THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO

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#### THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO WAY

CHANGING THE ODDS

THE MOMENTUM OF MENTORSHIP

FIGURING OUT ALI DANG

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#### THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO WAY



JIM EVERETT & DOUG BRIGHAM '87, CO-PRESIDENTS

s we wrap up this academic year and our fifth commencement as co-presidents, it is a great time to reflect on all that has happened in our time here. As challenging as the times are, there has yet to be a day in which we did not find moments to be moved and inspired by those we work with every day. We are given hope by the culture that exists on this campus.

This has been a difficult time for young people. Mental health challenges have been devastating. Many have been overwhelmed and unable to successfully navigate these times, and our hearts go out to them.

That being said, the vast majority of our students have found the path forward. There are plenty of stories elsewhere describing college students as entitled, coddled, lazy, disengaged and indoctrinated, but that is not what we have witnessed at The College of Idaho. Our students have found ways to focus on what they do have, rather than spending their time regretting what they may have missed. Their starting point is not a "what's in it for me" perspective; instead, they have centered their efforts on their responsibilities to others and the shared community we call the YoteFam. They have engaged in difficult conversations, standing up for their values while respecting others' perspectives. They have even found joy in the most difficult of times. Demonstrating grit and determination are evidence that they are learning the lessons that will carry them to success in life.

It has not happened without a great deal of support from our incredible faculty and staff. Their commitment to our students' success and well-being is demonstrated daily. They work hard and make financial sacrifices, showing up every day with a passion for teaching and helping our students get the most out of their education. They serve as life-changing mentors. They challenge our students when they need a nudge and nurture them when they need to be cared for.

We focus on teaching our students how to think, how to listen to diverse perspectives and how to engage in rigorous debate. We would not presume that we could tell these brilliant, thoughtful and independent students what to think.

We are continually in awe of the generosity and support the larger Yote community has shown in the past four-and-a-half years. The needs are great and we have asked for help more than we would have liked to, but the response has exceeded expectations every time. From the Scholarship Galas, Boone Fund Campaigns, Give Day, Crowd Funding for student team travel, to establishing the food pantry and housing students who did not have a home to go to, you all have been there with kindness, compassion and generosity.

We feel very fortunate and grateful to be here at this time in the College's history. It certainly is not easy, but it is definitely rewarding. We appreciate all of you and ask for your continued support. The world needs The College of Idaho. If we could take what we have on our campus and replicate it around the globe, the world would be a better place. As we all work to make The College of Idaho sustainable for the long term, know that your investments are making a huge difference in our present and future.

Doug Brighn Jim weeth

Doug Brigham '87 and Jim Everett Co-Presidents



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Cover Image: The Path to Peak,

nodern PEAK curriculum

Boone and the Sawtooth Mountains ir

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#### FIGURING OUT ALI DANG

Caldwell to Wall Street in Seven Years by Jeannine Mars

THE PATH TO PEAK

hen the history of The College of Idaho in the early 21st century is written, the adoption of the PEAK curriculum will be the decisive moment. Along with the reverting to our historic name – after the brief dalliance with Albertson College – the innovation of copresidents, the return of football and the dramatic rise in international and first-generation college students on campus, the continued dedication to our liberal arts core gives meaning to everything we do as an institution.

While he often protests that PEAK evolved as the creation of many minds, its originator is Political Economy Professor Rob Dayley. Ironically, some of the generative discussions for the program occurred between Dayley and fellow Asian Studies maven, History Professor Jeff Snyder-Reinke – so much for the Western Canon ruling curriculum. Our emblematic program owes its origin story more to Confucius, Buddha and Taoism than to Plato, Socrates and Aristotle.

Rob Dayley is above all modest, yet he has been a force for making our campus more international. He has advised our awardwinning Model U.N. delegation, taken our students on 11 trips to Southeast Asia and China, is fluent in Thai, was the 2011 winner of the Carnegie Foundation "Idaho Professor of the Year," and was named the second Fulbright Specialist from the College by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (Jim Angresano was the first). This past academic year, Dayley served as president of the faculty. A father of three, he managed to slip off to Salt Lake City for his daughter's graduation and wedding at the end of the spring term.

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And what is now the PEAK curriculum was his idea. Momentum for change started when then-Dean Mark Smith proposed we needed to examine our core curriculum. Meetings were held and ideas bandied. This was in 2008. Dayley remembers:

ALAN MINSKOFF

"Mark Smith ... decided that fall we would begin to have discussions about our liberal arts core, that we would sort of audit it as a faculty and consider ways to improve it. During Winter Session 2009, Mark and Denny [Religion Professor Denny Clark] hosted three all-faculty discussions on our liberal arts core. Data was provided showing how our liberal core was smaller in total credits than many other aspirational schools (as well as even some local universities' basic core)."

What became our distinctive core curriculum developed from these early discussions. According to Dayley, the curricular idea came before the acronym. He remembers that he and Snyder-Reinke were struggling with the "K" and former Political Economy Professor Jasper LiCalzi, whose office was across the hall, yelled "what about Knowledgeable" and the four PEAKs were named. But the real question was the tricky business of how to include all disciplines. Dayley reflects:

"I got to thinking about whether the whole College could adopt this challenging curriculum across the board, for all students. I also realized we could categorize



CARNEGIE FOUNDATION IDAHO PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

Business, Accounting, and Education as 'Professional Studies' and make them options in this new curriculum. I'm a strong believer that in Idaho, attracting students to a liberal arts college is difficult because prospective students and families are unfamiliar with this education tradition and often see college solely in terms of return on investment, as a professional gateway. I figured maybe we could market a new curriculum that sought to marry these oft disparate areas of 'liberal arts' and 'professional studies.""

During 2009, Dayley sketched out a "New Core"; here the innovative one major and three minor construct gestated. New President Marv Henberg was an enthusiastic supporter. The acronym followed: Professional, Ethical, Articulate and Knowledgeable named the philosophy behind the curriculum and Dayley's construct defined it.

After extensive discussions, the faculty passed it by a nearly unanimous vote in the fall of 2009. The essential idea – a broad liberal arts college education with one major and three minors – perseveres. Originally, the discussions

### ONE MAJOR THREE MINORS FOUR YEARS

centered on what should and should not be included in the core. Some worried that business (the College's largest major) did not fit. Dayley successfully argued that it needed to be included. PEAK began in earnest in 2009-2010.

LiCalzi shared his thoughts that the program was simpler to get going than expected:

"Implementation by the faculty was much easier than most people thought it would be. This was because the beauty of PEAK, from the faculty's perspective, was it did not require any new courses to be offered and would merely group the courses into different categories."

LiCalzi added, "I am especially proud that the College's trademark is its academics and not a peripheral aspect of our mission." Of course, with any innovative program, issues arose over time and Dayley candidly notes:

"PEAK 'tweaks' occurred.... Some of these were due to curricular inequities and bottlenecks inherent to PEAK.

Others were driven more by concerns over assessment and responsibility for assessment. The most radical change to PEAK came a few years ago when the faculty voted to move originally categorized 'professional' programs (Business, Accounting and Education) into the Social Science, move or

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& ENHANCEMENTS

ROFESSIONAL

HUMANITIES & FINE ARTS SOCIAL SCIENCE
& HISTORY

NATURAL SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

eliminate all other minors in the professional peak, and take our current First Year program and call that a 'professional minor'"

Sadie Dittenber '22, editor of the student newspaper "The Coyote," and May graduate gave the program credit for attracting her to the College and appreciated her academic experience:

"I came to C of I because of the PEAK program. I was in Sweden at the time, and really stressed about choosing a school....
I wanted to be able to study politics and literature and journalism all at the same time. I think the PEAK program is really unique, and I've loved being able to study all different programs and see the ways they are all connected. My freshman year, I took a Winter term religion course called Ghosts and Zombies, and then it connected with my Civ class and my [Political Economy] classes and my History classes. It was so cool to see that bigger picture."

In the end, the faculty may have some more tweaking to do, but a dozen years on, we are the College with the PEAK curriculum. Dayley expresses the feelings of many when he says that PEAK has helped the College fundraise and attract students. He believes it gave: "the College a brand, a distinctive identity in what is the most challenging industry-wide enrollment crisis among liberal arts colleges since World War II. The College of Idaho is more distinctive because of PEAK."



PEAK's lasting legacy may come from an unexpected area – recruitment. mathematics professor, faculty leader and alum Lynda Danielson '89 mentioned attracting new students:

NDRA KNIGHTEN IN

"One thing the PEAK curriculum has provided is a means by which to speak with prospective and new students about our liberal arts curriculum. Students understand the notion of 'one major and three minors' and are excited by the possibility of building their programs. [PEAK for me is a clever repackaging of the liberal arts in a meaningful way to contemporary students.]"





