

May 9, 2007

Final exams are underway and the weather is cruel.....it's sunny and in the mid 70's.

The last two weeks have been stressful as a year of academic activity comes to an end. Student communities are dissolving as students leave for summer jobs or graduation. It's a bitter sweet time as most students are ready for the semester to end but they are reluctant to say good-bye to friends and close relationships.

Two weeks ago, I was invited to give a scholarship presentation at a sorority. It seemed a little late in the semester for advice about study habits.... I think that they should have invited a priest instead.

Graduating seniors are especially savoring these closing moments of the year with Vandal friends, faculty and other members of the community. Commencement will celebrate important accomplishments on Saturday, May 12th. Our ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Kibbie Dome but those graduating will begin a procession across campus at 8:30 a.m. Dr. Paul Risser will be our Commencement speaker. Dr. Risser is the former president of Oregon State University, Miami University of Ohio and the chancellor for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. If you plan to attend Commencement, you may want to bring a good stadium seat or pad as the seats in the Kibbie Dome may get pretty hard.

During the last few weeks, we have honored many students for their academic accomplishments, service and leadership. These award ceremonies are inspirational and celebrations of transformed lives. Heather Pearson from Morrison, Illinois, has been selected as the most outstanding graduating senior in tribute to excellent scholarship and many acts of leadership.

I would like to acknowledge two other student leaders who deserve much recognition as they have guided our student government (ASUI) for an unusual 18 month term of service. Humberto Cerrillo from Lewiston has served as ASUI president and Travis Shofner from Moscow served as ASUI vice president. They have done much to serve UI students and the University of Idaho.

Two weeks ago, the Vandal football team ended spring practice with the Silver and Gold scrimmage. It was a good game.....the Vandals won. Make plans to attend a few games next fall. The fall 2007 football schedule can be accessed from the top corner of the Parents website which is located at www.uihome.uidaho.edu/parents. Single game tickets go on sale on August 1st.

Tuition and fees for the 2007-2008 academic year have been recently approved by the Idaho State Board of Education. Undergraduate registration fees and out of state tuition will increase 5% for the coming year. Undergraduate fees will be \$4,410 for Idaho residents and \$14,490 for out of state students. These rates will vary in some cases with special course and lab fees that might be charged and do not include fee rates

associated with the Western Undergraduate Exchange program. You will receive a billing statement in mid-July.

I want to thank three sets of parents who will be leaving the University of Idaho Parents Association Advisory Board. They have been faithful contributors to important discussions about campus life issues and excellent advisors on many matters.

- Bud and Darcie Riedner Beaverton Oregon
- Blenda Davis Boise, Idaho
- Bert and Deana Cerrillo Lewiston, Idaho

Best wishes to those of you who are parents of graduating seniors! I hope you enjoy Commencement and take time to celebrate what has been accomplished. Many seniors are excited about new adventures but also amazed that the university experience has come to an end. I also wish you well. As you “graduate from the University Idaho” you may wish to unsubscribe from the Vandal Parents Newsletter. These newsletters will probably not offer much useful advice about resettling your Vandals to a new job in a distant place or what to do when they move back in. If your graduating Vandal threatens to move home....change the locks or set a very high rent and show them how to use the lawn mower again.

Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Bruce Pitman
Vice Provost for Student Affairs