

2023-2024

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO

# QUEST





**FRONT COVER IMAGE:** Batu Olana, left, and Darby Rossi embraced the spirit of the Holi celebration at The College of Idaho in April. The event, sponsored by the Asian Student Association, was filled with bright colors, vibrant smiles, and positive energy. Holi is a festival with immense significance in Hindu culture and throughout global populations. It heralds the coming of spring and the victory of right over wrong. Photo Credit: Sunao Sugita

**A**s I was preparing for an annual meeting with our leadership team in which we were going to discuss strategic planning and key priorities, I also asked everyone to be prepared to share a couple of photos that represent why they work at The College of Idaho. In other words, what is their “why”? As each person showed their photos, we were brought to laughter and tears hearing about specific faculty members, family members, students, co-workers, and mentors who had influenced them either to get into higher education or, more often, to want to give back to this amazing College. With your indulgence, I will share with you what I shared with them

The first photo I picked was from the 1949 College of Idaho yearbook, and it was of my mother-in-law, Helen Knudsen von Dach. Though she’s been long deceased, she made a tremendous impact on me and many others. She LOVED The College of Idaho, serving as President of the Alumni Board for many years. In that role, she helped organize the planting of all of the trees on the Margaret Sinclair Alumni Walk (my second photo), and part of that organization included dragging her young son-in-law and his shovel to provide manual labor. Oh, I probably should mention that she did a great job convincing her daughter Beth (my third photo) to take a chance on an upstart recent graduate with questionable prospects.

My fourth and final photo was of a current student who is emblematic of what makes the College so special. We welcome students of high potential who are willing to work hard and who get challenged AND supported by our faculty and staff to go beyond what they thought possible. And I believe to my core that is what we do better than anyone. That is “why” I am here.

Go Yotes!



Doug Brigham '87  
President

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



DOUG BRIGHAM '87, PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO





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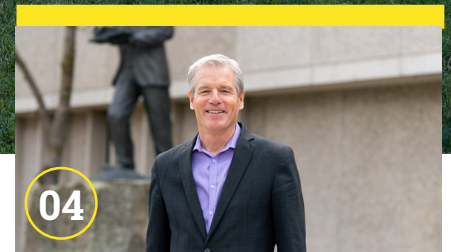
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**JIM EVERETT'S RETIREMENT**



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# Everett Retires as Co-President, Continues as Fundraiser

**A**fter serving for just over six years, Jim Everett ended his tenure as The College of Idaho's co-president on June 30, 2024, and has transitioned into a fundraising role. His fellow leader, Doug Brigham – a 1987 graduate of the College and former chair of the Board of Trustees – continues as president of the College.

During the 2017-2018 school year, Brigham and Everett presented themselves as a possible presidential team during the interim presidency of Bob Hoover, and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the unique co-presidency model in February 2018. "Both Doug and Jim were remarkable individual candidates with strong leadership skills and deep knowledge of, and love for, the College," said Laura Turner, board chair, at the time of their selection. "This is not a compromise. This is a deliberate choice of two very gifted candidates who proposed a partnership. It is precisely what the College needs at this point in history."

***"Jim is a tireless ambassador for The College of Idaho."***

Immediately prior to becoming co-president, Everett served as the College's swimming and diving coach for two years. That followed 40-plus years with the YMCA, where he served the final 29 years as CEO of the Treasure Valley YMCA, retiring in 2016. During his time at the Y, Everett earned numerous accolades, including St. Luke's Light of Philanthropy, CEO of Influence, Idaho Statesman Distinguished Citizen, Big Brother of the Year, the Salvation Army Citizen of the Year. Everett's fundraising successes included capital campaigns in which the Y raised more than \$100 million; the rapid expansion of facilities under his leadership included one of the first Y camps built in the United States during the last 50 years.



"Just over six years ago, the trustees took a risk, appointing two non-academics as co-presidents of The College of Idaho," Everett says. "I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on spending my entire adult life in the Treasure Valley, where 'work' became more of a calling than a job. Despite challenges, each day has been a source of inspiration, witnessing the kindness and goodness of people from all walks of life and ages. My work brought me hope, purpose, and a strong belief in what can be achieved when working together for a common good. As I transition to a new role, I am optimistic about the bright future of The College of

Idaho under the capable leadership of Doug Brigham and the exceptional team of faculty, staff, coaches and trustees - and the remarkable students who will change the world for the good of humanity."

During Everett and Brigham's co-presidency, the College has experienced record fundraising, which includes tripling the amounts raised for the annual fund (Boone Fund) as well as fully funding 7.5 new endowed chairs at \$2.5 million each. The College has also experienced 25 percent growth in its endowment and a 15 percent increase



in enrollment, and the College has earned its first-ever investment-grade rating on its debt. In addition, student accomplishments include the eighth Rhodes Scholar in school history (Kaya Evans in 2023) and NAIA national team championships in men's basketball and women's cross-country in 2023. In March 2024, the College surpassed \$1 million raised at the annual Scholarship Gala for the first time in school history.

"Jim is a tireless ambassador for The College of Idaho," says Jennifer Sampson, chair of the College's Board of Trustees, and a 1997 graduate. "His

passion for mentoring and advocating for students, staff, and faculty within the College community is exceptional.

## ***"Simply put, Jim Everett is the best."***

The Board of Trustees is grateful for the leadership and passion that he brought to the Co-President role. In his six years as a co-president, Jim has consistently over-delivered. On behalf of the trustees, we thank Jim for his guidance as the

College has achieved unprecedented levels of success. He will be fantastic in his new role on our development team."