**BOONE WAS PEAK BEFORE PEAK** 

he College's innovative curriculum, PEAK, at its essence, is a modern way of delivering the broad, liberal arts education that was championed by the College's founder, Dr. William Judson Boone. PEAK, while directing students to gain proficiency in at least one major and three minors across a broad spectrum of study in four years, bears the image of the founder himself. Those who know PEAK best will tell you: Boone was PEAK long before PEAK was conceived.

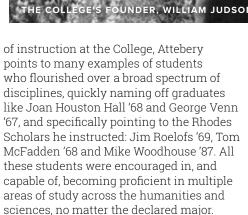
The author of the College's official history account "The College of Idaho 1891-1991: A Centennial History," Dr. Louie Attebery '50 affirmed that Boone's life and interests, which included being president of the College for its first 44 years, mirrored the liberal arts core and its blend of humanities and sciences. Part scientist, part photographer, part clergy member, part historian, Boone was the original College of Idaho Way.



"What he was doing was putting together in an imaginative and creative way, the way he was educated," Attebery said. "He was able to harmonize his scientific impulses with the humanities approach given to him... by way of the Presbyterian church."

"You get your philosophy, your history, your science, your mathematics, your languages," he continued. "All you have to do is continue to sell it. It may be refined, it may have another public relations tag from time to time, but the essence is steady."

Attebery taught English at the College from 1961 to 1999 and is an emeritus member of the Board of Trustees. Having taught hundreds of alumni during his 38 years



"The College has been this way since its founding. It's been called different things, and different things were stressed from time to time, but it's no different from the education I received and the education my students received," Attebery said.

It would have made sense that Attebery, an English student who graduated with honors from the College in 1950, would have had many literature-centered mentors. Yet one of the first he speaks of is legendary Biology Professor Dr. Lyle Stanford, demonstrating the importance of a cross-disciplinary focus to feed the entire being.

"Why be human if you can't be totally human?" Attebery asks. "And being totally human means that you accept mathematics, you accept physics, you accept chemistry, but it's all part of what people do and what's good for them. You begin with the fact that they're human, and then you try not to spoil it but to develop it, to let it grow."

Now that PEAK is into its second decade, Attebery continues to endorse the concept because it has been part of "The College of Idaho Way" since the beginning: one major, three minors, developed over four years across multiple disciplines. "The shape may be somewhat different, but the content is solid and enduring."

Dr. Louie Attebery recently finished his autobiography titled "Monroe Creek to the World: A Life in Letters by Louie Attebery," which is published locally by Caxton Printers.

**JOE HUGHES** *is the editor of Quest.* 



#### CHANGING THE ODDS

magine a personal story so compelling, The odds were already stacked against so tragic and so triumphant, that upon telling it, in person, to a captivated audience of nearly 600 people, it could raise over \$800,000 so other students like you could attend The College of Idaho. Meridian's Cristina Hernandez doesn't have to imagine it. She lived it in March of 2022. Her vulnerable retelling of her upbringing, perseverance and dedication to serve others in the medical field, helped the College raise more funds in one night for student scholarships than have been raised any other night in the history of the College.

Cristina even attending college the day she was born in 2000. Cristina's mother, Michelle Hernandez, became a parent six days after her 15th birthday when she gave birth to Cristina while living in McCall, Idaho. "My mom likes to say we grew up together," Cristina laughs, "and she's not wrong. We did." Statistically, since Michelle was a single mom, Cristina's odds of completing college were already 25-percent lower than children from two-parent

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**EVEN WHEN IT FEELS** 

LIKE ALL THE ODDS

**ARE STACKED UP** 

**AGAINST ME. I ALWAYS** 

FIND SOME WAY TO

**WORK AROUND IT.** 

**OR SOME WAY TO** 

MAKE THE SITUATION

BETTER.

While the statistics may not have

been in her favor, Cristina will

tell you she feels blessed she

was born to Michelle, because

Michelle is an independent,

strong-willed parent, who

despite difficult circumstances,

was dedicated to education

commitment to her only

child. "She showed me

she was willing to

overcome any

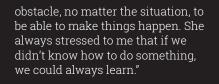
and demonstrated that

Cristina often found herself right alongside her mother, whether it was while she was working one of her many jobs or attending classes. It took Michelle 14 years, sometimes just taking a single class in a semester, but she eventually earned a bachelor's degree from Boise State University, finishing her coursework

Interest in the medical field took shape due to a pair of events that would disrupt the Hernandez family's lives. First, as an early teenager, Cristina was diagnosed with underdeveloped growth plates in her feet. The treatment involved a process of inserting pins in her feet and homeschooled her through Cristina's 8thgrade year. Although it was painful, the procedure worked. "I was completely in awe of what my doctor and my body were

nurse her mother back to health. "Taking care of her was saying a thank you to her, for the way she has always taken care of me," Cristina

Once again, Cristina found herself among stress. She witnessed the constructive



while Cristina was in her first year at the College.

manually breaking the bones every so often so they would heal properly. She spent nine months in a wheelchair and Michelle capable of doing," Cristina remembers.

The second event happened when Cristina was 16-years old. She was away from their apartment one fall evening when Michelle took their dogs out for a walk. An altercation occurred with another dog owner on a walk, and while Michelle tried to calm her own dog, the other owner shot and killed the Hernandez dog. The bullet also struck Michelle in the abdomen and she needed emergency surgery to remove the bullet. She spent a week in the hospital recovering from the wound. It was now Cristina's

turn

medical professionals in a time of great



impact a caring,

could have on

of the nurses

in the hospital

taking care of her

mother offered to

help Cristina with

her homework

in her mom's

room. Through

those interactions,

Cristina decided

help others in the

decided she would

dedicate herself to a career in medicine.

direction. By the time she was 17. Cristina

Nursing Assistant (CNA), had completed a

class for Emergency Medical Technicians

(EMT), and was hired for a part-time job

Center. She would continue to work at St.

Alphonsus throughout her entire time at the

College, balancing her academic rigors with

education path would lead through a public

school. She visited The College of Idaho and

weekend-long tours of other schools. When

discussing all of the potential colleges and

universities, Michelle saw how Cristina

immediately felt a connection – one that

was formed in a few hours compared to

at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical

the need to help fund her schooling.

With only one parent to give financial

support, Cristina thought her higher

She didn't wait long to move in that

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talking about The College of Idaho and became adamant that Cristina pursue her

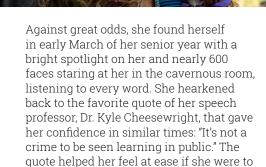
lit up when

educational goals there. She told Cristina that she would be more successful if she went to the school she desired rather than settling for one.

They were both correct. Cristina has thrived at the College, easily naming off a halfdozen mentors who are ready resources for her, who give her honest guidance that help her distinguish herself. The summer after her junior year, she applied for a medical internship at Stanford University and sent a draft of her statement letter to her prehealth advisor, Dr. Blake Densley. He told her to rewrite it because he knew that she could do better. She did, and became the only undergraduate student selected to the Stanford program from over 200 applicants.

She graduated from the College in May of 2022 with a plan to someday practice in emergency medicine, orthopedics or dermatology.





make a mistake or fumble some words.

She didn't need to worry. She reached the finale of her speech and stated she is "looking forward to the day that I am able to lend a helping hand and make a difference in someone's world like those who've made a difference in mine," and the room filled with the resonance of a standing ovation.

Cristina didn't know for certain at the time, but those words, and the record amount of scholarship funds raised directly afterwards, just helped change the odds for future students.

JOE HUGHES is the editor of Quest.







aul Street '70, current secretary of The College of Idaho's Board of Trustees and Of Counsel attorney at Boise's Hawley Troxell law firm, paused when asked how he defined the "College of Idaho Way." After a moment of consideration, he noted the College's emphasis on critical thinking and translating it into unique experiences beyond the classroom.

"It's very important because that's how you do well in whatever career or profession you choose," Street said. "You need to be able to look at and analyze the facts and draw conclusions."

It's an answer that hasn't appeared out of thin air for Street. It's an answer drawn from the lessons learned in his own experiences with the College, from his undergraduate days studying history and economics to his contributions and leadership as a trustee. It's an answer that begins – and continues – through mentorship.

#### A SOCRATIC START

Before Street could achieve nearly 45 years of success in the practice of law, he needed to complete one of The College of Idaho's most infamously challenging courses in preparation for law school: Professor George Wolfe's Constitutional Law.

