



# Highlights 2024

CAA Fall Advisory Meeting



**University of Idaho**  
College of Art and Architecture

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us. Thank you for dedicating your time and energy to our Advisory Board meeting. Your presence and engagement reaffirm the vital role you play in shaping the future of the College of Art and Architecture.

Your thoughtful input and steadfast support make a tangible difference as we work together to elevate our programs, ensure student success, and enhance our impact. Whether through advocating for our mission, providing financial support, or connecting us with opportunities that broaden our horizons, your contributions are invaluable.

We deeply appreciate the insights you shared, the enthusiasm you bring, and the commitment you demonstrate to our college. Your partnership inspires us and strengthens our ability to achieve our goals.

On behalf of the entire college, thank you for your dedication, your expertise, and your belief in the transformative power of art and design. Together, we are advancing the college’s vision for academic excellence and innovation.

Warmly,

Shauna Corry, Ph.D.  
Dean  
College of Art and Architecture

**Vandal Healing Garden & Memorial**

Around 400 people attended the dedication ceremony for the space that was designed and built by our students over the course of the past year.

**Prichard Art Gallery & VandalStore**

The Prichard Art Gallery renovation in downtown Moscow will provide a new home for our exhibition space as well as a VandalStore.

**Growing Enrollment**

Our college's steadily increasing enrollment, indicates a growing demand for our academic programs and the university's appeal to prospective students.

**Research Funding**

We have significant growth in external research funding, enabling the college to expand its research capabilities, support faculty research initiatives, and provide valuable learning opportunities for students.

**Special Awards and Recognition**

We are proud to present the 2024 *Paul G. Windley Faculty Excellence and Development Award* to **Xiao Hu**, associate professor of architecture. This marks Hu's third award. The committee recognizes his outstanding work on "Mapping Morphological Changes of the Jabalia Refugee Camp." This \$1,000 award recognizes three consecutive years of excellence in faculty scholarship and supports ongoing research and dissemination. Generously donated by Charla Windley and her children in memory of her late husband Paul, this award reflects Dean Windley's dedication to written scholarship and his many years of service to the College of Art and Architecture. We are grateful for this support.

**Aaron Johnson**, assistant professor of art and design, for *Excellence in Research*.

**Scott Lawrence**, associate professor of architecture, for *Excellence in Teaching*.

**Hannah Baker**, administrative specialist III, for *Excellence in Administrative and Student Service*.

**Architecture Masterprize 2024 Winners**

The annual Architecture Master Prize (AMP) is an international architecture award recognizing design excellence. The Architecture Program was really well represented in the 2024 awards, winning in multiple categories and taking home the top prize.

**Special Student Service Award**

A special student service award was presented to the Students of Design, led by **Litzy Gomez '24, Josie Williams '24, Logan Lesmann, and Asia Akiko Davis '24**, for their exceptional efforts in planning and executing the Spring Student Gala. Their innovative marketing and event coordination resulted in a stunning and memorable celebration. We extend our gratitude to Litzy, Josie, Logan, and Asia for their outstanding contributions!

**Vandal Healing Garden and Memorial Opens, Offering a Place for Reflection and Peace**

Built by College of Art and Architecture students

The Vandal Healing Garden and Memorial, a project led by students and faculty from the College of Art and Architecture (CAA), now stands as a lasting tribute to the lives of four beloved Vandals — **Ethan Chapin, Madison Mogen, Kaylee Goncalves, and Xana Kernodle** — whose lives were tragically taken two years ago. This serene space honors their memory while providing a place of solace and reflection for the University of Idaho community.

Completed in August after more than a year of planning and development, the memorial is a capstone achievement for CAA students, embodying the values at the heart of the college's programs. It showcases the transformative educational experience of the university's *Design Build* and *Landscape Architecture* programs.

The project reached its culmination with a dedication ceremony that brought the campus together.

The creation of this garden was made possible through the generosity of alumni and local businesses. Contributors



included alumna **Nicole Kahler '10, '12, Clearwater Summit Group, Walla Walla Nursery, Patt's Garden Center, Iseli Nursery, and Moss Greenhouses**. The university also extends special gratitude to **Celine Acord '09, '11**, university landscape architect and project manager, whose dedication and expertise were instrumental in bringing this vision to life. Additionally, **Rusty Vineyard** and the facilities team provided critical support throughout the process.

This meaningful project has also garnered widespread attention from local and regional media, including *KREM, the Spokesman-Review, KHQ, KXLY, Idaho Press, Big Country News, Moscow-Pullman Daily News, Idaho Education News*, and the *Argonaut*.

