SPRING/SUMMER 2023

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO



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FOUNDATIONAL FACULTY

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FOUNDATIONAL FACULTY

FROM THE EDITOR

ear readers, We are pleased and excited to present to you the latest issue of Quest alumni magazine, full of engaging content and stories that capture the essence of this esteemed school.

As our Editorial Board discussed options for this edition's theme, we considered the results of a recent survey of our freshman and sophomore students. One of the questions we asked was open-ended: "What is your favorite part of your College of Idaho experience?" The top answer is one that has been given countless times over the decades at The College of Idaho: the faculty.

We have also received feedback from our alumni that they desire more familiarity with today's faculty members who are carrying on the tradition of exceptional academics, rigorous study and transformative mentorships. Thus, the theme for this edition was born: Foundational Faculty.

As we embarked on the ambitious task of showcasing the incredible work of our faculty, we were faced with the challenge of selecting a handful of individuals to feature in these pages. We asked our alumni base to send us stories and memories of their favorite faculty members, and you will find some of those comments sprinkled throughout these pages. We also used the feedback as a gauge to help our team as we carefully identified and created a diverse collection of profiles that we hope will captivate your attention and ignite your pride in our academic community.

To organize the content, we grouped these faculty profiles into thematic divisions aligned with the primary focus of their coursework within the PEAK curriculum. These divisions are as follows: 1) Social Sciences and History, 2) Humanities and Fine Arts, and 3) Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Additionally, we took the opportunity to showcase a select few of our faculty members who are also alumni.

The breadth of talent and expertise among our faculty is truly awe-inspiring, and we regret that we were unable to include every deserving individual within the limited space of this magazine. We understand that each faculty member has made valuable contributions to the College, and we deeply appreciate the dedication and commitment to our shared mission of fostering excellence in education. While we were unable to highlight all faculty members in this particular issue, please know that we recognize the influence of their work and the vital role they play in shaping the lives of countless students.

As you peruse these pages, we hope you find yourself inspired by the stories of our faculty members, as well as the effect they have had on The College of Idaho and the wider community. Their collective efforts, alongside those of our esteemed alumni, are the bedrock upon which our institution's legacy is built. They are, in a word, foundational.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and we hope that this magazine serves as a catalyst for reconnection and renewed pride in our shared educational journey.

With warm regards,

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Joe Hughes Quest Editor, Director of Marketing & Communications



JOE HUGHES, QUEST EDITOR, AND WIFE LESLIE HUGHES AT THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA 2023



PHOTO BY MARC WALTERS

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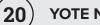
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ALUMNI FACULTY





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HUMANITIES & FINE ARTS by Jeannine Mars '77 & Alan Minskoff



NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS by Joe Hughes

ALUMNI CALENDAR

SOCIAL SCIENCES & HISTORY

ooking at the academic departments that make up the Social Sciences & History Division at the College, they cover a wide swath. Anthropology/Sociology, Business, Education, History, Political Economy, Psychology.

"We really are the 'miscellaneous' group," laughed Psychology Professor Cara Laney, who serves as the division chairperson. "We are neither Boone (sciences) nor Humanities and Fine Arts. We are everything else left over."

The division consists of the largest number of educators on campus and, despite the broad range of educational topics, there is a common thread.

"We care deeply about the students and their successes," Laney said. "We work

really hard and we go out of our way to help students academically to help them reach their goals, but also to help them as people and to treat them as people."

Here are four educators from the diverse cohort of Social Sciences and History:

FAREWELL TO A FACULTY FAVORITE

Dr. Mee-Ae Kim, the first-ever Klara K Hansberger Endowed Professor of History at The College of Idaho, put away her gradebook for the last time this past May, concluding her teaching career at the College after more than two decades. Now perhaps she can finally escape a recurring nightmare.

"Twenty years and I still have panic dreams every semester," Kim said in a recent interview. "It's the same one: I forgot to teach a class for six weeks."

Fortunately, the dreaded dream never materialized. When asking alumni about their favorite faculty members for this issue of Quest, it became evident that one of the most influential professors in recent years was Mee-Ae Kim.

Marine Vieille '20, for instance, sought Kim's guidance due to struggles in her Western Civilization class.

"She told me, 'Marine, you act like a 50-year old!' She knew I could do well in her class and I think that she was convinced that I would do well in life," Vieille said. "I kept visiting her throughout my years and it became my little ritual to go and get my mental age adjusted. I'm pretty sure I was in my 30s at the end of college. Mee-Ae was a rock to me and she taught me I was capable without ever having to say it. She believed in me before I believed in myself and I am profoundly grateful."

> Madison Najima '21, who traveled with Kim to Mexico for a study

abroad program, expressed her desire to maintain their bond.

"Being able to call up Mee-Ae and get lost in conversation is one of my favorite things to do," Najima said. "I can't wait to continue bugging her about Santa Anna and chupacabras well into her retirement."

And Danner McGrath '21 appreciated the life wisdom Kim shared with him.

"You will have the most intense relationships in college," McGrath recalls her saying. "At no time in your future will you live within a couple feet distance of someone the same age as you who takes part in the same deep discussions and the same social events. Cherish and value this time with care."

Impacting many students in many different ways over many years. That's how Mee-Ae Kim operated at the College.

"When we talk about mentorship, we're really talking about real experiences on a day-to-day basis," Kim explained. "I don't think that mentoring students happens because it's part of our job description. There's no check off list. The faculty are not sitting there, 'I talked with so and so for 15 minutes,' thus check it off. I don't think faculty members see it in that way here. I think it's a natural part of the culture and the community. I think it is a natural outcome when you love teaching."

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS WITH PURPLE PASSION

Dr. Deb Yates may have been late to the party, but she is making up for lost time.

Yates, an associate professor of education at The College of Idaho, made a midlife shift from working in alternative education to pursuing higher education and is having the time of her life.

Attendees at College athletic events likely have witnessed her having fun, accompanied by her husband, Dr. Chuck Yates. Adorned in purple from head to toe, including an eye-catching purple wig, she serves as an unofficial cheerleader for the athletes she interacts with during the week in the classroom.

"For Chuck and me, (the games and events) are our social life. We go to games, we go to tailgates, we travel over to Eastern Oregon (University) when there is an away game," Yates says, smiling. "I love following the Yotes; it's just tons of fun." Yates gets just as much joy from the classroom, where she prepares students to become quality educators. "I love my job, absolutely love it," Yates says. "I teach teachers how to teach. The impact is lasting. The reason I teach is to instill hope, but (the students) bring it back to me."

The proof that Yates and her fellow education instructors are doing an outstanding job is in the skilled graduates the department produces. Katie Anderson '07, an instructor in Utah, says "I had no grasp on how little other universities expected of their education students until I received feedback in my first years of teaching and have since worked with several student teachers ... I got my job because I went to The College of Idaho."

Yates earned her doctorate in her mid-40s and has now dedicated more than 20 years of her life to the College. She arrived on campus in 2002 as an adjunct professor

> instructing one education class while finishing her doctorate at Boise State University. A year later, she was hired as a full-time instructor, which eventually led to a tenuretrack position in the Education Department.

In the meantime, she and Chuck maintained a long-distance marriage for 15 years. About nine years ago, Chuck retired from his position at Earlham College in Indiana, and the Yateses settled into a home they bought in Caldwell. (She is at least the third consecutive owner of the home who is a professor at the College.)

"Chuck failed at retirement," she jokes. "(The College) immediately put him to work with freshman seminar and transfer seminar, and he's still here. He wasn't ready to be done being a teacher."

Neither is she. In addition to teaching at the College, she does consultation and research work with local alternative schools, where her experience and passion lie. She focuses on engaging students and improving schools, and she has no plans to stop going into the classroom to work with students.

Though her path was unconventional, Yates embraces her midlife shift to higher education. "Most people buy a Porsche, maybe a convertible, and go on some kind of journey at the midlife in their careers," she says. "The College of Idaho was my journey."



CHUCK AND DEB YATES AT A YOTES BASKETBALL GAME

THE UNEXPECTED EXPERT

Dr. Nick Underwood, a native of southern Florida, grew up in a large Jewish community. Even though he wasn't Jewish himself, he felt like a part of the fabric of the area.

"When I turned 14, my friends all approached my parents, saying 'Nick has gone to all of our mitzvahs over the last two or three years; we want to throw him a party because he didn't get one," Underwood says with a laugh. "My mom would say my friends threw me a bar mitzvah."

This unique experience could explain why Underwood became a scholar (and published author) of Judaic culture and history.

"It was just part of the landscape," he said. "I never really thought of the unconscious takeaways."

It hasn't traditionally been part of the landscape in the West. The College of Idaho features the Berger/Neilsen Chair of Judaic Studies, the only endowed chair of Judaic Studies in the Intermountain West, thanks to the generous support of Ray Neilsen '88 and the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation.

"The approach here is very broad in terms of Judaic Studies," Underwood explained. "I was trained very broadly to be able to teach broadly. It's very, very open in the types of courses I can offer." One semester, he may delve into European Judaic history, while the next he explores the complex relationship between Israel and Palestine. He may also focus on Jews in Islamic empires, such as the Ottoman Empire, or teach about the impact of World War II and Nazi Germany. Underwood's Nazi Germany course is an extension of a class originally developed by Dr. Howard Berger, whose name graces the endowed chair of the program.