Brigham says, "Serving along and learning from Jim has been an absolute honor. Jim's dedication to guiding students has left an incredible impression on this campus, setting a standard I hope we all aspire to uphold. Even as he transitions from the co-presidency, Jim's commitment endures as he channels his energy into fundraising for the College. Simply put, Jim Everett is the best."







**SHAPE THE FUTURE**  
**LEAD THE PACK**



The Idaho Legacy of Healing Scholarship, available to alumni of The College of Idaho, **reduces DMSc tuition by 20%** for the 12- and 18-month programs.



# The College of Idaho Launches First Doctoral Degree: DMSc Program

The College of Idaho is proud to announce the launch of its innovative Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) degree program. This program is a historic milestone in the 133 years of the College, as it is the first doctoral offering in the College's history and will be delivered entirely online in an asynchronous format.

The Doctor of Medical Science is the ideal degree for physician assistants/physician associates (PAs) looking to further their education. This program offers professional versatility in leadership, academia, advocacy, and clinical career advancement. Under the guidance of Dr. Kari Bernard, program director, the College's DMSc program leverages implementation science to drive change through evidence-based practices across various fields. This degree empowers PAs to advance into senior-level leadership roles in today's evolving healthcare landscape or to excel in academia or clinical practice.

"We are thrilled to introduce the Doctor of Medical Science degree at The College of Idaho and offer the school's first-ever doctoral degree," Bernard says. "We've taken what is so special about The College of Idaho, especially the personalized attention and respect paid to each on-campus student, and recreated it in our online space. Each DMSc student will be paired with a doctoral-trained PA advisor, someone who knows what the students are going through and can provide meaningful support from day one of the program through to graduation. To mitigate administrative burdens, we've created a centralized process through our program manager for DMSc students to navigate enrollment and other requirements.

We are truly meeting students where they are to support their doctoral journey."

The inaugural class of the new program launches this fall with an initial cohort of 15 to 25 students. Additional cohorts of students will be added in roughly three-month intervals, with a maximum of 100 students in the program at one time.

"The College of Idaho has been looking at a DMSc program for some time now," says Latonia Haney Keith, dean of graduate studies and vice president of strategic initiatives. "This expansion of the College's academic offerings will provide an accessible and flexible pathway for working PAs to advance their education while receiving the personalized attention The College of Idaho is known for."

Even though the DMSc degree is widely viewed as the doctoral degree of choice for PAs, all DMSc programs are not created equal. Programs are not accredited by a specific organization. As a result, the College tapped into experienced PAs and doctoral-level professionals to design its unique curriculum.

"The College of Idaho's DMSc program has been designed to provide a rigorous doctoral-level curriculum for PAs," says Bernard. "Understanding the importance of a curriculum that is based on known competencies, our course designers, who are all experienced PAs, intentionally created our courses using doctorate-level competencies from recognized organizations such as the Physician Assistant Education Association and the American Association of Physician Associates. We are excited to be able to offer this quality of degree to fellow PAs."



**TO LEARN MORE, JOIN US ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER 2024 TO MAY 2025 FOR A VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION.**

## KEY FEATURES OF THE DMSC PROGRAM INCLUDE:



100 percent online and built with flexibility in mind, especially for working professionals



Personalized support and mentorship from doctoral-trained PAs from day one until graduation



Career transformation in just 9 to 18 months



Expert-designed curriculum, crafted by PAs who are leaders in their fields, ensuring an education that is both relevant and geared toward doctorate-level career advancement



Affordable tuition and fees that fund high-quality learning content



Engaged and talented faculty, dedicated to supporting each individual student



**DR. KARI BERNARD, DIRECTOR OF THE DMSC PROGRAM AT THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO**



# Recent Grad's Animated Journey Leads to Fulbright Scholarship

**M**egan Gilbert, who graduated in May with a double major in history and political economy, likens the experience at The College of Idaho with Scooby-Doo or Donald Duck.

"It's nice living your life like a cartoon show character – the next episode will be another wacky adventure," says Gilbert with a smile. "When you embrace that mindset, a lot of cool things can end up happening."

The next wacky adventure for Gilbert, who uses they/them pronouns, will be a yearlong trip to Taiwan as a Fulbright Scholar. Gilbert is just the third College of Idaho student to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. The Fulbright Scholarship dates back to 1946, when President Harry Truman signed the Fulbright Act for the exchange of teachers, students, professors, and research scholars between the United States and participating countries. Armando Guerrero '21 and Kathleen Von Barga '65 are the College's two previous Fulbright Scholars.

Gilbert's Fulbright experience in Taiwan will be their second trip to the small island off the coast of China. Gilbert went for two weeks last spring, a fulfillment of an overseas program from Gilbert's time at Renaissance High School in Meridian, Idaho; that trip was initially postponed due to the early Chinese outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Gilbert traveled to Vietnam with professors Rob Dayley and Jeff Snyder-Reinke in January and studied abroad in Mexico with now-retired professor Mee-Ae Kim as well. Gilbert was also a member of the College's first Summer Bridge teaching cohort in Hailey, Idaho, a summer program that combined education with traditional summer-camp experiences for at-risk students who fell behind during online education due to the pandemic.

"The Fulbright made a lot of sense because I've worked with kids before," Gilbert explains. "And this is an opportunity to help master my (Mandarin) language abilities while doing something I've done before."



Gilbert chose to go to Taiwan but will not learn their specific location or assignment until arriving in the country in August. Once there, they'll spend the year teaching English, paired with a Taiwanese teacher who has already been teaching the students.

