



**University of Idaho**  
College of Science



Dear Friends of the College of Science,

Vandal Science News celebrates our college successes and the students, staff and faculty who make the College of Science such a great place to work, learn and grow. Therefore, I want to start off the new year by providing a few exciting highlights from the college.

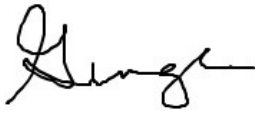
- Fourteen College of Science faculty made the top 2% of cited researchers worldwide, which is an indicator of research impact.
- Research funding remained strong at \$15,790,340 for FY22.
- We hired seven new faculty to contribute to the college teaching and research missions.
- For the third straight year, the college had a larger freshman class, and we increased first-time student retention by 5.5%. We also increased the percentage of continuing students who returned.
- We innovated curricula across the college. Staff developed new online courses in mathematics and statistics. In fall 2023 Earth and Spatial

Sciences will debut several new degrees and options, including a B.S. in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and a B.S. in Geology with options in Energy Resilience and Sustainable Mining and Earth Resource Development.

- Six students were awarded [Hill Undergraduate Research Fellowships](#) beginning spring semester 2023: Sarah Coss (mentor, Paul Rowley), Lydia Dresler (mentor, Kris Waynant), Julia Major (mentor, Paul Rowley), Joey Perko (mentor, Zach Etienne), Zaira Velasco (mentor, Frank Cheng), Jonathan Webb (mentor, Somantika Datta).
- The College of Science 20th Anniversary Seminar Series has been successful and will continue in spring 2023. Watch your email for an invitation.

Please also enjoy the Kudos section that highlights additional successes of our students, faculty and staff.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2023.



Ginger E. Carney, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Science



**Give to the College of Science Excellence Fund**

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## Window to Mars

Studying Martian Climate in Iceland.

[Learn More](#)

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## Protecting Humans from Infectious Diseases

Nuismer Uses Mathematical Models to Predict Viral Spillover.

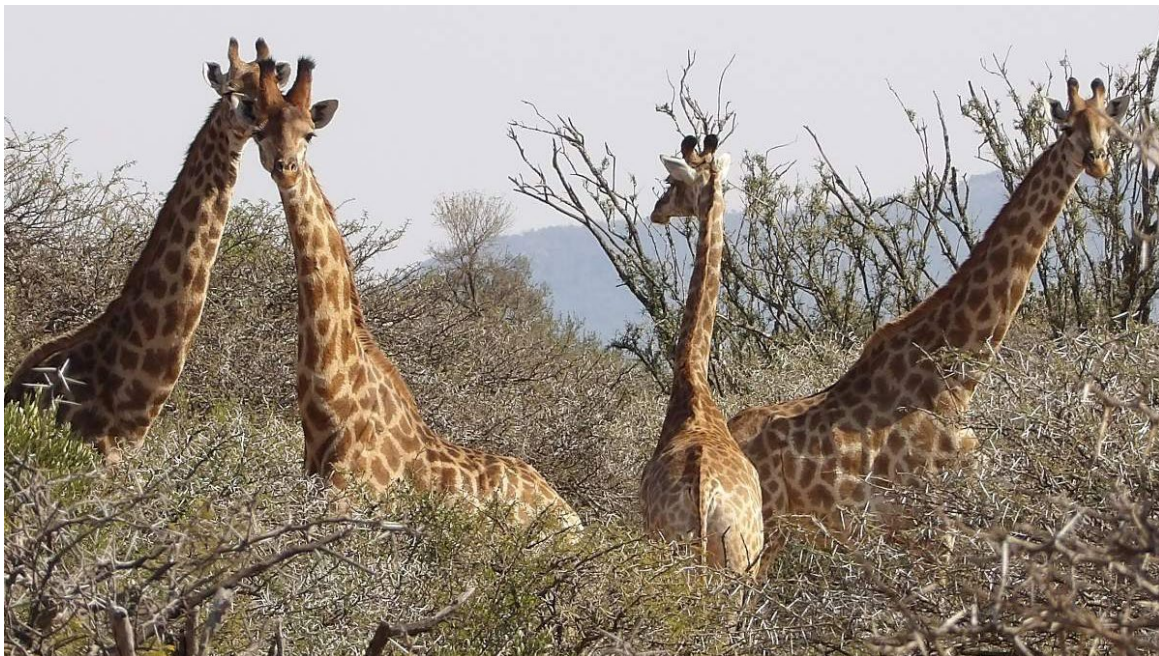
[Learn More](#)



## Melting, Moving Glaciers

"The Vandal Theory" Interviews Tim Bartholomaus

[Listen Here](#)



## Seeing Spots

Student Travels to Africa to Assist with Giraffe Research

[Learn More](#)

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# College of Science Staff Appreciation



**Name:**

Eric Foard

**Position at U of I:**

Director of Physics  
Laboratory Education

**How long have you  
been with the U of I?**

I started work at U of I in  
2019.

**How did you find the U of I and why do you choose to work here?**

I had the good fortune to have traveled through the Palouse region several times on holiday and I fell in love at once with the incomparable natural beauty available nearby. Not long afterwards a family member of mine moved to the area to finish their Ph.D. In subsequent visits I began to appreciate the quirky townsfolk and active community life of Moscow. I love how the unusualness of Moscow synergizes with the continuous flux of new U of I students to bring about an ever-present and ever-changing vibrancy to the community. By working at U of I, I feel I get to contribute in a small way to such a bizarre and special place, and that makes me truly happy and proud to be a Vandal.

**What is your favorite part about working here?**

Hands-down my favorite part is getting to interact with and coming to know the people who come through the gates at U of I. I find it fulfilling getting to know about students and their lives as they perform their studies for a few years; watching their growing experiences and knowledge change how they view the world and themselves, and finally saying farewell when they have to leave after making what they could of their time here with us. I love being part of people's journey through life.

## **Tell us a little about yourself.**

I am a sentient, carbon-based, life form who loves being in nature and experiencing the fabulous gift of existence. I canoe, kayak, camp, hike, swim, snowshoe and I'm taking up snowboarding. I enjoy music, movies, reading, pizza, hot-springs and time with my sweetie (U of I alum 2006, see photograph). Some of my learned skills are mechanical repair, computer programming, and theoretical Physics, but my favorite is facilitating learning.

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## **Kudos, Achievements and Awards**

[This month's kudos, achievements and awards.](#)

To submit kudos, achievements or awards, please email [vandalsciencenews@uidaho.edu](mailto:vandalsciencenews@uidaho.edu).

## **Vandal Science News Puzzler**

With each issue of the Vandal Science News we'll include a challenging puzzle. Send solutions by email to [vandalsciencenews@uidaho.edu](mailto:vandalsciencenews@uidaho.edu) - we'll post the names of those who submit correct solutions in the next issue.

[View the last puzzler solution and correct solvers.](#)

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## **Puzzler for January 2023**

It seems to have turned cold a bit early this year. Here's a puzzle appropriate for the onslaught of winter.

A ball was floating in a pond when the pond froze. When the ball was removed it left a dent in the ice that is 6 inches deep and 20 inches across. What is the diameter of the ball?

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