

SUMMER/FALL 2021

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO

QUEST

#1

IN THE NATION FOR

**SOCIAL
MOBILITY**

- U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT 2021

THE MANY FACES OF SOCIAL MOBILITY 4

HALLOWED GROUND 8

BUILDING BRIDGES 10

FROM RURAL TO REMARKABLE 14

SOCIAL MOBILITY



CO-PRESIDENTS CELEBRATE CONVOCATION WITH STUDENTS

Throughout its 130-year history, The College of Idaho has attained recognition for many considerable achievements, including Rhodes, Truman, and Marshall Scholars; Teachers of the Year; titans of industry, governors, national champion athletic teams and Olympians. However, we would submit that a recognition we feel may be the most important is our #1 ranking amongst all liberal arts colleges for Social Mobility.

You can read the details of what goes into the metrics for measuring Social Mobility in our main feature story starting on page four, but we feel it is really simple: The College of Idaho takes in students and launches them into a higher trajectory better than every other institution of higher education in the country. To use a baseball analogy, many schools take students that are already on third base when they arrive on campus and they get them to home plate. While we have wonderful students that arrive on third base, many of our students come to us without really having the chance to get up to bat due to any number of reasons: first-generation students without a strong family history of the importance of college; students from families with limited financial resources; international students from areas of extreme strife, etc.

Does this mean that we have lowered our academic thresholds to attend the College? Absolutely not. The profile of our incoming students has stayed even or improved by nearly every metric over the past 15+ years. Does it mean our faculty have watered down their expectations once students arrive on our campus? Again, absolutely not. We repeatedly ask students about mentors they have on campus and when we ask why that person is a mentor, the most consistent answer is "they challenged me" or "they made me realize I was capable of doing more than I ever thought I could." Said differently, The College of Idaho challenges the ambitious and forges pathways to success and purpose, while also providing substantial support. Our faculty and staff set high expectations, but they also make sure they are available to help our students succeed.

This is our story from the days of our founding by William Judson Boone. "Let them come, let them all come and we will see what they can do" were his words and they still inspire us today. Enjoy reading stories of astounding alumni, current students, staff and faculty who were challenged and supported by mentors to be more than they ever thought possible. Mentors and friends at The College of Idaho helped them see and realize the possibilities.

Doug Brigham *Jim Everett*

Doug Brigham '87 and Jim Everett
Co-Presidents

CONTENTS

04

THE MANY FACES OF SOCIAL MOBILITY

Four recent stories of transformation.

by Joe Hughes

WILLIAM JUDSON BOONE

EDITOR

Joe Hughes

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Jack Cafferty '97,
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Adam Eschbach,
Kenzie Felzien, Bennett
Williamson

Cover Image of Jerry Celestino '19

16

COLLEGE NEWS

Record-Setting Year For College Relations Awards; College Welcomes Six New Trustees; On-Campus Threads and Garden Beds; Dean of Deans; Multiple Davis Peace Projects; Gier-ed Up: Matt Gier Takes the Helm at Residence Life; Scholarship Gala Goes Virtual; Record Support On "Give Day"; Dron Endows Fund for High Impact Experiences; New Hansberger Endowed Professorship

20

YOTE NOTES

Academic All-American Andrew; First-Ever National Tourney For Women's Soccer; Softball Season to Remember; Shortened Spring Football Season; Cascade Conference Track Champions; COVID Condenses Basketball Competition; Grabbing a Bull (Market) By the Horns

24

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Award Winners; New And Familiar Faces in Alumni & Parent Relations

23

FACULTY REFLECTIONS

27

CLASS NOTES

30

ALUMNI PROFILE

31

ALUMNI CALENDAR

08

HALLOWED GROUND

The story of Mike Elliott '71
by Will Hoenike

10

BUILDING BRIDGES

Between Caldwell and Hailey
by Karina Llanes

14

FROM RURAL TO REMARKABLE

Attorney Holly Stubbs '05
by Joe Hughes

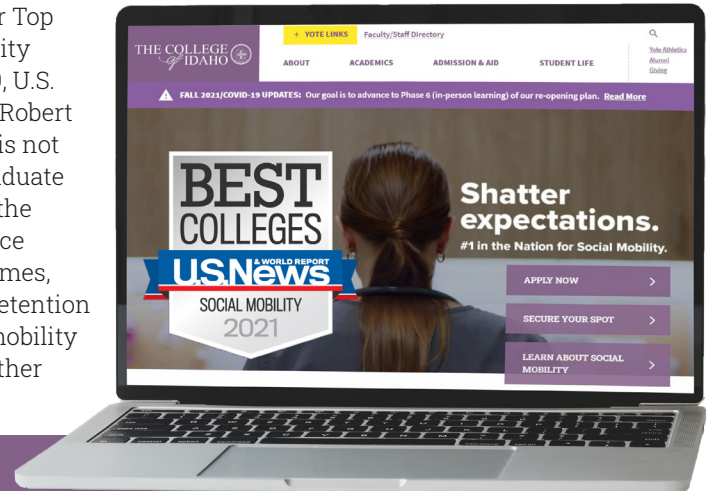
THE MANY FACES



OF SOCIAL MOBILITY

The term “social mobility” is not a familiar one. “Social” is more conversant when paired with other words, such as “social media,” or “social distancing” – a phrase we are far too familiar with in our second year of the pandemic. But social mobility? Even those at The College of Idaho weren’t as familiar with this term before U.S. News & World Report started recognizing schools for high achievement in the category. Once the term “social mobility” is understood, it

another. When rankings for Top Performers on Social Mobility were first published in 2019, U.S. News’ chief data strategist Robert Morse stated “A university is not successful if it does not graduate its students, which is why the ‘Best Colleges’ rankings place the greatest value on outcomes, including graduation and retention rates. By including social mobility indicators, U.S. News is further recognizing colleges that



so·cial mo·bil·i·ty [soh-shuhl moh-bil-i-tee] (n)

The movement of people in a population, as from place to place, from job to job, or from one social class or level to another.

becomes clear why the College has been recognized for it, even earning its first No. 1 ranking in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

Social Mobility in relation to higher education is generally defined as upward movement of students and graduates from one socioeconomic status to

serve all of their students, regardless of economic status.”

Also in 2019, USA Today wrote “The new ranking ‘evaluates which schools best serve underrepresented students’ and analyzes enrollment and graduation rates of low-income students with Pell Grants as a proxy. In America, the U.S.

News & World Report rankings are regarded as the gold standard.” In its reporting, the Baltimore Sun described why Social Mobility rankings matter: “Students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to graduate college than other students.” According to U.S. News, most students who receive Pell Grants come from households with family incomes under \$50,000 annually.

For its national overall rankings, U.S. News had been using social mobility data as one of its many metrics for

years. It just recently decided to showcase schools in a separate category for excelling in it. The first year in which it feted schools based on their social mobility marks, 2020, the College ranked No. 4. At the time, College of Idaho Provost David Douglass said "Social mobility in the U.S. has declined sharply during the past decade, and young Americans now have far fewer opportunities to find financial security. In light of this downward trend, it is heartening to know that The College of Idaho continues to succeed in transforming the lives of students in need."

By the 2021 rankings, The College of Idaho ranked No. 1 in Social Mobility for all national liberal arts colleges. Only 112 schools made the rankings list.

As one looks back through the 130 years of the College's history, one finds dedicated faculty, mentors, coaches, campus leaders, staff and fellow students dedicated to ensuring that all attendees, no matter their economic background or difficulties, had the best chance in the nation of graduating and changing their lives for the better.

To demonstrate, we offer up a few examples of students who had the socioeconomic odds stacked against them, but given the chance in Caldwell, transformed their lives

ABBI ENGEL '03



To understand the educational challenges Abbi faced, the benchmark is her second-grade year: she attended three different elementary schools that year. She'll tell you that her upbringing was so rural, she's one of the few people she knows



ABBI ENGEL (1983) ABOUT AGE 3

who attended two different one-room schoolhouses. "I'm probably the only millennial that has ever experienced the party-line phone," she jokes. Her father was a farm manager who didn't own his own farmland. So he worked various farms in Nevada and Oregon, mainly growing seed and hay for large cattle ranches. Which meant Abbi, her mom, and two sisters (one older, one younger) moved often while growing up. The entire Engel family possesses a strong work ethic, but ranch management was not a particularly lucrative job and there was no family financial assistance when Abbi was deciding what to do after high school. She considered joining the military after graduating from Skyview High School, the latest stop in her educational geography tour.

Her older sister attended the College for a time, but health issues kept her from continuing. Abbi decided she needed a small-school environment. The combination of grants, loans, scholarships, and the ability to commute from Nampa bridged the affordability gap for her. By the time she was on campus, she took in the full liberal arts experience. Majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry, Abbi was also involved in choir, took statistics for the basketball teams, spent time in pottery classes, worked in the mail center

and graduated summa cum laude. When asked about influential faculty, she rattles off names like Scott Truksa, Sheri Robison, Bill Sype, Jim Angresano, Eric Yensen, Ann Koga.

Perhaps the most significant encounter by a faculty member came from her advisor, Don Mansfield, who advocated for her to get a paid position at Rocky Mountain Labs in Hamilton, Montana. "My boss didn't tell me at the time, but I later found out that Mansfield actually wouldn't let him get off the phone until he agreed to hire me."

Eventually, her career led to graduate school at Georgetown University (she was also accepted at Johns Hopkins) where she earned her Ph.D. Currently, Dr. Engel is a research scientist and lab manager for the University of Washington Vision Center in Seattle, specializing in possible treatments for macular degeneration and retinal disease. The hurdles and challenges she has overcome along the way could fill the remaining pages of this magazine, but through her work ethic and the support she received at the College, she continues to succeed. "The College allowed for a lot of versatility. I was able to jump into a lot of roles that I wouldn't have expected to be able to do, and have a fighting chance at it."