Underwood arrived in the fall of 2020 – the COVID year, as it is commonly referred to on campus – at the same time as Dr. Rachel Miller (history) and Dr. Stelios Panageotou (political economy). The three have leaned on each other over the past three years: Underwood praising Miller's course and curriculum development and recognizing Panageotou uncommon ability to engage students in discussions on new or challenging concepts.

It's a blend of new and old for the history department in Strahorn Hall as Underwood and Miller stand alongside longtime College pillars like Dr. Mee-Ae Kim, Dr. Mark Smith, Dr. Steve Maughan '85, and Dr. Jeff Snyder-Reinke.

Underwood says the department benefits from faculty members providing a variety of subject matters as courses. "They have been very open to suggestions in terms of



curriculum and course ideas," Underwood says. "They're always there to share their expertise and institutional memory to help guide us."

While Underwood has learned much from his work colleagues – whether it's Smith's approach to study-abroad courses or Maughan's continued excellence in the classroom – he hopes that he and his family (wife Annabel and two children) remain a part of the fabric of the community.

When asked if he envisions a future at the College like that of his colleagues, he said, "I hope that is me."





THE POWER OF PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

When Marilyn Melchiorre left for college, she planned to eventually be a business owner. While her roadmap changed, her area of interest did not. Years later, her career path – from workforce to teaching – isn't a box that must be checked for faculty in the business & accounting department at The College of Idaho, but it is something the hiring faculty keep an eye on when adding new members to their instruction team.

Rick Goodwin '83, who retired at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year, and Chris Middleton were both vice presidents at Hewlett-Packard. Kris Erne worked in accounting at HP along and Ore-Ida, among others. Seth Ruhter worked for both the Federal Reserve and Goldman Sachs. David Tucker, a CPA, worked in public accounting. Dave Kerrick '73, who teaches business law at the College, is a practicing attorney in Caldwell. Lori Tucker, whose duties include teaching in the sport administration certificate program, was a small-college assistant athletic director. And Melchiorre, affectionately known as "Dr. Mel" to the College community, has never strayed far from her marketing and sales roots.

"One of the greatest advantages that I find to the business department here is that we all come out of business and industry," Melchiorre said. "We all have practical work experience in our fields, and marketing is my area. Having those experiences, whether as a CPA, a high-level executive, a CEO of a business, you can bring the experiences and stories to tie with the

academic theory (when teaching) and I think that makes for a more robust education."

After deciding against the small-business route, Melchiorre worked in a private agency before moving into the administration side of higher education at Missouri State. Then, after relocating to Idaho, she helped launch the valley's community college, the College of Western Idaho, before transitioning yet again, this time from administration to teaching. She's been with the College since 2010.

"It was a rocky transition because I was so used to administration and sales," Melchiorre admitted. "After the first year, I could start to see the students' success; that was so rewarding. Like, 'yeah, this is where I'm supposed to be."

She credits longtime faculty members Dr. Wally Lonergan '50 and Dr. Jim Angresano for helping her through the formative



years of her teaching career. Now she's the mentor, helping students – and the department as a whole – evolve and grow. She enthusiastically engages students in preparing for life after college. She actively engages alumni about her students. There's the Business Advisory Council. The BAD (Business & Accounting Department) Conference. The two-year-old sport administration certificate program. Football tailgates. E-mails. Phone calls. LinkedIn. Dr. Mel connects with students from all different walks of life at the College.

"Graduation day is the happiest and saddest day," she said. "I am so excited to see what students have accomplished and where they are headed in their career journey, but I hate to see them go."

WILL HOENIKE is a staff writer for Quest.

HUMANITIES & FINE ARTS

FROM PAST TO PROLOGUE

Dr. Sue Schaper is not afraid of ghosts. In fact, she embraces them.

"My research and my teaching have a lot to do with trying to have a conversation with ghosts," says the longtime professor of English at The College of Idaho, who has been studying British ghost stories for several decades.

She defines ghosts broadly as she seeks to understand literature in the context of the people and cultures in which they were written. "Literary studies are both individual and communal," she says. "They lead us into intense, intimate engagements with astonishing works of verbal art, and they summon us to understand the historical and cultural contexts from which these works emerged."

Schaper's research reflects an intense interest in the people – the ghosts, if you will – of the Victorian period. Because she cannot engage them directly, she says, she makes the best, fairest speculation she can about their perceptions and interpretations of their world and experiences. She sees that as "kind of an act of resurrection."

She challenges her students to do the same with various cultures as she guides them through courses such as modern British literature, World War I literature, crime literature, the supernatural in literature, and Native American fiction.

Her approach to the historical and cultural contexts of literature is key to the London course she co-leads with Dr. Steve Maughan '85, professor of history, and Dr. Garth Claassen, professor of art. Nothing is more important, she notes, than teaching students how to live in someone else's culture. "Part of what we do is teach students to be educated, respectful travelers," Schaper says.

That attention to detail carries over into her own wide variety of interests – from nature to art to photography and more. Her interest in photography was gently encouraged by her colleague Claassen. It resulted in a well-received first exhibition of her photographs – titled "Disappearances" – recently displayed at the College's Rosenthal Gallery of Art.

On the campus where beloved predecessors Margaret Sinclair '27, Ralph Berringer, and Louie Attebery '50 once tread, Schaper has also built a reputation for academic rigor. "One thing I will always appreciate about Sue is that she is willing to challenge students," says Nikki Abercrombie '11. "She holds students to a very high standard, but it was this level of expectation that enhanced my abilities as a writer and deepened my analytical abilities. Sue made me a better and more capable thinker!"

Schaper acknowledges that she has

high expectations of students – pushing to take them "as far as I think they can go" – but says she does not expect uniformity. "I try to meet them where they are," she says, adding that she varies her teaching style depending on their needs. "I want students to emerge from the class feeling that they are now capable of doing more."



I don't think anything you learn is ever wasted.

- Sue Schaper

QUIET MESSENGER: FROM APARTHEID TO ARTISTRY

Dr. Garth Claassen likes to let his artwork and his behavior speak for him, and they speak volumes.

They tell the story of:

- An adventurous man who moved more than 10,000 miles from South Africa to put down roots in Caldwell, Idaho, yet never abandoned the lessons about humanity he learned from apartheid.
- An inventive and adaptable studio artist who switched from sculpting to painting at midcareer and achieved marked success after doing so.
- A quiet and unassuming professor of art who taught art history and studio art at The College of Idaho for 29 years while also making gentle suggestions that changed people's lives.
- An optimistic new retiree who is building a studio at his home, looking forward to new inspiration in that context, and seeking opportunities to exhibit new works.

Claassen started teaching at the College in 1994, armed with a doctorate in art history from Indiana University in Bloomington. He continued sculpting, focusing on ceramics as he had since the 1970s, until his first sabbatical, when he began to experiment with oil stick. The experiment never ended; he left sculpting behind.

His talent has earned him three fellowships – the most allowed for any one artist – from the Idaho Commission for the Arts. Claassen is only the fourth person in the fellowship's history to be recognized three times.

Garth could be a one-person art department.



He has mounted two solo exhibitions at the Boise Art Museum and exhibited works at many other galleries, including the South African National Gallery and the Idaho State Historical Museum.

Clearly influenced by apartheid, Claassen

creates pictures of enforced separation and barriers – pictures that invite the viewer into conversation. "I wouldn't describe myself as an activist," he says. "I'm a bit introverted. I find if I make art that brings up those kinds of issues, then that's an opportunity to talk about them."

He also serves as director of the Rosenthal Gallery of Art on campus and has joined Dr. Steve Maughan '85, professor of history, and Dr. Sue Schaper, professor of English, in co-leading student trips to London for the past 20 years.

Nikki Abercrombie '11 calls her London trip life-changing. "Garth gave me my favorite college-learned skill that I use on a daily basis: a hobby!" she says. Sketching was required on the trip; she followed up with a painting course her final semester. "I was nervous and didn't think I was very good, but Garth saw my potential and encouraged me," she says. "One of my few regrets from C of I is that I didn't start taking art courses sooner. ... I have an easel always set up in my house, and I paint ... as a form of stress relief."

Abercrombie is but one example of Claassen's engagement with students. "I try to meet the students where they are," he says, noting that students have varied backgrounds and lead complicated lives – and that teaching studio art allows for much one-on-one time. "I find students interesting, so it's easy to be engaged."

As he opens the newest chapter of his life, he is focused on his art and will teach only

MUSEUM OF LONDON





a single class in the fall. Once his wife, Dr. Karen Brown, retires next year from her position as associate professor of art at College of Western Idaho, they intend to travel to France to "see some of the things I've been teaching about."

JEANNINE MARS '77 is a guest writer for Quest.

FINDING THE RIGHT NOTES

I value having the freedom and space to support our students in the way we see best for our students. The College of Idaho is focused so much on student growth and development that it gives the professors freedom as well.

- Grant Farmer

Only three years after Grant Farmer took a daunting new job – directing choral arts at a college shut down by a pandemic – folks are singing his praises.

Farmer joined The College of Idaho music faculty in the fall of 2020. Inperson classes were suspended, live choral performances were out of the question and no one could guess what the future would hold. He started where he could: hosting coffee hours to get acquainted with his students, providing training exercises for them and focusing on "preparing for our next in-person experience."