Taught in the Socratic method – the style many law school courses maintain today – Wolfe's class was one of the essential undergraduate classes for aspiring lawyers. Street said Wolfe's reputation on campus was that of a key mentor to help students move forward to graduate school.

"If you wanted to go to law school, a recommendation or assistance from George was a good thing," Street recalled. "He would try to take you down the rabbit hole until you got to absurd results. It challenged your ability of analysis and critical thinking."

Street credited Wolfe with encouraging him to consider his law school options, as well as helping him apply to several internships around the country. Wolfe's support helped Street earn an internship opportunity in Washington D.C., where he spent two summers within the legal department of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, as well as a summer staying local to the Boise area working with the Idaho Historical Museum reviewing old newspaper articles.

Street said Wolfe's mentorship, and the experiences outside of the classroom Wolfe helped facilitate, ensured his preparedness for the University of Washington School of Law on a level many of his peers had not experienced at their previous institutions.

"At the time I didn't appreciate how important that course was," Street recalled about the Constitutional Law class. "It was a tough course, but I survived it."

#### **BACK TO THE PACK**

After finishing law school and entering private practice, Street maintained positive relationships with fellow College alumni. His active community involvement led to him joining the Board of Trustees for a term in the late 1990s – but Street does not look back on that first term with positivity. Having served on and chaired similar boards prior to his initial term as a College of Idaho trustee, including leading the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, he felt the College's trustees had an unclear direction and lack of responsibility in comparison.

"It was just like I was sitting on a train, watching the countryside go by," Street said about his first term. "I wasn't being asked to do anything, and I wasn't doing anything. I was just along for the ride."

Street left the board following the completion of his term, distancing himself from the College's leadership for a time. However, Street regularly had a seat saved for him at the College's annual Scholarship Gala by another mentor – Don Hendrickson

'62, another College trustee. Hendrickson served as a trustee for 20 years, and his dedicated support of the College earned him an honorary doctorate from the College in 2006, recognizing his years of service.

"I would say I learned a lot from Don," Street recalled about his friend, who passed away in March of 2022. "He had high integrity. When he was making critical decisions, you would know where he stood and you knew what he would do."



Hendrickson's friendship, as well as the arrival of co-presidents Jim Everett and Doug Brigham '87, prompted Street to rejoin the board when asked to return. Street said he's since felt invigorated and optimistic about the board's role in helping inform the College's strategic direction.

"I see the board right now and its leadership as much more focused as a business board would be on the sustainability of the College," he said. "Are we doing the right things? Keeping the right people? Are we growing?"

#### **GROWING THE CIRCLE**

Street's experience with mentors like Wolfe and Hendrickson is mirrored in his experiences as a mentor himself. Street has actively sought out College of Idaho students as legal assistants, hiring interns with not only an interest in law school, but also a desire to gain experience before beginning. He said he searches specifically for College of Idaho students because of the strong work ethic and integrity to get things done – traits he also saw in Wolfe and Hendrickson.

In Alderman, Street said he sees the ideal College of Idaho student – someone from humble beginnings with a thirst for knowledge and a desire to apply that knowledge to practical experiences.

"I like to think I had some influence on him," Street said. "He's got your solid, high integrity, get it done kind of attitude."

Alderman isn't quite as subtle about the impact Street had on him. "I would not be where I am if it wasn't for my relationship with Paul. Without him, I never would have gotten into corporate law or the position I'm in."

The circle of mentorship continues to grow, as Alderman is eager to lend a hand to aspiring attorneys from the College, bringing on Yote interns and passing on his encouragement and knowledge. "I think it's uniquely a College of Idaho cultural thing," Alderman said.

And sometimes the circle wraps itself into a poignant bow of semi-completion, as Alderman experienced when he was on the College's Board of Trustees. "I served on the board with Don (Hendrickson)," Alderman said. "I would sit next to Don at the board meetings. We would get to talk about all of this stuff and these relationships."

How fitting: Paul Street's mentor having conversations about the importance of relationships with Paul Street's mentee. And the momentum of mentorship grows.

**CLAYTON GEFRE** is a guest writer for Quest.

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remembers his first encou Street well because he was apprehensive about an int

for J.R. Simplot Company. Alderman remembers his first encounter with Street well because he was incredibly apprehensive about an internship interview, and then surprised by what Street did to set his mind at ease.

One of Street's former legal assistants is

James Alderman '96, who now serves as

senior vice president and general counsel

DON HENDRICKSON '62

"Here I am, a kid from Glenns Ferry, Idaho, going to interview with one of the largest law firms in Idaho, with one of the most prominent corporate lawyers," Alderman recalled. "Let's say I was a bit nervous and intimidated. When I walked into the conference room, he started singing to me The College of Idaho school song." Alderman was calmed by the familiar tune and ended up getting hired on the spot.



#### **ADRIANA LANTING '43:**

"The driver dropped me and my suitcases off on the porch of the girls' dormitory. It was ten o'clock at night. The housemother came to the door. She was quite surprised to see me. I had not enrolled, and the dormitory was full. Quickly, she and another lady emptied the broom closet and rolled in a bed."

#### **ASHLEY PENROD '13:**

"I am a first generation college applicant, and graduate. It was with the support of this College community that I was able to graduate from The College of Idaho. My mom is a felon, and my dad lived in and out of poverty and homelessness most of his life. My college experience taught me to overcome generational trauma, and to trust myself. I am so thankful for my education, and the community the College provided me."



## 130 STORIES ECHANIS



#### **MICHAEL RETTIG '72:**

"I was cocky and thought, like many undergraduates, that I was very bright. Then I took classes from Dr. Dadabay and Dr. Chalker. I quickly realized there are folks at a whole different level. What they taught me has infused my thinking to this day."

#### **JOHN HAMILTON '21:**

"I went from a troubled teen, to a community member, student, and staff here at The College of Idaho. I know that C of I has always been a positive part of my life and am proud of the experiences I have there. I never thought that I would be an Alumni and consider that to be one of my greatest achievements."



READ THE FULL STORIES OF THESE ALUMNI AND MANY MORE AT: alumni.collegeofidaho.edu/page/130-stories-for-130-years





n life, as at her easel, Nhung "Ali" Dang is an artist. She uses painstaking brushstrokes to create the pictures she envisions: an oil painting, a rewarding career, a meaningful life.

A natural at detail, Ali has the smarts to understand what needs to be done and the discipline to do it. Those traits have taken her from Hanoi to London to New York — with an important stop in Caldwell, Idaho. They have also helped her become a vice president at JPMorgan Chase & Co., the biggest bank in the United States, only seven years after graduating from The College of Idaho.

Her recent promotion is just the latest example of her goal-reaching abilities. Raised in Hanoi, she left her home country alone at age 16 to pursue an education. Encouraged by her parents and uncle, Ali moved to Arizona. While fighting homesickness and struggling to learn English, she completed the International Baccalaureate program.

She hoped to attend college in the Northeast. Then her high school counselor made an unexpected recommendation: The College of Idaho, which had a proven track record with international students. Although Ali had never heard of the school, she met with Brian Bava, vice president of enrollment management. Her connection with him, along with a generous financial package, sealed the deal. "He was very much interested in me as a person," she says.

Once she hit campus, she made more great connections, both with people and with a school structured for academic rigor and interdisciplinary education. She never looked back.

#### THE STUDY OF FIGURES... AND FIGURES

The College's approach to education was built for students like Ali. Passionate about art and art history, she also respected career options in business administration. As she reviewed the PEAK curriculum, she realized she could major in both art and finance.

Plan in place, she went to work, impressing her professors in both academic disciplines. They paint a picture of a perfect liberal arts student: intelligent, imaginative, disciplined, proactive, energetic, a team player, and extremely hard working. They also describe her lively sense of humor, positive attitude, and artistic talent, particularly her impressive skills in drawing the human figure.

Ali used those talents to work toward clear objectives. "She proactively managed her school and career goals," says Rick Goodwin '83, lecturer in business and accounting. He cites two goals she shared with him early in her school career: to get an internship at JPMorgan Chase and to become a Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA®).

She knew that attaining her goals required demanding work. "I don't have a lot of fancy networking tricks," she says of her internship efforts, adding that the key was to start early – as a sophomore and early in the year. "If you wait until spring, it is already too late," she says.

Her sophomore year she landed an internship with global software giant Clearwater Analytics. Her junior year she pushed for a similar opportunity at a financial institution. She spent many hours polishing her resume and sending it out. "I had hundreds of rejections," Ali says. "I cast the net extremely wide."

