drinks, dancing, prizes and an opportunity to connect with fellow Vandals in celebration of a successful academic year. College of Graduate Studies Dean Jerry McMurtry will be welcoming the students and representing the GPSA's important role. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door and is intended for ages 21 and over with evening attire recommended.

Policy Pub: The Future of Food

by the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research

The University of Idaho's James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research is pleased to present Policy Pub: The Future of Food, 5-6 p.m., Thursday, April 11, at the Sawtooth Brewery Public House and Tap Room, 631 Warm Springs Road, Ketchum.

Discussion panelists are Fred Brossy, farmer and owner, Ernie's Organics; Mark Davidson, director of conservation initiatives, The Nature Conservancy; Lauren Golden, associate professor and Blaine County Extension educator, University of Idaho Extension and Amy Mattias, co-director, Local Food

Alliance, Sun Valley Institute and board member, Blaine County Food Council. McClure Center Director Katherine Himes will moderate the discussion.

The upcoming Policy Pub will showcase perspectives on food and agriculture in the Wood River Valley. Panelists will talk about sustainable food systems, the future of food production and consumption, water and challenges specific to this part of Idaho. Their remarks will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience.

U of I Speaker Series Shares Tips on How to Create Online Communities



How to create and manage a social media platform to build communities will be the subject of the next University of Idaho Vandal Voices speaker series event Thursday, April 18, in Boise.

Diana DeJesus, assistant director of admissions at the U of I College of Law in Boise and founder of both the Boise Bucket List Instagram account and the Collaboration over Competition networking group, will discuss “How I Built an Engaging Community Using Social Media” at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 18, at Amsterdam Lounge, 609 W. Main St., Boise.

As the founder of a hyperlocal Instagram account and a female-centric networking community, DeJesus will demonstrate how to build an authentic brand and engage followers through storytelling while remaining genuine and using social media as a platform to make a difference.

Vandal Voices is a bi-monthly speaker series sponsored by the University of Idaho Boise. The series is designed to inform and engage Idahoans in the Treasure Valley about research and educational topics.

The April 18 event is free and open to those 21 and older. Space is limited and admission is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Boise’s Culture and Climate Committee

The Boise Culture and Climate Committee welcomes back the Master Gardener program to the Idaho Water Center for the third year in a row: Master Gardeners, certified to provide reliable horticulture information, volunteer their time once a month in the spring and summer to present topics ranging from insect management, backyard composting, pesticide safety, to growing tomatoes, herbs, raspberries and peppers to U of I Boise employees.

U of I Boise has participated in the ACHD Commuteride May in Motion program since 2006. This April, we kick off another month of encouraging our staff, faculty and students to use alternative transportation. The program promotes environmental stewardship, community visibility, cost savings, and healthy, productive employees. U of I Boise competes with other participating local organizations and offers incentive prizes and games to engage staff. With two silver, four gold and five platinum awards from ACHD Commuteride accumulated over the years, in 2019 we strive once more for platinum level participation and outreach!

On May 1, UIB Culture and Climate Committee kicks off May in Motion by partnering with Boise Bicycle Project for a free bike tune-up and repair event for the children of Civic Plaza apartments, next to the Idaho Water Center. The Civic Plaza apartments have a high population of low-income and refugee families, and stacks of bikes often fall into disrepair outside the apartments. Boise Bicycle Project has graciously agreed to donate their time and gear to repair children's bikes between 3-5:30 p.m. A bike safety workshop will be held from 5:30 – 6 p.m. U of I Boise employees and students are encouraged to bring their own children's bikes for repair during this time and to volunteer to repair bikes for our neighbors.

Coeur d'Alene

Fresh Faces: Patti Davenport, Assistant to the CEO/AVP in Coeur d'Alene

Patti joined the Coeur d'Alene team on March 26 as Assistant to the Coeur d'Alene CEO/AVP Charles Buck. Patti has served as a teacher, mentor and coach for students of all ages. She received her bachelor's degree in Education and Athletic Training from Whitworth University and her master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Washington State University. Prior to coming to the University of Idaho, Patti served on faculty in the College of Education at WSU. She taught courses in kinesiology and coordinated clinical experiences for all students in the Athletic Training Education Program. She later launched EquippingEducators.org and became a national presenter helping teachers improve classroom culture, behavior management and student engagement and motivation. Patti and her husband, Bill, both grew up in Coeur d'Alene and now coach their two elementary-aged kiddos in softball, baseball, basketball and soccer. They are highly involved in the community and their church and love all things outdoors. Springer spaniels Jenga and Lucy are faithful companions on family adventures of all kinds.