Music minor Elizabeth Adams '23 says it took time to win her over. At coffee time, she says, "I think I barely said anything to him!"

By her senior year, she had changed her tune. "Farmer heightened my confidence in my voice and was always willing to answer the millions of questions I asked him daily," she says. "I am so grateful. ... I know through all of the sass, all of the tears, all of the stress, and all of the laughs, Farmer will always be someone I can call to talk to." Morghan Otter '23, a music major, was equally impressed. "He made the ensembles feel like such a community, even despite the masks and the six-foot distance between us," she says. "By the time I graduated, our chamber ensemble really felt like a family."

Otter also notes that the man she calls "a phenomenal director" helped her work through a complicated schedule. "We ironed out every detail and made a concrete plan to get me graduated on time," she says. "He really cares about his students and will jump through endless hoops to find solutions for them when they come to him with a problem."

Both recent graduates expressed gratitude for this year's memorable chamber choir tour to Puerto Rico. They were among 16 students chosen through auditions in August. The students stayed in private homes, giving them what Farmer calls "enriching cultural experiences." The trip continued a decades-long tradition of such choir tours, and Farmer is already planning future trips. An assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, Farmer teaches courses in conducting, music education, and choral pedagogy. He is a doctoral candidate, working on his dissertation, at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He also serves as music director of the Boise Philharmonic Master Chorale. And he and his wife, fellow musician Elizabeth "Liz" Perry, welcomed their first child, Rhett, in May.

JEANNINE MARS '77 is a guest writer for Quest.



hen I began teaching at The College of Idaho in 2001, Strahorn looked a lot like it does now. Except the cast of characters, the professors, has changed significantly. My office is on the third floor, the floor I affectionately dub the Outcasts of Strahorn Flats, as it houses a poet, a journalist, the religion and philosophy professors, a former police officer and a banjo-playing literature professor. This is not the place for those seeking fortune or fame.

It is the place where grand classroom figures like religion professor Dr. Denny Clark (whose once chaotic, book-stacked office is now mine) resided. Denny was both a fine intellect and a deeply spiritual man. He was also kind. Almost daily, he'd knock on my door and present me with my latte that I had left on the railing. For many years, Dr. Terry Mazurak, a philosopher and a gentleman was on the outcasts' floor. We talked of gardens, what makes a good life and he gave me the epigram for my everchanging syllabi: "A syllabus is a proposal, not a promise."

I have had the great pleasure of teaching both Dr. Diane Raptosh's (my neighbor

outcast and pal) and recently retired Dr. Elizabeth Wakeman's children. All three were among the best students that I have had. I will miss Elizabeth's family stories and her cooperative spirit. For years, she would offer journalism students who took her Ethics course, a paper on a journalistic subject.

Dr. Eric Spencer's book-lined cave on the second floor was a regular chat stop for me for many years with its idiosyncratic sign telling where our resident Shakespearean might be. One stop on the place wheel was "right in front of you." His Whitman College background gave him an important perspective and his always empathetic manner endeared him to faculty and students. He made a brilliant marriage too. Anne, who taught from time to time, was on the outcast floor and is an unusually insightful woman.

Another insightful and thoughtful professor on the second floor, who has just retired, Dr. Mee-Ae Kim, beloved by alumni and faculty alike, was always stimulating. We talked a lot about Cuba after I returned from a trip. We often compared notes on students, especially those we wanted to encourage. The mayor of the first floor and agent provocateur was the much-missed Philly fanatic and political authority Dr. Jasper LiCalzi. He (who now has returned to his hometown) and I (a native New Yorker who roots for the Mets, Giants, Knicks) had regular reckonings on our teams. We talked a lot about politics too. Local TV made good use of his knowledge. His Pez dispenser collection, self-titled Ufficio, wit and warmth are missed.

Teaching journalism began at white heat for me; just two weeks after I began my first class, 9/11 happened. I turned on the TV and we watched the coverage in real-time. We compared the networks and nascent online news sites. As that disaster unfolded, we were able to watch, discuss and examine how a disaster, the events themselves, unfolded and observe the press reaction. It was a hell of a way to begin teaching journalism. Over the years I was able to bring the Pulitzer Prize Photo Exhibit to the campus and am most gratified that we now have a communications major with the journalism minor as a fixture.

ALAN MINSKOFF teaches journalism and has been happily residing on the third floor of Strahorn since he began at the College 22 years ago. He continues to teach all the journalism classes.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES: THE VIEW FROM STRAHORN

2.71

JOE HUGHES

NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS



The College of Idaho has a longstanding tradition of hiring influential female science professors in historically maledominated fields of study – and keeping them for decades.

Biology professor Dr. Ann Koga, who retired this spring, is the most recent example; she served the College for more than 26 years.

The string of illustrious educators began nearly 65 years ago. In 1959, Dr. Pat Packard '49 was hired as a biology professor. Packard taught through the late '80s and continued to contribute as a volunteer in Boone Hall for several decades. Before Packard retired, Dr. Sheri Robison had already accepted a



UNWAVERING WOMEN: KOGA

CARRIES ON TRADITION THAT

BREAKS GENDER NORMS

post as a biology professor. She began in 1973 and taught for three decades. By the time Robison retired in 2003, Koga was already several years into her teaching career at the College.

Koga was hired to mainly take on lab duties while biology professor Dr. Don Mansfield was on sabbatical. After he returned, though, the department continued to find her skills indispensable each subsequent semester. Before long, she was full-time faculty. Robison remembers it clearly: "I was a faculty member at the time we hired Ann. She was eminently qualified, having a doctorate in immunology, which was a talent that many of us did not have. She was obviously a good role model for our women students. And very intelligent and very caring."

Following in Robison's footsteps, Koga eventually began advising students pursuing medical school, continuing a tradition of success that has long been a strength of

the College. (Today's medical

acceptance rate is 85 percent.)

Former advisee Shanaya Fox '21 recently gained the benefit of Koga's recommendation as she was accepted into medical school at the University of Utah. "Dr. Koga's incredible instruction and dependable support played a crucial role in my acceptance to medical school and helped shape me into the learner I am today," Fox says.

Koga also made a deep connection with student Karly Pippitt '02. Koga doesn't recall if she even had Pippitt in a class, but she distinctly remembers their bond. Over the years, Pippitt returned to campus multiple times to share her experiences with students interested in pursuing medical school.

Koga's ties to the alumni family are deep and varied. In her own family, her motherin-law Grace and late father-in-law Gil both graduated in 1958, while her son (Duncan '13) and daughter-in-law (Katelin Shannon '13) are also alumni. It was a distressing and life-threatening incident involving someone outside her biological family, though, that revealed to Koga the power of the Yote Family.

In 2018, Koga and her husband, Dr. Steve Koga, hosted a high school exchange student from Thailand. While they were on a brief trip out of state, the exchange student, who was staying with another host family, suffered a critical cardiac episode. The Kogas flew home immediately. When the student's condition stabilized, she was flown to Utah for further emergency treatment.

Koga found herself at the University of Utah Hospital with the student – and reconnected with Dr. Karly Pippitt, a practicing physician at the hospital and a professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine. To Koga's relief, Pippitt provided much-needed assistance and comfort as they successfully helped the student fully recover.

"It was horrible, but Karly was there," Koga remembers. "Karly would come to see me and bring me a coffee or whatever it was I needed. I was there all by myself, with an unconscious student that might die, and ... she was just so amazing.

"The students have given so much back to me."

CHANGING LIVES, ONE "AHA" MOMENT AT A TIME

Three days on the Georgia coast changed Dr. Chris Walser's life, and that experience inspires him to replicate those practices for his students at The College of Idaho.

Walser, a biology professor now in his 24th year of teaching at the College, was an undergraduate student at Emory University when he experienced that unforgettable aha moment – the kind that stays with people for a lifetime.

He knows firsthand that the most transformative educational experiences for students and faculty often take place far away from the classroom. Such experiences provide a unique blend of travel, hands-on learning and multisensory engagement.

They are the kind of experience that the College's founder and first president, William Judson Boone, certainly understood, as his 45 years leading the College were marked with volumes of notes from his field studies.

Walser, who earned his doctorate at Tulane University, aims to offer transformative experiences that combine practical skills with personal growth, igniting passion within his students. His field study programs typically last a minimum of three weeks, spanning the globe from Belize to Australia, as well as various spots in Idaho and the United States. "You can study away (at other schools) and maybe you'll do a two- or three-day research project, but nothing as intensive as what we offer our students," Walser says. "I think that's what really makes our program so special: a focus on field research for much of the three-week program."

The "traditional" Australia field biology course holds special significance for Walser, as it was the first College study-away program he assisted in leading, taking his initial cues from biology professor Don Mansfield. This course's lineage can be traced back to the renowned Dr. Lyle Stanford '33, who as biology professor organized several field courses, including one to Australia in the 1970s.