Determined and sleep-deprived – and believing that JPMorgan usually recruited from Northeastern schools – she lined up a fallback internship in Hanoi. Then JPMorgan offered her the coveted position.

Becoming a CFA® would take longer, as applicants must have both a college degree and work experience to qualify. But during Ali's senior year, the College fielded its first-ever team to participate in the CFA® Research Challenge, an international competition for college students. Goodwin explains: "Five students from each school complete a complex business valuation of a public company and give their

recommendation on the company's stock price."

As team captain, Ali excelled. "Ali ... did 80 percent of the analysis," Goodwin says. "She was amazing during the 10-minute oral competition."

Ali's internship with JPMorgan Chase – and her career opportunities there after graduating in 2015 – allowed her to build on the broad general skill set she gained in earning her finance degree. She continued to study for

OF TALENT. SHE
COMPLETED
DRAWINGS OF THE
HUMAN FIGURE IN MY
ADVANCED ART CLASS
THAT WERE VERY
SKILLFUL IN THE USE
OF LINE AND VALUE. 99

- STEPHEN FISHER, ART PROFESSOR

the CFA® exams; applicants must pass a series of rigorous tests to prove they have a deep knowledge of investment analysis, management, and ethics. She attained her goal in October 2019.

Ali says her College of Idaho education exposed her to a diversity of thought also critical to success in the competitive corporate world. "When you go to a liberal arts college, you need the ability to be very adaptable, agile, nimble," she says.

#### THE NEXT STEP

Ali calls her life "a story of many moving parts." That includes her marriage to Tyler Deroin '14. After enduring two years of a long-distance relationship, the couple now share a home in New York City.

She still balances finance and art. While specializing in municipal bonds (which she invests not for clients but for the bank itself), she continues to draw and paint. That creates "a healthy balance that helps me stay sane," she says.

Of course, Ali continues to set goals. Her newest is good news for College of Idaho business students. "For my next step, I really want to be part of a strong community where I can give back," she says.

Ali recently joined the College's Business Advisory Council and is excited about plans for small mentoring groups and career preparation workshops. She has already begun to mentor students. "I've spoken to quite a few people, especially those who are interested in moving out of state," she says. "I ask them, 'Where do you want to be in five, 10, 20 years' time?""

No one should be surprised when she follows up with "and what do you have to do to get there?"

**JEANNINE MARS** is a guest writer for Quest.



ART PROFESSOR GARTH CLAASSEN TELLS THIS STORY TO ILLUSTRATE ALI DANG'S APPROACH TO

"She ... made interesting connections in her art. For example, she wrote a fine

art history essay for me on Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein,"

those by Romantic painters like J.M.W. Turner and

Henry Fuseli. Then in an advanced drawing class with Stephen Fisher, she made

drawings that imaginatively reinterpreted Fuseli's famous picture, "The Nightmare," a painting that was the direct

she could use what interested her in one class to develop ideas in another. (It was) very much a liberal arts approach."

**LEARNING:** 





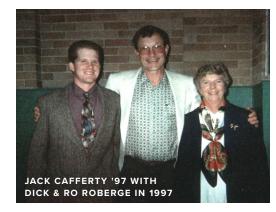


Editor's Note: Jack Cafferty is a member of the Quest Editorial Board. The decision to feature him was made by the rest of the board, without prior input from him.

ack Cafferty '97 remembers it vividly. There he was, a college freshman, sitting at the dinner table with Dr. Dick Roberge and his wife, Ro. He was there to tell them – the people who funded the scholarship that brought him to the College – that he was struggling academically.

Dr. Roberge's response helped to shape Cafferty's mindset going forward.

"He said we're going to get through this," Cafferty said. "When he said 'we,' I knew right then, he was there for me."



That helps to explain why, almost three decades later, Cafferty is at the College as its Vice President of College Relations.

He arrived at The College of Idaho with the goal of majoring in biology to become a

small-town doctor. And while he graduated with the degree in biology in 1997, it was his time spent working for the Trail (the College's annual yearbook) that led to a photography class. That photography class led to an internship with the school's marketing and communications department, where he did some writing. That sparked an interest, so he took a

writing course with Stan Tag. By then, he had found a new path. Ultimately, he got his start with development and fundraising with The Peregrine Fund, where he spent 11 years, before returning to the College 10 years ago.

natural history

I WOULD NOT HAVE
BEEN HERE IF IT
WAS NOT FOR A
SCHOLARSHIP DONOR.
THAT'S WHAT KEEPS
ME HERE THE MOST.
HELPING STUDENTS.

"While I was passionate as a student about biology and I still have fond memories of the field trips, I also got exposed to certain things while I was here that, lo and behold, benefited me greatly," Cafferty said. "Don't underestimate the power of having lots of different arrows in your quiver. That's the well-rounded approach, to be able to speak educatedly about a lot of different topics."

It's those multitude of arrows that enables Cafferty to succeed in his current role. His work has helped to build structures and start programs. While he's happy for each and every success story, he's the proudest of the work that directly impacts the students. One of the big annual events is the Scholarship Gala. In Cafferty's first year on the development team, the Gala generated \$163,000 toward student scholarships. This year's Gala raised \$811,000, an almost 500 percent increase over that first year.

"For me, the little wins – which are big to me – are getting the opportunity to

work with folks that fund scholarships and support students who were just like me at one time," Cafferty said. "I would not have been here if it was not for a scholarship donor. That's what keeps me here the most. Helping students."

Which brings the story full circle. Without Dr. Roberge and his wife, he would never have come to the College and discovered

his true passion. Cafferty still remembers the Roberges attending his graduation ("Dr. Roberge was as proud as my parents were," he said). Those proud graduations will continue. Cafferty worked with the Roberges recently to create an endowed scholarship, a quarter-million-dollar gift to the College that will continue to bring students via the Dr. Dick and Rowena Roberge Scholarship.

"That's the legacy," Cafferty concluded. "That will always go on."

WILL HOENIKE is a staff writer for Quest.



#### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA RAISES RECORD AMOUNT - AGAIN

The annual Scholarship Gala at the Boise Centre raised a total of \$811,000 for student scholarships in early March, besting the event's previous all-time record by nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

"People were so grateful to have the opportunity to get together and to be out, in-person, and you could just see the excitement and enthusiasm all night," said Jack Cafferty '97, the College's Vice President of College Relations, after the 2021 Gala was an online-only event due to COVID-19 concerns. "There was something magical, something special happening in the room."

There was still an online component to the Gala. Cafferty said one of the online items was purchased by a supporter in Anchorage, Alaska. But the energy in the room carried the night. On top of the dollar amount, this year's Gala set a record for attendance with over 590 people in the room.

#### **BOONE FUND BENEFITS FROM STRONG GIVE DAY EVENT**

The sixth-annual "Give Day" event at The College of Idaho raised \$282,396 for programs, facilities, and departments across the campus. Give Day happens once each year and is a 24-hour event for alumni, students, friends, and the entire community to support and celebrate the College.

A large portion of the funds raised will go to the Boone Fund, an unrestricted fund that can be allocated to the most pressing needs. Nearly \$130,000 of the day's proceeds will be available to be used for scholarships, student programs, maintenance of the campus, and facilities as needed.

"We're incredibly lucky to have the support of alumni, staff, faculty, parents, and friends of the College and it was evident in our results from Give Day this year," said Hayley Kindall '13, the College's Director of Annual Giving.



#### **ENDOWED LECTURESHIPS RESUME ON CAMPUS**



Spring 2022 saw the return to campus of both the Neilsen Lecture Series in Judaic Studies and the Marv & Laurie Henberg Lectureship in Environmental Studies. The two endowed lecture series events had been canceled or moved online due to COVID-19 precautions the past two years but, this spring, the College welcomed two

guests, Rachel Gross and Laura Leibman, for the Neilsen Lecture Series and also welcomed J. Drew Lanham for the Henberg Lectureship.

The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation and its chairman, alumnus Ray Neilsen '88, were major supporters of the College's initiative to fund the first fully endowed chair in Judaic studies in the Intermountain West.
The Marv & Laurie Henberg
Lectureship is an annual event in the field of environmental studies that was endowed by Marv and his wife prior to his retirement as President of The College of Idaho in 2015.

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PROFESSOR MEE-AE KIM & ROB GRIFFITTS-HARPER

#### TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Rob Griffitts-Harper, an upcoming senior from Boise, Idaho, is one of 58 students nationwide to earn a 2022 Harry S. Truman Scholarship, becoming the fourth student from The College of Idaho to earn the rare distinction.