Welcome to the team, Patti!



Computer Science Staff & Faculty Host Inaugural Board Game Night

The inaugural board game night at the U of I Computer Science lab in downtown Coeur d'Alene was a great success! Students, staff and faculty came together over pizza and sodas for a fun night of strategy. Game nights will become a regular event in Coeur d'Alene and all are welcome! Contact Carrie Morrison, cmmorrison@uidaho.edu if you'd like to participate.



University staff and faculty take up a strategic game called Puerto Rico with U of I and NIC computer science students. Photo courtesy of Amanda Ward, U of I student.

Pi Day

The Idaho Regional Mathematics Center couldn't let a Pi Day go uncelebrated. Staff from the IRMC brought in a hearty variety of pies for the staff at the Coeur d'Alene Harbor Center to enjoy. Huge thanks the Math Center staff for putting together such a wonderful spread!



The U of I CDA Instagram account shows off the amazing pies provided by Idaho Regional Math Center staff, complete with the perfect accompanying note.

Dig'nIT Summer Camps and Internships Return to the Coeur d'Alene Area

Back for its seventh season, the Dig'nIT STEM education initiative is open for registration! Information about our camps for youth ages 8-18 and well-paying tech internship jobs can be found on the Dig'nIT website.



DIG'NIT

Idaho Falls

Hello from Idaho Falls!

March kept us busy, which may or may not have helped our impatience for spring to finally start!

INL Eastern Idaho Science Bowl

U of I and ISU hosted the 2019 INL Eastern Idaho Science Bowl on March 14 & 15. Twenty-two high schools and 17 middle schools participated, from as far away as Twin Falls and Mackay! Twin Falls High School won the high school tournament, and Vera O'Leary from Twin Falls won the middle school division. Twin Falls High will be representing Idaho at the U.S. DoE National Science Bowl.



Ririe High students prepare for a match on March 14. Photo by J Randall.

St. Patrick's Day Potato Potluck

Faculty and staff got a chance to visit during the first-ever St. Patrick's Day Potato Potluck on March 19. Everyone was invited to bring their favorite potato dish to share.



... Photo by J Randall.



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Bob Fulks Retires

On March 28, U of I Idaho Falls bid a fond farewell to Bob Fulks. Bob had been with us for five years, working as a grants/contracts specialist. He was celebrated in traditional Idaho Falls style—with a potluck! Thanks, Bob. We'll miss you!



Bob and the rest of the U of I Idaho Falls staff load up before Bob's farewell address. Photo by M Hilker.



Bob models his brand-new University of Idaho t-shirt. Photo by M Hilker.

Graduate Student Visit Day – March 29

Students from BYUI, BYU, ISU, USU, Mt. Tech, MSU and U of I's Moscow campus visited the Idaho Falls campus on March 29 to learn more about the graduate programs offered here. They met with faculty and current students, took a campus tour, and participated in sessions on nuclear reactor operations, thermal science and admissions, chemical and materials science, cybersecurity and process modeling.



Potential grad students visit The Cave. Photo by A Allen.

May 2019 Staff Council Newsletter

A Note From Your Chair

I have had the most wonderful opportunity of serving as your Staff Council chair. This allowed me the privilege of leading an amazing group of Staff Council members who put in extra time because they also care about the well-being of staff and represent your voice well. Without this chance, I never would have been able to travel across this great state and visit many of our locations outside the mother ship to meet the terrific staff we have working hard for a place they love and care about. All of our collective works brought to fruition some really great things in my short two years, including the chance to build a strong relationship with university leadership. I look forward to continuing my work on Staff Council and being your voice throughout the state of Idaho. Go Vandals!!

Summer Howard, Outgoing Staff Council Chair



Summer Howard

The End of Time (From the Vice-Chair)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of Staff Council and the staff of the University of Idaho for the privilege of serving you the past two years. I have enjoyed the position of Staff Council Vice Chair and look forward to continuing to serve on the council. This position has given me an interesting insight into the workings of the university. I encourage everyone to get involved in activities and committees, speak up, make your voice heard, and take responsibility for making U of I a great place to work.

Please congratulate and support our new Chair and Vice Chair as they lead us through this transitional year of new leadership at U of I.