Now open to all, the **Vandal Healing Garden and Memorial** invites the community to reflect, connect, and find peace. This space stands as a testament to the enduring strength of the Vandal family and the power of thoughtful design to foster healing and hope.



**A New Era for the Prichard Art Gallery: A Glimpse into the Future**

Explore the Future: Exclusive Construction Tours of the New Prichard. Earlier this semester during U of I Homecoming weekend, our community had a special opportunity to experience the transformation of the former Moscow Police Station, soon to be the new home of the **Prichard Art Gallery** and **VandalStore**. On Saturday, October 5, during Vandal Homecoming, attendees joined us for an exclusive construction tour, exploring the ongoing renovation at the corner of 4th Street and Washington.

This redevelopment is more than a renovation; it's a vision coming to life. By reimagining this building, we're creating a vibrant cultural hub where art, community, and Vandal pride converge. Each phase of the transformation is designed to enhance accessibility, foster a welcoming atmosphere, and invite creativity into the heart of Moscow.



Highlights of the Transformation Phases:

**PHASE I:** Modernizing the building to meet today's code standards

**PHASE II:** Remodeling interiors to craft an inspiring, open space (We are here.)

**Phase III:** Revitalizing the exterior to connect seamlessly with Friendship Square, creating a more integrated and accessible community space

As guests toured the site, they witnessed firsthand how the space will connect the past with the future, supporting our vision of a lively arts center to carry on the legacy of the Prichard Art Gallery. The gallery will continue to play a pivotal role in arts education, impacting all elementary schools in the region. It will provide inspiring and thoughtful art showcases for students, alumni, and faculty, and foster artistic innovation

and critical problem-solving skills across industries through transformational education in the arts for the College of Art and Architecture and the university as a whole.

This project represents more than just a structural change: it's an evolution that will inspire critical problem-solving skills across industries through transformational education in the arts for the College of Art and Architecture and the university as a whole.

We're grateful for everyone who joined us to glimpse this exciting future, and we look forward to opening the doors to a space that will inspire and connect the Vandal family for generations to come.



**Support the Prichard Art Gallery**

The Gallery has received an Estate Gift! But there is so much more to do.

Donor support will provide:

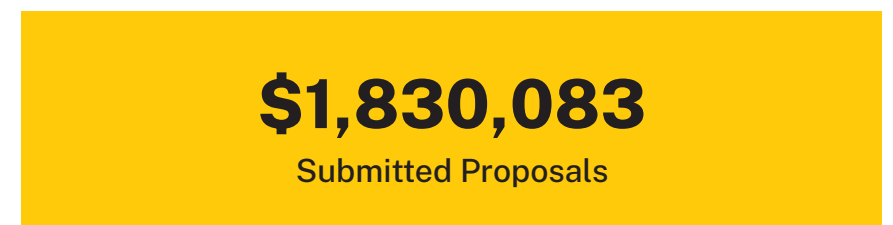
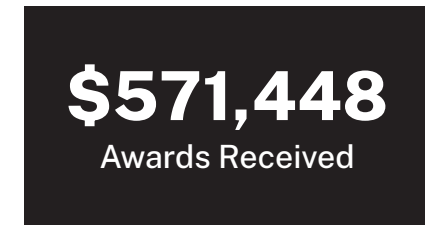
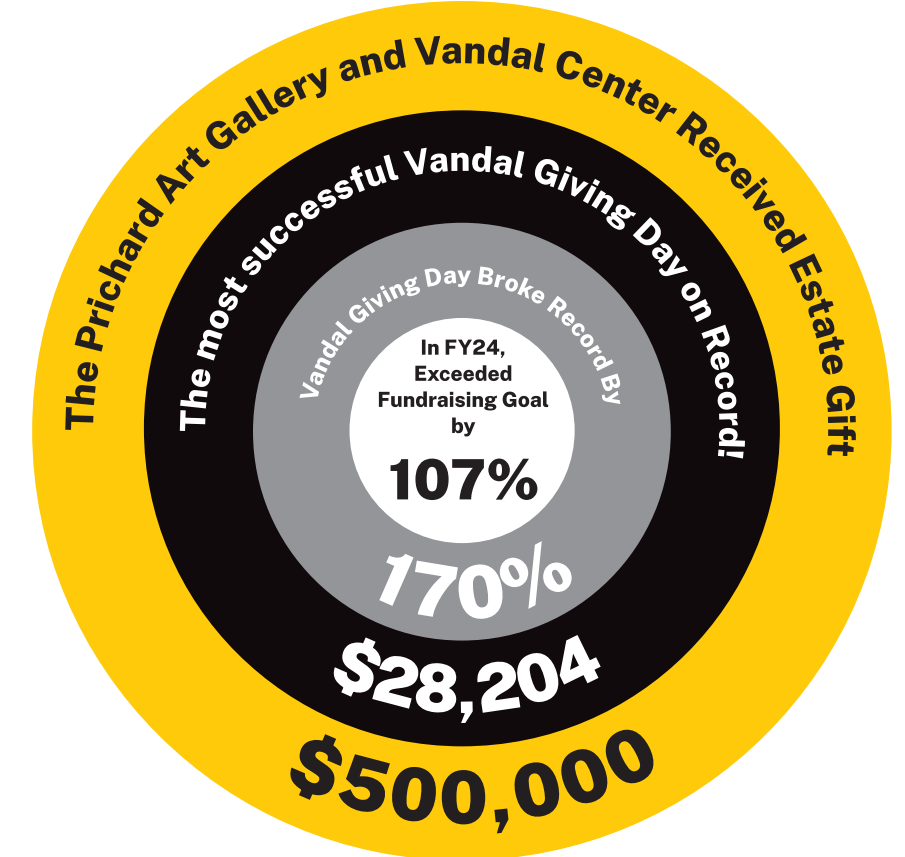
- Year-round learning lab + gathering space
- Exhibits from renowned artists
- Displays of faculty and student research
- Library special collections
- After-school programs, art walks and workshops.