Griffitts-Harper, a Mountain View high school graduate, was one of 189 finalists nationwide and the only one from an institution in the state of Idaho.

"I really did not expect to even be a finalist," said Griffitts-Harper, who is double-majoring in history and Spanish. "Knowing that right after I graduate, I have an immediate job and a plan is pretty unique."

Truman Scholars receive up to \$30,000 for graduate or professional school, which Griffitts-Harper plans to use for law school. Immediately upon graduating from the College in the spring of 2023, Griffitts-Harper will go to Washington, D.C., to complete a professional internship as part of the Truman Scholarship before attending law school. Griffitts-Harper's pursuit of the Truman Scholarship was strongly supported by Dr. Mee-Ae Kim, the Klara K. Hansberger Endowed Professor of History at the College. Kim has advised and mentored Griffitts-Harper for three years.

"I don't even know what the peak is for Rob," Kim said of Griffitts-Harper. "I think we have an exciting time ahead to watch Rob grow and (to watch) Rob become an extraordinary leader."

#### **DAVIS PEACE PROJECT**

While her 2022 Davis Project for Peace officially revolves around teaching teenage girls in the African nation of Angola how to write computer code, there is perhaps an even more powerful goal for Suely S.C. Soeiro.

"One of the things I'm most excited about is getting the girls paired with university students already in the tech field and also with women in Angola that are already working in that type of field," said Soeiro, who graduated in May with a degree in biomedical sciences.

Soeiro is partnering with Emily Freko, an upcoming sophomore from Ghana. The two will team together to complete the 17th Peace Project by College of Idaho students since 2008. The project, titled, "She Codes for Peace – Girl Empowerment through Coding" is about using computer coding to connect young women, in Angola and beyond, so they can learn what is possible. Soeiro and Freko plan to work primarily with teenage girls between the ages of 13 and 18 but will also actively be working with college and professional women in Angola to create mentorship opportunities.

The Davis Project for Peace is a national program funded by the Shelby Davis family in honor of Katherine Wasserman Davis. It funds over 100 Peace Projects a year at \$10,000 each.





#### **SPEECH AND DEBATE**

The College of Idaho's "Howling Yotes" speech and debate team earned three national championships in March at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament in Orlando, Florida. The team collected title hardware in the Novice division of Public Forum debate (freshmen Hana Pfeiffer and Hunter Marang), Junior Varsity division

of Public Forum debate (sophomores Max Breiling and Melanie Dawson), and also the team national championship for schools with a limited number of entries.

"To win a single national title is remarkable," noted Kyle Cheesewright, assistant professor of speech and debate. "To bring home three in a single year is incredible, particularly when capped off with an appearance in a national final round."

#### **MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

The College of Idaho's Model United Nations team attended two events this academic year and earned accolades at each one. Political Economy Professor Rob Dayley and 10 students attended November's event in Washington, D.C., and were selected as a Distinguished Delegation for their efforts.

In April, another group of students attended the Model U.N. event in New York City. The group again earned Distinguished Delegation distinction from a total of more than 130 colleges and universities.

"The award is the second highest possible delegation award at the NMUN (National Model United Nations) international conference," said Dayley. "It is very difficult to earn."

The College doesn't customarily attend two Model U.N. events in the same academic year. It was possible this year because the College did not attend a competition during the previous two years due to the pandemic.

# FRANCE FRANCE FRANCE

#### LANGROISE TRIO

Brendan Shea and Philip Kettler have joined Dave Johnson as members of the prestigious Langroise Trio at The College of Idaho to serve as music lecturers and Artists in Residence as Langroise Fellows.

The three also have prominent roles with the Boise Philharmonic. Johnson remains a Langroise Fellow at the College following recent retirements by Samuel Smith and Geoffrey Trabichoff. He serves as the Trio's violist in performances and will be joined by Shea (violinist) and Kettler (cellist).

"The addition of these two distinguished performers and mentors will reshape the Langroise Trio and sustain the legacy of Gladys Langroise, whose vision and generosity ensured that world-class music and music education would be available to Idahoans in perpetuity," said David Douglass, Provost at the College.

#### FACULTY IMPACT ON LEGISLATION

Educators at The College of Idaho led groups outside the classroom who worked with Idaho lawmakers during the most recent legislative session to help fix critical shortcomings in law that will eventually impact the entire state of Idaho.

McKay Cunningham (pre-law), Meg Dixon (environmental studies), and Rachel Miller (history) led a group of students in researching existing housing covenants that have racial restrictions written into them. The restrictions, long since deemed illegal, still appear in the documents. Legislation passed that would allow Idahoans to nullify the restrictions, but the faculty and students continue their work on finding additional covenants throughout the state.

Sally Brown (education) dedicated significant time working with Robin Zikmund of Decoding Dyslexia in Idaho and Idaho Senator Carl Crabtree, among others, to write legislation that was approved to massively upgrade testing and education about dyslexia, a learning disorder that impacts the ability to identify speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words.

"It has made their learning a little more holistic on how you fit in society," Brown concluded. "You can make an impact. You can do advocacy. You can change legislation, and it will, when it is done correctly, move the mark for students."





ach Saturday in the fall, after
College of Idaho football games in
Caldwell, head coach Mike Moroski
has his post-game routine.

He meets with the team, he greets friends and families on the field, he fulfills any media obligations. And then he walks back from Simplot Stadium toward his office with his wife, through the tailgating area in the J.A. Albertson Activities Center parking lot, for one more important stop at the tailgate of former football player and head coach Ed "Buz" Bonaminio '56.

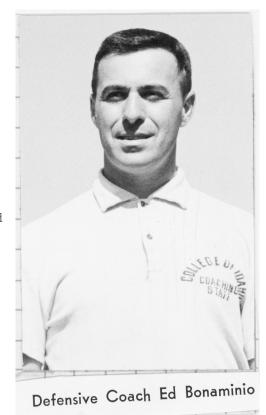
"It just became a tradition to go see Buz," Moroski said with a smile. "In the early years, there were more losses than wins but he was always supportive. Even if it is terrible weather, he will be waiting for me."

Bonaminio, now 89 years old, came to the College in 1952. A friend in Chicago convinced him to travel west to try out for the football team. He asked his father, who offered his support.

"Go to Idaho," he recalls his father telling him. "Chicago will always be here." He left a job at a steel mill with a group of friends to drive to Caldwell. The campus was so small at the time that the carload of friends drove by three times before finally finding their new home. He made the team and, in four seasons, rushed for 1,351 yards, which still ranks among the top marks in school history. He marveled at Idaho's lack of humidity; the locals marveled at the group of Chicago boys who came to Caldwell to play football.

"Their friendliness and their willingness to embrace us," Bonaminio said of what convinced him to stay in Idaho. "We decided we were going to stick it out. From that point on, we embedded ourselves in Idaho."

And with that, something remarkable happened. The midwestern boy who came to Idaho to play football never left. He graduated in 1956 with a degree in physical education teaching before taking a job at Caldwell High School. Then, in 1965, he became the head football coach at the College. He held that post until 1971 before transitioning into the sporting goods industry, never leaving the Boise Valley. He



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married his wife, Bobbi, in 1960 and they raised four children: Gus, Tony, Angela, and Gina. All four attended The College of Idaho. The College had become a big part of the fabric of Bonaminio's life.

"Definitely, oh definitely," Bobbi said warmly. "I've gotten very fond of the College through him and the children."

The football program was closed after the 1977 season but Bonaminio was not going to let it go away without a fight. Former athletic director and head basketball coach (and now special assistant to the co-presidents) Marty Holly came to the College after Bonaminio left the athletic department, but Holly got to know him well almost from the minute he arrived on campus in 1981.

"From day one, he was knocking on my door, wanting to add football," Holly remembered. "I don't know if we would have re-started football without Buz Bonaminio."

It was Bonaminio's belief and determination that fueled his energy.

"Every time we would get a new president, he would be the first one in the door. He would go to them over and over to ask if they had given it (re-adding the football program) any thought," Holly said. "He believed in what football does for a campus, so much so that he would not take no for an answer."

It took several years with a lot of support before Bonaminio and the other allies got the "yes" they had been waiting for from then-president Marv Henberg and the school's Board of Trustees. In 2013, the College announced it was bringing the football program back. Then, on September 13, 2014, in front of nearly 5,000 fans, The College of Idaho scored the game's final ten points to defeat Montana Western, 31-28, in the school's first home football game since 1977.

"We felt that, if we got football back, everything else would fall into place," Bonaminio said. "And that's exactly what happened."