Patricia Baker, Outgoing Staff Council Vice Chair



Patricia Baker

New Staff Council Leaders

As we thank Summer Howard and Patricia Baker for their past Staff Council leadership, we welcome our newly elected chair and vice chair.

Chad Nielson, Director of Web Communications and Operations (University Communications and Marketing), will take over as the Staff Council chair. Cari Espenschade, Administrative Assistant in the Lionel Hampton School of Music, is the incoming vice chair. We will be posting profiles of Chad and Cari in upcoming Staff Council newsletters.

Congratulations, Chad and Cari!

Kudos

April Staff Member of the Month

Brian Kelly, U of I Web Team

Over the past 6 months, Brian has patiently, diligently and efficiently worked with the Office of Research and Faculty Development (RFD) to create our web presence within the U of I community. As a new office here on campus, with many new brand new programs, processes and responsibilities, there has been MUCH work to be done, and many tasks were added Brian's already lengthy to-do list. Most visible among Brian's efforts, and which demanded much of his time, was building a suite of web pages for our new Research, Infrastructure and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) program and its multiple programs. RISE is such an important program for UI faculty, and Brian's contributions to communicating about this program are impactful. Brian has also trained and taught our staff to handle some tasks on our own – most notably working closely with our Administrative Coordinator, newly-trained in Sitecore, honing her skills and addressing many of her questions. I cannot say THANK YOU enough to Brian for all of the hard work and time that he has devoted to RFD!

Nominated by: Dr. Carly Cummings – Director, Office of Research and Faculty Development



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Branch Campus News

Boise

New Staff

Mahmood Sheikh | Associate Athletic Director for Development | IWC 324

Mahmood Sheikh, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees from U of I and spent six years working in the athletic department in various development positions from 2003-08, is returning to U of I for a second stint in the athletic department – this time here in Boise.

The Moscow native will oversee the Vandal Scholarship Fund (VSF) and be responsible for procuring major gifts for capital projects. Mahmood's last position at U of I was as an assistant athletic director and executive director of the VSF. He went to Colorado, where he spent three years as an assistant AD and Buff Club director before leaving college athletics. He recently spent more than nine years as the deputy executive director for the Idaho State Bar and Idaho Law Foundation Inc.



Mahmood Sheikh

Lyndsay Watkins | Research Assistant | IDL

A graduate of Bishop Kelly High School, Lyndsay is a Montana State University architecture and environmental design graduate. She joins the Integrated Design Lab as a research assistant after working at Modus Architecture Collaborative in Boise as an intern for the past five summers.

Lyndsay spent fall 2018 studying abroad at The University of Plymouth in Plymouth, England, and traveled extensively while enjoying the way that architecture and environmental design is taught in another country. She loves to spend her free time traveling the world, spending time in the great outdoors, taking care of her plants and reading.



Lyndsay Watkins

Lu Hauger | Commercial Produce Safety| U of I Extension Southern District

Lu comes from a background in local government and economic development with a significant passion for food systems and agriculture. In previous roles, she has focused on community outreach and civic engagement, approaching policy from a community-building emphasis. With U of I Extension, she will apply her diverse experience to engage, educate and advocate for farmers across the state of Idaho. She holds a master's in public policy from Colorado University (CU) Denver and a bachelor's from CU Colorado Springs.



Lu Hauger

Kara Jenkins | 4-H Program Coordinator | U of I Extension, Ada County

Kara Jenkins is the new 4-H program coordinator. Kara hails from Emmett, where she grew up heavily involved in county, district, state and national 4-H programs. She earned her bachelor's in multidisciplinary studies and master's in teaching from Eastern Oregon University. She was previously a 4-H Educator in Baker

County, Oregon, and most recently has been volunteering with Canyon County 4-H, teaching STEM programming.



Kara Jenkins

Alyssa Pietz | Program Technician | CDHD

A transplant from Washington, Alyssa Pietz joins CDHD as their new program technician. She was the previous administrative assistant at the U of I Extension, Ada County. Alyssa is a Vandal and Alpha Gamma Delta alumna, and is an advisor for the Delta Upsilon chapter in Boise. When she's not at work you'll find her adventuring with her boyfriend, Patrick, and their Australian Shepherd, Ruby.