LORI (DEMBI) WERTH '98



The graduation rate of international students does not factor in the U.S. News Social Mobility metric, as the main determiner is graduation rates of Pell-eligible students, and international students do not qualify for Pell grants. Based on the economic condition of many of the international students who have succeeded at the College, if their success were factored in, the College might be the top-ranked school for many years. The College's current international student population is 18-percent spanning more than 90 countries.

When Lori Werth arrived in the U.S., she, her brother, her parents and grandparents had fled Romania with nothing but what they could pack into a few suitcases. Lori was a grade schooler at the time. The care she received from educational professionals in Nampa, Idaho, helped her decide she would be the first in her family to attend college.

The consideration and attention she received from instructors continued to impact her once she arrived at the College. A biology major, she credits professors such as Tim Otter, John Thuerer, Howard Berger, Lisa Derry, Eric Yensen and others with being more like family

members. "I didn't have a computer coming to college," she said. "I distinctly remember going and getting help from library staff to learn how to use basic technology. The support of staff, faculty advisors and folks in residence life were just amazing. They were people who care deeply for students, they saw the talent in students, and ended up mentoring and taking the time to do that."

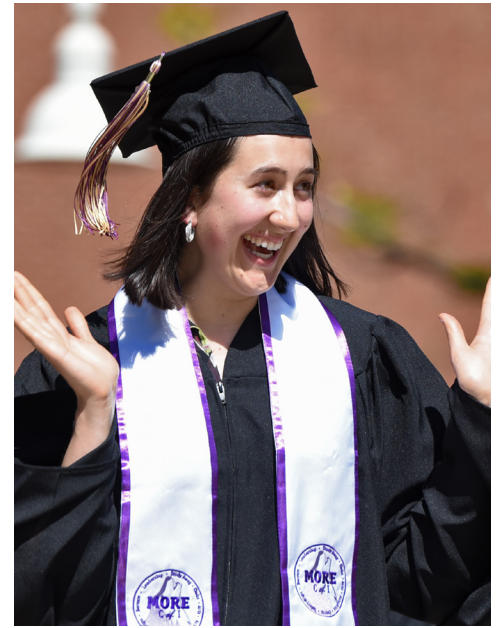
Werth also worked in residence life as a student and was hired in admissions right after she graduated. Through that process, she decided she didn't want to go into the medical field as she originally planned, but adjusted course and ended up with a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration. She has worked in enrollment management, student services, and has also been an associate professor. Since 2016, she is the Provost of the University of Pikeville in Kentucky.

She says one of the most significant reasons she switched to higher education was the desire to give back, because she saw how education and educators helped lift her up at every stage. "It's a journey where there's so much growth and development that happens, not just delivering an education. I think that's part of what is being recognized now in the ranking, but I think the institution has done that historically as part of its mission."



ERIC '99 AND LORI WERTH

NATASHA DACIC '18



Natasha Dacic can sum up her years growing up in a single sentence that carries a tremendous amount of weight: Born in Germany, she was raised by a single mom who escaped the Yugoslav civil war to the U.S. and became the first in her family to graduate college. She can add another phrase to it after taking a gap year following her 2018 graduation: currently in the Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan for climate and space sciences and engineering.

Through several scholarships and grants, The College of Idaho became one of her most affordable options coming out of Boise High School. "Attending a private, liberal arts school for college, that sounds like it shouldn't be happening," she remembers. "We had no money to pay for college."

Out of state was her preference, but the opportunity to play basketball is what eventually brought her to the College. At least for the first year. She felt she could reevaluate her options after getting a year under her belt. Still in Caldwell as a math/physics major during her sophomore year, she says she was in a mid-college academic life crisis, feeling like she needed to transfer schools so she could attain an undergraduate degree in engineering instead (the College offers 3-2 cooperative programs with other schools, but no standalone engineering degree). While she was struggling with her decision, former geoscience professor Jaime Goode took her to a conference in Oregon about undergraduate women in physics. Goode had also introduced her to environmental science, which sparked new interest. Bottom line,

when she returned from the conference, she had confidence she could get where she wanted to go in her career with her undergrad degree in math/physics. "When I came back, I did like a full 180 from almost transferring to a different school, to adding a second major," she said. "I added on the environmental studies major. I absolutely loved that program."

"I DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN LIMITED. I DON'T THINK I'VE ONCE FELT LIMITED."

- NATASHA DACIC

And she never looked back. She took advantage of research opportunities, which just fed into her own personal academic appetite. "I definitely credit my research career to Jaime Goode, because without that experience, I don't know if I would be where I am today." It led to a summer internship in California in partnership with NASA. She also mentions Katie Devine, Jim Dull and Lynda Danielson as impactful faculty, and often utilized the open-door policy they all offered.

After her Ph.D., she would like to pursue a career in science policy. Does she feel her mobility was limited by attending a small school in Idaho? "I don't think I've been limited. I don't think I've once felt limited."

ROBYN GRIFFITTS-HARPER



When asked what social mobility means to her, current junior Robyn Griffiths-Harper said "It is being able to surpass the enormous barriers that our society has constructed. When you come from my background, it's really easy to see those barriers. Work as hard as you can and actually achieve things and not just be stuck in cyclical poverty or in those kinds of places. And being able to change those barriers for people. Social mobility to me means being able to access power and use it for good and to help others."

The Spanish and history double-major came to the College from Mountain View High School and was awarded one of

the first Horatio Alger scholarships. The scholarship not only focuses on students with financial need, but those who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their lives. She grew up in a divorced and economically struggling household, worrying if they would be able to make the mortgage payment and still afford groceries. She knew she would need financial help to get to college, which included a Pell Grant.

She was sold on the College faculty before she ever started at the College due to some helpful interactions with faculty. As part of a senior project, she needed to produce a documentary. She reached out to faculty at the College to be interview subjects and ended up including political economy professor Rob Dayley and speech and debate professor Kyle Cheesewright (now her debate coach) in the finished product. With history professor Mee-Ae Kim and world language professor Jennie Daniels as her advisors, Robyn says she is in good hands.

"SOCIAL MOBILITY TO ME MEANS BEING ABLE TO ACCESS POWER AND USE IT FOR GOOD AND TO HELP OTHERS."

- ROBYN GRIFFITTS-HARPER

Her goal is to someday attend Columbia Law School in New York City to empower herself to help others. "I feel like that's more available to me than any other time in my life," she said.

Thus, the cycle of social mobility continues at the College for all students. Perhaps if founder William Judson Boone had known how successful his school would be in this life-improving area 130 years after its establishment, he may have amended his most famous quote to say, "Let them come. Let them all come, and we will ~~see~~ ensure what they can do."

JOE HUGHES is the editor of *Quest*.



ROBYN GRIFFITTS-HARPER

HALLOWED GROUND

THE STORY OF MIKE ELLIOTT

The year is 1967. The United States is involved in the Vietnam War. Six miles from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Mike Elliott was in an underground bunker designed to protect U.S. soldiers when he received a piece of paper in the mail from a student at The College of Idaho.

The piece of paper was an application.

Elliott, who hadn't attended school in six years, filled it out while in the bunker and sent it in.

And so begins a story that Mike Elliott says isn't about Mike Elliott. Rather it's a story about how a small, liberal arts college in western Idaho got him on track after years wandering the country and eventually ending up in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam.

"Vietnam made me realize I really did not want to stay in the service," Elliott explained. "One tour in Vietnam was enough for me."

So it was time to go back to school. The problem was, prior to Vietnam, Elliott had enrolled in five different colleges as he wandered but wasn't that interested in the academics so, ultimately, he was dismissed from all five.

"Everywhere I went, I went where the schools were because that's where the fun was," he said.

He knew of the College because of time spent at a radar station in nearby Wilder, Idaho, before his deployment to Vietnam. Like the other stops, the College was where the fun was: the parties, the events, the pretty girls.

Upon returning from Vietnam, Elliott came to Sterry Hall to see the Dean of Students, Dick Winder. In his own words, Elliott says "he lit into me for lying."

Elliott hadn't mentioned the other schools when he applied.

"I have no idea how Dean Winder found out about that because this was 1967, this was pre-computers," Elliott said. "But he did know and I don't know how he knew."

Winder sent him down the hall to another office to visit with the College's Registrar, Jeanne DeLurme. His admission to the College would be up to her. She knew his military background and she wasn't going to let him take the easy path.

"She was clear about me having lied, she knew all about it," Elliott said. "She said, 'if



you want to come in here, you're going to go into pre-engineering. Take it or leave it."

She also said he would be on academic probation. One bad semester and he was



Seated, Doris J. DeLurme, B.S., M.S., Registrar; Loretta Naylor and Kay Collord, secretaries.

gone. He didn't realize it at that moment, but she had just issued the challenge he needed.

"I said, all right, I'll take it. And I'll invite you to the graduation," Elliott recalled.

His first semester at the College, Elliott earned a 3.75 grade-point average. He saw DeLurme on campus and she asked how his grades were. He told her, she smiled, and walked off.

"She knew what she had done for me and she knew what this College had done for me," Elliott said, fondly. "And I grew to know it, too."

His grade-point average never dipped. Before the conversation with DeLurme, he said his intention had been to major in math and history and become a teacher. Being an engineer, despite his extensive background in electronics during his time in the Air Force, never entered his mind. But he answered DeLurme's challenge and studied engineering.

"She did so much for me and this school did so much for me to get me on the right track," he explained. "It really paid off. It taught me to stay the course."