"Being awarded a Fulbright is no small feat," says Snyder-Reinke, the College's Fulbright Scholarship advisor. "Some of the best college students in the nation

***"Do the random thing... It can be one of the more formative moments of your life."***

apply for one, but the vast majority are turned down. It's a testament to Megan's qualifications that they were able to rise to the top in such a crowded and capable field. A Fulbright ETA (English teaching assistant) isn't an award that just drops out of the sky. Megan spent a considerable amount of time preparing their application and crafting their essay in order to stand out from the crowd."

Gilbert echoes that sentiment, saying their essay was intensely reviewed by several members of the College's faculty. "My essay was peer-reviewed about 12 times," Gilbert says. "Even professors I never had a class with, like Sean Blackwell and Kyle Cheesewright, were happy to review my essay."

Gilbert had a two-month break between Commencement and the journey to Taiwan. The break came on the heels of their time at the College, which included multiple study-abroad experiences, the Summer Bridge experience, an internship with the City of Boise's mayor's office, four years as a Heritage Scholar, four years of student government, working as a student ambassador, and volunteering to lead the College's Public Sphere and History Society clubs – all while completing a double major. After completing their Fulbright Scholarship commitment, Gilbert plans to pursue a graduate degree. It's part of the wacky cartoon-show mindset.

"Do the random thing," Gilbert advises. "Send in the random application. It can be one of the more formative moments of your life."



# Goldwater Glory: Junior Earns Prestigious Scholarship

March 29, 2024, is a date that Brayden Banks is unlikely to forget anytime soon.

It was Friday morning on the final day of spring break for The College of Idaho, and the junior was on campus participating in a Zoom call with research colleagues at nearby Boise State University. On the call, he learned his research project studying chemical compositions of sagebrush in western Idaho had worked. The data he had gathered showed what the group was hoping it would present.

"That Zoom call ended at 9:55," says Banks. "Then, five minutes later, I get an e-mail from the Goldwater committee."

Just minutes after learning his research had paid off, the chemistry and math-physics double major learned he had been awarded the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship.

"That was a pretty good morning," he says with a laugh.

An estimated 5,000 college students nationwide applied for the scholarship, considered the "preeminent

undergraduate award" for those pursuing research careers in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics. Of that pool of original applicants, only 508 – 10 percent – were selected. Banks is just the third student from The College of Idaho to receive a Goldwater in the past two decades, joining Derek Erstad (2007) and Dannen Dale Wright (2014).

"This is a prestigious award," says Dr. Thomas Pirtle, associate professor of biology, who advises the College's Goldwater candidates. "The award is based on the student's distinction among peers in academic success and research potential in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering."

The original pool of applicants is whittled down to a much-smaller group of finalists. This year's 1,353 finalists represented 446 colleges and universities from across the nation. The end goal, according to the Goldwater Foundation, is clear: "By providing scholarships to college sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering, the Goldwater Foundation is helping ensure

that the U.S. is producing the number of highly qualified professionals the nation needs in these critical fields."

Banks has worked in research since his freshman year on campus. He's been working with Dr. Carolyn Dadabay on the biochemistry of sagebrush, something that is common around his hometown of Melba, Idaho. Specifically, he's investigating how the chemistry of the plant works internally with the sage grouse, a small plains-area animal that generally weighs around five pounds. Sage grouse feed on sagebrush, which can be instructive for researchers like Banks who are trying to learn more about the chemical compounds and interactions of the plant, including the potential for one very big benefit.

"If something from the sagebrush can shut down even the sage grouse enzymes, that means it is very good at shutting down cells," Banks explains. "If we can isolate that compound from the sagebrush, it's very good at shutting down cells to the point we believe it could shut down cancer cells."

The work Banks has done with Dr. Dadabay was central to his Goldwater application. He has presented data on his research at four different conferences and showcased it in May at the College's Student Research Conference. After getting married in June, he's spending two months in Taiwan doing research after being recommended for an internship in Taipei City by Dr. Caleb Tormey '04, associate professor of chemistry. It's been a whirlwind of activity and good news for Banks, who can now add "Goldwater Scholar" to an impressive resume that also includes Heritage and McCain Scholar distinctions at the College.

"It's an undergraduate scholarship, but it bridges the gap between undergraduate and graduate (school)," Banks says of his Goldwater award. "Even though the funding is just for my final year here at the College, it has opened me up to a community of all the Goldwater Scholars."





## Students Seek to Save Tree Species

An unlikely pair of students teamed up to earn recognition for their research on the American chestnut tree, a tree native to the eastern United States, at the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust College Science Research Conference.

The two are Christina Riddle, a nontraditional student who enrolled at The College of Idaho after a medical discharge from the U.S. Air Force, and Kelvin Sakyi, an international student from Ghana in western Africa. They gave a poster presentation titled "Investigating Genetic Diversity of the American Chestnut Planted in the Pacific Northwest." The presentations took place in a large ballroom, with dozens of posters being presented at the same time. Yet Riddle and Sakyi noticed that people seemed drawn to their poster.

Sakyi, a senior majoring in biomedical science, says people were attracted to the presentation specifically because the tree itself is uncommon in the

region. He adds that people wanted to know why two students from The College of Idaho were presenting on a tree most commonly recognized in the Appalachian region of the country. In the end, the pair's poster presentation was one of three recognized in the Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity category.

"It was a keystone species," says Riddle, who graduated in December with a degree in biology. "It supported not only humans but much of the ecology and wildlife, from insects all the way up to bears. The American chestnut was good for lumber and as a food source, but then the blight was introduced." The blight – a fungus – forever changed the tree, making it nearly impossible to grow.

The result was the death of billions of American chestnut trees, causing a significant disruption to the region's ecosystem and leading to the "functional extinction" of the species



KELVIN SAKYI & CHRISTINA RIDDLE

as a major forest tree, along with the extinction of at least two types of insects that relied on the tree. Sakyi and Riddle both continue to work with Dr. Robert Laport, assistant professor of biology and director of the Harold M. Tucker Herbarium at the College, to identify genetic characteristics that could survive the blight.

