

# Kudos 2019-2020

Jodi Walker and UCM Staff - Director of Communications

30 June 2020

Thanks to Jodi Walker and the UCM team for your work on the communications to UI employees. It may not be readily known, the information takes a considerable amount of time and coordination to get ready and sent to the UI community. Thank you Jodi and UCM for all your hard work, often under very tight deadlines and last minute adjustments. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are truly appreciated.

Brandon Gardner - Technology Solutions Partner - ITS

19 June 2020

Thank you Brandon for setting up technology on a very tight turn around in support of our summer program. Your dedication to your colleagues is MUCH appreciated! - Heather Ebba Maib - Project Director, TRIO-INSPIRE

Sumit Shahi - Technology Solutions Partner - ITS

19 June 2020

Thanks so much to Sumit for making my office technology work upon my return to campus! I appreciate how quickly you addressed the issue during this hectic return to campus. - Heather Ebba Maib - Project Director, TRIO-INSPIRE

Vivi Gonzalez - Coord, Multicultural Programs

11 June 2020

A huge kudos to Vivi for scheduling and coordinating very critical and imperative events as part of the Black Matter Series, and providing a platform for the campus community to learn, reflect, and grow. - Eric Anderson - Associate Director, Career Development (Career Services)

UI Children's Center Staff & Megan Dixon, Program Supervisor, Children's Center

3 June 2020

The Children's Center staff has done an amazing job navigating this uncertain time. While they always follow strict hygiene practices, they've really gone above and beyond to ensure parents and kiddos are feeling safe and secure. As a newly enrolled family at the center, the transition has been challenging, but the center administrators and teachers have been nothing but supportive and respectful. - Emily Tuschhoff - Vandal Health Education

Kristie Ingham - Technical Records Specialist II

5 May 2020

Kudos to Kristie for helping out with Staff Education Permits when working remotely. They were really gracious in finding ways to help for people that have limited technology working remotely. Kristie was so great to work with. - Eric Anderson - Associate Director, Career Development (Career Services)

Sumit Shahi - Technology Solutions Partner

29 April 2020

Sumit spend most of a day assisting me with setting up new computer with the DUO mode and my phone so that I am able to continue working from home. He had to do this twice because of an error on my part. He was patient, kind and amazing with his skills and knowledge. I am disabled and it seemed like a miracle the way he directed me through the process. An outstanding tech. I cannot applaud him enough. - Toby Schultz - Office Assistant, Center on Disabilities and Human Development (CDHD)

Stacy Rauch - Director of Annual Giving

15 April 2020

When contacted about how we could set up an online donation portal for the Vandal Food Pantry (VFP), Stacy went above and beyond by listing the VFP on the Vandal Community Relief Campaign. She was incredibly supportive and efficient in getting the campaign set up. Stacy's efforts have helped to feed many families, shed light on food insecurity, and establish wider community support than we've had before. Thank you, Stacy! - Amber Schneider - Program Coordinator for the Center for Volunteerism & Social Action

Lindsey Brown - Registrar

6 April 2020

Lindsey has been incredibly supportive of her staff during the recent transitions related to COVID-19 as well as the ongoing budget issues at UI. She has been flexible, set clear and realistic expectations, and been transparent with us every step of the way. These are already challenging times, but they would have been much more stressful without such a supportive and understanding leader at the helm.

Amber Schneider - Program Coordinator for the Center for Volunteerism & Social Action

27 March 2020

Over the past several weeks, as more and more changes and decisions were being made about University operations due to COVID-19, Amber has worked to ensure access to the Vandal Food Pantry by all patrons who face food insecurity. Due to all buildings being closed on campus for the next three weeks, Amber has decided to work multiple days each week operating a drive-by food pantry out of the Pitman Center in an effort to help ensure folks in our community are still being fed. Her commitment to the Vandal Food Pantry and this community are commendable. Laurel Meyer - Events & Marketing Coordinator, Student Involvement

Brandon Gardner - Technology Solutions Partner 2 - ITS

25 March 2020

Brandon has always supported the faculty and staff in EHHS in a friendly and professional way. This morning he worked with me to connect my technology at home to my office technology so that I could address some of the disruptions associated with working from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you, Brandon. Your patience and humor is much appreciated!!!  
Heather Ebba Maib - Program Director, TRIO-INSPIRE