During Stanford's Australia expedition, despite his struggle with polio and reliance on crutches, he led a group of students to explore Heron Island. Jim Elliott '78, who had never taken a class from Stanford, recalls an unforgettable aha moment the students and Stanford shared. The students discovered a sea turtle beginning its nesting process. They went to retrieve Stanford, who was reluctant to go due to his difficulty walking – so they carried him to the site, enabling him to witness the turtle's remarkable life cycle. "(Stanford) was very grateful to all of us," Elliott recalls. "It was this appreciation, leadership, and concern for the well-being of his students that I found very motivating. We remained friends until his passing, and I am personally extremely thankful for his direction and support."

SIMMS

CHRIS WALSER

Walser can recount numerous instances of students experiencing their own

transformative aha experiences, moments that have altered the trajectories of their careers. Emma George '12, now a post-doctoral fellow at Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Camrin Braun '11, a marine scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; and Sam Linnet '11, the founding attorney of Alturas Law Group, all had their breakthrough experiences doing research in Australia. "I remember (George) was so excited about seeing this octopus on the Heron Island reef," Walser says, and mentions Braun's and Linnet's immersion in snorkeling and tracking the distribution of butterfly fish.

These powerful experiences rekindle Walser's own aha moment as an undergrad and reinforce his passion for his work. "This is why I'm here," he says. "I feel like taking students in the field is my purpose."





DEFINING "DULL" AND THE BENEFIT OF BALANCE



One statement he makes to students perfectly encapsulates Dr. Jim Dull's sense of humor and philosophy of life: "All work and no play makes Jim Dull."

The line and the wisdom in it are both memorable, and Annika Thomas '19 is living proof. She quotes the line in sharing about the man who was both her karate instructor as a youngster and her mentor at the College.

Thomas takes academics seriously; she earned dual degrees in math/physics from the College and mechanical engineering from Columbia University and is pursuing her Ph.D. at MIT while leading the design of a cube satellite scheduled to launch in the fall. She clearly understands work.

But she also understands the need for balance. "His sense of humor and ability to instill academic curiosity in his students made all that work feel like play," she says. "Dr. Dull made challenging course material feel approachable and exciting. I'm so grateful to this day that he instilled in me the ability to balance work and life."

Erik Nordquist '18, who recently completed his Ph.D. in chemistry from University of Massachusetts-Amherst, was equally impressed: "Professor Jim Dull was as constant as one of the pillars of Boone for his students. You could find him in his office, available for guidance, from the early morning to the early evening. It was clear that his educational mission was to guide young people toward a rigorous education with humanity and kindness."

Dull was teaching in Maine when Dr. Gary Strine retired in the late 1990s, but family matters had him looking west. When he interviewed at the College, he found that the students set it apart. "I gave my teaching presentation, and immediately five students came up and said 'What about this?' 'Oh, this is great.' 'I love this.' That didn't happen at any other school that I interviewed at. So when the time came for the decision, I knew."

During his 25- year tenure, Dull has:

- Refurbished the campus observatory, collaborating with Dr. Joe Daglen, former biology adjunct professor, to allow students to explore the wonders of the night sky.
- Organized off-campus trips to a New Mexico observatory, through funding provided by Daglen, to provide students with another opportunity to study the stars firsthand.
- Emphasized both the importance of play and his dedication to space by appearing as "evil Lord Dull" in a "Star Wars" parody video produced by Arzhang Fallahi '03, now an interventional cardiologist.

Through all, Dull maintains a commitment to striking a balance and establishing a personal connection with his students to help them succeed in both learning and life. Being accessible plays a vital role in his approach. "The main mission is to teach," Dull emphasizes. "And you can't teach unless you get to know these people, unless you have interactions with them. And that means you have to be around."

That's why Dull and Dr. Katie Devine, also a physics professor, placed red leather lounge chairs in the outer office near their own offices many years ago. These "physics chairs" are a mini version of the long-standing, tradition-laden table in the entryway to Boone Science Hall where students often study and can easily engage with faculty as they migrate through the halls. Shortly after the chairs appeared, a student began occupying one of them daily, appreciating the quiet and the opportunity to engage with faculty. The first student stayed for two-and-a-half years. When she graduated, another student replaced her, and a tradition was born. The students become part of the chatter that goes back and forth between the offices. "It's a wonderful thing because there's a connection there," Dull says. To prove it, he names many of them in succession: Tierra Candelaria '15. Johanna Mori '17. Sarah Schoultz '19, and most recently, current student Michael Coleman.

The evidence that student connections continue suits Thomas just fine. "I truly hope everyone has the chance to have a mentor like Dr. Dull during college," she says.

LITERARY LEGACY ENVIRONMENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT

When Dr. Rochelle Johnson interviewed for a position at The College of Idaho in 1999, she hoped to work at a school where she could teach American literature, develop environmental studies courses, and spend time in the outdoors. Check, check, and check.

She already had experience teaching in much larger institutions but, having studied at a private liberal arts college herself, she preferred a smaller school. As she recalls, "The whole reason I'm a professor is because one day, toward the end of my undergraduate studies, I thought to myself: 'I don't ever want to leave this place!"

In Idaho, Johnson interviewed for the open position that had been held by legendary English professor Dr. Louie Attebery '50, who had been teaching at his alma mater since 1961. Those would be tough shoes to fill, so she gave up trying. As it turns out, Johnson's holistic approach to education aligned perfectly with the practices established by Attebery and other esteemed figures at the College, making her contribution a natural extension of a long and beloved tradition.

"I don't see what I do here as individual work," Johnson explains. "It's collective work, and it's work that has gone on for generations and will far outlast me. As long as The College of Idaho remains The College of Idaho, I will have been part of a long line of people who mentor and encourage and challenge and befriend and support. I'm honored to be in this role."

She was pleased to be able to design and develop an environmental studies major. The interdisciplinary major explores the intricate relationships between natural systems and human cultures, while also encompassing courses in the social sciences and the humanities. Johnson has chaired the Environmental Studies Department for several of the years since its establishment, which suits her well due to her background in the environmental humanities and natural history. Additionally, she led the College's Gipson Honors and Heritage Scholar Programs for 18 years.

Johnson's influence has been profound; even students who don't take a class from her – such as Nikki Abercrombie '11 – benefit from her guidance. Abercrombie had Johnson as a Heritage Scholar advisor. She says she found Johnson to be "one of the most intelligent and approachable faculty members I ever had the pleasure to interact with. Rochelle is the type of mentor who checks in on you from time to time instead of waiting for you to seek them out. Sometimes that is what I really needed."

In response, Johnson says: "It's so funny because I often hope that I'm not intruding or bothering them when I just check in. I really care about my students, my advisees, people in the honors program. I want them to have a good college experience, and these are hard years."

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2010, Johnson was recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as the "Idaho Professor of the Year." Perhaps the most influential aspect of Johnson's teaching philosophy is her belief that the most important part of being a professor is not sharing knowledge. "The longer I do this, the more I think that is the least important thing I do," she says, "which is probably anathema to most college and university educators, right? The most important thing we do here is teach students to believe in their own capacities to question and to feel compassion. And how we get there is really irrelevant. That's the most important thing: helping them find that part of themselves."



EGE

"I found myself, whether I wanted to or not, questioning quite literally everything. [Kerry Hunter is] relentless, endless, constantly questioning. That commitment to inquiry. And more inquiry. You see, Kerry is genuinely the walking, living embodiment of what a liberal arts education is and should be." - Brandon Buck '09

"I turned in a handwritten paper to Dr. Wolfe. It came back with a message that I could not read. I questioned him about the message. And he said 'It says I cannot read your writing.' From then on I typed my papers.

He was a wonderful teacher and mentor."

- Christian Eismann '61



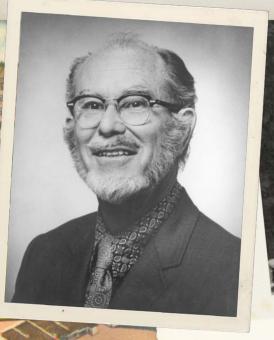


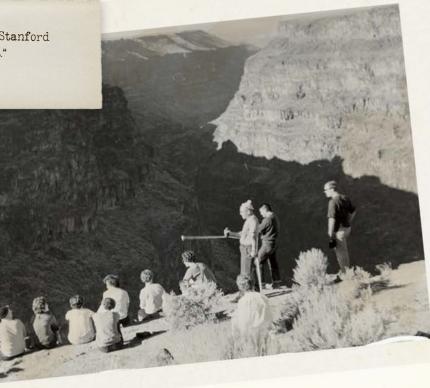


"Once I started college, I knew Jasper LiCalzi was gong to be a mentor for life... I am so beyond lucky to have had him as a professor and friend. We talk often, and he still owes me a beer!"

- Madison Najima '21

"I was going to be an English teacher, but Doc Stanford enchanted me, and I became an outdoor biologist." - Dana Lee Quinney '66

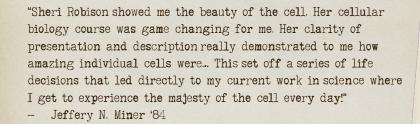






"I was often intimidated and challenged by Organic Chemistry, but Dr. Schatz was always patient and kind in his explanations. I feel lucky to have had him as a professor."

- Stephen White '02









KRISTINE MCDIVITT TOMPKINS 1969 YEARBOOK PHOTO

MCDIVITT TOMPKINS RECEIVES AMERICAN HERITAGE PRIZE

Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, a 1972 graduate of The College of Idaho, has been presented the 2023 Ken Burns American Heritage Prize. The ceremony took place in May at the American Museum of Natural History on Central Park West in Manhattan and she was joined at the event by Burns and American Prairie CEO Alison Fox.