Elliott transferred to New Mexico State University to complete the engineering degree – he says he did send DeLurme a note to let her know he was graduating – and embarked on a long, successful career in electrical engineering. He started at a company in Houston, Texas, and learned quickly that Houston wasn't for him. He sent several resumes to companies in Idaho, wanting to move back, and wound up landing a position with Idaho Power. Three years with Idaho Power, nearly 20 years with CH2M Hill Engineering as a consultant, then a little more than a decade opening power plants, helping to open a branch of a Portland engineering firm in Boise, then he took a job working international projects for Power Engineers, Inc.

Now 77, Elliott is retired and living in Idaho. Despite not officially graduating from the College, he's a member of the

Board of Trustees for The College of Idaho and regularly consults and contributes to various building projects on campus. He has been involved with students on campus who are military veterans themselves or come from military families. He was adopted as a child, growing up in Kansas before leaving to find his path after high school. He found it in Caldwell, Idaho.

"I don't classify myself as having a family when I started out," he explained. "The school became family. It gave me roots, it gave me something to build on, it gave me purpose, and it straightened that path to where I wanted to go."

Elliott and his wife, Becki, established a scholarship at the College in 2016. Named "the Bilanx Scholarship,"

the endowed fund supports students who demonstrate academic growth while participating in extracurricular activities. Students, he says, like him. He and his wife appreciate the thank-you notes from the students, but that's not why they do it. It's to pay it forward for the school that did so much for him. From Kansas to a winding road of brief college stints that ultimately led to Vietnam, to Dean Winder's office and to Jeanne DeLurme's take-it-or-leave-it offer, his path traces to The College of Idaho.



MIKE ELLIOTT AND HIS GRANDSON, GRAYSON BARRUTIA '19

"It's kind of an emotional thing for me," Elliott said with a poignant pause, gesturing toward the campus. "To me, these are hallowed grounds. I have nothing but love for this school."

WILL HOENIKE is a staff writer for Quest.

BUILDING

ELIZABETH BECK



Editor's note: The SummerBridge program was a cooperative effort between The College of Idaho and the Wood River YMCA to provide supplementary education to students who had fallen behind in the previous school year. Sixteen College of Idaho students tutored in the five-week program at Alturas Elementary, a dual language school in Hailey, Idaho. The program provided face-to-face help for students who struggled with online education during the COVID-19 pandemic. We asked student Karina Llanes, a creative writing major who was a counselor in the program, to write an essay about her experience tutoring students during the summer of 2021. A video of the SummerBridge program is titled Building Bridges and is available on the College's YouTube channel: youtube.com/GoYotes.

I close my eyes and remember a cafeteria full of children's voices chanting back the song my mom taught me about the rain: "Let it rain! Let it rain! The frog is in the cave!" I felt showered in love, not just as I led Community Time, but throughout the five weeks I spent as a camp counselor in Hailey, Idaho. I was part of a group of 16 students who participated in the Wood River YMCA SummerBridge internship this summer. The program was geared towards filling the gap in education that the coronavirus lockdown exacerbated. The children in the program were at-risk students recommended by teachers who saw they needed extra help. As COVID-19 spread and schools shut down, kids were confined to spaces where their creativity and mobility were stifled. Kindergarteners spent their first year of school talking to each other through a screen.

I spent my summer in Blaine County, home to Hailey, Ketchum, and the

picturesque tourist attraction that is Sun Valley. The Economic Policy Institute calls Blaine County the "most unequal county" in the state. Students in Blaine County surpass state averages on standardized tests. Latinx youth average about 30 points below their peers, one of the most dramatic gaps in Idaho. SummerBridge was hosted at Alturas Elementary, a dual immersion school meant specifically to tackle challenges that disproportionately affect Latinx students.

Of the 16 of us, only one is an education major. I'm a creative writing major; but my experience with my siblings (Karina has seven siblings) pushed me towards this internship. The move to online public schooling was difficult for my younger siblings. Even though their district provided devices, the programs were in English. My sister and I had to help translate and navigate their programs as we juggled our own college courses and family issues. I could see how antsy

BRIDGES

my six-year-old brother was in his little wooden chair, sitting in our noisy living room trying to learn. When his teacher asked the class what they wished they had learned during the year my little brother said, "How to make a friend." I can only imagine what children in households like mine went through this past year.

As a counselor for the SummerBridge program I had a little boy named C, who was acting out during the last week of camp. I recognized what was wrong because I've seen it happen to my little brother and sister. Sometimes even I feel it too. He felt a rush of emotion that is difficult to interpret when you're five years old. I explained to him that I cared about him but I didn't like when he jumped on me; that hugs were fine but no jumping. He understood. Immediately after, he hugged me and told me "Te amo" (I love you).

We gave them our all, and they gave back to us, even if they didn't realize it. We each gave something special to the children. Robyn Griffiths-Harper played a Ted Talk about what it's like to be Asian-American in the U.S. to help the class understand the book they had read. Megan Gilbert

and Abby Cheng took the lead on Field Day, where we played a game the kids had made up themselves called "Amongus." Mungo Ligoya ran through a banner at our closing assembly. Emma Anderson sat with Z outside filling out a think sheet, giving him the time and care that every child deserves to process their emotions.

—“
It was difficult and emotionally taxing, but above all, it was fulfilling work.
”—

That was my favorite part of this experience, creating a safe and loving environment. We created the world we wanted in those five weeks. It was difficult and emotionally taxing, but above all, it was fulfilling work. I talked about love and patience because children are often discounted, pushed to the margins. It only takes one negative experience for a child to be afraid to raise their hand in class again. Even if I was terrible at explaining

how to play "letter bingo," I was able to show the kids what a safe environment feels like. I hope that is something they remember forever.

While we experienced some of the recreational amenities of the area on the weekends, our experiences were juxtaposed with some of the harsher realities of our students. As we rode the gondola and went paddle boarding, one of our fourth grader's father was picked up by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). While we enjoyed the mountains, other folks struggled with the housing crisis. Dana Plass, a writer for Sun Valley Property News told me how she lost her condo. Ketchum leadership even considered a tent city for workers amid the immense inequality that has been magnified by the housing crisis.

It is because of these stark differences the SummerBridge program was created to make education equitable; efforts that were sustained by a commitment to each other. I might not want to be a teacher, and neither do some of my peers, but we knew we were where we were supposed to be during this summer of need: building community, acting as a bridge between institutions with resources and those who need them. What I want and what we managed to have in that little pocket in time, is a better environment for children. One where they are treated as people, with autonomy, but still guided by mentors. It sounds complicated, but we did it. A mini-liberal arts experience.

"Let it rain! Let it rain! The frog is in the cave!" I go back to that day when I feel lonely. Even through times that feel tragic, we find a way to survive together.



KARINA LLANES is a creative writing major at The College of Idaho



MARI BJORNEBERG

CLASS OF 2020 & 2021 COMMENCEMENT

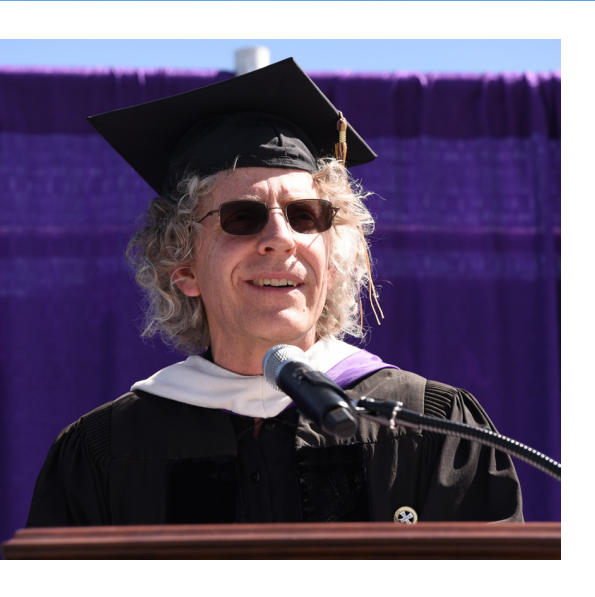
May 29, 2021. Since the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 in-person event, the 2021 Commencement was the first graduation ceremony since May of 2019. The Class of 2021 had 199 students cross the stage for their diplomas and an additional 42 graduates from the Class of 2020 returned to take part. The venue was Simplot Stadium to better provide physical distancing for the participants, family members and friends.



“ WHEN YOU HOLD THAT GRADUATION PAPER, LET IT BE A REMINDER OF THE SACRIFICES MADE BY YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES, TO ENSURE THAT YOU MADE IT HERE TODAY. ”

- LINDO ZONDO '21

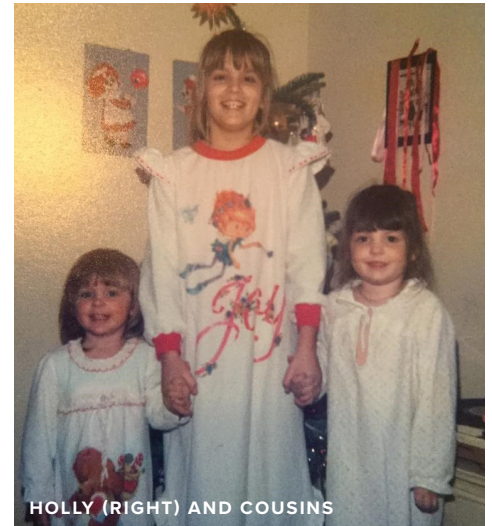




**“REFUSE TO ALLOW
MONEY TO BE WHAT
MOTIVATES YOU. AS YOU
GRADUATE DON'T ALLOW
MONEY TO REPLACE
GRADES. CHOOSE
INSTEAD TO MEASURE
YOUR LIFE IN MEANING.”**

- KERRY HUNTER
POLITICAL ECONOMY PROFESSOR





of a summer school program at Stanford University and fundraised for the trip by sending letters to community members and holding bake sales and car washes. Through that experience, her dream was to attend Stanford. It was the only school to which she applied.