John Shuttleworth - Cabinet and Furniture Specialist, Housing and Residence Life  
12 March 2020

As part of the move to Windows 10, the cash registers at the VandalStore needed to be updated. When purchasing them, our rep told us the new registers would have no problem working in the current space. He was wrong. We enlisted John's help to make it right, and he did an amazing job in helping us do it. He built 5 register stands for the front counter, 2 for starbucks, and 3 mobile unit boxes that allow us to open a pop-up store anywhere on or off campus without a wiring nightmare. He even installed them all in one day, allowing us to close for only a short period of time while also we made the whole store compliant with Windows 10. With John's help, the registers in the VandalStore look awesome, and if you haven't seen them yet, I suggest you stop by. Thanks John. Michael Placke - ResNet Operations Supervisor

Sumit Shahi - Technology Solutions Partner  
10 March 2020

Sumit did a fabulous job moving my computer between offices and getting it installed. It was such a seamless process thanks to his professionalism and skills! Aleksandra Hollingshead - Associate Dean of Accreditation and Inclusion

Becca Lunstrum - Special Events Coordinator, Lionel Hampton School of Music  
10 March 2020

Becca Lunstrum is new to her role as Special Events Coordinator in the Lionel Hampton School of Music, but she has shown such skill, motivation and ability to master new tasks, that she has gained the heartfelt appreciation of many with whom she interacts. Colleagues call her efficient and professional, accessible, timely in response, solution-oriented, collaborative and a positive person to work with. She provides the correct information the first time. She is appropriately proactive. She has helped make the planning and execution of the 53rd Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival smoother and less stressful than in previous years. From coordinating the scheduling through the completion of the student competition, her organizational skills stood out. Bob Hoffmann (with Kathy Foss, Scott Brown and Julie Albrecht) - Web Coordinator, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences

Sumit Shahi - Technology Solutions Partner  
27 February 2020

Sumit Shahi helped me navigate through the "One-Drive Migration". He is efficient, organized, and proficient at technological problem solving. Sumit's explanations and instructions were clear and succinct. I now feel confident to maneuver through this system and successfully manage a new tech program. Excellent help! Diane Swensen - Doctoral Candidate, College of Education, Health and Human Sciences

Front Desk Staff/Parking & Transportation  
14 February 2020

As I go about doing my daily activities, on the phone or traveling to different offices on campus, the people that are the most pleasant, on the phone and in person, are the front office staff at

Parking and Transportation Services. They are always so kind and supportive on the phone, and have whatever I need ready for me when I get to the office (when I thought I would be waiting a while). Honestly, it's the little things in our day-to-day that makes things so much brighter, and the front office staff at P & T are the best! I just want them to be recognized for providing such outstanding customer service. Cheryl Gardner - Business Manager, Admin Ops

Kris Baird-Anderson - Graduation Specialist - Registrar's Office

14 February 2020

Kris is one of my most thoughtful co-workers. She always has words of support and she regularly does kind things like bringing in donuts for the office or checking in with others when she knows it's their busy time. She will swap front desk shifts as needed, no questions asked. And while she's been doing the work of three people lately, she has maintained a positive attitude and a GREAT sense of humor. Kris does so much to boost office morale - she deserves to be recognized for it. Amy Kingston - Academic Publications Editor, Registrar's Office

Hermayne Smith - Enrollment and Transcript Specialist

30 January 2020

Hermayne joined the front desk during a busy time for the Registrar's Office and she learned quickly. We used to have two full-time front desk staff, but Hermayne is now doing the job herself. She exhibits kindness, patience, and curiosity. Her quick learning and hard work enable the rest of us to focus on our jobs as much as possible, knowing the busy front desk is in capable hands. Amy Kingston - Academic Publications Editor, Registrar's Office

Kris Baird-Anderson - Graduation Specialist

30 January 2020

Kris is currently doing the work of 3 or more people by herself in the registrar's office. Despite this, she is always cheerful and pleasant to work with, and gets things done as quickly as she can. She is working really hard and think she should be appreciated for this. Mikyla Wood - Management Assistant - COGS