"We could help save this tree," says Riddle. "And potentially help restore those ecosystems."

## Yotes' Model UN Team Receives Highest Honor in NYC

The College of Idaho's Model United Nations team earned the Outstanding Delegation recognition at the 2024 Model UN conference in New York City in April.

The College's history with the Model UN dates back to legendary faculty member George Wolfe more than 60 years ago. This year's award marks just the third time (2009, 2019) the College's team has earned the top recognition.

"We compete head-to-head with some of the largest and most well-funded Model UN programs in the world," says Dr. Rob Dayley, professor of political economy and the College's Model UN supervisor. "They come from five continents each spring to New York for this singular conference. All of them are aiming for an Outstanding Delegation award, but only a few will be honored by the time the week ends."

Each team entered in the conference is assigned a country. The team researches that country and then acts as the country would at the conference. The College was assigned Sri Lanka, an island nation off the southern coast of India, for this year's conference. "There are committees (at Model UN) where you are able to find a common ground more easily," says Lorena Mazariegos, a senior double majoring in international political economy and business, who was the College's head delegate at the conference. "For example, Sri Lanka is really big on how biodiversity matters so, for me, that was easy. But then we had someone working with LGBTQ rights, which Sri Lanka is not good about, so it becomes challenging. You have to stick to the country's position."

Mazariegos and her team's ability to stay in character, as she referred to it, helped the College earn the Outstanding Delegation award. "It's a huge deal



because there are just a few delegations that get 'Outstanding Delegation' each time," Mazariegos says. "The experience, as a whole, was so fun. Each year, I get something different out of it."

Dayley adds: "To win an 'Outstanding' award is equivalent to a gold medal in the Model UN world. It's extremely difficult to achieve. Model UN rewards preparation, initiative, leadership, and taking some social risks. It is really the quintessential high-impact practice."



## Yotes Continue Davis Project Streak with Midwifery Mission in Mexico

Three students from The College of Idaho spent six weeks in Mexico this summer completing a Davis Project for Peace, marking the 17th straight year that the College has had a proposal selected for funding by the Katherine Davis Foundation.

Senior Fernando Barrios of Mexico, junior Roxi Morales Velazco of Venezuela, and sophomore Maria Esther Manzanares of Nicaragua traveled to Tantoyuca, a municipality located about five hours northeast of Mexico City, in June to complete their project, "Colaborando con Parteras: The Importance of Midwives and Recording of Indigenous Knowledge."

Tantoyuca, a rural community near Barrios' home, was chosen due to its rural location. The Davis Foundation funds each of the chosen projects with a \$10,000 grant, and the students have six weeks to complete their proposal.

Midwives provide care and support for women and their families during pregnancy, during labor, and immediately following the birth. "People think about midwifery as alternative medicine," says Morales Velazco, an anthropology/sociology major. "But it's not just an alternative medicine. It really is an asset to these communities."

This project highlights medicine outside of traditional systems in large part because of the number of pregnancies that take place in areas that can't access traditional systems. "I love the idea that it's not just about going to the hospital to give birth," says Manzanares, who is double majoring in psychology and art. "It's also about psychology and emotional support."

One of the big draws to this particular project for the three students was the



ROXI MORALES VELAZCO, MARIA ESTHER MANZANARES & FERNANDO BARRIOS

ability to immerse themselves in the local community through collaboration and education. "In academia, we read about a lot of things that are happening, but there is something about learning by experience that is so crucial," says Barrios, who graduated in May with a degree in international political economy and theater.

## Students Celebrate Opportunity to Graduate with Friends

The 133rd graduating class from The College of Idaho had a unique distinction: For most of the graduates, it was their first time walking across a stage to accept a diploma at a commencement ceremony.

Many graduates of the class of 2024 couldn't participate in a high school graduation ceremony in 2020 due to the pandemic, making the 2024 College of Idaho commencement exercises extra special to them. They also came into the College under lockdown and didn't have the typical freshman experience. However, as Sibusiso Mahlangu said in his senior speech at commencement, that didn't stop him and his classmates from filling the gaps and having a great educational experience.

A total of 252 graduates were honored at commencement, including Samantha French, whose parents accepted a posthumous bachelor of arts diploma

on behalf of their daughter after she passed away last fall. The College also awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters to Mike Shines, a beloved member of the campus community for more than three decades who passed away in late 2023.

It was the final time on stage for Jim Everett, who stepped down as co-president in June. Former presidents Robert Hoover and Marv Henberg were also in attendance, as was Anselme Sadiki, whose accomplished career locally and internationally earned him a Presidential Medallion from the College.

"Walking across that stage is one of the best things I could have ever imagined," said Emma Anderson, the outgoing



student body president who graduated with a double major in psychology and chemistry. "It was so much more than I hoped for."



# Professors Publish Books on Cultural History

Two professors at The College of Idaho recently published books on cultural history.

Dr. Mark Smith's new book, "Heiau: A Guide to Sacred Hawai'i," was released in January. Dr. Jennie Daniels' first book, "Anything but Novel: Pushing the Margins in Latin American Post-Utopian Historical Narrative," was published in the fall of 2023.

Both books were many years in the making.

Smith, a longtime history professor at the College, says his book is rooted in a thought he had during a 1994 study trip to the islands for the College. It is a guide to archaeological sites that tells the story of each archaeological site and relates it back to early Hawaiian culture and religion. "I'm a historian, I'm an archaeologist, and I also have a degree in religious studies," he says. "Those three tend to triangulate and give a different approach."

