



U of I Boise Year-End 2024 Newsletter

**LETTER FROM SOUTHWEST IDAHO
EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
CHANDRA ZENNER FORD**

As we prepare this week for our own commencement on Sunday, I hope you are wrapping up a productive spring semester and looking forward to some sunshine and summer days.

Thank you to those who joined us for the reception honoring some of our faculty, students and staff last week. I was on campus this past weekend for the main commencement and this time of year never ceases to inspire. The student stories of overcoming adversity to earn a degree from the University of Idaho, and witnessing the joy and pride from the family and

friends there to celebrate, are a privilege for all of us who play a part in making dreams come true for our students.

We will stage another commencement celebration on Sunday afternoon with President Green and Provost Lawrence for Boise-based students. While it will be smaller, it will be no less special or significant to those walking across the stage and for their friends and family who join us. I am excited to host Otis Livingston, '92 as our speaker. He is an Emmy award-winning sports anchor for CBS in the New York market.

As I shared during the reception last week, the research grants and activity from our Southwest Idaho colleagues continues to increase. You can read a few highlights below with details from the impressive work of our faculty and students. I am so proud of the impact and contributions to our state that all begins here in Boise. I also want to thank and acknowledge the work of the Southwest Idaho team at the Idaho Water Center who spend every day making sure our faculty, students and staff have what they need to teach, learn and do research. Donna Stolaroff, Stephanie Fox, Denise Engebrecht, Troy Jacoby, Emerson Bird and Lili Puype all play such an important role in keeping the Idaho Water Center engine running. Thank you for another great year.

Have a wonderful summer and mark your calendar to join us for the Block Party at the College of Law on August 28th where there will be live music and food trucks. We'll be welcoming our 1L students and all other first-year Southwest Idaho students from every college. A formal invitation will be sent later this summer.

As a reminder, here are the Commencement details for Sunday:

4:00 pm – Graduation begins

Location: Boise Centre – 850 W Front Street, Boise, ID

Additional details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/boise/calendar-events/commencement>

Go Vandals!

Chandra Zenner Ford
Southwest Idaho Executive Officer



PROGRAMS & RESEARCH



College of Art and Architecture Team is Conducting Research for PrinTimber Project

U of I is developing technology to make housing more affordable nationwide. They're combining sawdust and other wood byproducts with bio-based glue to create a medium for 3D-printing buildings and stackable bricks. U of I Boise faculty and graduate students are researching the product and exploring how it can fill gaps in the construction industry.

[Read More](#)

McClure Center Releases Research Report on Idaho's Unauthorized Workforce

In February, the McClure Center released their latest full-length research report, *The Unauthorized Immigrant Workforce and Idaho's Economy*, by participating in a press conference hosted by the Idaho Dairymen's Association, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation and Idaho Association for Commerce and Industry and held in the State Capitol.

[Read More](#)



College of Engineering Professor Elowyn Yager Awarded a Fulbright Award for Fall 2024

Elowyn Yager, co-director of the Center for Ecohydraulics and U of I Boise College of Engineering professor, was awarded a Fulbright Award for Fall 2024 to conduct research in Trento, Italy as part of her sabbatical. She'll be

researching the impact of vegetation root strength on river channel stability.

U of I Increases Water Research and Technology Center's Presence, Hires New Director in Boise

The U of I-administered Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRRI) is increasing its presence in the Southwest Idaho region through the hiring of a Boise-based director. IWRRRI is one of 54 water research and technology centers across the nation, and Kendra Kaiser will join U of I in July to lead a statewide team including members at U of I Coeur d'Alene.

[Read More](#)

STUDENT SUCCESS



College of Law Student Discovers Career Path by Leaning

Into Opportunities

Cruz Araujo, a third-year U of I College of Law student graduating this spring, leaned into opportunities, and through determination and perseverance, set himself on a path to becoming an attorney. Learn more about Araujo's experience as a law student in Boise and his strong commitment to his community.

[Read More](#)



College of Art and Architecture Grad Student Earns Exclusive 'T' Space Architecture Residency

Mason Miles, a fifth-year U of I Boise architecture master's student, has been admitted to the 2024 'T' Space Architecture Residency. The residency program is extremely competitive, with only five residents — including students and young professionals in architecture, design and visual arts — selected worldwide.

[Read More](#)



College of Art & Architecture Master's students Win Multiple Awards for Their TechnoLog Submission in the 2024 Idaho Entrepreneur Challenge

Master of Architecture students Mallory Bermensolo (Boise campus), Tavia Dahl (Boise campus) and Jim Severt (Moscow campus) won the 3rd price (\$1,250) in the Social/Environmental Impact track for the 2024 Idaho Entrepreneur Challenge (IEC) on April 5th, 2024 (Boise, Idaho). Additional prizes this team was awarded were the President's Award (\$1,000) and the Eco Innovator Award (\$300). The IEC is a venture competition where business owners pitch their ideas to a panel of judges.

