



Letter from the

President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

April 21, 2023

Dear Vandals,

Mesmerized as a high school junior by jazz vocalist Esperanza Spalding, Ben Moreno still remembers the performances of the 2017 Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival and his first visit to the University of Idaho.

"It was an incredible experience," Moreno said. "It was just a great opportunity to witness different artists and see so many students celebrating jazz."

Moreno, now a senior music education major at the U of I, began his journey with jazz at Prairie High School in Vancouver, Wash., where his music teacher Ryan Messling, a U of I grad, provided inspiration and direction for the young musician.

Messling is back on campus this weekend with 36 Prairie High students, exposing them to the top notch clinics and world class performances that make the [Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival](#) renowned throughout the country.

"I think one big benefit of taking students to the Jazz Festival is it shows them the music world outside of our local area," Messling said. "The whole city of Moscow literally stops for the weekend and revolves around the Jazz Festival. And unlike some other festivals, the educational aspects of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival are the focal point."

As a high school bass player in Spokane, Messling got to know U of I music professors Vanessa and Vern Sielert through their performances with the Bob Curnow Big Band and other groups in the region. He had offers to attend other colleges, but the value and reputation of the Lionel Hampton School of Music was tough to beat.

Now as a teacher at the same high school Vanessa Sielert attended, he proudly shows his Prairie High students around his alma mater each year. He rekindles friendships with the Sielerts, Moreno and others while gaining inspiration from peers, U of I faculty and jazz greats alike.

This year's concert lineup includes trombone great [Marshall Gilkes](#) and Saturday night headliner [Marcus Miller](#), who Moreno lists among his favorites. The U of I senior can attest to the transformative power of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival and the school of music. He plays the flute, French horn alto saxophone and just this year he added the trumpet, which he plays in Jazz Band 3. He's also a member of the U of I's jazz choir and this weekend he'll work alongside faculty member Dan Bukvich at a jazz choir workshop.

In the fall, Moreno begins his student-teaching assignment near his hometown in Washington. He looks forward to one day bringing his students to the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival and inspiring the next generation of musicians, educators and future Vandals.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

U of I students shine at Idaho Entrepreneur Challenge

Five U of I teams earned awards at the Idaho Entrepreneur Challenge, including Kalyssa Safley and Jacob Brown, who won a combined \$15,000. Safley took first place in the Consumer Goods category with her freeze-dried candy start-up. Brown's gamified autism social cues training app earned him first place in the Technology category. [Learn more.](#)

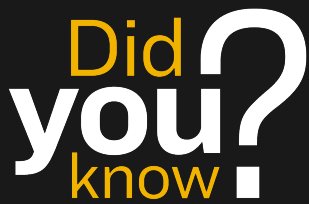
Micron, U of I partner to develop workforce

The U of I College of Engineering is working with Micron Technology on the Next Generation Microelectronics Research Center to develop Idaho's semiconductor manufacturing workforce. Feng Li serves as the Micron Endowed Chair in Microelectronics and leads the laboratory and faculty-mentored research opportunities for U of I students. [Learn more.](#)

'The Nature Fix' selected for next

Common Read

Florence Williams' book 'The Nature Fix' was selected as the U of I's Common Read for 2023-24. The book explores the science behind the environment, mood, health and creativity in settings across the world. The Common Read program is celebrating its 16th year and is designed to engage the university community in a unified intellectual activity. [Learn more.](#)



Lionel Hampton first performed at the University of Idaho's jazz festival in 1984, inspiring students and developing close relationships with organizers, including Professor Doc Skinner. The event was renamed the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in 1985.



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

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