**Join us** in shaping the future of design education and creative exploration. Contact Hannah Finkas-Ganders at [hfinkasganders@uidaho.edu](mailto:hfinkasganders@uidaho.edu) to learn more.



**Sponsored Research Highlights**

- **Awards Received \$571,448**  
Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Idaho Power Company, Teal Studios, and more
- **Expenditures \$1,166,993**  
Center for Resilient Communities, Architecture, Virtual Technology and Design, Integrated Design Lab, Administration
- **Proposals Submitted: \$1,830,083**  
Sponsors: National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, Micron Technology Inc., Idaho Power Company, and more.



**Enrollment Update**

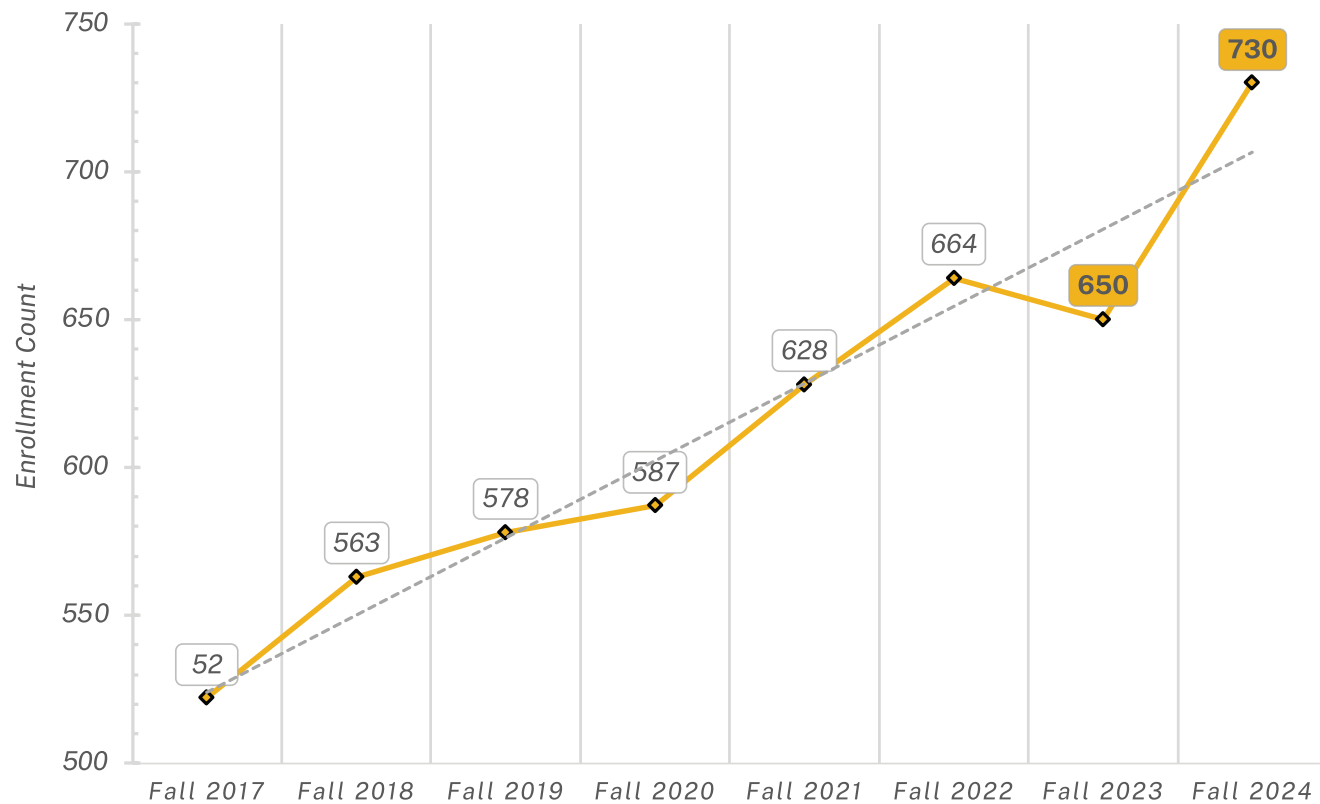
This fall we have **730** students, compared to 650 in Fall 2023. That is **12.3% growth!**

