



Letter from the

President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

May 12, 2023

Dear Vandals,

Nearly 2,300 Vandals are eligible to receive at least 2,458 degrees, reaching their hard-earned goal of earning a University of Idaho degree this weekend. Their stories of persistence, dedication and achievement should inspire Vandals everywhere.

[Blazie Gilder](#) grew up just down Highway 8 from Moscow, in Troy. At age 11, she was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma and spent a year in and out of the hospital. As Blazie dealt with chemotherapy treatments, she developed close relationships with the doctors, nurses and child life specialists assigned to her case. She also drew inspiration for her future career. Blazie is graduating with a degree in human development and family studies and is headed to the University of Georgia's child life master's program. She hopes to return to the Palouse to work as a child life specialist.

[Ethan Sunseri's](#) college career began as a quest to improve his fitness as a competitive runner. But through his time in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, he honed

a passion for helping others live healthier, happier lifestyles. Sunseri interned at Vandal Health Education, providing health education to students about well-being topics through events and workshops. He also volunteered to help with the Vandal track and field/cross country team for a semester. After graduation, Sunseri would like to work with communities to create opportunities for people to engage in healthy lifestyles.

As a young girl in Zimbabwe, [Shalom Masango](#) dreamed of being an airplane pilot. She's not flying yet, but Shalom's senior design project in the College of Engineering focused on improving aircraft flight. She embraced the U of I community, meeting peers and mentors through the Society of Women Engineers. And Shalom represented the U of I well as one of the featured students on [The College Tour](#). She's earning her degree in mechanical engineering and landed a position as an associate manufacturing engineer with Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories.

The seeds for [Alejandro Jimenez's](#) education in crop science were planted when he worked summers as a laborer for Godina Farms, near Caldwell. They came to fruition at the U of I, where he excelled as a member of the first Chobani Scholars cohort and jumped at opportunities outside the classroom. Alejandro found community through the multicultural fraternity Omega Delta Phi and helped launch the U of I chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. He accepted a position with John Deere in the Agriculture and Turf Marketing Development Program.

We're excited to celebrate all of our newest Vandal alumni and look forward to the next chapters of their stories.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

Idaho lands \$20 million grant to study energy and water use

U of I researchers will lead a statewide research project on the impact of changes in climate, population and technology on energy and water use in Idaho. The project is funded by a \$20 million award from the National Science Foundation and an additional \$4 million from the state. [Learn more.](#)

U of I Law grad Brailsford confirmed as federal judge

The U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of Judge Amanda Brailsford as the new federal district judge for Idaho. The two-time U of I graduate is the first woman to serve as a federal district court judge in the state. [Learn more.](#)

U of I undergraduates explore malaria pathways in humans

U of I junior Abby Fellows first encountered malaria as a child

living in Tanzania. Now she is one of three students who earned a USDA Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates scholarship to study the disease and its effects on both the mosquito vectors and human hosts in an effort to obstruct the parasite and stem disease. [Learn more.](#)



The U of I's Alumni Hall of Fame will add three inductees this week: Charlotte Hill, '76 and '77; Lea Frye, '79; and Randy Luten, '83.



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

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