



Letter from the

President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

July 21, 2023

Dear Vandals,

As the days get warmer and the ground grows drier through the summer months, we naturally seek out Idaho's beautiful lakes, rivers and streams. Whether it's cooling off, irrigating crops or providing electricity for our state, the University of Idaho leads the way in protecting water — our most valuable asset.

Our research provides critical insights on water use, water storage, water quality and the water-energy nexus, to name a few. Our graduates enter the field ready to provide solutions to water issues in Idaho and across the country.

Mike Vogler loves paddling Idaho's rivers as a whitewater kayaker. As a U of I graduate student he worked with faculty to make hop production more sustainable. At Anheuser-Busch's Elk Mountain Farms near Bonners Ferry, Vogler worked with U of I's patented Clean Water Machine, incorporating biochar to optimize phosphorous removal. The pilot project shows great promise in improving water quality, not only on farms, but also in food processing and municipal

wastewater treatment.

Heather Neace is from Boise and now works for the Idaho Department of Water Resources. She earned her master's degree in water resources at the U of I this spring and immediately stepped into her new role to help reverse many years of declining eastern Snake Plain Aquifer water levels. Her project could be a game changer for agriculture in the region, which relies on irrigation.

They're just two of [many recent graduates](#) taking on water issues in Idaho and beyond. The challenges are real and the stakes are enormous. Idaho ranks third in the nation in water used and first in the percentage of electricity used in irrigation.

Professor Karen Humes aims to calculate [water and energy use](#) across southern Idaho and ultimately make energy and water use more efficient in farming. She and doctoral student Emily Thompson are building a computer model that incorporates 20 years of data on water and energy. When complete, the model can estimate changes in water and energy use when a factor in the model is adjusted. Their work will help protect Idaho's precious resources and fuel the state's economy for years to come.

The U of I's national leadership in water research spans numerous colleges and locations, and continues to build. From the [Idaho Water Center](#) in Boise to the recently [relocated Idaho Water Resources Research Institute](#) in Coeur d'Alene, Vandal faculty and students tackle every angle of water research.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

Martin goes to great heights to study bighorn sheep

U of I graduate student Ryan Martin is studying bighorn sheep forage in the Teton Mountains to better understand why their migration patterns have changed. Working with Professor Ryan Long, Martin's research could help biologists understand the dramatic decline in bighorn numbers. [Learn more.](#)

Hansten's lab experience leads to connections and a rewarding career

Alyssa Hansten gained valuable experience and close bonds with her peers working in the U of I's Tendon Tissue Engineering Lab in the College of Engineering. Hansten's six semesters in the lab helped her land a job at Gritman Medical Center after she graduated in the spring. [Learn more.](#)

U of I ag economists to help farmers

address risk management

Xiaoli Etienne, the Idaho Wheat Commission endowed chair in commodity risk management at the U of I, is leading a USDA-funded project to help Idaho farmers in crop marketing and risk management. The U of I team aims to develop strategies and tools to help producers select the best risk-management practices based on their individual situations. [Learn more.](#)



The U of I's Forge Theater will host eight performances of "Constellations," over the next two weekends. The play is presented by the Idaho Repertory Theatre.



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