Dan LaHann - Compliance Coordinator, ORA

29 January 2020

Dan LaHann consistently goes out of his way to assist the Contract Review Unit with export control issues. He is always extremely positive and a pleasure to work with. Jason Laurance Oliver - Associate Contract Review Officer, OSP

Monte Cooley - DFA Programmer Analyst

24 January 2020

Monte created a super awesome report that will greatly benefit Parking and all of their customers - exponentially increasing the customer experience! Summer Howard - Office Manager - Parking and Transportation Services

Polixenia Tohaneanu, Graduate Admissions

21 November 2019

We want to personally express our gratitude for the effort and extra time Polixenia "Polly" Tohaneanu put into the Technolutions/Slate assignment. A challenging yet critical project for the university.

There were several points where Polly's excellent problem-solving and researching skills, as well as creativity, allowed her to swiftly resolve issues for both the Graduate Admissions and Undergraduate Admissions offices that might have easily been roadblocks.

Polly has put in a lot of extra time learning how the systems works so that she could build the database(s) needed. She worked evenings, weekends, and middle-of-the-night/early mornings to ensure that our institution meet the reduced timeline. If you were to look into the logs you'd wonder when she found time to sleep!

Polly's dedication to this project, out of the box thinking, desire to experiment and find new ways of achieving the goals for not only our department but of the departments we work with, and her personal involvement is unparalleled.

We're so happy that Polly was able to take this project on and to see her hard work resulting in such success! Polly, you have done wonderful work in contributing your talents and skills to the project. We greatly appreciate what you have accomplished.

Although saying "Thank You" is not enough, Thank you! Your Graduate Admissions Teammates  
– Pam & Roxane

Irene Jones, ITS -- Technology Solutions Partners  
21 November 2019

A huge kudos to Irene Jones who has helped all impacted staff from the ISUB/TLC that have relocated to the Pitman Center with all of our technology needs. From moving and setting up laptops, desktops, printer access, to tracking down any parts that might be needed, Irene has done it all. She is a pleasure to work with and her efforts have made the transition so smooth.  
Eric Anderson, Associate Director - Career Development (Career Services)

Aaron Hensarling, Event Operations Coordinator  
21 November 2019

A huge kudos to Aaron Hensarling and his entire team that has helped all impacted staff from the Commons/ISUB/TLC relocate to the Pitman Center and other places around campus. They have been so amazing and have gone above and beyond to make this process go smoothly. They have done such an amazing job and I hope the entire team can be consider for Staff Members of the Month for December! Eric Anderson, Associate Director - Career Development (Career Services)

Classroom Scheduling, Classroom Scheduling Team  
7 November 2019

Thank you for all of your hard work to relocate all of the classes from the TLC. You did a fantastic job in a very short amount of time. You are all amazing! Jana Joyce - Math and Statistics Program Manager

Classroom Scheduling, Registrar's Office

7 November 2019

With the flooding in TLC, this group did a PHENOMENAL job finding alternate locations for classes AND for those who have offices in the ISUB! They always deserve Kudos for all that they do, but this was over the top and deserves recognition! You all are amazing! Melissa Gottschalk - Mathematics and Statistical Science

Sean Williams, UCM/Centers Web Coordinator

5 November 2019

A recent Argonaut article celebrated the "unsung heroes" of our U of I community who habitually look out for others and help when they can. One such unsung hero is Sean Williams. Whenever he sees a vehicle on campus with a head light out or a brake light that isn't working, Sean contacts the Parking Office in the hope that we can reach out to the vehicle's owner. In turn, these individuals express gratitude for the heads up! Sean's attention to detail and willingness to take a few moments out of his day to help fellow Vandals stay safe and avoid potential traffic citations makes our little corner of the world a better place! Thanks Sean! Ben Bridges

Matthew Klug, Technology Solutions Partner 2, ITS-Technology Solutions Partners

21 October 2019

Researchers in our lab archived data on Zip disks in the late 90s and early 2000s. I had given up on ever accessing that data again, but Matt did not. He went far beyond expectations, tried and tried again, and found a solution! He spotted the appropriate Zip drive at surplus, inserted into a computer of a certain age, and brought it to the lab so we can dump all the Zip disk data onto newer media. We are very grateful to Matt and want to acknowledge his expertise and willingness to go the extra mile. LuAnn Scott, Lab Manager - Biological Sciences

