



Letter from the

President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

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Dear Vandals,

From Nancy Drew novels to Canyon County courtrooms, May Witt's passion for the criminal justice system has grown alongside her knowledge and experience. Thanks to scholarship support and invaluable mentorship from University of Idaho alumni, she's closing in on her goal of becoming a criminal defense lawyer.

A second-year student in the U of I College of Law, Witt spent last summer working in the Canyon County Public Defender's Office thanks to a scholarship that funded her unpaid internship. The experience helped affirm her choice to specialize in criminal defense.

"I wouldn't be able to get this experience and still keep a roof over my head if it weren't for scholarships," Witt said. "I think the biggest way people can show gratitude for what they've been given is to give back when they're in a place to do so."

Witt earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from Northern Arizona University, but she found herself wanting to do more

to help people in tough circumstances.

"When people are accused of a crime, it's a very scary time of their life and, as a defense lawyer, you're able to walk alongside them through that and give them all the resources to make sure they aren't in that position again," Witt said.

"You get to connect with people and help them better themselves."

Witt moved to Boise in 2020 and started working with a private investigator. She got to know Mikela French, a U of I Law alumna and a top defense lawyer in Boise, and helped with criminal defense cases. French was among several alumni who encouraged her to pursue law. Witt enrolled at U of I's Boise campus in 2021 and hasn't looked back.

"Alumni have really come around in support of me through my journey," Witt said. "I got to know the community here in Boise and they really took me in."

The College of Law faculty also stoked Witt's passion for the field and opened doors to help her gain experience.

"All of my professors are amazing," Witt said. "Aliza Cover (associate dean of faculty and professor of law) really sticks out. Her door's always open and she's the one that connected me with the Canyon County internship and encouraged me to apply for funding."

When she finishes law school and passes the bar exam, Witt plans to remain in the Treasure Valley and work as a public defender. She looks forward to paying it forward for future Vandals, like many will do on Tuesday during [Vandal Giving Day](#).

Last year, the Vandal Family raised a record \$732,000 from 1,446 gifts. This year we want to continue making an impact

on the U of I's hard-working students and life-changing programs.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

Non-traditional student thrives with kids alongside

Wayne Ebenroth will fulfill a longtime goal when he graduates from the U of I in May with a degree in accounting. The 48-year-old has three children also attending the U of I, and he has taken on a leadership role in the Vandals' esports teams.

[Learn more.](#)

Wallen discusses his work with Idaho Fish and Game

Assistant Professor Kenny Wallen is featured on the latest episode of The Vandal Theory podcast, discussing what makes an outdoor experience satisfactory. Wallen works with Idaho Fish and Game to gather opinions about how Idaho's natural resources should be used. [Learn more.](#)

Freel to lead 4-H Youth Development Program

Angie Freel brings 27 years of experience in 4-H to her new role as director of the U of I's 4-H Youth Development Program. Freel moved from Arkansas to take on the new position. She earned her doctorate in human resources and workforce development from the University of Arkansas.

[Learn more.](#)



The U of I men's tennis team defeated Idaho State 4-3 last week in Pocatello to clinch victory for the Vandals in the ICCU Battle of the Domes Rivalry Series.



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

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