



Letter from the

President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

February 10, 2023

Dear Vandals,

With an official title of "Candyman" and a strong affinity for his alma mater, it was only matter of time before Dave Wagers created a confection dedicated to Vandals.

The [Vandal Bar](#) not only radiates University of Idaho pride, sales support U of I scholarships.

The president of Idaho Candy Company invited U of I leaders to tour the historic candy factory in downtown Boise in 2019 and the idea for a Vandal Bar hatched shortly thereafter. After years of testing and perfecting, the tasty tribute to the U of I, wrapped in black and gold and endorsed by Joe Vandal, was unveiled a few months ago.

"I hadn't done a new project in a while, and usually with projects in the past it's all on me, but it was great to work with the U of I on this," Wagers said. "We did focus groups and taste tests with students and alumni. We used U of I's marketing team and gave them a blank canvas for the packaging. The enthusiasm was very refreshing."

Wagers and a team of taste testers experimented with dozens of flavors. They aimed for a gold-colored filling and eventually landed on a caramel marshmallow covered with milk chocolate and sea salt. Wagers even created a custom I-shaped mold to give the bars an extra U of I touch.

Wagers earned his degree in finance from the U of I in 1988 and his three children all graduated within the last three years. He invested thousands of dollars and as many hours to the project, but he's thrilled with the result and the cause it's supporting.

"The goal for the Vandal Bar was never to make money for the company," Wagers said. "I wanted to give back to an entity that I feel good about and create a partnership."

Over the last two months, with minimal marketing and retail backing, the company sold close to 12,000 Vandal Bars. It's a small slice of business for the company, which sells about 2 million Idaho Spud bars each year, but Wagers anticipates sales will pick up as distribution increases. He said Winco and other grocery stores will likely stock Vandal Bars in the coming months. They're currently available at the Vandal Store in person and [online](#).

"I think if we could get to 50,000 a month, that would be wonderful to support students," he said. "We're just pleased with the way it's turned out. More and more people are asking about it. The Vandal network works in all kinds of ways."

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

UI Extension offers mental health workshops

University of Idaho Extension is hosting a series of five community workshops in the Silver Valley to help identify mental health issues or obstacles and determine a plan of action. The free workshops are designed to help community members identify mental health issues in the area and UI Extension will provide funding toward the determined action plan. [Learn more.](#)

Upgrades on the way for Rinker Rock Creek Ranch

The U of I's Rinker Rock Creek Ranch will expand educational opportunities in rangeland management, animal science and conservation thanks to a \$1.34 million grant appropriated by Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson. The improvements include scientific equipment to facilitate research in a variety of areas critical to the state. [Learn more.](#)

Teague's work featured in The Missouri

Review

U of I English Professor Alexandra Teague's writing was featured as the Poem of the Week in The Missouri Review. Teague discusses her poem, "The Horse that Threw Me," and her personal experience that shaped her writing.

[Learn more.](#)



The U of I held its Spring Career Fair on Wednesday with a record 175 employers in attendance at the ASUI-Kibbie Activity Center.



Copyright © 2023 University of Idaho, All rights reserved.

You received this email because of your affiliation with the University of Idaho.

University of Idaho
875 Perimeter Drive
Moscow, ID 83844
info@uidaho.edu

Not the email you wanted to receive? Customize the emails you receive from University of Idaho by [updating preferences](#) for . You can also [unsubscribe](#) from this email.

[Forward this email to a friend](#)