Daniels, a professor of world language literature and culture, came up with her idea while finishing her PhD dissertation a decade ago. A variant of her research on literature and film of post-dictatorship Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, it examines four different historical novels from different South American countries: Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, and Chile. "They all deal with foundational social issues in their nation and look at those through a historical lens," she says of the authors. "But they also connect those issues to similar issues that continued to exist in their nations in their day."

Smith's research included getting in a small airplane and flying over some of the archaeological sites to gather aerial photographs. He says some context of the sites was much more understandable from above, where he could see the geography and topography as a whole rather than trying to understand it from the ground. He also emphasizes the importance of respect for the sites, given their significance to the people of Hawai'i. "These are sacred sites," he says. "There is a lot of cultural sensitivity around these things."

**"These are sacred sites, there is a lot of cultural sensitivity around these things."**

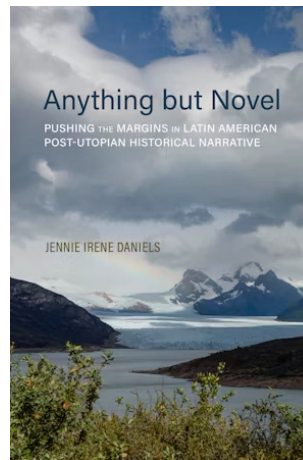


He says the finished product could be part of a future winter-term journey to Hawai'i that combines multiple academic disciplines with the culture of the 50th state.

Daniels says her book is primarily an academic text and she may use all or parts of it in her own classes in the future. The book extends threads of hope, as each of the four authors whose writings are explored in "Anything but Novel" offers the opportunity to address the social issues being brought to light.

She says she enjoyed getting her first book published. "It was

wonderful," she says of the experience. "I was really excited to be able to work through the process."





## Perseverance, Participation Pay Off for Devine in NSF Grant

When Dr. Katie Devine first connected with Charles Kerton and Grace Wolf-Chase seven years ago, it was on a failed bid to earn a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). But rather than the story ending there, it was just beginning.

The trio, representing The College of Idaho, Iowa State University, and the Planetary Science Institute, have spent the past seven years collaborating on research that ultimately led to being rewarded last fall with an NSF grant – worth more than \$400,000 – to continue their work.

“We’re not Caltech, and we’re not Cal-Berkeley, and we’re not the University of Washington, but we’re doing good research,” Devine says of the astronomy research being done at the College. “The success rate for these grants is about 25 percent in astronomy. There’s not a lot of small, undergraduate research institutions that are getting these grants.”

Devine, a physics professor at the College, and her students have been examining yellowballs, star-forming regions within the Milky Way Galaxy. The work earned a grant from NASA in 2021, and a paper published that same year included the names of several student researchers from the College. Devine credits the work done by many students over the past several years as vital to the

NSF’s eventual approval. “Going from an idea to having proof-of-concept and showing our approach actually works definitely helps in the eyes of the NSF,” she explains.

Now that the group has proven its model works and has secured the grant, what comes next? Simply put, Devine says they’ll just keep going. “We’re going to take the 6,000 candidate yellowballs that were discovered by citizen scientists as part of the Milky Way Project,” she says. “We’re going to take the pilot-region size of about 400 of them (that the group has already researched) and apply those methods to the full yellowball catalog.” Once complete, the catalog will be available to for researchers everywhere to use to do further scientific data analysis.

The NSF grant, which is jointly funded by the Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Grants Program and the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, will provide funding to the research team, which will include students from the College, over the next two summers. “The students get to connect with these broader communities of astronomers, and I think that makes it real,” Devine says. “It’s research that’s getting out into the world.”

## The College Hosts Smith Science Institute

The College hosted the third-annual Smith Science Institute in June 2024. More than two dozen of the brightest young minds in the region came to campus to learn from our faculty about our labs; conduct research; and explore different science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines that the College offers. This program was developed with the enthusiastic support and input of Dr. Jim Smith '64 and Mary Smith, who serves on the College’s Board of Trustees.



## RETIRING FACULTY



**Dr. Sara Heggland**  
PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Reflecting upon her 23-year career as a cell biology professor and researcher, Heggland calls the Student Research Conference one of her proudest achievements. But it’s hardly the only one. Heggland leaves a legacy of research, mentorship, and education. “It really comes down to passion,” says biology instructor Wendy Harvey '03. “She loves to teach, she loves to mentor, she loves to foster curiosity in students.” Heggland is retiring to a home she and her husband own on Lake Coeur d’Alene in northern Idaho.



**Dr. Steve Maughan '85**  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

“The College of Idaho changed my life,” says Maughan, who graduated from the College with a double major in history and chemistry and who has been part of the YoteFam for over 40 years. “It changed the way I look at the world. It changed the possibilities I saw in the world. It changed my options fundamentally.” Maughan says the first day of teaching in his last year brought up good memories of the past but was also “bittersweet for sure.” Maughan is retiring to the Oregon coast near his grown children, who live in Portland.



## Crawford's Path Leads Back to the White House

Since graduating from The College of Idaho, Kaelynn Crawford has interned for a United States senator, interned in the White House, worked at the Pentagon, and recently started a new job at the White House as a special assistant to the White House Military Office.

That's quite a career, right?

She's 24 years old. She graduated from the College with a degree in international political economy in 2022.

One might assume Crawford has high political aspirations with a career arc like that. One would be wrong.

"I don't have a set path," she says. "I wouldn't categorize myself as someone who is super career-driven."

Instead, she's following lessons she learned during her time at the College – lessons instilled by professors like Stelios Panageotou, Sean Blackwell, Rob Dayley, and Kerry Hunter.