When Holly received a rejection letter from Stanford, she was devastated. Even more so because it was quite late to apply to other schools. When she reflects on it now, from Dallas, Texas where she has completed her second year as an associate attorney at the law firm Lynn, Pinker, Hurst and Schwegmann, she is grateful for what transpired. "That was a great thing that happened," she says, "because I would have been swallowed alive at Stanford."

Somewhere near the Stanford rejection letter in her home, she had an application to The College of Idaho. She was accepted, but it was late and she missed out on some of the important scholarship opportunities, such as the Kathryn Albertson Scholarship competition. Her Pell Grant wasn't enough to cover her expenses and her parents couldn't afford to help her at all.

That's when the College staff stepped in.

"They helped me so much," she said of the Financial Aid people who helped her. "They were always working to keep me in school." They found additional grants, scholarships and low-interest loans.

And she helped herself too. She often had more than one part-time job during the semester and always used the summers to work as much as possible to contribute to her schooling.

When your graduating high school class in rural Oregon barely reaches double-digits, the odds of finding great success in higher education and the professional world may be stacked against you. The odds may look even grimmer when neither parent went to college, and the one parent who is raising you is not able to set any college money aside while making ends meet as a breakfast cook at one of the two

restaurants in town. Such was the educational start for Holly Stubbs.

Academically minded, most of what she knew of the world came from the books she read while growing up in Jordan Valley (pop. 239 in 2000). Very few people went on to college. To take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), her social studies teacher drove her to the closest location where the test was given – Nampa, Idaho, nearly 70 miles away. During her junior year in high school, she learned

But the school was just starting its personal approach with Holly.

"I had never taken a real math class. I had never written an essay. I didn't know what a thesis was. I was way behind the other students," Holly said.

That's when the College faculty stepped in.

Holly readily mentions professors like Rob Dayley, Jasper LiCalzi, Kerry Hunter, Steve Maughan and others with providing the individual attention to help her succeed. "It's the personal connections to the professors," she said. "I had access to them to explain to me the things I was behind on or didn't understand. It made a huge difference."

She even mentioned how when she couldn't afford some of the textbooks, instructors would often provide photocopies of portions of textbooks, or even give her some of the books

entirely. Holly's hard work, combined with the support she received from staff and faculty, resulted in her graduating summa cum laude with dual degrees in international political economy and history in 2005.

—“ I HAD NEVER TAKEN A REAL MATH CLASS. I HAD NEVER WRITTEN AN ESSAY. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT A THESIS WAS. I WAS WAY BEHIND THE OTHER STUDENTS. ”—

By 2007, she was in Portland, Oregon when the subprime mortgage crisis hit and she lost her job in the mortgage business.

That's when the College's alumni network stepped in.

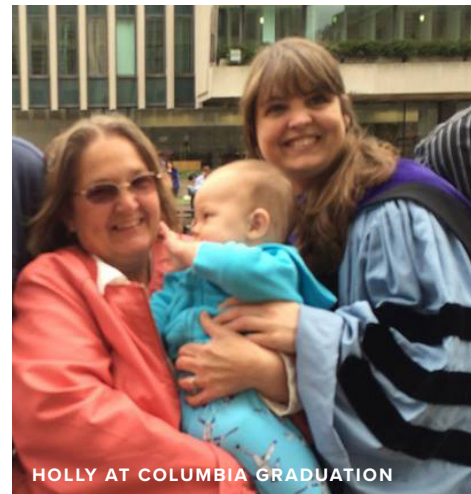
She packed up everything she owned in her car and was going to drive to Washington

D.C. to visit a College of Idaho friend and seek employment there when she received an email from Molly (Maas) Bruins '04, who was teaching at a school in Kuwait. They had an immediate need for an economics instructor. Two weeks later, Holly was in Kuwait, where she taught for a year. She and Bruins then taught in China for two more years. While overseas, Holly decided to pursue law school. It was a dream that started

—“ I LOVE MY JOB. THE PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES ARE GREAT, BUT ALSO, JUST BEING AN ATTORNEY, I ALWAYS FIND IT A GREAT PRIVILEGE. BEING AN HONEST LAWYER, TO TELL MY CLIENT'S STORY AND ADVOCATE FOR MY CLIENT, IT IS VERY SATISFYING. ”—

back in Jordan Valley. When she was writing those fundraising letters to the community members, she let them know that eventually, she wanted to be a lawyer and help people.

But Holly didn't want to go to just any law school. She was accepted at Columbia Law School in New York City where she focused on international human rights.



HOLLY AT COLUMBIA GRADUATION



HOLLY AND LINNAE NELSON-SEYS '05 IN NEW YORK CITY

While there, she did work in Uganda, New Guinea, South Africa and Myanmar. After graduating from law school in 2015, she worked two years on a fellowship with human rights groups, then two years of federal clerkships to focus on litigation, before landing at her current firm in 2019. The cases she has litigated are as wide-ranging as the differences between tiny Jordan Valley and Dallas. "I have worked all over the world," she says. "I love my job. The pro bono opportunities are great, but also, just being an attorney, I always find it a great privilege. Being an honest lawyer, to tell my client's story and advocate for my client, it is very satisfying."

Through it all, Holly looks back and credits the College with starting her on her own path of social mobility. When she learned of the College's no. 1 national ranking in the category, she said she wasn't surprised.

"There are a lot of extra obstacles for people who don't come from professional backgrounds or who come from more of a working-class background," she said. "I've been so blessed in my life. I have had a lot of opportunities and a lot of people have helped me. I am incredibly grateful."

JOE HUGHES is the editor of *Quest*.



RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR COLLEGE RELATIONS AWARDS

The College of Idaho earned a record number of awards in the 2020-21 CASE Region VIII awards, doubling the overall number of awards over its previous best showing.

CASE – The Council for Advancement and Support of Education – is a worldwide non-profit association for educational advancement. Each year, the association hands out awards for a variety of disciplines such as Advancement Services, Alumni Relations, Communications, Publications, and others.

The most awards in a single year prior to 2020 by the College were three silver awards in 2019. This year, the College Relations team (consisting of Alumni & Parent Relations, Development and Marketing & Communications) earned six awards: one gold, four silver, and one bronze. The College's gold was awarded to the "Yote Hero" Give Day Fundraising Campaign headed up by former Boone Fund Director Lauren Schilli '16.



COLLEGE WELCOMES SIX NEW TRUSTEES

The College of Idaho Board of Trustees is honored to welcome six new members and has announced new leadership roles. The six new members of the board are Elaine Baylor, Paula Kluksdal '94, Karly Pippitt '02, Dennis R. Robertson '87, Amalka Samarasekera '13, and Ken Wagers '84.



ELAINE BAYLOR; Community and Education Advocate



PAULA KLUKSDAL '94; Partner, Hawley Troxell



DR. KARLY PIPPITT, M.D. '02; Director and Associate Professor, University of Utah



DENNIS R. ROBERTSON '87; President, Elite Athlete Division, Protocol International



AMALKA SAMARASEKERA '13; Strategy & Planning Lead, HP Inc., Print Hardware Systems & Solutions



KEN WAGERS '84; Vice President, Kelmar Associates

The new leaders for the College's Board are Jill Twedt '01 as board chair and Jen Sampson '97 as vice-chair. Twedt is Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Boise Cascade while Sampson spent the majority of her career in Public Affairs, Communications, and Community Outreach, including a 12-year stretch at Albertsons, Inc.

ON-CAMPUS THREADS & GARDEN BEDS

Senior Estefany Macias Lopez worked with the student club Chic Boutique on campus to create Borrow a Tie, which gives an opportunity for students to “check out” proper attire for job or internship interviews.

“Everybody does an internship or has an interview or has some kind of important event to attend at some point,” the political economy major said.

Meanwhile, junior Ian Clifford and sophomore Sakho Littler have led fruitful efforts to revive the College’s community garden on Oak Street, across from the J.A. Albertson Activities Center parking lot. The garden contains several raised garden beds as well as open space. Littler and Clifford are leading the charge to utilize the space in their roles as sustainability stewards, which are positions within the College’s Outdoor Program.

“It is a way to ensure that, not only this year, but hopefully in future years, food insecurity around the College can be less of an issue,” Clifford explained.



DEAN OF DEANS



The College of Idaho is proud to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Paul Bennion, who is the winner of the 2020 NASPA Region 5 Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Dean. The Award is given to one dean in the region who has demonstrated “strategic and innovative responses in meeting varied and emerging needs of their campus, merited stature among students, faculty and administrators, effective development of staff members, and collaborative, effective and inspirational leadership on their campus.”

To give some context to the significance of this recognition, Region 5 consists of colleges from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. Dean Bennion was the sole winner in the region.

Bennion was also named one of the 2020 “Pillars of the Profession” by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) in October of 2019.

MULTIPLE DAVIS PEACE PROJECTS

The Davis Project for Peace is a national program of student-led community service projects funded by the Shelby Davis family in honor of Katherine Wasserman Davis, funding over 100 Peace Projects a year at \$10,000 each. The College has had at least one project selected each year since 2008.

Jazmin Nunez Scolari and Mia Maldonado worked with indigenous members of the Chaco region of Paraguay to create a brighter future. Diane Toussaint Mbahoze led a community awareness campaign centered around sex education and reproductive health in Rwanda. Welile Simelane worked with communities in Eswatini to provide hygiene kits and solar-powered lamps.

The College reviews more than a dozen proposals in a typical year before selecting two to recommend to the Davis Projects for Peace committee. One bid is usually the maximum that gets selected for completion. But last year, both of the College’s proposals were accepted before being shut down because of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Simelane and Mbahoze accepted an offer to complete their proposals this year.