Brian Kelly, Web Technician, University Communications and Marketing

21 October 2019

Brian assisted Benefit Services with the Annual Enrollment Webpage. Due to some late decisions regarding benefits for 2020 the creation of our communications were delayed. Brian was able to assist us with the annual enrollment webpage so employees would have the tools necessary to make their benefit decisions. Thanks for the extra help Brian! Providing employees with the resources to make informed benefit decisions is critical and your help made it happen. HR Benefit Team, Benefit Services

Aaron Rice, Journeyman Electrician, Facilities

08 October 2019

I would like to thank Aaron for his efforts to accommodate a new research space in LARF. His hard work and dedication has made it possible to expand research and improve the University as a whole. Kiah Stewart, LAR Facility Manager

Steven "Mitch" Mortensen, Facilities

04 October 2019

May I please submit a kudo for Mitch Mortensen for his work sanding and waxing the floor in my office? It looks fantastic, so much better than anticipated! Kiah Stewart, LAR Facility Manager

Michael Placke, Res Net Operations Supervisor

25 September 2019

I have the pleasure of organizing the Parking Appeals Committee here on campus. This group consists of students, staff and faculty on campus. With our new multi-factor authentication, one of our members was having trouble accessing the website. After multiple emails with myself, Michael and the student - I went home for the day at 4:30. Michael persisted to help Mary Alice and got her all set up at 7:30 pm with a follow-up message to me with the update. He goes above and beyond at all times. Michael provides a fantastic service to anyone he has the pleasure of helping and we are lucky to have him! Summer Howard, Office Manager, PTS

Mareesa Sheppard, Technical Records Specialist, Student Accounts/Cashiers

25 September 2019

Our office was struggling with a student and a challenging parking debt situation in which we kept hitting a wall while trying to help the student. Mareesa was able to provide a greater and more specific explanation of the account to the student. Her Banner expertise was key and she was quick to respond. She also asked great follow-up questions and provided additional information to her team for the future. All in all, she provided a great service today! Summer Howard, Office Manager, PTS

Travis Gray, Fin & HR Systems Coordinator

24 September 2019

I would like to recognize Travis Gray for his outstanding contributions to the University and it's employees. Most recently, with the incorporation of Chrome River and in learning ARGOS reporting, I've relied on Travis numerous times and he always meets my challenges with a positive can-do attitude. He is knowledgeable, candid and extremely mindful of the hurdles we've all faced with some of this new software. That said, I wanted to let him know how appreciated he is. Job well done for sure. Susan Branting, Department Manager, Computer Science.

Vern Dorendorf, Landscape Maintenance Technician, Facilities

13 September 2019

I regularly see Vern around the Administration Building and he is always doing something to help the grounds and area look nicer. He obviously cares about improving the appearance and usefulness of the grounds. I appreciate his continual and great effort. Diane McGarry, Administrative Specialist

Dusty Fleener, Training Coordinator

12 September 2019

Dusty has exceptional customer service. I had communication with him regarding training. He recognized that I don't work on the Moscow campus and would have to join via Zoom. He provided all of the information I would need to make the Zoom connections, even that same day if I could. Not being on the Moscow campus can make getting information challenging. Dusty made some of those challenges much easier. I sincerely appreciate him. Stephanie Fox, UI Boise Manager, Facilities and Operations

Betsy Port, Web Coordinator, Division of Student Affairs  
10 September 2019

Betsy consistently pushes towards excellence. She produces quality content often on tight timelines and leverages her connections and expertise to benefit her stakeholders. I owe her deep thanks for her excellent work as she promotes the various initiatives I represent. Emilie McLarnan Associate Director of Violence Prevention Programs

Bart Sonnenberg, Assistant Director, Residential Engagement  
09 September 2019

Oversaw the 30th annual Paint the Palouse program. Provided leadership and support to the undergraduate Area Assistants who are responsible for all aspects of the program (advertising/marketing, selecting the homes to be painted, soliciting donations, doing the prep work for the property and managing the house on the day of the event. Dee Dee Kanikkeberg, Director, Housing and Residence Life

Dan Noble, Sr FIn Tech & Employment Serv. Tech, Employment Services  
04 September 2019