"Kerry Hunter said, 'I don't care what you learn about Aristotle in this class or what you remember five years down the road,'" Crawford recalls. "But it's instilling that thought in students of, always be inquisitive, always be asking questions."

How does that relate to Crawford's professional ascension? Again, it goes back to lessons learned on campus in Caldwell.

"If this interests you, keep going down that road," she says. "Enjoy the ride."

She's doing just that. Initially, she had little interest in domestic

politics. Conversations with Dayley helped to reshape her journey and, just two years later, she's immersed in domestic politics.

In her newest role, she's part of a small management team that oversees a large staff of people coordinating and providing military support for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris – at everything from Air Force One and Air Force Two to White House ceremonies and events. If people have questions, they come to Crawford, and she ensures they find the proper answers.

While she is surrounded by people who either grew up or were educated on the East Coast, she takes pride in the current administration's efforts to embrace a diverse staff of people from throughout the United States.

"Idaho has been historically very underrepresented, and I tell them

all about it (Idaho). It's great – the people, they are great," Crawford says. "It's really cool to be the person when someone says, 'Oh, I know somebody from Idaho.'"

Could she enjoy the ride enough to one day shift from providing support to the president to maybe being the president?

"That'd be cool," she says with a laugh. "If I do, I'll make Rob Dayley my secretary of state."

Whether the ride takes her to another wing of the White House, brings her back to Idaho, or takes her someplace completely different, the lessons she learned at The College of Idaho will help her.

"Had I not gone there, I don't think my mindset would be what it is," she says. "And I think that's more valuable than any degree."



KAELYNN CRAWFORD '22 IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE



## Scholarship Gala Tops \$1 Million in Donations

CARMEN CASTILLO TELLS HER STORY AT THE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP GALA

This year's event marked the eighth Scholarship Gala for Deidre Walters, director of development at The College of Idaho, and, when it was done, she sent a note out to campus leadership about what had just happened.

"I still don't have the words to express the gratitude that we have for what happened in that room," Walters said. "It was nothing short of amazing. It was an incredible feeling."

In one night, over \$1 million was raised to support student scholarships at The College of Idaho. The 2024 Scholarship Gala left people searching for the words to express their gratitude and appreciation.

President Doug Brigham, who graduated from the College in 1987, said the event allows alumni to open doors for current students. "It helps you reflect for a minute on 'Somebody helped make it possible for me to be at The College of Idaho.

I'm going to pay it forward for the next generation,'" Brigham said.

The official total of \$1,053,599 was – by far – the largest amount ever raised by guests at the Gala, surpassing the previous high (\$810,000 in 2022) by nearly a quarter of a million dollars. The evening started with dinner and a silent auction. Then a crowd of more than 600 supporters heard the story of junior Carmen Castillo, a biomedical science major who was planning to attend another institution. But, with the encouragement of Marcia Wing '76, Castillo was able to change her path due to the scholarships available at the College.

"Carmen epitomizes what we do here and why this is a great investment," said Jim Everett, former co-president. "There are a lot of students just like her on this campus, and that's the win from Friday – the students who get a chance to be on this campus."

All the money raised at the annual

Scholarship Gala goes to fund student scholarships. The three highest donation totals for the Gala have come in the past three years, including this year's million-dollar night.

"I was blown away," said Brigham. "I never would have thought we would ever see that kind of number, at least in my time with the College. I think it tells you how much people believe in the College, the importance of the College, and the importance of making the College accessible for all students."

It won't be long before Walters and her staff members, who work behind the scenes to make the evening a success, begin planning the next Scholarship Gala.

"How do you top it?" Walters wondered aloud. "The YoteFam always surprises us, so we'll see what happens next year."

**Your donations allow us to invest in students and educate the next generation. Please consider giving to our Boone Fund where your donation helps the College with the most immediate needs on campus:**

**[www.collegeofidaho.edu/give](http://www.collegeofidaho.edu/give)**



**SCAN HERE**



## Yotes Finish 10th in Directors' Cup

The College of Idaho has achieved its highest-ever finish for a national award given annually to schools with the most success in collegiate athletics.

The College finished the 2023-24 school year in 10th place in the LEARFIELD Directors' Cup rankings for NAIA schools. "We are proud of this great achievement for our tremendous coaches and student athletes," says Reagan Rossi, vice president of athletics. "The foundation in academic excellence, commitment to service, culture, and community will continue to guide us along a path of success."

The LEARFIELD Directors' Cup was developed as a joint effort between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and USA Today. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in NAIA championships. Overall, 13 sports are counted in the final NAIA standings; four of those must be men's basketball, men's soccer, women's basketball, and women's volleyball. The next-highest sports scored for each institution, regardless of gender, are used in the standings.

The College's ranking comes after its women's cross country team won a national

championship, its men's basketball team finished in the Fab Four, its football team finished in the semifinal for the first time in the program's history, its women's soccer team hosted the second round of the NAIA tournament for the first time in the program's history, its men's soccer team ended an over 20-year absence from the national tournament, its volleyball and softball teams earned at-large bids for their national tournaments, its beach volleyball team qualified for the regional qualifier tournament, and its cross country and track and field team secured an individual national championship in the indoor women's 5k as well as several All-America finishes at NAIA championships.

"This tremendous achievement is a testimony to the great coaches and student athletes we have here at The College of Idaho who are able to achieve high levels of success in athletic competition while also excelling in the classroom," says President Doug Brigham. "Reagan Rossi's leadership in establishing a great culture for athletics has been instrumental in our continued success."