JAZMIN NUNEZ SCOLARI AND MIA MALDONADO'S DAVIS PEACE PROJECT IN PARAGUAY



GIER-ED UP: MATT GIER TAKES THE HELM AT RESIDENCE LIFE

Boise native and College of Idaho alum Matt Gier is the new director of residence life at the College. He takes over from campus stalwart Jen Nelson, his longtime mentor. To be fair, it is never simple or easy to replace a campus fixture like Nelson; but to be accurate, no one comes with more experience than Matt, who smiles and says, "I have lived half my life on this campus."

Gier attended the College from 2003 to 2007 and became a residence hall director before he graduated. He planned to do the job for only a year. "One year turned into 10 years in Anderson" where he and wife Lisa (2007) and seven-year-old son Gavin lived until the family recently bought a house just off-campus. The first few years as a residence hall director were complicated by having just been a peer of many of his charges. By around year four, Gier was set. He found his passion and "calling" working in student life at his alma mater.

Passion for lacrosse has been a driving force. He played in high school at Bishop Kelly and brought his defenseman's stick with him – it still hangs in his office. In 2003 he found like-minded lacrosse players and initiated a Lacrosse Club. He smiles and says, "We were terrible at first; we were bad... didn't win our first game until our junior year." Back then they had to pay to play. By 2010, coach Gier had a full-fledged team. The club evolved into the first varsity collegiate lacrosse team in Idaho, which he says, "helped us bring a very high-caliber athlete." The team has succeeded dramatically winning their Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League title in 2018 and 2019. Gier adds that with the talent that he's recruited "the team should be very good this spring." There are two All-Americans.

The trajectory of the lacrosse team reflects Matt's own professional development. He sees a need and fills it. Residence life at our small college has challenges with 200

international students who come here, who don't have drivers' licenses, must get used to Idaho and Caldwell. Almost universally, the international students mention adjusting to the food. Gier gives Bon Appetit (the College's food service partner) kudos for working to meet their needs.

Matt compliments Jen Nelson for helping "shape his values" and develop empathy. He, wife Lisa and son Gavin are fixtures on campus. According to Matt, Gavin "may know more students than I do." Matt's work on residence life presents daily challenges from overseeing the beds to the budget, managing dorm life to responding to students' needs.

But when the history of sports at The College of Idaho is written, his vision, grit and determination made the remarkably successful lacrosse team happen. He brings these same qualities to his new role.

ALAN MINSKOFF is a lecturer at the College. He teaches the journalism classes. His most recent book is *The Idaho Traveler*.

SCHOLARSHIP GALA GOES VIRTUAL

The College of Idaho's annual Scholarship Gala went virtual in 2021 and, as a result, people outside of the Boise Valley were able to attend remotely which meant another all-time giving record: the Gala raised over \$550,000 toward student scholarships at the College.

Despite the virtual setting, friends of the College contributed even more than last year's total of \$540,000. The program included several student testimonials about their Yote Heroes, the event's theme, to highlight the purpose of the event.

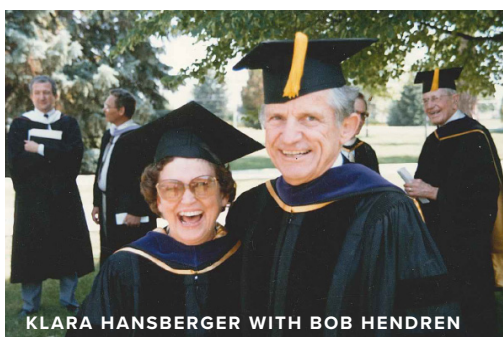
The new format opened the doors to people who normally couldn't attend in person. Over 500 people registered to attend the event, coming from 14 different states and four countries, including the United Arab Emirates along with Canada and Mexico, said Vice President of College Relations Jack Cafferty.

NEW HANSBERGER ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

The Klara K. Hansberger Endowed Professorship has been established by a \$1.25 million gift to the College by her daughters, Carol Lloyd and Bobbi Hansberger, and their families. The professorship will serve as a lasting tribute to its namesake, Klara Hansberger. "We were delighted to set up an endowed professorship for our mom at The College of Idaho," said Lloyd, a former member of the Board of Trustees.

Hansberger herself was a member of the College's Board of Trustees and received an honorary Doctorate of Law in 1985.

The inaugural appointment of the professorship established in her honor will be to Professor of History Dr. Mee-Ae Kim. Professor Kim has instructed generations of College of Idaho students during the past two decades.



KLARA HANSBERGER WITH BOB HENDREN



LYDIA BROWN



DIANA DRON

RECORD SUPPORT ON "GIVE DAY"

The annual College of Idaho "Give Day" event in May raised the bar, generating over \$330,000 of donations to benefit students.

The final amount raised - \$339,260 - was over \$50,000 higher than last year's total. The class of 1966 had the most total contributions, but the class of 1987 donated the largest amount of money. The College had set a goal of 500 individual donors for the event and reached 546, which is 109-percent of the pre-Give Day goal.

Give Day happens once per year and is a 24-hour event for alumni, students, friends, and the entire community to support and celebrate the College.

DRON ENDOWS FUND FOR HIGH IMPACT EXPERIENCES

Following a chance meeting at a Homecoming event in 2019, Diana Dron '75 established The Dron & Brown High Impact Experience Endowment Fund. In its current form, it will provide an annual stipend/grant in perpetuity to one student each year to apply to a high impact experience.

The "Brown" in the title of the fund is Lydia Brown '21, who was a junior when she met Dron at the event in 2019. Dron, a successful attorney and active supporter of the College, was so impressed with Brown that she funded a study-abroad opportunity for Brown. That singular act has evolved into the Endowment Fund to help students explore high-impact experiences like educational trips to other countries. "I was able to help a student achieve a dream and I made a new friend who is 45 years younger than me," Dron said. To contribute to the fund, please contact Vice President of College Relations Jack Cafferty.



ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN ANDREW

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZA SAFFORD

Senior Andrew Clifford wrapped up his athletic career at the College with a prominent national award when he was named the Academic All-America Team Member of the Year for the NAIA Men's At-Large Team.

Clifford is a three-time CoSIDA Academic All-America selection — the first Yote to accomplish that feat in any sport — from Meridian, Idaho, and is a repeat first-team honoree. The senior is

a 14-time NAIA swimming and diving All-American, including seven individual All-America honors and closed his career with six individual school records and five relay school marks.

In addition to his accolades in the pool, Clifford graduated with a 3.96 GPA in chemistry, math and physics. He is one of six honorees with a 3.90 GPA or better. He's now working on his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Oregon State University.



FIRST-EVER NATIONAL TOURNAMENT FOR WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team picked up where it left off following its spring season, nearly toppling NCAA Division 1 Boise State to open the fall season in August.

Like the softball team, the Yotes earned a berth in the NAIA national tournament following its East Division championship. The trip to nationals was the first-ever for the women's soccer team, which dropped a tight contest to top-seeded Central Methodist (Missouri) in the opening round.

Senior Kaya Evans became the first Yote ever selected as the Cascade Conference Player of the Year in women's soccer, while coach Brian Smith earned conference Coach of the Year honors. Senior goalkeeper Kylee Atkins, freshman forward Maddie Smith and sophomore midfielder Chloe Teets also took home first-team All-Conference accolades.

The team finished the spring season 8-4-2, including two wins over nationally-ranked opponents and a draw against Division-1 Idaho State in February. The team's win over Carroll College on April 7 was the 200th win in program history.

KAYA EVANS '21

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZA SAFFORD

SOFTBALL SEASON TO REMEMBER

A school-record 44 wins. An appearance in the NAIA softball World Series. Ending the season ranked third nationally. All-American honors.

What a season for The College of Idaho's softball program.

The Yotes reached the Cascade Conference championship game and earned an at-large invitation to the national "opening round." While there, the team won an incredible four games in less than 24 hours to reach the NAIA World Series. Though the team didn't win it all, it was one of three Cascade Conference teams to reach the semifinals as Southern Oregon defeated Oregon Tech for the national title while the Yotes finished third.

Junior Haley Loffer was selected as an NAIA honorable-mention All-American after leading the Yotes in home runs (11), stolen bases (28), and runs scored (68). Loffer also earned first-team All-Conference accolades, as did junior Katelyn Wilfert and freshman Kaily Christensen. Senior Trystin Crofts, the program's all-time leader in games played, earned second-team recognition and Kylie Smith earned honorable mention.



HALEY LOFFER

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZA SAFFORD

SHORTENED SPRING FOOTBALL SEASON

An unusual, four-game spring season due to COVID gives way to a more traditional fall football season at The College of Idaho, where the Yotes entered the season ranked no. 19 in the NAIA national poll.

The College won three of its four spring games, but did not qualify for the national playoffs. Its third and final win last spring, a 49-38 road win over rival Eastern Oregon in April, was the 300th victory all-time on the football field for the program. The Yotes kicked off this fall in search of their fifth consecutive winning season.

CASCADE CONFERENCE TRACK CHAMPIONS

The women's track team earned Top-20 finishes both indoors and outdoors – taking 20th at March's indoor nationals and placing 15th in May's outdoor nationals – while both the women's and men's team claimed the crown at the Cascade Conference Championships.

Seven Coyotes earned Cascade Conference titles at the league meet in mid-May – as Larissa Mauer (3,000-meter steeplechase, 5,000-meters, 10,000-meters), Bryan Terry (hammer throw, discus), Stephen Campbell (shot put), Lane Maher (400-meter hurdles), Catylynn Duff (hammer throw) and Morgan Harrison (high jump) claimed league crowns.

COVID CONDENSES BASKETBALL COMPETITION

The men's and women's basketball teams are each looking forward to an opportunity to compete in a more "normal" fashion this winter.

