



**Letter from the**

# President

Office of the President, [president@uidaho.edu](mailto:president@uidaho.edu)

April 7, 2023

Dear Vandals,

Jordan Richter's journey to medical school starts in rural Idaho. He hopes it ends there too. The first-year [Idaho WWAMI](#) student first fell in love with his wife Lydia, then he fell for her home state.

"I first came to Idaho in 2013, I fell in love with the area and never left," Richter said.

He moved to Idaho from Louisiana without having attended college. He worked at a lumber mill and then as a correctional officer in Orofino. Then he joined the National Guard and enrolled at Lewis-Clark State College, but he transferred to the U of I after one semester, seeking more research opportunities and the chance to join the Army ROTC program.

Richter dove into undergraduate research with Professor Paul Rowley, helping with a study on the transmission of the COVID-19 virus to animal cells. He also excelled in ROTC, which helped him qualify for the Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP).

When it came time to explore medical school options, Richter said Idaho's only public medical school was an easy choice.

"The biggest attraction was staying in Idaho," he said. "I wanted to keep my family here, so not having to move was a big plus."

Richter and his wife now bring their four young children along with them on their outdoor adventures across the state. A favorite annual tradition is camping at picturesque Pettit Lake, near Stanley.

Richter feels fortunate most of his medical school expenses are covered through the HPSP. Instead of serving as an active-duty officer, Richter will serve as a doctor in the Army for at least four years when he's finished with the WWAMI program. Then he has his sights set on returning to Idaho to work in emergency medicine.

Richter gets a taste of rural medicine this summer through the Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program. He will spend six weeks serving with an Idaho doctor and working on a project to help improve medical service in the area. It's one of several Idaho WWAMI programs designed to prepare doctors to serve in the state for the long-term.

Richter is already sold.

**Go Vandals!**

**C. Scott Green**  
**President**



# Snapshots

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## U of I alum Fredericks takes reins at IDFG

Jim Fredericks, who earned two degrees at the U of I, was recently named Idaho Department of Fish and Game Director. The Palouse native credits his background and education for preparing him to lead the department, which includes more than 550 employees statewide. [Learn more.](#)

## Brown shares insights on Idaho's community health

U of I professor Helen Brown is working with research scientist Erich Seamon from the Institute for Modeling, Collaboration and Innovation to track health trends in Idaho. On the latest Vandal Theory Podcast, Brown and Seamon discuss their modeling work, which allows Idahoans to gain insights about the health of their communities. [Learn more.](#)

## Women's Center celebrates 50 years working for equality

The U of I Women's Center is celebrating 50 years of supporting gender equality on campus. Former U of I President Ernest Hartung took a unique approach to help establish the center and address other equal rights issues, urging committee members to file a complaint against the university with the Idaho Human Rights Commission. [Learn more.](#)



Former U of I trainer Barrie Steele will be inducted into the North Idaho Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, along with former Vandal football players Kasey Dunn and Rick DeMulling. Steele was the head athletic trainer and director of sports medicine at the U of I for 33 years before retiring in 2011.



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University of Idaho  
875 Perimeter Drive  
Moscow, ID 83844  
[info@uidaho.edu](mailto:info@uidaho.edu)

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