The Fall 2024 freshman class is the **BIGGEST** in the history of University of Idaho and the third record-breaking freshman class in as many years.



# BIGGEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

**FALL SEMESTER ENROLLMENT 2017-2024**



**#1**  
**PRIORITY:**  
**Recruitment**

**Digital Recruitment Campaign**

The following statistics were reported by *Carnegie Dartlett* on April 4, 2024 about CAA Marketing and Communication's digital marketing campaigns.

**REPORTING RANGE:**

Inception (mid-Dec) to April 4, 2024

Increases were evidenced across all Key Performance Indicators:

- 12,712,899 Impressions **+342%**

- 27,087 Clicks **+2,402%**
- 86 Conversions **+2,533%** (A conversion is an application.)
- Click Through Rates (CTR) **0.21%** (benchmark is 0.15%)

Display Outreach ads did the job as a branding/awareness tactic with more than **12.7M** impressions.

Additionally, this campaign brought more than **6.5K** first time visitors to our website.

**+342%**  
12,712,899 Impressions

**+2,402%**  
27,087 Clicks

**+2,533%**  
86 Conversions

**0.21%**  
CTR (benchmark is 0.15%)

**Marketing and Communications Update**

In addition to the digital ad campaign, we optimized 6 pages of content for the CAA website. This was done by examining the Google search console and Google Analytics 4 data to make data driven recommendations for the pages that we should focus on. CAA web pages are ranking above similar programs in regional and nationwide non-branded keyword searches. We are on page one and often #1. (depending on the keyword)

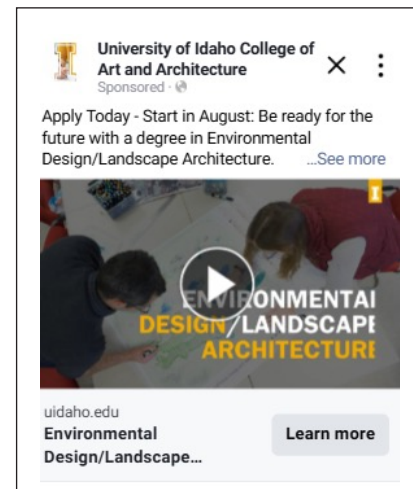
This year for CAA's recruitment camp, **Summer Design Days**, we ran a Snapchat and print campaign in southern Idaho to drive registrations and it worked. To engage more potential

students, we introduced a live social media update for each day of the camp.

So far in 2024, our online presence and social media channels have drastically improved. In Meta (Instagram and Facebook), the number of unique users who have seen our content or ads is 187.6K, up 865% over the previous year. Our content has improved overall as our 3-second views are up 7.6% and our 1-minute views are up 235%! People are also interacting with our content 83.1% more than last year. To put this in perspective, our watch time breakdown is up 4.5K% at 6 days and 3 hours-that includes an impressive amount of watch time from our ads (5d).



Here is a pictorial *example* of an ad we ran from July to mid-August for each degree field. Each ad was clicked about 1000 times, with over 32K video plays and almost 6K watched the video for 11 seconds!



**Summer Design Days**

This is a highly anticipated event that brings high school



students from near and far — even from Hawaii — to experience three days of

immersive design. It's a time when our love for design shines as students and faculty come together to explore and celebrate the creative process.

This year, we introduced a live social media update for each day of the camp.

Our dedicated faculty and staff made this event possible, and we sent a heartfelt thank you to our generous donor, Jonathan Segal, FAIA '84, whose support enables these transformative workshops.