The men played just 17 games due to COVID. The schedule included five games against NCAA Division 1 opponents, including nearby Boise State. The team played in the Cascade Conference tournament, making it 23 consecutive seasons of postseason play for the men.

Freshman Jake O'Neil earned Cascade Conference Newcomer of the Year honors after averaging 11 points and 8 rebounds per game.

The women played 18 games, including four against NCAA Division 1 opponents before competing in the Cascade Conference tourney, the 22nd consecutive season of postseason play for the women.

Guard Jada Reed was honored by the Cascade Conference as both the Freshman and Newcomer of the Year. Reed tied for the team lead in assists for the season despite missing the first five games of the year.

Every eligible student-athlete on the women's basketball team earned U.S. Bank Cascade Conference All-Academic Team accolades this year after maintaining at least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZA SAFFORD

GRABBING A BULL (MARKET) BY THE HORNS

There's a mural on the side of one of the few business buildings that make up downtown of the tiny eastern Oregon community of Adrian. It depicts beautiful pastureland, rolling hills in the distance, and a few cattle in the foreground. The scene makes sense. Agriculture is the mainstay of the farming and ranching community. You are just as likely to find as many rodeo athletes as those who try out for the Antelopes' 8-man high school football team.

If that mural depicted a high-rise building with a financial analyst working away in his office, it would be completely out of place. Which is why Tyler Reay's journey is so interesting: from 8-man football in Oregon to becoming a football standout for the Coyote football team, to now serving as a financial analyst at DB Fitzpatrick in Boise.

While someone from a town of 177 might feel overwhelmed at a large school, Reay says the faculty, staff and coaches at the College helped make it a seamless transition to higher education from the start. "Everyone at C of I tries to be in on your success together," Reay said. "If it has C of I's name on it, they are going to try to make it the best that it can be."

On the football field, the 6-foot-3 Reay was a member of the 2019 team that won the first Frontier Conference title since the return of the sport in 2013. Prior to being a tight end for the College, Reay aspired to take part in rodeo collegiately.

"Rodeo was my core," he said. "Everyone grows up having a thing that they do, and that was definitely it for me. That's everything I know essentially - I didn't really have a choice - I was born into it. I took to it and it didn't matter if I was doing sports, I'd still have to come home every day and practice and tend to my horses and cattle and feed everything, so that definitely taught me some life lessons right there that I am thankful for."

When looking at college choices, he says academics were a key focus, making The College of Idaho a great fit. As a business major, he credits the hands-on experience the program provided as key in leading him to where he is today.

"I really like how the program offers a lot of real-world experience," Reay said. "There are a lot of ex-vice presidents or people who were adding value in these large companies that can bring real

world experience instead of just what this book or that book says, as that definitely doesn't always pan out that way in real life."

Reay, a four-time Frontier Conference All-Academic selection, credits professor John Danielson for helping set him up with his current role.

At DB Fitzpatrick, Reay analyzes and trades securities for clients,

trying to find things that fit certain portfolios and the strategies in which they are involved. With lofty goals in sight, Reay is currently in the process of earning his chartered financial analyst designation. "Right now, I am just kind of hunkered down trying to get that," Reay said. "It's a three-test, minimum 18-month thing, so I am in test two of three right now and I am about to take that later this year."

In other words, he continues to take steps upward in his journey through doors that were edged open by the College in cooperation with his hard work and determination. It's a challenge. Sort of like grabbing a bull by the horns. But he can do that too.

SVEN ALSKOG is Associate Director of Athletic Communications and Digital Media at The College of Idaho





COYOTE MOBILITY

One of the things I love about the C of I mascot – the Coyote (*canis latrans*) – is that as a highly adaptable species, nearly impossible to eradicate across a massive range, it represents overcoming ... overcoming through wit and toil, success in the face of exclusion, thriving in easy life, surviving in hard.

Coyotes represent outsiders. I remember the first time – and the last time, about 15 years ago – I met a colleague at a history conference who also has a father that worked driving truck. The children of working-class folks are hardly unknown in higher education, but are far, far from the majority. One of the most fundamental categories of social division – creating insiders and outsiders – is social class. Family financial and educational disadvantages are one of the most

fundamental, difficult stumbling blocks on the path to equal opportunity. This is particularly true because of the ways economic disadvantage is reinforced in such invidious ways by historical ethnic, racial, religious, and gender-based discrimination and exclusion. In speaking with many very talented, but very poor students over the years – from South Africa to Adams County, Idaho – you learn that the challenge such students face is double: financial, yes, but cultural as well.

How as a student do you – with full Pell Grant support, for example, but still scraping desperately by while working nearly full time – interact with faculty who seem so alien in background and behavior? How do you, as a first-generation college student, come to enter and operate in a world governed by those who developed so much of their sense of academic culture in graduate school, but also often inherited so much of it from their striving, professional, cosmopolitan, and highly educated parents?

“FAMILY FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGES ARE ONE OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL, DIFFICULT STUMBLING BLOCKS ON THE PATH TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.”

First-generation students, who are both less likely to go on to college, and less likely to know what to do if they do, find themselves too often adrift.

Yet this happens so infrequently at The College of Idaho. Why? My first-year advisor when I entered C of I as a first-generation student, many, many years ago was a chemistry professor, Terry Nagel. We mostly talked in conferences about politics and history, however, and while I graduated with a chemistry

degree, history is what I followed. Consider Terry a failed chemistry advisor, if you will, but he exemplified the perfect C of I faculty advisor: the advisor with breadth of sympathy and a liberal arts sense of education. This is a big difference at C of I: the bridge for first-generation students to an alien, a fascinating, a powerful set of ways of knowing the world and living within it is reinforced by a faculty culture devoted to the common humanity of mentorship and the personal.

I tell advisees these days that I have one crucial job as their advisor: to help them craft the plans that will leave them at age 40 thinking: “I chose well my path; I have few regrets.” I learned that lesson first from my mom: a “displaced person,” a war refugee, an immigrant, a naturalized citizen, mom – who witnessed unspeakably traumatic things as a child – always emphasized that striving to be your inner, creative best self, regardless of conventional wisdom, was simply the only way to be. Our college, our liberal arts curriculum, provides just that opportunity, just that encouragement, to do just that.

I am incredibly chuffed that The College of Idaho was recently honored in its first national #1 ranking – for social mobility. I’ll be calling that Coyote Mobility, and thinking once again that we couldn’t have a better mascot.

STEVE MAUGHAN graduated from the College in 1985, earned a master’s degree and Ph.D. from Harvard University and studied at King’s College London as a Fulbright Scholar.

ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Susanne Skyrms '71

Whether it was Frank Specht's Western Civ courses or Music History with her father, Dr. Susanne Skyrms '71 credits the College's liberal-arts foundation with helping her to excel in her chosen career field – music. Fern Nolte Davidson's piano, Raymond Lord's religion, and Hans Tiefel's philosophy all turned from simple teaching to full mentorship for Skyrms.

"More than anything, my education at the C of I taught me how to think critically and to be open-minded in my approach to the world," Skyrms said.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Carolyn Buxton Bridges '87

Carolyn Buxton Bridges '87 admits she wasn't sure what her plan was when she arrived at the College. It was close to home and her parents both attended. But, once she arrived, she found her path with the mentorship of Dr. Sherilyn Robison. After moving around the country to follow that path in the medical field, she is happy to be back in Idaho.

"In public health, all liberal arts skills are utilized, from math, science, writing, policy and communications. The liberal arts education is a wonderful foundation for public health work," Buxton Bridges said.



ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Carl Christensen '70

Carl Christensen '70 was introduced to the College by an admissions recruiter in Pomona, California, as a high-school senior and he has been an invaluable friend of the Yote community ever since. Whether it was helping to house students or serving on hiring committees, Christensen has always been available when the College has called. One memory from his days as an undergrad really stands out.

"It was at my last Beta Chi formal as a senior, that I discovered the girl of my dreams, Dorene (Wise '72)," Christensen recalled. "We have been married for 50 years."



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Nicole Cammann '14

After graduating in 2014, Nicole Cammann has stayed with the College and is now the Assistant Vice President for Academic Support. It was competing for the Kathryn Albertson Scholarship on campus that sold her on becoming part of the YoteFam, as she spent the day on campus interviewing for the scholarship, meeting with faculty, staff and student ambassadors.

"I have had the pleasure of hiring and working so closely with so many alumni through the advising office," Cammann said. "Being able to connect and mentor alumni has been the key to my success at The College of Idaho."



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Camrin Braun '11

Studying sharks in Sudan, manta rays in the Red Sea, and coral reefs in the Pacific Ocean. Ph.D. from M.I.T. and post-doctoral work at the Applied Physics Laboratory at the University of Washington. It has been a busy decade since graduation for Camrin Braun. He hasn't forgotten his roots at the College: he recently gave a presentation at the Smith-Stanford Chair Seminar NSM Colloquium on ocean predator ecology.

When asked what drew him to the College, Braun said, "The small, intimate setting in which you truly get a unique and personal educational experience,"



KEN WAGERS, MARY WAGERS, DAVE WAGERS

FAMILY HERITAGE AWARD

Wagers Family

John Wagers graduated in 1957 and served on the College's Board of Trustees. Mary (Jensen) Wagers graduated in 1957 and has been a staunch supporter of the College, including design and support of the Wagers Memorial Garden behind Strahorn Hall. Their son, Ken Wagers, graduated in 1984, served on the National Alumni Board and is now a member of the Board of Trustees. It's a legacy at the College, one Ken was eager to be part of.

"It was the only place I applied," said Ken. "I've loved working with all of the passionate alumni and helping continue to promote C of I."



NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES IN ALUMNI & PARENT RELATIONS

FROM DANIELLE DOUGHERTY DURHAM

Greetings from the Alumni & Parent Relations office! We have experienced some big changes around here, and I am excited to introduce our new team. In March of 2021, Sally Skinner '78 retired after more than nine years at the College. I had the pleasure of working with Sally for two years and moved into the Director role after her departure. Sally still serves as our Parent Council Lead, working to connect fellow Yote parents to the College. This summer, we added two part-time staff members to our team! Diana Hurter '87 and Michael Danielson '89 are both passionate alumni who were looking for a career change, and we are so lucky to have them on-board! Michael will focus on events and alumni engagement, while Diana will handle our communications and social media. I am so proud of this new team we have assembled and feel fortunate to work with such talented individuals every day.

We are already working to create meaningful opportunities for alumni to engage with our students, faculty, staff, and each other. We can't wait to share our ideas with you, and hope to see many of you at Homecoming!

DIANA HURTER '87

Alumni & Parent Communications Coordinator

Alumni & Parent Communications Coordinator - Diana is a proud Boise native and 1987 graduate of The College of Idaho, earning a B.A. in business management/marketing. Much of her career has been spent in the loyalty marketing and financial products space for both Alaska Airlines and Nordstrom. She lives in the Seattle area and will be mostly working remotely. In her free time, she enjoys travel, playing golf and skiing. Diana is married to Scott Hurter '87, who is a member of the National Alumni Board.

DANIELLE DOUGHERTY DURHAM

Director of Alumni & Parent Relations

Danielle has been with the Alumni office since 2018. A transplant from rural Kansas, she has loved becoming part of The College of Idaho's close-knit community. Danielle has a master's degree in organizational leadership from Fort Hays State University and has both higher education and nonprofit experience. She is a weekend warrior and spends her free time in the mountains with her husband Jake and their dog, Willie.

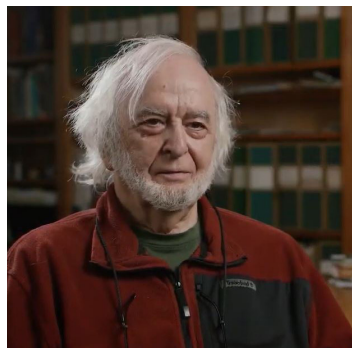
MICHAEL DANIELSON '89

Alumni & Parent Engagement Coordinator

Alumni & Parent Engagement Coordinator - Michael is a 1989 graduate of The College of Idaho, earning a B.A. in English literature. Naturally, this led to a 28-year career working for Liberty Mutual Insurance as an adjuster, team manager, quality auditor, and most recently as a member of an elite catastrophe response team. He lives in Boise with his professor wife Dr. Lynda Danielson '89. They are big fans of travel, especially to any Disney property where you might find them at least once a year.

SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES!

1960s



GEORGE VENN '67 was featured in a short film, "The Literary Lion of La Grande," where he spent three decades teaching at Eastern Oregon University. The film includes Venn reading original poetry and can be found on YouTube.



CHUCK WINDER '68 was selected by his colleagues in the Idaho State Senate to serve as the president pro tempore, which means the seventh-term republican senator oversees Senate proceedings in Idaho. He has previously served as the state senate majority leader.

1970s

GROVE KOGER '70 has published an essay, "Lawrence Durrell's Paradise Lost," in the 2021 issue of Idaho's Limberlost Review and a short story, "Jean Cocteau's Apples" in the 2020 Writers in the Attic anthology Apple from the Cabin literary center. His article "Uncertain Landfalls: In Search of Odysseus" appeared

in the June 2021 issue of the Amsterdam Quarterly and his poem "Out Here the Distances" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2020 by Synaeresis Magazine.

1980s

KATY GREEN '80 has retired after 22 years of music education in the Caldwell community. Katy is the daughter of esteemed former music instructor James Gabbard. Her husband (Toby, '83) and daughter (Heather, '19) are also alums of the College.

GRAYDON STANLEY '80, Vice President of Student Services at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, earned recognition as the Post Falls (Idaho) Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

WARREN BURDA, who graduated from the College with a Masters in School Administration in 1980, has published a book. It addresses a lack of student engagement in class and unhappy and frustrated teachers and school administrators in our public schools. "A Very Small Book on K-12 Public Education: A Journey from Reflection, to Discovery, to Revolution" is available via Amazon.



DIANE RAPTOSH '83, an English professor at the College, collaborated with two other writers to publish "Trio" via Etruscan Press. Each writer originally submitted their work to Etruscan as its own book but the publisher and the writers agreed the

poetry worked well together and combined the works. The book is available via Amazon or Etruscan Press.

1990s

Dr. TIMOTHY ISERI '90 is now board certified in the subspecialty of Clinical Informatics through the American Board of Preventive Medicine. This is a new subspecialty which was developed in response to the increasing need for physicians with informatics training/expertise. The subspecialty is recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties, and sponsored by the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

CHRIS RAY '91 and his friend John Bladholm started a cross-country cycling trek on July 5 from New York to Oregon, covering about 85 miles per day. Along the way, they are raising funds for charities from coast to coast, including the Idaho Food Bank.

2000s

LESLIE HAMMOND-RUYTS '01, Dean of Academic Foundations at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon, was a driving force behind the school's "Carmencement 2021," an interactive drive-through ceremony, honoring the college's classes of 2020 and 2021.



ADAN DE LA PAZ '03, the College's International Student Services Coordinator, was

invited to give presentations at two national conferences this year, The Global Citizen Forum, co-hosted by Drake University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, and the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Annual Conference, about intercultural development and advocacy.

KEVIN GRIFFITHS '05 formed the law firm of Scanlan Griffiths Aldridge + Nickels, a boutique civil litigation firm located in Boise, where he serves as managing partner.

MAX BRONSEMA '06, his wife, and their first son welcomed their second baby boy to the family, Griffey William Roebuck Bronsema.

JESSICA AUSTIN '09 is living in Nepal with her husband, Saswat, working as a freelance editor and educator after serving as a research fellow in Cambodia as part of her Fulbright Scholarship, which she earned following graduate school at the University of Hawai'i in 2016.

2010s



JESUS TARIFA '11 was recognized as a top 250 Latino Loan Officer in the United States by the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP) after he achieved 132 closed mortgages during the 2020 calendar year.

SAM (FINCH) LINNET '11 has been serving on the city council in Hailey (Idaho) since 2019, when he was elected six days before the birth of his son, Harvey. Sam's wife, MOLLI '10, is also a graduate of the College.

SAMANTHA SINK '11 received a Master of Arts in Ancient History. Her thesis was titled, "Eratosthenes' Geographika and the Hellenistic World: Determining Distances." She has been awarded a 4-year Provost Award at Trinity College Dublin under the "Alexander the Great and the Language of Elite Power in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds" project in which she will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Classics, researching her own topic of "Oikoumenic Conquest: Alexander and His Influence on Geography in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds."

HILLARY (BODNAR) BLACKSTONE '13 was appointed by Idaho governor Brad Little to Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. Blackstone works for the Idaho State Department of Education as a program specialist for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. She previously worked for the Boys and Girls Club of Ada County and for the city of Meridian.

MAKENZIE ELLSWORTH '13 is part of the new Amazon/iTunes film, "Making Sense." The film has drawn praise for representing five elements of disability by using disabled actors.

TAYLOR HAWKER '13, EDIE DULL '15, KATHERINE LIZARRAGA '17, and ANDRES MALDONADO '18 were part of the Boise Bard Players cast for Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a special, one-night performance on the Cruzen-Murray Hillside, the first theatrical performance in that location.

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

Eleanor (Skinner) Serviss '42
Ione (Johnson) Gordon '42
Chiyo "Betty" (Yamada) Nagasaka '46
Anne "Jane" (Tolles) Whitman '48
Roy Lint '48
Agnes Lowrey '49

1950s

Helen (Schuler) Chadez '50
John Downer '50
Warren Nelson '50
Joe Caldwell '51
Mary (Gillett) Evans '51
Dorothy (Aikman) Kleinecke '52
Jake Field '54
Ray Mullins '55
Robert Morford '55
Delbert Lawrence '56
Doris (Chapin) Bailey '56
Julie (Westerberg) Gustafson '56
June Henstock '56
Letha "Marie" (Records) Baird '56
Eloise (Ciarsolo) Parker '57
Jack French '57
Ron Daniels '57
Mary (Hoyle) Condie '58
Richard Buxton '58
Harvey "Jack" McNeel '59
John Eagan '59

1960s

Donald Holmes '60
Gary Nelson '60
Lawrence Grigg '60
Daryl Dillon '61
Dean Farley '61
Don Rodman '61
George Walton '61
Jim Armitage '61
Marjory (Day) Sechler '62
Richard Garner '62
Warner Terrell '62
Dean Buffington '63
Janet (Rice) Cox '63
Joan (Brown) Rice '63

Dominic Iaderosa '64
James "Jay" Scanlan '64
Karen (Cummings) Jensen '64
Maisie (Giles) Mankenberg '64
Donald Milligan '65
Rosemary (O'Connor) Snyder '65
Earnest Diehl '66
Keith Skogsberg '66
Dorothy (Darrell) Wilson '67
Gary Hirai '67
Linda Pusey-McDonald '67
Ilea (Hall) Jones '68
Margaret (Deal) Keenan '69

1970s

Danny Cagle '70
Mary (Stern) Heckelsmiller '70
William McConnell '70
Betty (Lundy) Evans '71
Richard Aitken '71
Jeffrey Jones '72
William Dunham '72
Beth Thompson '73
Bill Bowman (M.Ed.) '73
Howard Freeman (M.Ed.) '74
Rhea (Pearsan) Zaldain '75
Stephen Gledhill '75
Larry Seitz (M.Ed.) '76
Suzanne (Miller) Spirup '76
Patrick Garrity '77
Elaine (Wozniak) McCoy (M.Ed.) '78
Lisa DeDapper '78
Frances Limber (Master's) '79