"The selection of Kristine Tompkins as the 2023 American Heritage Prize recipient connects two significant conservation projects at an important time in the conservation story. Kris's tenacity and bold rise to the challenge are reflected in the mission of American Prairie," said Burns, the award-winning filmmaker who is known for his chronicles of American history and culture.

American Prairie is a 3.2-million-acre swath of land in northern Montana dedicated to preserving the region's shortgrass prairie ecosystem. After graduating from the College, McDivitt-Tompkins went on to co-found and serve as the CEO of Patagonia, Inc., before cofounding Tompkins Conservation with her late husband, Douglas.



FUNDRAISING BOOK REACHES FIFTH PRINTING

"I'll Never Tell," a book penned by Mike Shines (director of aquatics, strength coach and life coach) recently celebrated its fifth printing, published in conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. It's a simple book, a coffee-table-style book with short quotes and words accompanied by photos taken by Shines himself. The words are meant to offer support and inspiration to people and most of the money generated by the sales of the book is donated to domestic violence support causes. The remaining money goes toward publication costs so he can continue to update and re-print the book. He says he already has a list of more than 40 potential quotes for the next update.

"It's all simple," Shines said. "That's what I'm always looking for because that's what people understand. They don't have to read a whole article or a full page. They only have to read one line."

He talks to people who have used his book to summon the courage to break the cycle of domestic violence. That's what makes this project, in his mind, his crowning achievement.

"It'll be number one, it'll be at the top," Shines said when asked how he'd rank the book among his many accomplishments.





RAPTOSH POEM HEADED TO THE MOON

An original poem composed by English professor Diane Raptosh '83 will be a part of the moon's first literary archive. The poem will launch for the moon in November 2024 as part of NASA's Artemis project, establishing a Lunar Codex on the moon's south pole.

The poem, titled "I'd Like to Trill You a Song About End-Words," was created for a three-volume series of books called the Polaris Trilogy. The books feature a variety of space-themed poems from around the world, including writings from all seven continents.

"There are poems from people all over planet Earth," Raptosh said "A lot of different countries and languages are represented. We all have the same moon after all."



GIVE DAY CONTINUES TO GROW

The 2023 Give Day event at The College of Idaho generated \$305,640 in donations from 395 total donors., both totals topping the same event last year.

"I'm always blown away by the generosity and love for the College that is so evident during an event like Give Day," said Director of Annual Giving Hayley Kindall '13.

One way that supporters and businesses choose to celebrate the College is by setting up a "match" to a specific program or cause on campus. A match is a donation pledged by a "match donor" to double, and in some cases triple, donations made by the public up to a set amount. Two matches in particular, one from Crookham Company and another from the Helpenstell Family Trust, helped generate \$125,050 for the College's Boone Fund, an unrestricted fund that can be allocated to the most pressing needs.

Alumni gifts are also organized by class year. The Class of 1987 led the way, generating \$15,000 while the classes of 1967, 1973, and 2003 all topped \$10,000 in contributions per graduating class.

BAYLOR FUND

The College of Idaho has announced the formation of an endowed scholarship fund designed to support underrepresented and under-resourced students, named after the late College of Idaho student athlete Elgin Baylor and his wife Elaine. The Elgin & Elaine Baylor Opportunity Fund has a goal of a \$25 million endowment that will be used to fund 44 students with financial need from underrepresented populations with full-tuition scholarships to attend the College. The effort has been championed by College of Idaho Board of Trustee member Elaine Baylor and supported by many of the most notable corporations based in Idaho.

CEOs and other leaders from Micron Technology, Blue Cross of Idaho, Boise Cascade, St. Alphonsus Health System, Idaho Power, St. Luke's Health System, the J.R. Simplot Company, Albertsons, Kount, The Dignitas Agency, Cradlepoint and Crookham Company all stood on a stage together to support the Elgin & Elaine Baylor Opportunity Fund and to send a message to the rest of the country that Idaho is a welcoming state that values education and diversity.

The first recipient of the Elgin & Elaine Baylor Opportunity Fund has already been selected: Nimo Abdi of Capital High School.

HUGE CROWD BENEFITS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Nearly 700 guests packed the ballroom at the Boise Centre, the most ever to attend the annual Scholarship Gala, which raises money for student scholarships at The College of Idaho. And the guests' bids on auction items – both live auction and silent – led to the second-highest donation total in the history of the event.

The final count of \$806,644 marked the second time that the Gala has ever raised over \$800,000 for student scholarships.

"The camaraderie in the room among alumni and friends of the College is amazing to see," said Vice President of College Relations Jack Cafferty '97. "They get together annually at this event to pay it forward after experiencing the way scholarships impacted them."



BOONE HALL RENOVATIONS

Boone Hall, the home of the College's science studies, has received a facelift thanks to long-time benefactors of The College of Idaho.

Dr. James Smith '64 and his wife, Mary, a member of the College's Board of Trustees, previously provided gifts that funded the welcoming arches along Cleveland Boulevard as well as the Smith Science Institute, which has led directly to high school students enrolling at the College.

A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the updated building was held on Friday, May 26, the day before it was showcased to the entire College community as the stage for the 2023 Commencement ceremony. 0

LOSING THE BOOKS: MEN'S BASKETBAL 023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

aden Handran could finally rest. After the grueling 73-72 win in the NAIA National Tournament semifinals, the sophomore looked forward to a good night's sleep in his Kansas City hotel room, thinking about none other than the national championship game the next night.

David Tucker. Miller hadn't taken the quiz either, so the two quickly banded together in Handran's room, completed the quiz, and submitted the assignment a mere three minutes before the deadline.

That's nothing new for Handran and Miller. The men's basketball season runs through

> all three terms of the academic year and lasts up to seven months, requiring players to work with professors as they navigate through their academic demands.

But for two academic all-conference selections like Handran and Miller, completing a quiz in between the biggest national tournament games of their lives was just another day as a College of Idaho student-athlete.

"What you saw from Caden and Whitt is that they've been able to not only build those relationships with their professors, David Tucker specifically, but they've been able to organize themselves at a championship level," Coach Colby Blaine said. "It's not even a mindset to have a backup plan. They just did the quiz, and I think it's a complement to why we had so much success this year."

That success included the No. 1 ranking in

the country, the first 22-0 conference record in Cascade Conference history, the CCC regular season and tournament titles and a 35-game winning streak heading into the Yotes' first national championship game since 1996.

"What really endures is your dedication and your commitment to the team and your commitment to your profession," Tucker said. "By being conscientious like Caden and Whitt were, that indicates that they have a longer-term vision for life."

Tucker's financial accounting class includes weekly homework problems and a chapter quiz due every Friday. On this late Friday night leading up to the national championship, Handran and Miller's quiz dealt with closing journal entries, commonly referred to as "closing the books."

Twenty-one hours later, Handran and Miller closed the books on the Yotes' historic season, defeating Indiana Tech 73-71 to claim the program's second national title.

And Tucker was there to see it, traveling 1,400 miles to congratulate his two students.

"Personally, he is one of my favorite professors I've had so far," Miller said. "I just really appreciate how personable he is and how much he cares about us students. So when I found him (after the national championship), I said 'let's get a picture. You came out all this way and this is pretty special.' To have David come out, that means a lot."

ZAC DEAN '22 is a staff writer for Quest.

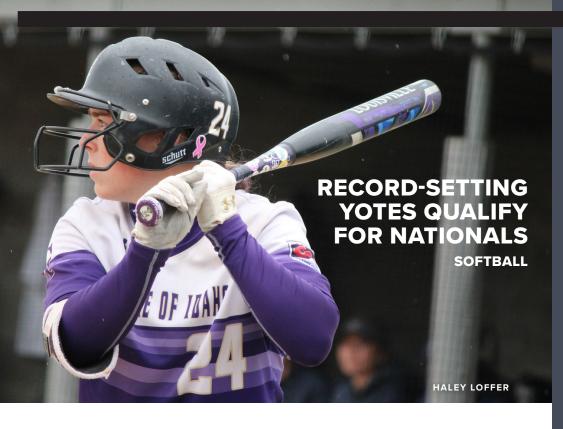




YOTES

But Handran's computer said otherwise. "I'm looking at my laptop and I'm looking at the assignments I need to do, and I see a financial accounting quiz due at 11:59 p.m.," he said. "I'm like, 'shoot. We have about 30 minutes to do this thing."

That's when Handran called teammate and redshirt freshman Whitt Miller, who's also in financial accounting class taught by Business and Accounting Professor



A record-breaking season saw the College's women's softball team reach the NAIA national tournament and the program receive its first NAIA national player of the year.

Haley Loffer was named the 2023 NAIA-Softball Coaches' Association Player of the Year, the first Yote to do so, on top of receiving multiple All-American accolades and the Cascade Conference Player of the Year award. She led the Yotes in eight offensive categories, including batting average (.406), hits (65), and home runs (12).

Counting the team's performance at the national tournament, the Yotes finished with 49 wins, a new school record, and reached the final game of the opening round but fell one win short of reaching the NAIA World Series in Columbus, Georgia.