**Contributing to Our Legacy**

Architecture is a profession rooted in the long view. Most buildings are not temporary; they endure for decades, even centuries, standing as testaments to the vision, care, and creativity of their designers. Knowing that our work contributes to this enduring legacy is profoundly rewarding, but it's also a reminder of the responsibility architecture programs hold to create spaces that inspire, heal, and connect people.

This year, the College of Art and Architecture celebrates the many ways our students, faculty, and programs are shaping a better future through architecture and design. These accomplishments reflect not only individual talent but also the broader importance of an accredited architecture program in serving the greater good.

**Launch of The Argus Roadside Architectural Journal**

A new student-led publication, *The Argus Roadside Architectural Journal*, debuted this year with a compelling first issue focused on *The Great Continental Divide*



of the Americas. This initiative showcases the intellectual curiosity and creativity of our students, providing them a platform to explore critical issues in architecture and design while contributing to the broader dialogue within the profession.

**Prestigious Recognition: Mason Miles**

**Mason Miles**, a fifth-year graduate student in our architecture program at U of I Boise, earned a coveted spot in the exclusive 'T' Space architecture summer residency. With only five residents selected globally on a competitive basis, this achievement speaks to the caliber of talent fostered in our program and underscores the value of rigorous, accredited architectural education in preparing students for success on the international stage.

**Building Community Through Design: The Lupine Flats Affordable Housing Project**

Our **Design-Build Program**, in collaboration with the **Moscow Affordable Housing Trust**, is redefining community through the Lupine Flats Affordable Housing Project. This initiative, now in its third phase, integrates innovative design, experimental materials, and sustainable methods to create affordable homes that inspire pride and provide lasting stability.

As housing costs rise, permanent affordability is vital for equitable communities. Community Land Trusts (CLTs) address this by separating land ownership from homeownership, ensuring homes remain affordable for generations. Lupine Flats exemplifies how architecture can go beyond aesthetics to promote equity, inclusion, and hope.



This collaborative effort highlights the talent and dedication of our students and faculty:

Five students — Dylan Porth, Josh Bianco, Crystal Garcia-Orozco, Sandra Gonzalez Mesa, and Thomas Smith — are building the third home under the guidance of architecture department chair Randall Teal and alumnus Mark Engberg '84, founder of COLAB Architecture in Portland.

Graduate student Jim Severt '24 and Professor Teal presented the project's impact to the Idaho State Legislature, inspiring state leaders with its transformative potential.

The Lupine Flats project is a commitment to creating affordable, sustainable housing that supports families for generations. These homes stand as a testament to the power of thoughtful design to strengthen communities and change lives.



### International Architecture Awards

The U of I Design Build Program has won multiple awards:

- **Discovery of the Year Award**, the highest honor for student work. Won **Best of Best in the Hospitality** — Architecture PROJECT: Idaho Design Build's One World Café Exterior Improvements



- **Best of Best for Commercial Architecture Award** — Renovations and Restorations PROJECT: Renovation and Addition to the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center



- **Architecture MasterPrize's 2024 Student Winner** — Best Urban Design. Won by 1st year M.Arch Student, Emma Binsfield



**Innovating Spaces, Enhancing Lives**

The Interior Architecture and Design (IAD) program is the only one of its kind in the state, offering students an unparalleled opportunity to explore how thoughtful design can enhance the quality of life. Rooted in structural, scientific, and architectural principles, our program emphasizes innovative, environmentally friendly, and socially conscious design. Students learn to create interiors that prioritize health, safety, and well-being while delivering memorable experiences and impactful branding.

**Excellence Recognized: Awards and Achievements**

Our program's commitment to excellence is reflected in the achievements of our students and faculty:

**Sofia Schnepf**  
IAD senior Sofia Schnepf received the prestigious **Best Undergraduate Design Award**



for her innovative “Plug and Play” table at the 2024 **Interior Designers of Idaho: Chair Affair** furniture design competition. Faculty mentors Tharique De Silva, Daniel Gunnell, and Jim Severt guided her throughout this process.

**Tharique De Silva Honorable Mention Award**  
Assistant Professor Tharique De Silva earned an Honorable Mention Award for his “Mycelium Chair” at the same competition. This groundbreaking design will also be showcased at the 2024 IDEC Annual Conference in New York City and featured in the Utah Design Exhibit.