1980s

Brian Ford '81
Herman Hofschneider '81
Douglas Johanson (M.Ed.) '82
Roy Smith (M.Ed.) '83
Paul Downey '86
Roger Williams (M.Ed.) '87
Dan Vogt (M.Ed.) '89
Ellin (Ward) Prideaux '89
Thomas Standley (M.Ed.) '89

1990s

Catherine Smith (M.Ed.) '91

FRIENDS

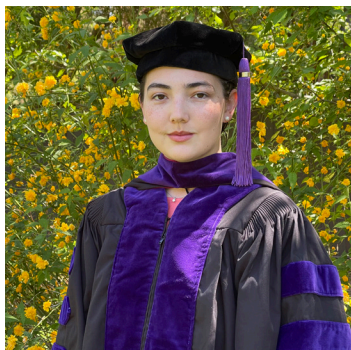
Antone Bicandi
Ashley Cliff
Carol Purdy
Charles McClaskey
Chuck McDevitt
Cleone Eccles
Donna (Lockhart) Troxel
Eunice Yost
Greg Grove
Hilario "Larry" Arguinchona
John Fitzgerald
Larry Kruger
Louise Peterson
Luise Loneragan
Nadine Skotheim
Nancy Weber
Rex Rodwell
Rick Censullo
Dr. Robert D. Buchanan
Robert J. "Bob" Houston

PREVIOUS STAFF/FACULTY

Jeff Knowles
Bob Ringle
Sandra McHugh
William Cassell (Former President)
Duane Leach

PREVIOUS TRUSTEES

Jack Link '48
Timothy Hopkins
John Aram
Peter O'Neill (Trustee Emeritus)
Philip Young ('89 Honorary Degree)



MEGAN MIZUTA '15 graduated magna cum laude from Willamette University College of Law. She will clerk for the Honorable Steven R. Powers in the Oregon Court of Appeals.



DEVIN GASKINS '19, now a medical student at the University of Washington, was featured by the school as part of a showcase of students who are making the most of their time at the school. The feature is called "The Husky 100."

2020s

COURTNEY INDART '15 was selected as one of just three "Secretary Generals" for Model United Nations events in the United States in 2021. She will lead the Washington, D.C. event in November.

HOLLY MOSS '16 appeared in a nationally-televised episode of A&E's "Naked and Afraid" in March. The survival-based reality show puts two strangers — one man, one woman — into extreme environments for 21 days.

HUNTER BRODT '17 accepted an offer to be the Manager of Technical Accounting and Financial Reporting for Smarsh, which is a tech company headquartered in Portland, though Brodt will work remotely.

GRAYSON WILKIE '18 was spotlighted by the Idaho Department of Corrections during National Probation and Parole Week. He is a Probation & Parole Officer in District 3, which represents the Caldwell area.

KATELYN BENAVIDEZ '18 was hired as the new girls soccer coach at Caldwell High School. Benavidez played four seasons of soccer at the College while majoring in history.



LINDO ZONDO '21 was the first-ever winner of the TitleOne Interview Competition. The contest was to both sharpen skills of the interviewees as well as introduce TitleOne to students who will soon be entering the job force. Seven of the top ten finishers came from the College.

LINDO ZONDO '21, SAWAB AWWAD '21, and MATTHEW SAMMARTINO '21 were members of the first-ever team from the College to win the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Challenge. The team is advised by business faculty member Rick Goodwin '83 and also included current students Riley Cottam and Nathan Burman.

FACULTY



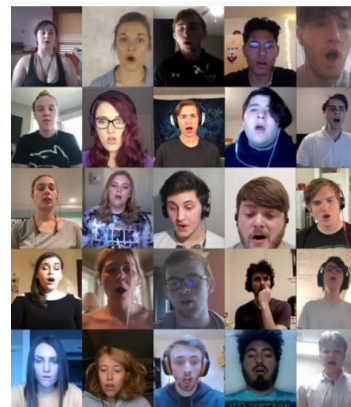
SEAN BLACKWELL, a member of the College's anthropology & sociology department, recently published his first solo work, an essay titled, "Guys, Get Your Guns Out," an autobiographical account of the U.S. community corrections academy.



GRANT FARMER, a visiting professor of music and choral director at the College, is adding to his duties as the Music Director of the Boise Philharmonic Master Chorale for the 2021 – 2022 concert season. The Master Chorale is an audition-based group that is open to anyone.

SCOTT KNICKERBOCKER of the English department and RACHEL MILLER of the History department were invited to speak at the Idaho State Capitol in February as part of Idaho's Lincoln Day festivities.

CURRENT STUDENTS



A collaborative effort between senior ASPRAM KHARATYAN and former choir director Dr. Brent Wells during the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual choir performance of an Armenian lullaby, has led to the arrangement's formal publishing. "Ari im Sokhag (Come, my Nightingale)" was released by Earthsongs, the pre-eminent publisher of multicultural choral songs, last spring.

WADE GRIFFITH

- ▲ Graduated in 1978
- ▲ Major: Business Administration

PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF.

We are a recently retired couple from Spokane, Washington, pursuing a retirement dream of completing America's Great Loop, the circumnavigation of the eastern third of the U.S. We began our Loop on May 31, 2021, in Deale, Maryland. As we write this, we are in Grand Haven, Michigan, on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan.

Wade is a native of Wallace, Idaho. Kathleen grew up in the Chicago suburbs and arrived in Spokane in her junior high years. We have been married for almost 20 years. We are maintaining our residence in Spokane and will return there this winter, taking a break from the Loop. We will resume our voyage in late spring of 2022, completing the southern half of the Loop over the fall and winter.

WHERE HAS LIFE TAKEN YOU SINCE GRADUATING FROM THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO?

After graduation, I entered the banking industry. My career in Idaho included stops in Boise, Jerome, St. Maries, and Coeur d'Alene. In 1992 I moved to Seattle for a few years and in 1995 arrived in Spokane. My career covered a period of continuous consolidation in the banking industry, and I managed critical activities in over 20 bank mergers in 41 years. Kathleen made her career in telecom sales and the work followed a similar pattern of mergers and consolidations.



WADE GRIFFITH'S BLOG:
irishlassblog.blogspot.com



WADE AND KATHLEEN GRIFFITH WITH ADMIRAL MAGGIE

WHAT IS AMERICA'S GREAT LOOP AND WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO TAKE THIS JOURNEY?

The Great Loop is the circumnavigation of the eastern third of the continental U.S. utilizing the Atlantic and Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, the Hudson River, the NY Canal System, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Tombigbee Rivers. See www.greatloop.org for more info.

I acquired my first boat in 1996 (and dated Kathleen on it). Boating has been part of our life ever since, progressing through larger boats to the Irish Lass, which we purchased for the Loop in 2019.

PLEASE SHARE SOME OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM COLLEGE.

I had the privilege to live in the "old" Voorhees Hall for all my four years at the College. Memories there include colorful "raids" on Finney Hall and building sleeping lofts in dorm rooms to take advantage of the high ceilings. I also participated in the inaugural Sawtooth Pre-Orientation, including four days backpacking with Prof. Dick Miller (Music Dept) in the White Cloud mountains. Memorable academic experiences include Western Civilization with Prof. Frank Specht, four years of concert and tour choir with Dr. Jim Gabbard, studying Economics with Prof. Lamar Bollinger, and learning Management at the feet of General Thomas Sawyer. In 2018, I helped organize the Come Together Reunion for 1970s alumni and helped initiate the Come Together Scholarship fund.

HOW HAS YOUR EDUCATION AT THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO SERVED YOU IN YOUR LIFE?

More than the technical aspects of my business education at the College, the exposure afforded me to the liberal arts allowed me a more holistic view of the world. I learned to view questions through multiple lenses, from multiple perspectives. Applying this in my work made me a better manager and a more effective leader.

COLLEGE ACCOLADES

For the 11th consecutive year, The College of Idaho earned inclusion in the Fiske Guide to Colleges publication.

The Fiske Guide to Colleges is compiled annually by former New York Times education editor Edward B. Fiske as a resource for college-bound students and their families. The College is consistently one of the only liberal arts colleges in the west to be profiled.

Other accolades earned by the College in recent months:

- Best Western Colleges (Top 126 schools) – 2022 Best Colleges: The Princeton Review
- 28th overall for 'Best Colleges for the Money' (College Factual)
- 95th overall for 'Top Liberal Arts Institutions' (Stacker, published by Newsweek)
- 7th in Northwest, 172nd overall 2021 Liberal Arts Colleges (Washington Monthly)
- Top 25 Best Rocky Mountain Colleges, No. 1 in Idaho (College Raptor)

Other publications to recognize the College in the past year include the U.S. News & World Report (overall ranking as well as social mobility), Wall Street Journal, Princeton Review, and the Chronicle for Higher Education.

ALUMNI CALENDAR

YOTE Talks

MONTHLY YOTETALKS

YOTETalks are a continuation of our Alumni Virtual Happy Hours. We will continue to feature our alumni and faculty members with monthly talks, both virtually and in-person. We encourage you to sign up for the YoteBook at alumni.collegeofidaho.edu to stay up-to-date with all future events. Be sure to also like us on Facebook at facebook.com/cofialumni.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 FOUNDER'S DAY

Celebrating 130 years of excellence at The College of Idaho!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 HALF-CENTURY LUNCHEON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29 HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

QUEST

The College of Idaho | 2112 Cleveland Blvd

Caldwell, ID 83605



**SEPT 1
2021**

Campus was full of smiles for the return of in-person classes and face-to-face interactions. Many students stopped by The College of Idaho banner to record their “first day of class” photos. The College has not been fully in-person since closing down campus in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The College of Idaho admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

www.collegeofidaho.edu/non-discrimination.