TENNIS: KREUTZER, ALMARAZ LEAD SOLID SEASON

The College of Idaho women's tennis team picked up five team wins in 2023, the most wins in a season since a five-win campaign in 2017. Senior Leiana Almaraz and junior Lauren Kreutzer led the way – the two teamed up as the no. 1 doubles tandem to win six matches. Kreutzer, playing primarily in the number-one slot, had eight singles victories while Almaraz won seven matches while competing in the number-two slot. The tandem, along with sophomore Anna Willcuts, also earned academic all-district accolades.

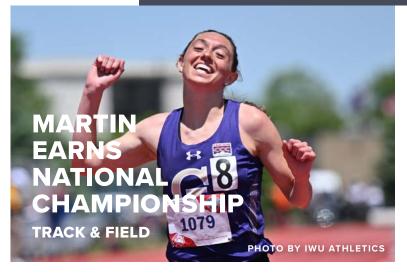
BASEBALL: HULTBERG NEW HIT KING

A first-inning home run on April 29 by Jonah Hultburg was career hit number 275, breaking the school record of 274 held by Greg Stalling (2003-2006). The redshirt junior ended the season with 279 hits en route to his second consecutive Cascade Conference Player of the Year award. Despite having a year of athletic eligibility remaining, the record is likely to stay at 279 for now - Hultberg, a Gipson Scholar, graduated in May with a degree in business administration.

The Yotes baseball team finished the season 31-19 overall.



Kyle Erickson is the new head women's basketball coach at The College of Idaho. The Montana native had spent the previous four seasons as an assistant coach at Pacific University in Oregon, an NCAA Division III institution, where he was highly involved in recruiting and academic excellence within the program. The Yotes finished last season with a 15-14 record, reaching the Cascade Conference quarterfinals. Senior Lexi Mitchell was named first-team All-Conference while teammate Sienna Riggle received honorable-mention accolades.



Sage Martin wrapped up her junior season on the track with an NAIA national championship in the 3,000 meter steeplechase, the seventh individual national championship in school history. The most recent individual title was earned by Catylynn Duff, who won the hammer-throw competition at the 2022 Indoor championships. The women's team finished in a tie for eighth place overall, with Martin and Ellyse Tingelstad each earning All-American status based on their finish in the 5,000-meter run. Larissa Mauer and Abbey Shirts also reached All-American levels with their performance in the steeplechase and 1,500-meter run, respectively.

REFLECTION ON THE FACULTY

he faculty is at the heart of any great college.

By this I do not mean to diminish the importance of administrators, of which I am one, or of staff and trustees, or to overlook the crucial role of alumni and donors, without whom college would be a practical impossibility. Nonetheless, if it is possible to say there is one most important part of a college, it is the faculty, for without the faculty there could be no curriculum or students.

One of my faculty mentors, John Cagle, made the bold claim many years ago that the faculty, the curriculum, and the students are the college. If all three are present, whether in a seminar room or under a tree, a college is, in principle, complete because everything else is auxiliary.

I have served as a dean far too long to ignore the many problems with Cagle's assertion—his "complete" college wouldn't last a week—but I appreciate the spirit of his point: The faculty matters.

I am mindful of Professor Gayle Morley, a retired member of our faculty who passed away a few weeks ago at the age of 87. His obituary observed that "when he heard from former students and learned of their successes, he was especially happy. For him, that was the joy in teaching." The same might be said for all professors at The College of Idaho-student success is our joy.

But what is success for a member of the faculty? Socrates said that through education students give birth to their own truth, and their teachers are but midwives. Success and failure of the faculty, then, must also be measured in our students.

There is a wonderful continuity across professors and students. All faculty members begin as students, and the good ones remain so for their entire careers. If they are successful as professors, it is because they convince students to learn what they have themselves learned, to become what they have been.

Each year at commencement it is my honor to recognize the faculty. In my remarks, I remind students that the full measure of faculty influence on them will reveal itself over the course of their lives.

I remind them that their professors have come to the College through their own toil and transformation, from around the nation and around the world, having written and performed, survived and surpassed, commenced and transcended, just as the students have.



I hope that each graduate found in the faculty their guide, their coach, and their confidant, the wise adopted aunt or uncle imagined at matriculation.

I hope no less that these mentors were the source of transformative pain, the assigners of essays, of labs, and of lectures. I hope they were the wielders of the grading pen, the rigid grammarians and exacting scientists, the poets and painters and speakers of foreign tongues.

We owe a debt to our professors for expecting more of us than we thought possible, for their confidence in what we might one day become.

DR. DAVID DOUGLASS *is the Provost and Dean of the Faculty at The College of Idaho.*



20



here wouldn't be Dr. Lynda Danielson without Dr. Roger Higdem.

Those words capture the impact that Higdem, a distinguished member of the College's faculty from 1959 to 1999, had on Danielson's life and career. When Danielson arrived at the College as a freshman with dreams of pursuing pre-med studies, it was Higdem who served as her academic advisor. However, his guidance would soon redirect her towards the captivating world of mathematics.

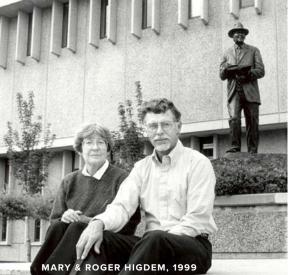
"I really liked the math classes, and in my sophomore year I took an introduction to computer programming class," Danielson shares. "I ended up loving that class. It was just applied mathematics and problemsolving – telling a computer how to solve problems. That really finalized my decision to be a math major."

As Danielson's passion for math developed and she considered future careers, Higdem continued to be a driving force, urging her to pursue further education beyond her graduation from the College in 1989. Despite having a job offer in programming from a Boise firm, a job arranged by Dr. Ralph Applebee, Danielson recalls, "Roger had encouraged me to think about graduate school. I only applied to one school, Oregon State, where Roger and Ralph both earned a Ph.D. Suddenly, it was a goal to become a professor."

That guidance sent Danielson down the same path. She earned her master's degree of mathematics in 1992 followed by a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1995 from Oregon State University. As fate would have it, during her final year of graduate school, Higdem reached out to her about an open mathematics professor position at the College.

"When you interview, you typically go out and do a research presentation and teaching demonstration," Danielson said. "When I interviewed, I remember teaching the winter calculus course and the students were fantastic. They were so engaging and wanting to learn. They were just the way I remembered them."

At first, it was nerve-wracking to begin as faculty at the same school where all of her undergraduate history was as a student. "It was intimidating at first," she remembers, "but the job is so demanding and so busy that it didn't matter after the first day. There was so much to do." Now, 28 years later, Danielson is a mainstay in the department,



teaching math and computer science classes.

Her dedication extends beyond the classroom, as she serves as the faculty advisor for the Math Club and the cheerleading squad. Additionally, she has contributed to the Higdem Scholarship Fund, a scholarship created in honor of her mentor, colleague and friend.

Although Higdem died in 2020, his impact on Danielson's life remains. He eclipsed the bounds of a typical math professor and became an integral part of her College experience.

"The College of Idaho made me who I am," Danielson said. "All that I've been given and all that I have, a lot of it is from the College. It's transformed my life."

ZAC DEAN '22 is a staff writer for Quest.

BUILDING BROADER PERSPECTIVE

ick Goodwin will tell you that his journey to teaching at the College was anything but linear.

As a business administration major and member of the Yotes men's basketball team, Goodwin graduated in 1983 without teaching ever crossing his mind. His path took him through various roles in finance, beginning at the J.R. Simplot Company. His formal education continued simultaneously as he passed the certified public accountant exam in 1986 and earned his MBA from the University of Oregon in 1989.

Subsequently, he embarked on a 25-year tenure at Hewlett-Packard, climbing the ranks from financial analyst to vice president, overseeing an organization of 4,000 employees and generating billions of dollars in revenue before retiring in 2012.

Yet, as Goodwin reflects on his career, he acknowledges that the College played a pivotal role in shaping his success. "The College of Idaho gave me this broader perspective," Goodwin says. "A lot of business, as I have found, is about social interaction: being with people and connecting with people. I think that ability to connect, a lot of that came from The College of Idaho."

In a full circle moment, the College reached out to Goodwin 31 years after his graduation, inviting him to teach one class in the spring term of 2014. Little did he know that this would be the start of a new chapter in his life. From that initial class, he quickly transitioned into becoming a full-time business and accounting lecturer, eventually teaching up to nine different classes within the department.

"There's times I'd work as hard as I did when I was an executive at HP, because I love it," Goodwin said. "I get up at 4 a.m., I watch business programs and when I come to class I ask what's going on in current events just so you can break the ice and have that dialogue with students. That part is fun."

Goodwin leveraged his extensive realworld experiences to fuel his teaching style. He merged his business and teaching careers together to provide students with a broader perspective, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

One of Goodwin's most significant contributions was taking on the role of faculty advisor for the annual Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) competition. This event challenges a team of five students to analyze a company's stock price and formulate a business recommendation. The competition consists of a 10-page paper and a 10-minute presentation to judges.

In a remarkable feat, the College won its first-ever CFA competition in March 2021, triumphing over formidable teams from Gonzaga University, the University of Idaho, Northwest Nazarene University, Idaho State University and BYU-Idaho. "(The CFA Challenge) is pretty intense, but I've had a lot of students say that they learned more in that process than they had in classes," Goodwin said.