Somewhere along the line, "Buzz" was shortened to "Buz", but Bonaminio remained a big name around the College. Now, on most gamedays, you can find the Bonaminio family together in the stands at Simplot Stadium, sitting among the fans that have been among the NAIA's leaders in football attendance for the past several years. They don their purple and cheer on the team and then anxiously await the post-game visit

from Coach Moroski, who has been the College's head coach since the program was re-instituted nearly a decade ago. Moroski describes the visits as supportive, collegial.

Of course, there is some football talk between the two coaches, but that is to be expected.

"The 'coach' within coaches never dies," Moroski laughed. "It is still there for Buz Bonaminio."

As Moroski sat inside his office on campus, an office that has been named after Bonaminio, he reminisced fondly about his game-day visits with the man who drove to Idaho, sight unseen, 70 years ago to compete for The College of Idaho

"It means so much to him," Moroski said.
"It's back and it's the place to be on a
Saturday afternoon."

And it always will mean that much.

"It's always been a part of my life," Bonaminio said. "Everything stems from the College."

**WILL HOENIKE** is a staff writer for Quest.



## COLLEGE OF IDAHO HOMECOMING 1963



HEAD COACH—J. A. (Babe) Brown
ASST. COACH—Ed (Buzz) Bonaminio



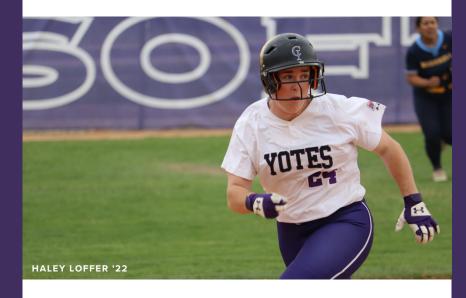


#### **BASEBALL**

Sophomore Jonah Hultberg was named the Cascade Conference Baseball Player of the Year after an impressive season that saw him lead the conference in batting average, slugging percentage, on-base percentage, runs scored, hits, and total bases.

"He is one of the all-time greats to wear a Yote uniform," said head coach Shawn Humberger '88. Hultberg is also a Gipson Honors Scholar.

The Yotes finished the season with a record of 30-27, coming up one game short of reaching the Cascade Conference championship game. Hultberg was one of five regulars to finish the season with a batting average above .300, along with Alex McFarland-Smith, Skyler Sadora, Kirby Robertson, and Ben Gaff. All five will return next season.



#### **SOFTBALL**

The College of Idaho softball team reached the Cascade Conference championship game in early May and, in doing so, secured the team's fourth trip to the NAIA national tournament. Last spring, the Yotes reached the NAIA World Series, ultimately finishing third nationally.

This spring, the team had a 21-game winning streak en route to more than 40 wins. Four players - Tanner Higgins, Hattie Hruza, Haley Loffer and Katelyn Wilfert – were selected first-team All-Conference while Kylie Smith set all-time school records for games played and at-bats, while ranking in the school's top five in both hits and doubles.

#### LACROSSE

A season that saw the men's lacrosse team reach the top spot in the national rankings ended with a trip to the national tournament in Round Rock, Texas. The Yotes ultimately finished the season with a record of 10-2, including seven wins in eight games on its home field at Simplot Stadium in Caldwell for first-year head coach Alex Morgan.

Among the home wins was a whopping 42-2 win over Southern Oregon as the Yotes set a school record for goal differential in a game.

Senior Joey Brant was named the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League's Most Valuable Player and senior Casey Davies was selected as the league's Offensive Player of the Year.

#### **TRACK & FIELD**

The Cascade Conference Track and Field championships were held in May with the men's team finishing in second place and the women's team finishing in third.

On the women's side, senior Catylynn Duff earned "Field Athlete of the Meet" accolades for her efforts, an individual title in the hammer, runner up in the discus and third in the shot put. For the men, sophomore Lane Maher set a new event record in the 110-meter hurdles race, finishing first in 14.40 seconds (previous mark: 14.49).

#### **GOLF**

The men's and women's golf team each finished fifth at the season-ending Cascade Conference golf championships in Eagle Point, Oregon, in April.

Sophomore Tristan Belue was the top finisher for the men as he wrapped up the tournament tied for eighth place. Meanwhile, junior Kylie Crossland's top-20 score was the top overall women's finish.

Belue took home medalist honors for the best overall score at the NNU Intercollegiate event in Nampa in March. Mahala LaForge, Makala Goforth, and Kaylee Jones each collected topten finishes in events for the women.

#### **TENNIS**

The women's tennis team picked up a pair of team victories this spring, scoring road wins over Pacific Lutheran and Pacific University for head coach Jennifer Swing.

Senior Leiana Almaraz, junior Lauren Kreutzer, and junior Summer Townsend led the Yotes with three singles wins each. The tandem of Kreutzer and senior Taylor Johnson collected four victories in doubles competition.



fter 23 years of teaching here, only this fall did I learn the most important thing I can impart to students.

When we returned to in-person learning this fall, we still faced pandemic conditions. Continued masking meant more muffled voices and imperceptible expressions. For the sake of fostering community, I decided to teach first-year students outside.

September and October were lovely, and the students thrilled to their outdoor freedom. Our class clustered under shady trees on the Quad or warmed in the sun on Terteling patio. We plopped around picnic tables to write. Students stretched out on benches, sat cross-legged on the ground, played with blades of grass, and marveled at insects. When rains fell, we huddled under a covered walkway, carrying on. When temperatures dropped, we donned hats and jackets. The co-presidents stopped by and praised us: we were doing our part, they said, to halt the spread of the virus. In time, the students took pride in learning outside.

Beyond accommodating weather, we faced noise. Our conversations were interrupted by passing trains and blaring leaf-blowers. Worse were the deafening, low-flying helicopters. They seemed ever-present, grating by several per hour. Each time one roared overhead, I stopped what I was doing, looked up, and lost a bit more hope for the world.

The fact is, those choppers triggered me. *Helicopter*. The word is from the French,

helicoptère, derived from the Greek helix and pteron, "spiral wing." I knew what those spiral wings were doing: ferrying the barely alive from one emergency to another one. Those metal wings meant frantic hope for a ventilator, a family crushed with worry, exhausted medical workers. They meant misery and, all too often, impending death.

I finally explained to the students why I halted class for each helicopter's roar. I needed to pay my respects, offer a silent sort-of prayer. Then the students grew dismayed, and I worried I was depressing them in already-dark days. So, when November days grew frigid and frost solidified the ground, I summoned them to the assigned classroom we had never seen.

To my surprise, they rebelled. "No! We can't go inside! Why?" I pointed out that they could see their own breath, that we often had to pause class to walk around because we couldn't feel our toes. But they insisted: we had to stay outside. "Rochelle, you are giving up on us!" Remaining outdoors was, they stated firmly, now an integral part of our learning.

I succumbed, and they brought hot chocolate. Wool blankets, even sleeping bags. The campus took on its winter silence, and that was when we all learned another reason to look up, another sound falling from the sky.

The cedar waxwings were calling. The small birds flitted through the treetop canopy, plucking dried fruits from bare branches. Their whispered piccolo notes

rained from the heavens as a "high-pitched, trilled *bzeee*" (Cornell Lab of Ornithology). I paused class, inviting the students to focus skyward, notice the birds, and listen.

My students marveled at those flight-whispers. Then they began to notice them for themselves. "The waxwings, Rochelle! Listen! Do you hear them?" For the rest of term, we paused each time we heard their aviary forage chorus. We hoped against helicopters and wished for waxwings—because those birds gave us the courage to imagine both hope and healing.

This, to me, is The College of Idaho Way. Sometimes I teach writing or American literature or environmental studies. But sometimes, there is nothing more important than the lessons we might find in the spiral wings of birds.

**ROCHELLE L. JOHNSON** is a lecturer at the College. She teaches the American literature, transatlantic romanticism, environmental humanities classes.



QUEST MAGAZINE | ALUMNI FEATURE

**JOE HUGHES** 

**CLIFF'S NOTES** 

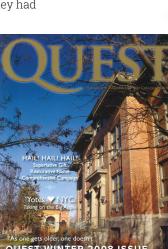
T n 2008, not long after The College of Idaho changed back to its historic name following a 16-year stint as Albertson College of Idaho, Cliff Nash was handed an issue of Quest alumni magazine from his old classmate. Jack Hogg. They had

both attended the College in the mid-60s, finished two years' worth of study, but neither earned their degree in Caldwell. Nash didn't feel particularly connected to the College during the Albertson years, but the fact that the school had changed its name back to its historical norm caused him to leaf through the pages. He always had a warm regard for the school but had not thought about it for some time. The stories he found within the magazine brought waves of memories and nostalgia, along with a

recognition of how two years at The College of Idaho had truly set his own story in motion. The words penetrated his mind and heart and he teared up as he read, recognizing the sentiments of so many of the testimonials in the magazine to be like his own. "It was that Quest magazine that got me started and rekindled that wonderful relationship that I had the two years I was there," Nash said. "Memories are a wonderful thing, and it was the memories that kept bringing me back."