## Women's Cross Country All-Star Team & Ellyse Tingelstad

Ellyse Tingelstad was honored in July as the College Sports Communicators'

This season Tingelstad was the 5000m NAIA indoor track champion, national runner-up at the NAIA cross country championship, runner-up in the NAIA outdoor track 10,000m, and third-place finisher in the NAIA outdoor track 5k. Her performance in the NAIA cross country championship led the way for the Yotes to capture their first-ever cross-country NAIA national championship. The ten-time All-American was also selected as the USTFCCA NAIA West Region Women's Runner of the Year, Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) all-conference, NAIA Daktronics scholar athlete, and CCC scholar athlete.

2023-24 Academic All-America® Team Member of the Year in NAIA women's track and field/cross country. To be eligible, student athletes must maintain a 3.50 cumulative grade point average as well as place in the top 25 in a conference in a single individual event. "It's great to see Ellyse earning this award," says head coach Dominic Bolin. "Her perfection in the classroom and the tremendous success she has achieved in competition are a testament to her hard work and determination."





# Athletics Just Got More **PURPLE**

Throughout the spring and summer, The College of Idaho has embarked on an almost-all-encompassing overhaul of its athletic facilities. It is replacing the turf at Simplot Stadium, Wolfe Field, and Symms Field. It is resurfacing the pool in its Aquatic Center and replacing the court and bleachers in the J.A. Albertson Activities Center (JAAC). And it formally opened the new Christensen-Buffington Hitting Facility, which sits next to the baseball field and features a baseball locker room and five batting cages.

With this new addition and these renovations comes a renewed emphasis on two things.

First, the College is doubling down on purple. At both Wolfe Field and Symms Field, the turf is receiving a generous splash of purple.

"We're often referred to by our alumni as the best-kept secret in Idaho," says Reagan Rossi, vice president of athletics for the College. "We're done with that. I want people to know who we are and know what we are about. We're a great academic institution. We're a great athletic institution. When people see purple, we want them to think of The College of Idaho."

Second, the College is focusing on community impact and collaboration. "Anytime you can do these kinds of upgrades, it's going to have dividends for the entire institution," says Rossi. "While these facilities impact our ability to play, practice, and compete, what they do for this campus community and the Caldwell community is so much greater."

Most notably, the JAAC is having its court and bleachers replaced for the first time since it opened its doors in 1991. And as these pieces of history are removed and auctioned off, the College says a reverent goodbye to an era defined by conference and national championships.

"From '91 on, everything has happened on that floor," says Rossi. "That's special. And what's more special is we have people who have been here for every single one of those games. They've been season ticket holders since we opened this building."

Student athletes make up roughly 50 percent of the College's student population, so these facility upgrades will have an immediate impact across campus. Any facility renovation or addition generally requires a significant investment, but Rossi emphasizes

that the cost of these projects does not impact the rest of campus. "None of these projects is coming at the expense of something else within the institution," says Rossi. "We didn't cut another project or program on campus so that we could replace the turf or the floor. In athletics, the bulk of what we do is fundraised. Without generous donors, these things don't happen."

These facility improvements were made possible, in large part, by the City of Caldwell and Lurre Construction and the generosity of the Christensen and Buffington families and many other College alumni and donors.

Dorene Christensen '72 says her husband, Carl, who put the first shovel into the ground for the new hitting facility before his death in 2021, would have been delighted with how the project turned out. Both Carl Christensen '70 and Dean Buffington '63 were student athletes at the College, and their families remain strong supporters of their alma mater.

"As Carl said, we never dreamed that we would have the money to give to something like this, so we're thankful and happy to give back."



JAAC BASKETBALL COURT



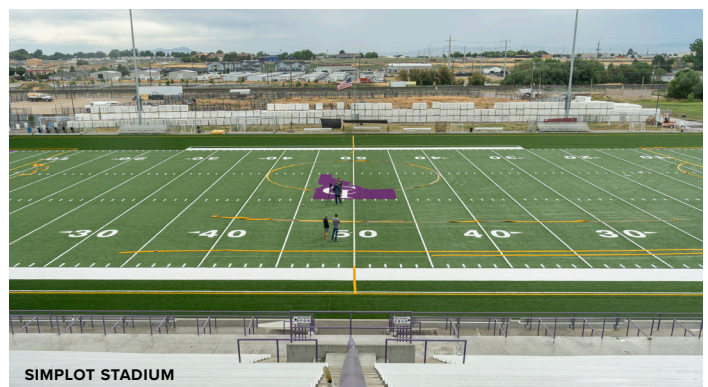
WOLFE BASEBALL FIELD



SYMMS SOFTBALL FIELD



CHRISTENSEN-BUFFINGTON HITTING FACILITY



SIMPLOT STADIUM



## SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES!

We want to hear about all the great things our alumni are doing! If you would like to submit a class note, please email [alumni@collegeofidaho.edu](mailto:alumni@collegeofidaho.edu) or call us at (208) 459-5004.

ELIZABETH (FISHER) ELROY '92, MOLLY LEADBETTER '11 and ALI RABE '10 earned a spot on The Powerlist, Idaho Business Review's Most Influential Business Leaders in Idaho list for 2024.

### 1960s

In November 2023, GEORGE VENN '67 published a new memoir, "Walking Spain: A Young Writer's Journal (1965-66)," the original manuscript for which was written while a sophomore at the College.

### 1980s

The Honorable CYNTHIA MEYER '82 was sworn in as the 60th justice of the Idaho Supreme Court in January 2024.

### 1990s

JOHN THOMAS "TOM" RESSLER '90 was awarded the F. Willard "Robbie" Robinson Military Service Award by the God and Country Association in July 2024 for over 20 years of service to Idaho veterans and their families.

MARY BARINAGA, M.D., '91 was named as the Idaho Medical Association's president for 2024-2025.