I would like to send a huge thank you to Dan Noble and Many Brocke (HR EPAF) for all their help and kindness during this very busy epaf processing season. When mistakes are made, they are there to help make things right and go out of their way to be kind even when I've just made their day a lot more complicated and crazy. Thank you Dan and Mandy for your kindness. Patti Heath Administrative Coordinator Linel Hampton School of Music

Mandy Brocke, Sr FIn Tech & Employment Serv. Tech, Employment Services  
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Janice Todish, Admin & Fiscal Ops Director, CLASS  
04 September 2019

Janice Todish, Administrative & Fiscal Operations Director for the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences is amazing! This past summer and start of Fall 2019 her work load has increased dramatically. The amount of work that is required of her has been astronomical with all the new changes everywhere we turn, but she has been so patient and kind in dealing with

the side effects of me and everyone else in our College when mistakes are made or the processes not followed correctly. So I would like to give a huge Thank You for her kind and knowledgeable ways of dealing with difficult mistakes/people who struggle. No matter how busy, behind, or stressed she is, she is always kind, understanding and extremely helpful. Thank you Janice for ALL you do and your kindness. Patti Heath Administrative Coordinator Lionel Hampton School of Music

Mandy Brocke & Dan Noble, Human Resources  
04 September 2019

Dan Noble & Mandy Brocke made this EPAF season a breeze. EPAFS are nothing if not confusing and their patience and kindness meant so much. I can't imagine busier people and they take whatever time needed to answer calls and explain things without complaint. I am blown away by their kindness. What a gift these two people are to the university. Jennifer Baillargeon-Hauck, admin Assistant English

Terry Evans, Admin Financial Specialist, Geological Sciences  
22 August 2019

We were setting up for a recent scheduling symposium and ran into some technical difficulties. Terry was a symposium attendee who arrived early. He jumped right in to help us, even going so far as to contact the building TSP. With his help, we were able to start the symposium on time and with a successful Zoom connection for those attending from off-site. We couldn't have done that without Terry's knowledge and willingness to jump in and assist! Amy Kingston, Scheduling Coordinator, Registrar's Office.

Jen Smith, Senior Career Advising Liaisons, Advising Services  
19 August 2019

A huge kudos to Jen Smith and Rachel Otto for creating a physical and electronic Career Fair guide that students can utilize to help them get prepared for meeting with employers each semester. This has been a tremendous asset already for students, who are amazed at both the quality of the publication and its practical tips that are helping students feel more confident about talking with employers. Eric Anderson, Associate Director, Career Development

Rachel Otto, Senior Career Advising Liaisons, Advising Services  
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Robert Gaines, Technology Solutions Partner 1, ITS  
26 July 2019

I brought my work laptop (from home) that was not allowing me to sign in and was not working at all, but in a very short time, with a very pleasant attitude and brilliant demeanor, Robert got

my laptop working in full functional status. He really knows what he is doing! And I appreciate his positive and respectful demeanor. Cheryl Gardner, Business Manager, Admin Ops

Linda Wilson, Administrative Financial Specialist, CALS

10 July 2019

During the end of the 2019 fiscal year, Linda Wilson worked diligently to process purchases, travel expenses, and budget modifications for the entire CALS faculty & staff. Through an onslaught of paperwork, Linda remained organized, composed, and jovial while processing financial administrative tasks in a timely manner to meet end of the fiscal year deadlines. She put in extra effort and extremely long hours to ensure that everyone had the correct forms submitted so their funding sources would be in good standing for both the passing and upcoming years. Lisa Jones, Research Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences

Daisy Aguilera, Assistant Director of Admissions, Multicultural Recruitment

10 July 2019

In April 2019, Daisy started the University of Idaho's first Latinx Alumni Chapter. The purpose of this new alumni chapter is to support our alma mater through the engagement of current and prospective students-- while also creating a growing network within our Latinx community. Monze Stark, Associate Director of Admissions

Holli Sampson, UCM

02 July 2019

A huge kudos to Holli for all the amazing stories she is sharing about U of I right now on LinkedIn. LinkedIn is a great tool to connect with our alumni and potential non-traditional students, and she is highlighting some truly amazing stories that capture the Vandal experience. Eric Anderson, Associate Director, Career Development