



Letter from the

President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

March 3, 2023

While K-12 students measure the pH of the water along the shores of Payette Lake, University of Idaho graduate students master how to explain the water cycle, using the picturesque setting as their chalkboard.

The educational cycle runs virtually nonstop at the McCall Field Campus as grad students gain and share knowledge with students at the [McCall Outdoor Science School \(MOSS\)](#), inspiring them to continue their own inquiries in science and natural resources.

Andy Maguire earned his doctorate in natural resources from the U of I in 2020. He spent two of his four years studying at the campus beside Ponderosa State Park and working with hundreds of young students at MOSS.

"My experience in McCall helped me to focus on communicating the science, looking at things holistically and using different perspectives," Maguire said. "It helped being around other grad students with a lot of different life experiences and really helped me think about the broader scheme of things."

Maguire parlayed his education and experience into a postdoctoral fellowship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, where he worked for nearly two years as an ecologist. Last year, he joined the team at Conservation Science Partners, a nonprofit collective that conducts research and analysis to support conservation efforts across the globe. Maguire works as a data scientist, using remote sensing, satellites and airborne instruments to inform species conservation projects.

Maguire was the second MOSS teaching alumnus to land at NASA — Troy Magney also worked at the Jet Propulsion Lab in terrestrial ecology before landing a faculty position at UC Davis. Magney runs the Plant Optics Lab, leading a team using remote sensing and environmental data science to study plant systems.

About 80 percent of the graduate students at MOSS pursue a master's in natural resources degree. Most students work for 10 and a half months, taking classes in a yurt before putting their curriculum design into practice at MOSS. Karly Foster, who graduated last year, said the atmosphere at the McCall Field Campus sets a great stage for learning.

"What's amazing about the McCall campus is there are land management issues happening right there," said Foster, who works for the Oregon Natural Desert Association in Bend, Oregon. "There are mine projects in the area and the McCall community is right there, so you get to understand all sides of issues and meet a lot of the stakeholders, from biologists to industry, the U.S. Forest Service to Nez Perce Tribe members. Relationship building is really important in my job now and that's something I learned a lot about in McCall."

Both Maguire and Foster agreed the cohort of around 20 grad students on the McCall Field Campus encourages learning as

well.

"The immersive, experiential coursework paired with the opportunity to put ideas into practice in the teaching practicum is the 'secret sauce' of the program," said Karla Eitel, professor and director of education at MOSS. "Doing this work in a cohort format allows students to develop a professional learning community where they discuss ideas, give each other feedback and learn from each other. Working with faculty and staff who are also engaged in learning and new knowledge creation means that we are, as a community, always engaged in a process of experimentation and reflection."

Two current U of I graduate students in McCall were once curious sixth graders who attended MOSS. They now inspire the next generation of Idaho children and ensure the educational cycle keeps churning.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

Undergrad teams up with doctoral student

on bat study

Senior Klara McKay and graduate student Elyce Gosselin are using echolocation monitoring stations and other data analysis to learn more about Idaho's bat population. They've detected 13 different species of bats in the Experimental Forest east of Moscow. [Learn more.](#)

U of I performers set to debut 'Imaginary Invalid' beginning this weekend

The Department of Theatre Arts at the U of I presents the classic comedy, "The Imaginary Invalid," beginning this weekend at the Hartung Theater. The play's main character is a hypochondriac obsessed with managing his imagined ailments. Shows will be held at 7:30 p.m. March 3, 4, 10 and 11, and at 2 p.m. March 5 and 12. [Learn more.](#)

U of I group compiles database of missing, murdered Indigenous women

Professor Omi Hodwitz and undergraduates Christina Briggs-Mathers and Madison Wolf are tackling the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women in the U.S. and Canada. They created a database to raise awareness, identify trends and make recommendations to law enforcement about ways to address the issue. [Learn more.](#)



The U of I "starburst" was the school's official logo from 1971 to 2006. Designed by Kern Devin Jr., a graphic designer from Seattle, the logo features five alternating "U"s and "I"s in a circle.



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](#)