BRIAN HOMER '99 was inducted into the Wood River High School Athletic Hall of Fame for his impressive high school basketball career.

## IN MEMORIAM

The following alumni and friends of the College have passed away. When you learn of the death of a College of Idaho graduate, please email the information to [alumni@collegeofidaho.edu](mailto:alumni@collegeofidaho.edu).

### 1940s

Shirley Lippincott '49

### 1950s

Bruce McConnell '50  
Warren McConnell '52  
Beverly Ingraham '53  
Don Mathews '54  
Joe Tycz '54  
Dick Hahn '55  
Ladene O'Loughlen '55  
Harold Schoettger '55  
Leon Waterman '55  
Buz Bonaminio '56  
Dick Crowley '56  
Dorothy Freeland '56  
Bob Perkins '58  
Lois Van Slyke '58  
Gary Moore '59

### 1960s

James Goettsche '61  
Mary Jane Percy '61  
David Wright '61  
Barbara Basden '62  
William Eakin '62  
Keith Reichert '63  
Phillip Russell '63  
Carol Barnum '65  
Carolyn Gochnour '65  
Barb Nusbaum '65  
Owen Seki '65  
Ted Talbott '65

Daniel Klinkenberg '66  
Charlene Natvig '66  
Helen Clayton '67  
Dean French '67  
Cecil Jose '67  
Michael McIver '67  
Gary Obenauer '67  
Richard Weed '67  
Michael Carney '69  
Barbara Hubbard '69  
Richard Lauer '69  
Ernest Smith '69

### 1970s

Sherman Jaffe '70  
Pat Cammann '71  
Donald Mickey '71  
Willis Vance '71  
John Woodbury '71  
Gene Gibler '72  
Diane Morris '73  
Griffin Brazil '74  
Shirley Henderson '74  
Allyson Carlyle '76  
Joani Pauls '76  
Patrick Garrity '77  
Ron Roeder '77  
Robert Plumb '78

### 1980s

Michael White '81  
Mark Ham '83  
Robert Ripley '83

Ruth Garrison '88  
Jean Ingersoll '89  
Mary Lou Moore '89  
Philip Young '89

### 1990s

Jerilyn Gowen '90  
Marjorie Bolles '91  
Margaret Overstreet '93

### FOUNDER'S SOCIETY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

Justus George '50  
Don Greer '58  
Ray Obendorf  
John Yost '55  
Philip Young

### EMPLOYEES/PREVIOUS EMPLOYEES

JoAnn Bellon  
Buz Bonaminio  
Leona Manke  
Gayle Morley  
Mike Shines  
Gary Strine  
Lori Uhrig '93

### PREVIOUS TRUSTEES

Tim Burke '88  
Paul Corddry  
Don Price '54  
Philip Young

### 2000s

KRISTEN PERRIN '03 published her debut novel, "How to Solve Your Own Murder," in March 2024, which is a national bestseller and a Jimmy Fallon's Book Club finalist.

MAUREEN "MOLLY" BRUINS '04 was awarded the Diamond Coach Award from the National Speech & Debate Association in October 2023 for her excellence and longevity in speech and debate education.

KRIS KOMORI '05 was awarded a key to the City of Boise in August 2023 by Mayor Lauren McLean for the valuable role his restaurant, KIN, has played in the community.

JOE KURTH '05 was named Educator of the Year by the Ontario (Oregon) Area Chamber of Commerce for instilling in his students the importance of education and for inspiring other teachers to invest in students' futures.

### 2010s

GRIFFIN HEWITT '10, an award-winning freelance journalist, published his first novel, "A Record of Wrongs," in September 2023 under the pen name Fin Aquarian.

JORDAN BOWMAN '14 performed Francesco Durante's "Magnificat a 4 in B-flat Major" at Carnegie Hall in June 2024.

CAMERON ARNZEN '17 was conferred a PhD in politics and education from Columbia University in May 2024 and is now a postdoctoral researcher at Brown University.

BRITTANEY BONES '17 was recognized as an honoree for the 2023 Idaho Business Review Women of the Year Awards.

### 2020s

SADIE DITTENBER '22 was selected as a California Local News Fellow and will be working as an education reporter for The Tribune in San Luis Obispo.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



THURSDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2024  
**HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND 2024**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024 AND  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024  
**IDAHO POLICY FORUM**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024  
**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION'S CULTURAL SHOW**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024  
**FEAST OF CAROLS CONCERT**

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025  
**SCHOLARSHIP GALA**

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025  
**BAD (BUSINESS & ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT) CONFERENCE**

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025  
**GO PURPLE STEAK FEED**

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025  
**STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE**



HELP THE COLLEGE FULFILL ITS SUSTAINABILITY GOALS. LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO RECEIVE OUR QUEST MAGAZINE DIGITALLY IN THE FUTURE BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO: [ALUMNI@COLLEGEOFIDAHO.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI@COLLEGEOFIDAHO.EDU)





20  
24

Every January, students take flight to experience and learn about different parts of the globe through uniquely crafted “study away” opportunities with College faculty. In 2024 students went to Argentina with Dr. Jennie Daniels (world language literature and culture) and Dr. Nick Underwood (history); Vietnam with Dr. Rob Dayley (international political economy) and Dr. Jeff Snyder-Reinke (history); and, pictured above, Greece with Dr. Stelios Panageotou (political economy) and Dr. Mark Smith (history). Learning outside the classroom – experiencing history, culture, global economics, and unique perspectives in the real world – inspires and encourages students to push their boundaries. Watch our YouTube videos about our high-impact and transformative opportunities: [youtube.com/thecollegeofidaho](https://www.youtube.com/thecollegeofidaho)

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