He decided he needed to reconnect.

In 1965, 17-year-old Cliff Nash arrived on campus having chosen to attend a school over 800 miles away from his home in Harbor City, California, just south of Los Angeles. He made his decision sightunseen, having been convinced by ace recruiter Bob Post that The College of Idaho was more special than the other schools recruiting him. The smallness of Caldwell and the College was unsettling and refreshing, all at the same time. He'd come from a massive metropolitan area in Southern California where the noise drowned out many aspects of life. In the quietness of Caldwell, he would learn to listen. "Not everybody was in the same boat, but we were floating around the same island, and that island was Anderson Hall," Nash remembers. "There were different perspectives, different backgrounds, different speech, different words. The guys from Buhl, the Buhl Boys, they talked way different than us guys from California. I'd listen to their stories and it made me a





better listener. Living at Anderson helped me develop what I would later use in my career of associating with different people."

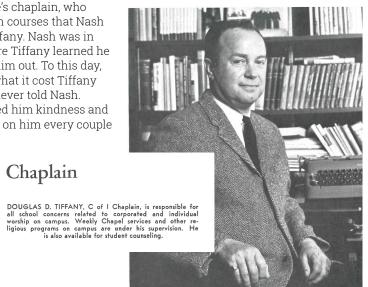
He also learned how the kindness of a staff person could make a difference to a quiet, timid student. Nash returned to school early for his sophomore year in 1966, and through several turns of poor judgment and bad luck, he was behind the wheel of a car returning fellow students to campus from a party they attended just three blocks away when another vehicle hit his car and sent it tumbling into a yard and landed on its top. He was 18 years old, soaked in beer with broken bottles all through the car (he cleared the inebriation test they gave to suspected drunk drivers), and was arrested for possession of alcohol and put in the Caldwell jail (his record would eventually be expunged from the charge). "I was petrified," Nash said. The College's chaplain, who also taught the religion courses that Nash took, was Douglass Tiffany. Nash was in the iail overnight before Tiffany learned he was there and bailed him out. To this day, Nash does not know what it cost Tiffany to bail him out, as he never told Nash. Instead, Tiffany showed him kindness and compassion, checking on him every couple of days to make sure

Chaplain

he was okay. "He made you feel like his only attention was on you. Dr. Tiffany was my angel."

These are just two of the threads Nash pointed to as examples of how the two years he spent in Caldwell set him on his life path. Without learning to listen and appreciate the many perspectives of his many hallmates at Anderson Hall, he would not have managed boot camp and his time as a medic in the Army with nearly as much success. Through the kindness shown to him by Dr. Tiffany, Nash used empathy to serve a long and distinguished career in law enforcement and search and rescue, dedicating his career to helping

And if it weren't for one of the Buhl Boys, Vern Gentry '69, Nash never would have followed through to eventually earn his degree from California State University,



"Vern was a good friend, very outgoing, great sense of humor, way more mature than the rest of us," Nash said. The two would often play tennis together as Nash spent his freshman year on the Yotes tennis team. But Nash's time in Caldwell was limited. His parents had established a \$5,000 college fund for him, and it cost \$2,400 per year to attend the College. At

the end of his sophomore year in 1967, he knew he would not be returning that next fall. As Gentry helped him load boxes into Nash's car for his return to California, he asked what Cliff was going to do next. Nash said he would need to get a job, earn some money and hopefully go back to school. Gentry didn't believe him. Nash remembers him saying: "You're gonna be a bum. You're not going back to school. You're going to get drafted. You're going to go to Vietnam and

probably get killed. So anyway, have a good trip." And turned around and walked away.

"Just like that. Never really said goodbye or anything," Nash recalls. "And that bugged me all the way home. It bugged me the whole time. The very next week, I went down and registered for Cal State Long Beach, and I said, I'll show you Vern." Nash would eventually earn his degree in

history from California State University, Long Beach. Nash and Gentry have visited about that conversation over the years and Gentry doesn't remember it at all.

Nash will turn 75 this year and will tell you that his two years at the College are what shaped him. It doesn't take a full four years or a degree printed on parchment to have a life-changing collegiate experience.

THE SCHOOL HAS A

THREAD IN ALMOST

**EVERYTHING I DO. AM** 

INTO, OR EXPERIENCE.

IT TOOK ME OUT OF

THE NARROW TUNNEL I

**WAS IN, TO A MEADOW** 

WHERE THERE ARE

**SEE AND LEARN FROM** 

PEOPLE.

"The school has a thread in almost everything I do. am into. or experience," Nash says. "It took me out of the narrow tunnel I was in, to a meadow where there are many more things to see and learn from **MANY MORE THINGS TO** 

> Not long after those Quest stories stirred his heart and mind, Nash decided to donate

to the school. But since relationships are the bedrock of his experience at the College, he made a point to drive from California to Caldwell to make his donation in person. Some of the first people he met were former Boone Fund Director Tara Wensel '09, Vice President of College Relations Michael Vandervelden, and President Mary Henberg. Nash's rekindled fondness for the school grew even warmer when he learned the school considers him

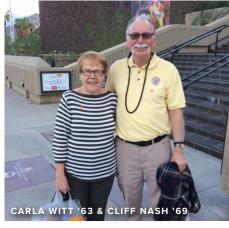
ALUMNI FEATURE | QUEST MAGAZINE

an alum even though he didn't finish his degree at the College. Nash makes a pair of trips to Caldwell every year to handdeliver donations. He has done it every year for 14 years now. And this past spring, he established the Cliff Nash Community Service Award Fund to annually recognize the College's first responders and those individuals who make an impact on the safety of the community.

For Cliff Nash, his "College of Idaho Way" is all about relationships. Those that started in the 60s as well as the new ones that began in the last decade and a half. He picked up a Quest magazine in 2008 and saw his story through the words and recollections of others. Now, others may recognize the threads of their own stories in the words of Cliff Nash.

JOE HUGHES is the editor of Quest.







#### TO GRADUATES OLD AND NEW

As part of Commencement weekend, the Alumni Office hosted events to welcome our newest alumni – the Class of 2022 – as well as celebrate with those who graduated 50 years ago. The Senior Toast was held the day before Commencement to officially welcome the soon-to-be grads into the alumni ranks. Alumnus Arnav Virmani '21 shared words of wisdom with the class, ending his speech with a champagne toast.

Arnav Virmani '21 was the featured alumni speaker.





So today, forget about what you're going to do in the next

year, forget about the next

breath, live in the moment

month, forget about next week

and celebrate with friends and

family. Because it will all work

your next steps planned out or

not, you have a group of Yotes

and make sure to take a deep





#### **CLASS REUNIONS**

Alumni from the Class of 1972 reunited on-campus for Commencement weekend, many of whom had not stepped foot in Morrison Quad since graduating 50 years ago. "The 50-year reunion is one of our favorite events of the year," said Danielle Durham, Director of Alumni & Parent Relations "Seeing them reconnect with old friends and hearing their stories brings me and my team so much joy."

BARRY, MARGARET BARRY, JAN MEEKS, CHUCK KNOX, MIKE RETTIG DAVID ORTHEL, NANCY ORTHEL, DORENE CHRISTENSEN,

E BUCKENDORF, BARBARA FRANKLIN, ROBERT MABRY

CHARD GRAVES, STEVEN HAMMOND, JIM HOUSE

The Class of 2012 also celebrated their 10-year reunion, with events in Boise and Caldwell.





#### **SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES!**

#### **1970s**

**EVELYN (SAFFORD)** JACOBS '70 recently had her experiences as a "Donut Dollie" published by the website DonutDollies.com. The website tells stories and shares experiences from people who were recruited by the Red Cross to serve in its Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas organization supporting armed forces. Jacobs served in Vietnam.

Congratulations to MARY LOU '71 and CISCO LIMBAGO '72, who recently celebrated their golden (50th) anniversary.

MARK SMUTNY '78 has published a book, "Thrive: The Facilitator's Guide to Radically Inclusive Meetings, 2nd edition." The book, which aims to make meetings better and more inclusive, is available at Emerald Lake Books and through major online booksellers.