**Research and**



**Innovation in Interior Design**

Our students and faculty consistently push the boundaries of design to address real-world challenges:

- Revitalizing Healthcare Workspaces: **Mackenzie Fluta** (BIAD '24) presented her senior capstone project, Revitalizing the Healthcare Workplace, at the 2024 U of I



Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium. Her research, grounded in evidence-based design, tackles critical issues like worker burnout and safety in healthcare environments. Mackenzie's dedication and leadership also earned her the IAD Faculty Book Award.

- **IAD 400: Design for Well-being:** Students in the IAD 400 seminar course explored innovative approaches to inclusion and well-being. Nine participants earned the honor of presenting their projects at the 2024 *Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium*, guided by faculty advisor Miranda Anderson.

Our **Interior Architecture and Design** program is more than an academic experience — it's a platform for creative expression, professional growth, and meaningful impact. From designing award-winning furniture to conducting research that addresses societal challenges, our students and faculty are shaping the future of interior design, one space at a time.



**Shaping the Future: Defining how we engage with the natural and built environments**

By integrating real-world projects with community collaboration, our students and faculty develop innovative design solutions that preserve and enhance rural and urban

mathematics with creative design, equipping students to tackle some of today's most pressing challenges.

**National Accreditation and New Frontiers**

As you know, in spring 2024, our Master of Landscape Architecture program achieved a significant milestone by earning

- **Historic Preservation: Launching fall 2025**

These certificates will empower students to specialize in areas that reflect the evolving needs of the profession and society.

**Faculty Leadership and Collaboration**

Our faculty are driving innovation and advancing the field through research, publications, and professional projects. Professors **Kanghyun Lee, Roberto Capecci, Mandi Roberts, and Raffaella Sini** work closely with students, creating opportunities for hands-on learning and community impact. Their leadership ensures that our program remains at the forefront of design education.

**Student Excellence and Community Impact**

Our students consistently demonstrate leadership, creativity, and a commitment to making a difference:

**Kylee Monroe**, a Master of Landscape Architecture student, received the 2024 **ASLA Student Merit Award** and was named a **2024 Landscape Architecture Foundation Olmsted Scholar**, one of the highest honors in the discipline.

Eight students showcased their dedication by leading fundraising efforts to attend the **2024 IMASLA Rendezvous**, a vital professional networking event.



landscapes by addressing critical social and ecological issues, advancing both our field and the well-being of the communities we serve.

**A STEM Discipline with Purpose**

Landscape Architecture holds official recognition as a STEM profession by the National Science Foundation and the American Society of Landscape Architects. This designation reflects the program's integration of science, technology, engineering, and

a six-year accreditation from the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board. This accreditation, granted without recommendations, underscores the program's excellence in education and practice.

Looking ahead, the program is expanding opportunities for students with the development of three new certificates:

- **Sustainable Foodscapes: A partnership with the Department of Plant Sciences**
- **Urban Design and Development: Launching fall 2025**





Beyond awards, our students actively contribute to shaping their communities:

Participating in Vision 2050: Alternatives Town Hall, a University of Idaho initiative exploring future urban and rural scenarios.

Undertaking a greening project for the Monarch Hotel in downtown Moscow, spearheaded by SCASLA students.

**Designing a Resilient Future**

Our program is a catalyst for change, inspiring students to combine creativity with technical expertise to address the challenges of today and tomorrow. Environmental design connects people, place, and purpose. Together, we're



cultivating a future where landscapes thrive, communities flourish, and innovation knows no bounds.

**Student Engagement**

Landscape architecture students participated in the UI's *Vision*

**2050: Alternatives Town Hall** and SCASLA undertook a community project to design and build a greening project for the Monarch hotel in downtown Moscow.



**Where Creativity Meets Opportunity**

Our Art + Design program is a vibrant hub for students to combine traditional and digital skills in a dynamic studio environment. Creativity thrives as students learn by doing — immersing themselves in hands-on projects guided by expert faculty. Our students gain unique opportunities to showcase their work and engage in meaningful conversations about art's role in society.

By connecting students to professional opportunities, showcasing exceptional faculty, and emphasizing a culture of creative excellence, our Art + Design program is shaping the next generation of artists and designers who will lead with vision and purpose.

**Faculty Excellence Inspires Student Growth**

**Aaron Cordell Johnson**, assistant professor, has brought his artistry and passion for Idaho's natural beauty into the spotlight:

- His work was featured in the **Sun Valley Museum of Art's** juried group show **Idaho Rivers/Idaho Artists**, celebrating the state's waterways and their cultural significance.
- He shared his journey and artistic philosophy in an interview with **Boise State Public Radio** highlighting his deep connection to Idaho's rivers.

