



**Letter from the**

# President

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

**April 14, 2023**

Dear Vandals,

A series of untimely events conspired to keep Milana DesRosier on U.S. soil over the past three years, but they haven't kept her from maximizing her opportunities as a student and an ROTC cadet at the University of Idaho.

DesRosier's two planned international trips were derailed – one by the war in Ukraine and one by China's COVID-19 lockdown. But she continued studying – she's proficient in Mandarin and Russian – and pushed the limits of what's possible for an undergrad double-majoring in international relations and political science.

"I've never been out of the country, even though I've tried and tried," DesRosier said. "Eventually, I would like to be stationed in Asia. I find the culture very interesting."

Based on her stellar academic record and ROTC cadet service, the junior is one of just six students from across the country selected for the inaugural National Security Education Program's Iris Burton Bulls ROTC Fellowship.

In June, DesRosier will join the select cadets in Washington, D.C., for a seminar that includes national security training and professional mentoring with Department of Defense leadership – top military officials responsible for developing and maintaining language proficiency and cultural literacy around the world and other senior military officers. The program is designed to support future officers in their career development and showcase ROTC talent within the Department of Defense.

For DesRosier, the fellowship could be an important step toward her ultimate goal of working as a foreign area officer, a military role with diplomatic duties that provides expertise in planning and liaising with foreign militaries.

"I really want to pursue a career in the military because those types of opportunities aren't really available in the civilian world," DesRosier said.

After the fellowship in Washington, she'll join Cadet Summer Troop Training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to shadow a lieutenant and then head to mandatory Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox. Following her busy summer, DesRosier will fly to Beijing for what she hopes will be the first of many international experiences.

DesRosier challenges her mentors with her drive and determination. She's twice participated in Project Go, a prominent ROTC program that provides scholarships for future officers to develop linguistic and cross-cultural communication skills. She's on the Borah Symposium Committee and vice president of the International Soccer Club on campus.

"Through ROTC I've really changed as a person and the Martin Institute has so much to offer," DesRosier said.

"There are other universities that have more advanced language programs, but I don't think their ROTC or international studies programs are on par with the U of I."

After studying Mandarin intensely for more than six years, DesRosier can't wait to finally immerse herself in China's language and culture. This ambitious Vandal knows it will be worth the wait.

"In branch military intelligence they really value cross-cultural competency," DesRosier said. "I'm looking forward to experiencing a culture that is so different. I just want to do everything possible to put myself in a position to succeed."

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green  
President



## Snapshots

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### Vandal Giving Day shatters records

The Vandal Family raised \$819,662 from 1,819 gifts on Vandal Giving Day, setting new records in both categories. The one-day campaign set a record for dollars raised for the second year in a row and topped last year's total by more than \$87,000. [Learn more.](#)

## Humes addresses Idaho's water, energy, irrigation nexus

Karen Humes, a U of I professor in the Department of Earth and Spatial Sciences, discusses her modeling of Idaho's water-energy-irrigation relationships and how to balance water and energy usage going forward in the latest episode of The Vandal Theory podcast. [Learn more.](#)

## U of I senior finds her story in journalism

A study abroad trip to Puerto Rico helped Monica Carrillo-Casas discover her passion for writing about social issues. Professors like Kenton Bird helped the senior from Hailey hone her writing skills. She's been selected for the 2021 Politico Journalism Institute. [Learn more.](#)



Spain is the top destination for U of I study abroad students. A total of 48 students have studied or plan to study in Spain from Fall 2022 to Summer 2023.



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