

February 24, 2009

## Vandal Parents Newsletter

This week, our campus will be overwhelmed with music and guests for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. The festival will feature four nights of headline concerts in the Kibbie Dome and four full days of workshops that will be held in any venue that has a sound system and seats. Jazz Festival activities spill beyond campus facilities to local churches, theatres and schools that host workshops and also become overnight shelter to visiting high school and college students. It is a great late winter celebration of the arts.

Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court John Roberts will be on campus to deliver a presentation on March 13, 2009. He will be the featured speaker for our annual Bellwood Lecture sponsored by the UI College of Law. Other speakers have included U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Ruth Bader Ginsberg and former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Urge your Vandal to attend this remarkable educational opportunity.

The University of Idaho will have a new president by mid-summer. During the last two weeks, two excellent candidates have been interviewed on campus. Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen is our Interim President and has been Dean of our College of Natural Resources since 2002

So when is Dad's weekend? I don't know. The dates for Dad's Weekend and Homecoming will be announced within a couple weeks. We will schedule these major events once the fall football schedule is announced by the Western Athletic Conference. I will send a special announcement to you as soon as the information is available so that you will have a slight advantage in booking hotel rooms.

Mom's Weekend is scheduled for April 17-19, 2009. You can find a complete schedule of events and information about reservations for the events that require reservations from the Mom's Weekend link on the Academic Calendar from the Dean of Students home page at [www.uidaho.edu/dos](http://www.uidaho.edu/dos).

Spring break is only a few weeks away. We will offer limited holiday bus service to southern Idaho. Students often don't go home during spring break and we have less demand compared to Thanksgiving and Winter break. Seats are available for southern Idaho and can be reserved through the Dean of Students store from this link <https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/>.

For many of us, spring break is also the time to get dirty and do service. Approximately 150 UI students and advisors will be traveling to 12 alternative service break sites to help others. All but one of these groups will be traveling to Gulf Coast sites to do hurricane restoration work in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. The other team will go to Iowa to help with flood restoration work. Students learn about social conditions in

other parts of the country and they learn much about themselves. These are incredible educational experiences.

In the next few weeks, you may receive a phone call from a UI student asking you to contribute to the UI Parents Fund. These students make phone calls on our behalf and this is part-time employment for them. This annual solicitation asks for your support to fund projects that provide services to parents and to enhance campus life programs. These funded campus life programs tend to focus on campus safety and investment in campus life pilot projects that can be then funded from other sources. Here are a few examples:

- A grant was awarded to BEAR (Brotherhood Empowerment Against Rape) which is a men's organization that does peer programming to other men concerning sexual assault prevention.
- Promotion of our Holiday Break Bus Service is funded by Parent Funds.
- An investment was made to develop the Portland area holiday bus service. This service was subsidized until use increased to the point that the service was self sustaining. Providing transportation to students in the Portland area would not have been possible without this support.
- Parent Orientation materials and programs are funded with these contributions.
- The Mental Health Edu online program was purchased to prepare faculty to help students who are in crisis. The UI Parents Advisory Board reviewed this program and recommended funding this initiative.

The ASUI Kibbie Dome will undergo a massive makeover in the next few months. It will close to regular use as fire safety issues are addressed. The plywood west wall will be replaced with a translucent material that will allow natural light into the facility which will eliminate safety issues associated with plywood. Fire suppression systems and exits will also be improved. The Dome will be used for May Commencement exercises.

Mid- term examinations are on the near horizon. Most will be given during a 10-day period starting the first week of March.

You will hear from me again as soon as we have the dates for Dad's Weekend.

Have a great week.

Bruce Pitman  
Vice Provost for Student Affairs