After dedicating nine years to teaching and impacting hundreds of business students, Goodwin retired from the College in May. While his career may not have followed a linear path, his commitment to instilling the College's broader perspective in students did.

"I have been absolutely amazed at the persistence and the ability of some students to solve complex problems," Goodwin said. "There have been some smart kids, and good people, that have come through the doors over the last 10 years."

ZAC DEAN '22 is a staff writer for Quest.

ALUMNI FACULTY & EDUCATORS

DREW L. BAKER '08 LINDA BATIE '94 LYNDA DANIELSON '89 MOLLY JO FUENTEALBA '89 YAN GIOSEFFI '14 RICK GOODWIN '83 BRADY HARRISON '14 SHAWN HARRISON '87 WENDY HARVEY '03 DAVE KERRICK '73 BRYANT KUSY '96 JASON LARGE '97 STEVE MAUGHAN '85 MATT MCDANIEL '07 BEN MOSLEY '07 MIRANDA A. PALACIO '13 KADEN PFEIFFER '17 DIANE RAPTOSH '83 CALEB TORMEY '04 ALLEN TRAYLOR '05 AMY TRUKSA '89 SCOTT TRUKSA '89

THE NEWEST SET OF GRADUATES

To kick off Commencement weekend, the Alumni Office gathered graduates of new and old to welcome the Class of 2023 into the alumni family. Hundreds came together at the front of the newly remodeled Boone Hall to take part in the Senior Toast the day before Commencement. Alumna Ali Dang '15 was the featured alumni speaker.

"Seek support and lean on your network," Dang said. "Your fellow graduates, faculty members, and mentors have been instrumental in your growth and development. They are there to support you even beyond graduation. Build upon the relationships you have forged and surround yourself with individuals who inspire and uplift you."







CLASS REUNIONS

Alumni from the Class of 1973 reunited for their 50-year reunion during Commencement weekend. The celebration included oncampus festivities, wine-tasting in Parma and the traditional Commencement Processional walk down the Margaret Sinclair Walkway. "It is comforting to know that The College of Idaho has such dynamic people to make these types of events truly successful," said Stuart Bates '73.

The Class of 2013 also celebrated their 10-year reunion, with events in Boise and Wilder.



CLASS OF 1973 (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): MICHAEL NEVILLE, MIKE NUGENT, TIM STOCK, STUART BATES, BOB PLUMB, RANDY HICKMAN, CATHY REINKE, MARGARET FUJISHIN, MICHELLE GRACE-MCBRIDE, TERESA OBENDORF, JEANNETTE BOWMAN, DAVE KERRICK, DEBBY DAVIS, ANN MCGAFFEY, MARY ABBOTT, MARY LOU KOTO, NANCY CROWELL

FACULTY MEMORIES | QUEST MAGAZI

HIGH





"My most impactful faculty member was Dr. Leslie Brock, who taught various history courses. He was not fun; he was, as far as we were concerned, a fuddy-duddy, set in his ways (including precisely how far his classroom windows were to be opened), tending to monotone lectures, and given to little set pieces, such as marching around the room showing us how "sowing seeds" was done by medieval peons. (Chuck Brumbach used to move the window level before Dr. Brock arrived for class, and when Dr. Brock realized that the window was open too far or not far enough, he would immediately cease lecturing and hurry over to fix the offending window.) When lecturing,

he had a habit of rolling his tie up and down. He was, in other words, a character... It was only when I was in graduate school that I realized how impactful he was: I was well prepared in the preliminary coursework, knew how to study, understood historical writing, and had acquired a deep love of history. He was not a friend; he was, however, rigorous about the study of history. (In later years, during my career in government, people would sometimes ask me why the study of history had helped me. The answer was simple: I knew it had all happened before and it would all happen again. Thank you, Dr. Brock.)"

Lindy Rankin High '67

"While majoring in sociology at The College of Idaho (1965-68). I had many classes from Dr. Ralph Marshall, whom I respected as a professor. I could, for some reason (mostly oversleeping), just not make it to a Tuesday/Thursday class of his; my attendance was atrocious. One day, after class, he gave me a pretty stern lecture about "showing up," emphasizing the importance of being on time and also being there at all! I'm not certain it really registered with me as a 20-year-old, but I did manage to make it to class from that point forward.

During my early professional years, I always had good work ethic, and I'm sure my bosses would agree. At the age of 32, I started my own business and have been a successful business owner ever since. And while I value employees who are smart, I value even more employees who have good work ethic, those who "show up." They show up by being here, they show up by participating, and they show up by contributing. And now, 50 years later, I continue to credit Dr. Marshall for instilling in me the value of good work ethic even though, at the time, I thought it just meant showing up to class!"





Diana McIver '68

"I think Dali Islam flipped my life on its head. I had limited exposure to the world outside of my tiny hometown experience. Her classes opened my eyes to so many cultural concepts. She bred in me a compassion for "otherness." She taught me to be critical of my own narrow experience. I now teach English at an International Spanish Academy in Layton, Utah. At least a third of our faculty is from Spain. At least a third of our faculty is LDS (funny enough, I am neither). It's a cultural oasis and a family. We teach and navigate the nuances of culture every day. We send 40-50 9th graders to Spain for two weeks each year. I kind of felt like teaching junior high was so small, after I'd studied with Dr. Islam, but I am honored to be opening a world of culture to the next generation of small, homogenous town kids - like me." - Katie Anderson '07

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 or call us at (208) 459-5004

1960s



MARY (MCLAWHON) BECKER '64 is finally fully retired after a long and successful career in education in Alaska. She spent 30 years teaching in Juneau before spending nearly a decade on the Juneau School Board and then another decade in the Juneau Assembly. She fills her time now with her family, which includes seven grandchildren.

WILLFORD KING '66 M.Ed. '68 is the longtime owner of Idaho's first comic book shop, King's Komix Kastle in Boise, founded in 1973, and is celebrating 50 years in the comic book business. From 1998-2007 he also worked part-time as an ESL Assistant in the Boise School District. Since 2013, he volunteers as a teacher's assistant.

1970s

RICK WILLIAMS '74, a member of the College's Board of Trustees, recently completed a five-week Writing Residency in Ecology at the Sitka Center for Arts and Ecology along the Oregon coast. The residency supported his forthcoming book (Caxton Press), titled "Managed Extinction: The Decline and Loss of Wild Salmon and Steelhead in the Pacific Northwest."

1980s



DR. LISA (GERBER) DRESDNER '80, CEO of Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut, has been named one of the country's top new college presidents. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recognized 28 studentnominated individuals from among 406 eligible college leaders. The award recognizes leaders who emphasize student success. Dresdner joined the Naugatuck staff in 2015, was named interim CEO in July 2020, and was appointed CEO in June 2021.

BRIAN HERON '86 completed his service with the Presbytery of the Cascades in March to pursue Pedal Pilgrim a program that would repurpose 2,000 churches as pilgrim hostels for hikers and bikers along the designated routes and trails across America.



JULIE YAMAMOTO '86, M.Ed. '90 received the Idaho Education Association's Champion of Education award. The award is presented to those who make unique contributions to the cause of public education through their work over an extended period, but particularly within the last year.

2000s



MARISSA (BROWN) O'BRIEN '02 was recently named the Human Resources Director for the City of Nampa. She was hired by the City of Nampa in 2020 and earned multiple promotions before being elevated to her new role.

DR. MATTHEW McDANIEL '07 was accepted to present at the National Elementary School Principals Association PK-8 Principals Conference in National Harbor, MD this July. His session, titled Leveraging Visible Learning as an Elementary School Principal, will explore best practices and tangible next steps for school improvement. Dr. McDaniel, who earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership from the University of Idaho in 2018, is the principal of Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Caldwell.

2010s

KRISTEN HAUGEN '12 received a \$2,500 grant through the Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers Draft Day to benefit her classroom at Pinnacle High School in Phoenix, Arizona, where she teaches math.

ANTHONY PARRY '12 is the Historic Sites Administrator at the Old Idaho Penitentiary. Anthony has worked at the Old Idaho Penitentiary for nine years and has also developed the award-winning podcast "Behind Gray Walls" which explores the history of the prison. In addition to the Old Idaho Penitentiary, Anthony will also manage several other historic sites across Idaho, including the Pierce Courthouse, the historic Franklin properties, and the Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite.



EDITH DULL '15 and ANDRES MALDONADO '18 recently performed together in a production of Hamlet, produced by the Boise Bard Players. The performance was at the Old Idaho Penitentiary with Dull playing Ophelia and Maldonado as Guildenstern.

BRITTANEY BONES '17 has been selected to lead the new Meridian, Idaho, office for VF Law, a full-service law firm headquartered in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

2020s

HANNAH DALSOGLIO '20 recently accepted a new position with the J.R. Simplot Company as a digital merchandising specialist.

ASHLYN PISTEY '20 recently began a new role as an e-mail marketing specialist for Eddie Bauer.



MIA MALDONADO '22 earned a second-place award for "Rookie of the Year" from the Idaho Press Club. She is a reporter for the Idaho Capital Sun.