**Stacy Isenbarger**, associate professor, continues to inspire with her creative achievements:

- Honored with a prestigious fellowship from the **Idaho Commission on the Arts** for her groundbreaking work.
- Featured in the international publication **Women United Art Movement**, which showcases extraordinary creatives and leaders in the arts.
- Recognized with second place in the **Women United ART PRIZE 2023** for her collage and fiber art, cementing her place among the most innovative artists of our time.

**Dr. Ariana Maki**, a recent addition to the faculty, brings global expertise to the program:

- Appointed Secretary of the **Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS)**, an esteemed organization supporting research and scholarship in the Himalayan region.
- As co-chair of the **Himalayan Fellowships Committee**, she oversees initiatives that fund and promote critical research for both American and local scholars.



- Her leadership in **ANHS** underscores her commitment to advancing academic and cultural exchanges on an international scale.

**Building a Community of Creativity**

The Art + Design program is more than a place to learn skills — it's a community that inspires innovation, collaboration, and the exploration of new ideas. Faculty achievements ripple through our program, inspiring students to reach higher and think bigger as they prepare to leave their own mark on the world.





Courtesy Jean Marc Gauthier

### Advancing Innovation and Impact

Our Virtual Technology and Design (VTD) program at the University of Idaho is at the forefront of blending creativity and technology to address complex challenges. With groundbreaking faculty research, industry partnerships, and a commitment to fostering innovation, the program empowers students and faculty to make a meaningful difference in fields ranging from healthcare to entertainment.

### Faculty Excellence and Research Grants

VTD faculty are contributing to national health initiatives with two 2024 NIH COBRE Supplemental Awards:

- **Erich Seamon**, assistant professor received support for his research to model and visualize variables impacting maternal and infant health, including disparities in access to obstetric services for underserved communities. The team collaborates



Courtesy Jean Marc Gauthier

with stakeholders to gain insights into the social and environmental factors affecting health outcomes.

- **Jean-Marc Gauthier** and **Yumna Kurdi** and a multi-disciplinary team received funding for a research project on space and time-dependent response to viral infection in the lung.



Courtesy Andreas60578@Pixabay

**Jean-Marc Gauthier**, associate professor and VTD Program Director, is leading transformative research with multiple grant-funded projects:

- A collaboration with a major Boise semiconductor company to create virtual reality training environments.
- The **Virtual Forest Project**, funded by two **USDA Forest Service** grants, combines virtual reality, research, training, and communication to address environmental challenges. Developed in partnership with undergraduate and graduate students, this project also includes an educational podcast.

**Yumna Kurdi**, assistant professor, received the **Summer 2024 Idaho NASA EPSCoR Faculty Fellowship**, enhancing Idaho's research capabilities for **NASA**-related projects. Her work focuses on cutting-edge topics such as:

- Distributed solar PV integration at the urban scale
- Parametric and generative design
- Energy simulation and building optimization



Still from Halloween Horror Nights © Universal Studios

### Industry Collaboration and Global Impact

The program's faculty extend their expertise to international creative industries:

- **Rayce Bird**, clinical assistant professor, has been collaborating with **Universal Studios Japan** since 2015. Serving as a Design Consultant, Concept Artist, and Art Director for **Halloween Horror Nights**, Bird contributes to immersive entertainment experiences that captivate global audiences.

### Inspiring the Next Generation of Innovators

Our program exemplifies the power of imagination and



Illustration by Trevor Humble, VTD graduate student

The pictures show a breakthrough combining hybrid 2D/3D animation techniques developed in a graduate research class.

technology to create a better future. From revolutionizing healthcare research to crafting world-class entertainment, VTD continues to shape a world where innovation knows no bounds.



**Integrated Design Lab: Pioneering Sustainable Innovation**



Our Integrated Design Lab (IDL) is at the forefront of sustainable design and innovation, advancing solutions that address critical challenges in affordable housing, energy efficiency, and environmentally conscious materials. Through groundbreaking research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and impactful community



engagement, the IDL is redefining the future of design and technology.

**Revolutionizing Housing with 3D-Printed Wood Waste**

The IDL's PrinTimber project is capturing attention for its transformative approach to sustainable housing. Featured on KTVB Idaho Today, graduate student Mallory Bermensolo provided an engaging overview of this pioneering initiative. Supported by IDL Director

Damon Woods, Associate Professor **Carolina Manrique**, and Architecture Program Head **Randall Teal**, the PrinTimber project showcases the power of collaboration across disciplines.

Developed in partnership with the College of Natural Resources, the College of Engineering, and Auburn University, PrinTimber originated as a concept from **Ken Baker '82** during his tenure as Acting Director of the IDL. Today, it is a National Science Foundation-

funded initiative driving innovation in 3D-printed construction using wood waste.