Boise Farmers Market

iDrones, 4-H events, Chinese classes, science experiments! Yours can be one of the units taking advantage of the free booth at the Capital City Public Market (CCPM). U of I sponsors the CCPM in downtown Boise. The market runs April 13 through December 14 with an average of 15,000 attendees each Saturday. Part of our

sponsorship package includes a U of I-branded tent each week for the university to showcase the diverse programs we have at U of I. This is a huge marketing opportunity, allowing us to extend U of I's reach into our communities and beyond.

Sign up to utilize U of I's booth and highlight the amazing research and programs in your college or department. The time commitment is about four hours.

The booth is free for the day and slots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, so sign up online to reserve the date(s) that best serve your program. We will then contact you with additional details.



Coeur d'Alene

Judges needed for the Youth Water Summit in CDA!

Marie Schmidt, Community Water Resource Center Specialist, is seeking volunteer judges for the Youth Water Summit from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 21 at North Idaho College.

Nearly 500 students from regional high schools will be presenting their water-related research projects. No judging experience necessary; a brief training will be provided. You can register as a judge here: <https://goo.gl/forms/VY3morLYIFF3oj2x2>

Marie is also looking for a few dedicated volunteers to help with set-up, greeting students, and tallying rubric scores. If interested, please contact Marie, mschmidt@uidaho.edu

Represent the University of Idaho (wear your vandal gear!) and interact with potential future Vandal scientists at this fun, innovative event!



High school students in 2018 show off the projects they've been working hard on in hopes that they will take home the gold!

CS staff bring the Sunfish to Kellogg, Idaho

Coeur d'Alene Computer Science Department Manager Carrie Morrison and student Amanda Ward brought the new underwater robot, Sunfish, to the Panhandle Health District's annual Environmental Science and Health Fair in Kellogg on April 25. The fair reaches middle and high school students in the Silver Valley.

Morrison and Ward shared the collaborative Computer Science degree options available in Coeur d'Alene through U of I and North Idaho College. They also talked about how this deep-diving research could impact studies on the health of our waterways.

For more information on the robotics that reside in Coeur d'Alene and the programs offered through the Computer Science department, contact Carrie Morrison at cmmorrison@uidaho.edu.



Amanda Ward, student, and Carrie Morrison, CDA Computer Science staff, show off the newest addition to the family of aquatic robots, the Sunfish.

Tim Morgan first in Coeur d'Alene to win the College of Engineering Outstanding Technical Staff Award

Coeur d'Alene Computer Science IT Manager Tim Morgan won the College of Engineering Outstanding Technical Staff Award and is the first to do so from the CDA location. Tim not only supports the needs of his program, but also contributes to community outreach tech demonstrations, provides event IT support and serves as a backup IT resource for the Coeur d'Alene Harbor Center.

Congrats, Tim!



Registration is open for Dig'nIT summer camps; internship application portal open until May 19

Back for its seventh season, the Dig'nIT STEM education initiative is open for registration! Information about our camps for youth ages 8-18 and well-paying tech internship jobs for students 16-18 can be found on the Dig'nIT website.



DIG'NIT

Idaho Falls

Hiya from Idaho Falls!

It's almost summer, which is quiet-ish for some of us but crazy in CALS!

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

We held our Staff Appreciation Luncheon on April 23. Several of us were on hand to celebrate milestones, retirees and each other. Brooks Quigley was the recipient of the Outstanding Part Time Staff Award. Jay Soelberg, Cindy Bou and KD Holmes marked five years each with the U of I. Meladi Lanier and Ryan Haworth received their ten-year recognition awards. Susan Robertson celebrated 15 years with the U of I and Carol Baldwin was recognized for her amazing 30 years of service to the University of Idaho. (More on Carol below.)



Sarah Ramirez and Mike Hilker laugh it up at The Zone.



The usual suspects hanging out.



Debbie Caudle, large and in charge.

Denim Day

Domestic Violence Awareness Day was observed on April 24. It's come to be known as Denim Day, and people are asked to wear denim to help raise awareness of domestic violence and to help spread the word about services available to those in need. We welcomed Shane Dial from the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center in Idaho Falls, and an officer from the Idaho Falls police department, who both spoke of local facilities from which to get help/counseling/report abuse or sexual assault. Attendees decorated denim jeans pockets to be used to make a quilt.





Carol Baldwin Farewell

On April 30 U of I Idaho Falls said goodbye to a longtime member of our student services team. Dr. Carol Baldwin was with the University of Idaho for 30 years. We wish her great luck and happiness on her new endeavors!



the camera at Carol's retirement celebration.