SADIE DITTENBER '22 finished third in the same category with the Idaho Press Club. She is a reporter for the Idaho Education News.

THOMAS BARTLETT '22, was recently was accepted into the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland. He begins the one-year program this fall and is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Artificial Intelligence.

RYLIE DELUNA '23 graduated from the College in December and then began a new role as project coordinator for CLM Marketing & Advertising.

FACULTY/STAFF



DR. RACHEL MILLER. assistant professor of history, received two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for two separate projects. The NEH awarded 258 grants nationwide, and Miller was the only person in Idaho selected.

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.

1940s

Susan (Groome) Corlett '46 Clifford Johnson '46 Edmon Lee '48 Elvin Farris '49 Jean (Thomas) Law '49 Lois Titus-Hays '49

1950s

Kay Call '50 Beth Mills '50 Donald Winbigler '50 Elvin Ballou '51 Robert Imanaka '51 Jeanne (Kaercher) Lyda '51 Joseph Lytle '51 Glenna (Speer) Radford '51 Mason Robison '51 Loren Smith '51 Joseph Shaver '52 Walter Thomas '52 Richard Winder '52 Clair Hough '53 Jimmy Ludwick '53 Harold Miley '53 Frank Tidwell '53 Richard Carrow '54 Myrtle (Lumsden) Russell '54 Viola (Stiefel) Inman '55 Carolyn (Isley) Kniefel '56 Kenneth Behrens '57 Glen Crosby '57 Beverly (Jordan) Dice '57 Robert Drager '57 Beverly (Covington) Rouston '57 William Van Every '57 Conard Edwards '58 Omar Fricke '58 Wavne Roark '58 Roberta (Addis) Tavares '58 Frank Collett '59

1960s

DR. SALLY BROWN, along

with Meg Osterhout '20 and

junior Jaden Hernandez, was

selected to present research

findings at the World Literacy

Summit at Oxford University

Michael Phillips '60 Claud Rogers '60 Helen (Smith) Bohne '61 Bonita (Burke) Campbell '61 Richard Hammett '61 Vaughn Jasper '61

Kathleen (Pair) Hansen '62 Duane Higer '62 Donald Mott '62 Bruce Syme '62 Roger Abernathy '63 Dorothy (Howell) Goodloe '63 Harold Johnson '63 Thomas Robb '63 Carl Cawdery '64 Jay Pierson '64 Margaret Tregoning '64 Alice (Miles) White '64 James Balderston '65 Constance (Upshaw) Kellogg '65 (M.Ed.) Janet (McCue) Smith '65 John Stoner '65 Ted Talbott '65 Catherine (Davis) Hurd '66 Mvron Little '66 Susan (Jenson) Orth '66 James Robison '66 Michael Sellars '66 Thomas Loveland '67 Katherine Widner '67 Gary Babbitt '68 Frank Deluca '68 Glenn Hughes '69 (M.Ed.) Gene Worden '69

1970s

Robert Stephenson '70 Ceva (Bates) Curtis '71 (M.Ed.) Margaret (Betebenner) Tregoning Barbara Shinn '71 (M.Ed.) Katherine (Young) Widner '71 (M.Ed.) Elaine Chappel '72 James Shaffer '73 (M.Ed.) Dana (Stockton) Collord '75 (M.Ed.) Jay Troy '75 Stacy Richards '77 (M.Ed.) Robert Plumb '78 David Nuerenberg '79 Jean (Stevens) Summersett '79 (M.Ed.)

1980s

Greg Hunsaker '80 (M.Ed.)

in England, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the world.

RON BONNEAU, long-time ski coach at the College, was Rex Leonard '80 (M.Ed.) Judith (Truell) Kroos '81 (M.Ed.)

1990s

Timothy Fleming '94

FRIENDS

Darlene Cornilles Edward Diener John English Charleen Hill Glenda Kirkpatrick Jacqueline Lane Samuel Smyser Glen Zachry Virginia Zimmerman David Aasen '74 (Hon. Deg.) Lloyd Averill '75 (Hon. Deg.) Richard Gilman '68 (Hon. Deg.) Herbert Richards '53 (Hon. Deg.) Wayne Wardwell '76 (Hon. Deg.)

PARTIAL ALUMNI

Kirk Anderson Frances Ballou Edward Byrne Christine Chester Tim Cooper Ruth Johnson Eva Murray William Parker Barbara Rich Julie Rowe Salvador Alice Smith

PREVIOUS BOARD/TRUSTEES

Philip Batt '81 (Hon. Deg.) Eugene Dorsey '87 (Hon. Deg.) Klara Hansberger '86 (Hon. Deg.) Michael Mercy Richard Roberge '08 (Hon. Deg.) Jonathan Scott '52 Ronald Thomas

PREVIOUS STAFF/FACULTY Arthur Eichlin Gayle Morley

given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association for his years of coaching and mentoring at The College of Idaho.



LEFT TO RIGHT: GARY & HELEN STRINE, CHRISTOPHER, AMY, TYLER & SCOTT TRUKSA AT CHRISTOPHER'S GRADUATION IN '22

SCOTT & AMY TRUKSA ALUMNI Q&A

BOTH GRADUATED IN 1989

PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELVES AND WHAT YOU DO AT THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO.

Amy and Scott both grew up in the Treasure Valley, graduated from The College of Idaho, and began working at the College in the 1990s. Amy has run the Whittenberger Planetarium since 2000 and has taught in the Math and Physical Sciences department as an adjunct in the '90s and then on a consistent basis since 2011. Scott has been teaching in the Chemistry Department since 1994.

DID YOU MEET AT THE COLLEGE?

Scott and I met at the Boone Table. I was using 3-D glasses to look at geologic maps on an assignment for Mary Higdem. Most of our interactions the next few months took place at the Boone Table before we started venturing away from campus.

YOUR FAMILY HAS A LONG LEGACY AT THE COLLEGE, THROUGH AMY'S FATHER, GARY STRINE, WHO TAUGHT PHYSICS FOR 30 YEARS, AND JOHN AND GOREE TRUKSA, LONGTIME FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS. YOUR FAMILY IS CONTINUING A LEGACY WITH YOUR SONS TYLER AND CHRISTOPHER GRADUATING FROM THE COLLEGE RECENTLY. WOULD YOU SHARE ABOUT THAT LEGACY?

As a faculty brat, I felt like I had few, if any, options but to the attend The College of Idaho. My mom helped me attend Cottey College, a two-year liberal arts women's college in Nevada, Missouri, my freshman and sophomore years before transferring to the College where I completed my degree in biology. Despite some of the typical struggles for tranfers, my time here was rich. My travels to San Francisco with Tour Choir under Dr. Gabbard and to New Zealand and Australia for six weeks with the Biology Department, the field trips for my biology and geology classes, and weekend trips with Mary and Roger Higdem continue to be some of my favorite memories.

Dr. Bruce Schatz was very influential in moving Scott's trajectory from a career in pathology to one in chemistry. Following graduation at the College as a double-major in zoology and chemistry, Scott attended graduate school at Oregon State University.

During our graduate school years, Scott would daydream about the possibility of filling the organic chemistry position upon Bruce's retirement. At that time, we anticipated a 10-15 year wait and fully expected we would land at a different institution in the meantime. Fate played the cards differently and Scott ended up back at C of I before he had completed his degree—in January of 1994. I was very happy to return to the Treasure Valley where I filled the science position at Caldwell Alternative High School (now, Canyon Springs) with an M.A.T. in science education.

Nearly 30 years later, I have come to really appreciate the continuity that several of us Yotes who returned to teach here provide. We are like threads that help weave the newest generation of professors back toward the founders. Scott and I studied under professors who started here in the late '50s and '60s. Those professors were colleagues with professors who helped to build this college with Dr. Boone. We are building a family tree here at The College of Idaho filled with names that carry so much of what the College is now: Dr. Pat Packard was my advisor and retired the year I graduated. Her position was filled by Dr. Don Mansfield and now by Dr. Rob Laport. Dr. Packard had filled the position vacated by Harold Tucker, who was hired by Dr. Boone, our first botanist.

Our kids, Tyler and Christopher, considered their options and contemplated other institutions. I think they both found themselves second-guessing their decision at times, but, in the end, both feel really fortunate about their experiences here. My dad, Gary Strine, gave Tyler, Christopher and I our diplomas upon graduation. We have created our own thread through 55 years of the college's history. Three generations of us understand that intangible character of the College that is so hard to articulate. Scott and I, like my father, have found the College to be a worthy recipient of our life's work.

ALUMNI CALENDAR

To register for events, please visit **alumni.collegeofidaho.edu**



THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023 COEUR D'ALENE ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023 MOVE-IN DAY & TASSEL TUNNEL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023 FIRST HOME FOOTBALL TAILGATE

THURSDAY-TUESDAY AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 5. 2023 YOTE RAFT TRIP WITH MIDDLE FORK RAPID TRANSIT



THURSDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 1, 2023 HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND



The College of Idaho 2112 Cleveland Blvd Caldwell, ID 83605



AUG 25, 2019 MAY 27, 2023

Top: The Class of 2023 in Tamarack on the Freshman Wilderness Experience Bottom: The Class of 2023 gathered in the amphitheater for a group photo. It was the largest graduating class in the College's history with nearly 300 graduates.

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