**Elevating Sustainable Materials**

In partnership with **Hempitecture**, the IDL completed a four-year, \$300,000 project funded

by the Idaho Department of Commerce. This collaboration supported the production of over one million pounds annually of natural fiber insulation materials, setting a new standard for sustainable building practices.



**Driving Energy Efficiency**

The IDL is leading the charge in energy innovation with impactful projects:

- Completing over ten energy audits for rural Idaho schools, funded by the Idaho Office of

Energy and Mineral Resources, to improve energy use and reduce costs.

- Presenting advancements in infrared AI thermostat technology at the ASHRAE national conference in Indianapolis, showcasing cutting-edge solutions for optimizing energy efficiency.

**Empowering Professionals and Communities**

IDL continues to be a hub for professional development, offering 30 free lectures annually to architecture and engineering organizations in collaboration with Idaho Power. These events equip professionals with the tools and knowledge to implement sustainable practices in their own work.

**Sustained Growth and Impact**

With over \$400,000 raised in research funding and industry outreach for fiscal year 2024, the IDL's influence continues to grow, advancing projects that inspire innovation and address real-world challenges.

Through visionary leadership and a commitment to sustainability, the Integrated Design Lab is shaping a future where design and technology create resilient, sustainable communities. With every project, the IDL reinforces its mission to push boundaries and turn bold ideas into transformative realities.

**Advancing Climate Adaptation in Rural Communities**

The College of Art and Architecture is at the forefront of a transformative research initiative addressing one of today's most pressing global challenges: climate change. Through the *Where We Live: Local and Place*

*Based Adaptation to Climate Change in Underserved – Rural Communities* project, researchers aim to bridge the gap between perceptions of climate change and the realities captured by scientific data.

Running from 2023 to 2027 and supported by a \$6.2 million NSF EPSCoR Collaborative Research grant, this project is a beacon of interdisciplinary innovation. It explores how differing perceptions of climate change influence communities' ability to adapt, leveraging advanced modeling and visualization techniques to inform actionable solutions.



**A Collaboration of Leading Experts**

This ambitious project unites renowned scholars and institutions:

- **Lilian Alessa**, professor of Environmental Design and Landscape Architecture and co-director of the Center for Resilient Communities at the University of Idaho, brings expertise in community resilience and environmental adaptation.



- **Loretta Singletary**, professor of Economics and Interdisciplinary Outreach Liaison at the University of Nevada, Reno, contributes deep insights into economic and social dynamics within rural settings.

- **Susan Cutter**, Carolina Distinguished Professor and Director of the Hazards Vulnerability and Resilience Institute at the University of South Carolina, leads research on vulnerability and risk.

- **Erich Seamon**, assistant professor of Design and Environments at the University of Idaho, serves as Idaho co-principal investigator (co-PI), focusing on environmental design and data-driven approaches.

- **Alistair Smith**, professor and department chair of Earth and Spatial Sciences at the University of Idaho, also an Idaho co-PI, integrates spatial sciences to assess and address community challenges.

**Transforming Understanding into Action**

By examining the disconnect between subjective perceptions of climate change and instrumental climate records, the project seeks to enhance adaptation strategies tailored to underserved rural communities. This research does more than analyze; it empowers communities to engage with climate realities and adopt practical, sustainable solutions.

**A Vision for Resilient Communities**

*Where We Live* exemplifies the power of interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling complex global issues. The University of Idaho and its partners are not only contributing to scientific knowledge but also fostering resilience in the communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Through research, innovation, and community engagement, this initiative is a powerful step toward a sustainable and adaptive future.





**Center for Resilient Communities**

**Lilian Alessa, Ph.D**

professor, co-director of the Center for Resilient Communities

Alessa is among the top six new grant recipients, with \$6 million in awards. Let's celebrate these faculty members and their teams for their dedicated focus on enhancing the sustainability and safety of our natural and built environments through innovative research.



**Andrew Kliskey, Ph.D ,**  
co-director of the Center for Resilient Communities, Idaho EPSCoR Director

Kliskey is the university's second-highest earner, securing \$20 million in funding.



**Nicole Kahler**

business development specialist, Clearwater Summit Group, Inc.



**Jeff Pidgeon**

communication design director, Ziba Design

**SAVE THE DATE**

Spring Advisory Board Meeting

April 16-17, 2025

Boise, Idaho



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College of Art  
and Architecture-  
University of Idaho



**University of Idaho**  
College of Art and Architecture