The McClure Center is Supporting Four U of I Students This Summer

This summer, the McClure Center is supporting four U of I students. Two undergraduate students are in Boise through the Martin-McClure Ambassadorship, a longstanding partnership with the [University of Idaho Martin Institute](#). A legal extern is in Boise, and an undergraduate student was selected for the Vandals in D.C. scholarship and is participating in The Washington Center's Academic Internship Program in Washington, D.C.

Martin-McClure Ambassadors



Madison Fitzgerald

2024 Martin-McClure Ambassador

Madison Fitzgerald is spending time at the Basque Museum, working with artifacts and other materials from Basque immigrants.

Riley Rogers is partnering with City of Boise youth sports programs, working directly with programs that serve youth who are new to the United States.

Riley Rogers



2024 Martin-McClure Ambassador

Legal Externship



Tiana Ortiz

2024 McClure Center Legal Extern

Tiana Ortiz is spending her summer with the McClure Center, researching and creating a new Idaho at a Glance focused on refugees in Idaho.

Vandals in D.C.



Martha Smith

2024 McClure Center Vandals in D.C.
scholarship recipient

Martha Smith is spending the summer in Washington, D.C. through the Vandals in D.C. scholarship. She is interning with Whitmer & Worrall and is taking academic courses through The Washington Center. The McClure Center is pleased to be able to fund her programming and housing costs so she can take advantage of this great career and academic development opportunity.

NEW FACES

Aviva Abramovsky

Aviva Abramovsky has been named the new dean of the U of I College of Law. She will take over the role full-time on June 10. She joins Idaho Law from the University of Buffalo School of Law, where she was the William J. Magavern Faculty Scholar. Before that role, she served as dean of the school from 2017-23. She also spent 13 years teaching at the Syracuse University College of Law. A graduate of Cornell University, she received her bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations before earning her juris doctor from University of Pennsylvania.

Abramovsky will take over for Johanna Kalb, who has served as dean since 2021. Kalb helped lead Idaho Law during its continued expansion in Boise and helped the college grow to record enrollment.

[Read More](#)



Kendra Kaiser

Kendra Kaiser will join U of I in July to lead the U of I-administered Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI). Kaiser, most recently an assistant research faculty member at Boise State University, graduated with her doctorate in watershed hydrology and biogeochemistry from Duke University in 2017. Her research focuses on applied hydrology and the co-production of research, which involves working collaboratively with water managers, water users, and various agencies to generate knowledge.

[**Read More**](#)



Christa Howarth

Christa Howarth has recently joined the U of I Extension team as one of two extension water educators for the state. Christa delivers non-formal education programs to youth and adult communities throughout southern Idaho. They utilize the IDAH20 Master Water Stewards citizen science water quality monitoring program and the Idaho Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) curriculum. Christa is a project team member of the National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator grant collaboration between Boise State University and University of Idaho, which seeks to understand and meet community water information needs through educational and data products. As part of this grant, Christa is working on a needs-assessment of water education in southern Idaho.

Christa's office is in suite 440G of the Water Center downtown.



EVENTS

Vandal Happy Hour at Vandal-Owned Calle – Friday, May 24

You're invited to join the University of Idaho Latinx Alumni Chapter for a happy hour social at Vandal-owned Calle in Nampa! You'll have a chance to name a special Vandal-inspired drink that will be added to the menu.

[Learn more.](#)

Canyon County Vandal Scramble – Friday, June 7

Join the Canyon County Vandal Boosters at Centennial Golf Course in Nampa, ID! Golf teams are sold out, however BBQ tickets are still available to purchase. [Learn more.](#)

Palouse Happy Hour in Boise at Payette Brewing –

Thursday, June 13

You're invited to a special summertime Palouse Thirsty Thursday with Vandals and Cougars! U of I and Washington State University alumni are teaming up for a great time at Payette Brewing in Boise for happy hour.

[Learn more.](#)

53rd Annual Buhl Pig Out – Friday, July 26

Save the date for July 26 for the 53rd Annual Buhl Pig Out! More details to come.

Idaho Science & Technology Policy Fellowship (ISTPF) – August 26 - 30, 2024

The ISTPF, a partnership of Idaho's three public universities, which the McClure Center leads, is excited to announce ISTPF orientation 2024. Orientation brings together local and national experts in science policy, government, law and more. [Learn more.](#)

Vandal Block Party in Boise – Wednesday, August 28

Save the date for August 28 for the Vandal Block Party! More details to come.

NEWS

University of Idaho to Celebrate its 2024 Graduation

U of I Increases Water Research and Technology Center's

Presence, Hires New Director in Boise

UI Hires Director for Water Research, Technology Center

U of I Boise Grad Student Earns Exclusive 'T' Space Architecture Residency

U of I to Host Idaho Center for Plant and Soil Health Grand Opening in Parma

The Fruit-ure is Now! U of I Opens Doors of New Plant and Soil Research Facility

U of I Holds Idaho Center for Plant and Soil Health Grand Opening

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