JUDGE CANDY DALE '79. a member of the College's Board of Trustees. has retired after 14 years on the federal bench. She was first appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge in March 2008.

#### 1980s

GRAYDON STANLEY, a twotime alum of the College ('80 undergraduate, '86 advanced degree), is the Vice President of Student Services at Walla Walla Community College where he's working alongside another Yote, WWCC President CHAD HICKOX '93.

#### 1990s

TROY LITTLE '90 has been promoted to Vice President. Finance and Commodity Sales, Wood Products division, at Boise Cascade. Little has worked with Boise Cascade in varying capacities for three decades.

DR. BARRY SMITH '93, a surgeon, has joined the Syringa Hospital organization, fulfilling a long-awaited goal of the central-Idaho hospital, located in Grangeville.

BEN SKAUG '95 has been elected provost and Vice President for Academic Administration of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

MICHAEL PEARSON, CGFM. CPA, '97 was voted national treasurer of AGA. the association that connects and empowers financial related professionals who support government. He currently serves as chief of the Bureau of Administration at Idaho Department of Fish & Game.

CAROL (FALEN) MOORE '99 has been awarded the G. Andrew H. Benjamin award 2021 from the Washington State Psychological Association. It is awarded for "outstanding and tireless contributions to the Washington State Psychological Association." Dr. Moore earned a BA in Psychology from the College in 1999, a Master's in Counseling from Gonzaga University and her Ph.D. In Counseling from the Univ. of Oklahoma. She is now in private practice in Spokane, WA.

#### 2000s

ERIC GARAYOA '00, who was a competitive skier at the College, is the new director of teams for Palisades Tahoe, a ski resort next to Lake Tahoe in northern California.

BEN MOORE '01 has been promoted to Vice President, Commercial Group Manager at First Interstate Bank.



MARISSA (BROWN) O'BRIEN '02 was recently named the Human Resources Manager for the City of Nampa. She has been working in human resources since attending the College, mostly in Idaho but she also spent five years in Texas. She and her family returned to Idaho in 2019.

MARTHA LOPEZ CORONADO '04 has been named the statewide program director for the Idaho Hispanic Foundation. She also serves on the board of the Idaho Hispanic Foundation and as the Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce vice president.

DEVEN SHAFF '04 won reelection to the Broomfield, Colorado City and County Council in November 2021 and will serve his second term for 4 years.

LINDSEY MCCONNELL-SOONG '05 joined University of Idaho Extension in 2020 as a Program Manager. She currently oversees the implementation of two public health grants. Well Connected Communities is a national health initiative focused on building health equity through

youth-adult partnerships. The EXCITE program (Extension Collaborative on Immunization Teaching and Engagement) is in partnership with CDC to address vaccine hesitancy and increase adult immunization uptake.

LORENZO OLVERA '07 is returning to Idaho to serve as Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Saint Alphonsus Health System. Olvera most recently served as Director of the Senate Diversity Initiative in the office of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in Washington, D.C.

JOSIE PUGSLEY '09 is the new head basketball coach for the girls' program at Bear River (Utah) High School.

ANDY BENOIT '09 was part of the front office for the Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams, serving as an assistant to head coach Sean McVav. He's not a traditional coach. but rather an assistant to the head coach, helping with administrative and analytical

#### **2010s**

ALEX GRANDE '11 was selected as the 2022 recipient of the Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Award by the Idaho State Bar. The award is given to attorneys who go above and beyond to provide pro bono services to clients.



JESUS TARIFA '11 & MICHELLE WOOTEN '12 eloped on snowshoes January 8, 2022

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DORGHAM ABUSALIM '12 published a narrative nonfiction chapter titled "In the Haze of Fifty-One Days" in an anthology of stories that began as a storytelling project of Jewish Voice for Peace-New York City. The complete book, "A Land with A People: Palestinians and Jews Confront Zionism," can be found at NYU Press.

REINALDO GIL ZAMBRANO '13 was recently selected by the Center for Civil and Human Rights at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, to create art to commemorate human-rights activist and prominent northwest lawyer Carl Maxey.

ALEXIS BENNETT '13 is the new Director of Development Administration at the Riverstone International School in Boise.

DANIELLE (BLENKER) HIGLEY '13 has published her first book, "The Stories Behind the Stories: The Remarkable True Tales Behind Your Favorite Children's Books," a celebration of children's literature with interesting facts and stories about some well-known children's tales. The book is available through Bushel and Peck Books.

CLAYTON GEFRE '15 was nominated for a 2021 Best of Broadway World regional award for his performance in the musical "Something Rotten" with Music Theatre of Idaho.

MADELEINE SATO '16, graduated from University of Wyoming School of Law on May 14, 2022.



#### **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

Wilma Needs '47 Burton Newbry (Burt) '47 Homer Skelton (Ray) '48

#### 1950s

Edith Ness '50 Wendell Platt '51 Bessie Skinner '51 Gordon Andersen '52 Bessie Ross (Colleen) '52 Eugene Holsinger (Gene) '53 Donald Reed (Don) '53 Ruth Robinson '53 Pat Spofford '54 M Ambrose (Jene) '55 Margaret Lincoln '55 Ken Hopper '56 Laurence Johnson '56 Ida Skogsberg (Laurene) '56 Lane Williams '57 Elgin Baylor '58 Dee King '58 Anthony Villanueva '58 James Alley '59 Robert Newstead '59 Louis Townsend (Lee) '59

#### 1960s

Milton Van Slyke '59

Leah McDonald '60 Ronald Pyeatt (Bruce) '60 Gary Doorn '61 Charles Alexander (Nick) '62 Donald Harris '62 Larry Johnson '62 Larry Lujack '62 Helen Mead '62 Roger Abernathy '63 Douglas Albertson '63 Frances Ford (Francie) '63 Roberta Post (Anne) '63

Christine Spence '63 Arthur Hart '64 Helen Kable '64 John Skinner '64 Carl Crookham '65 Betty Oft '65 Michele Ross (Mike) '65 Robert Wecker '65 Holly Borden '66 Joyce Burnett '67 Larry Glover '67 Karl Keyes '67 Robert Maxwell '67 Charles Olson '67

#### 1970s

Jelena Zednik '69

Carl Christensen '70 Henry Hudgens '70 Gerald Nobuyama '70 Frederick Prouty '70 Dorothy Swanson '70 Richard Gagnon '71 Rosemarie Sarnoff (Rosie) '71 Rodney Chester '72 Micheal O'Hare '72 John Pirtle '72 Gail Steslick Seamark '72 Ronald Tollman (Ron) '72 Jeffrey Grobe '75 Lawrence Goto Larry '77 Charles Lightfoot '77 James Eyre '78 Karen Graves '78 Judith Juker Judy '78 Steven Kent '78 Robert Simonds '78 Kathryn Thomas (Loni) '78 Kermit Tate '79

#### 1980s

Sally Snodgrass '80 Richard Cochrane '81 Susan Faw '86 Donald Cowley (Don) '88

#### 1990s

Delores Miller '90 Dorothy Gerber Dotty '91 Carol Schafer '92 Andrew Bender '96

#### **FRIENDS**

John Ascuaga

Paul Braun Loren Burke William Cooper (Bill) Lloyd Duncan Mary Eldredge (Betsy) Rhoda Gerrard Shirley Helpenstell (Sus) Robert Houston Thomas Klein (Tom) Constance Kundrat (Connie) Bernie McCain Camille McCray Samuel Mitchell Tianna Stanek William Symms

#### **PREVIOUS TRUSTEE**

Donald Hendrickson (Don) '62 Jack Lemley

RILEY O'BRIEN '17 was MICHAELLA OWENS '18 acquired – and ultimately graduated in December from called up to the major leagues University of Idaho's graduate – by the Seattle Mariners. He's school with a Master's of the second Yote to reach the Public Administration and highest level of professional was recently promoted to baseball. The other is Jason Associate Design Review Simontacchi, who pitched in Planner for the City of Boise's the big leagues from 2002 to Planning and Development Services. She is also getting

Miss Rodeo America crown in married in Boise this summer. early December.

NICOLE JORDAN '19 earned first-runner-up (second place) at the Miss Rodeo America 2022 contest in Las Vegas. Jordan earned Miss Rodeo Idaho honors in 2020 but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, served a second year in the role before competing for the

GIBSON BERRYHILL '19 married Jadyn Baumgartner on June 26, 2021.

#### **2020s**

ALEX BRINKER '20 is working at Idaho Public Television as an annual giving specialist.

BLAKE JONES '20 has accepted a position with the nationally respected media company POLITICO, a political journalism company based in Arlington County, Virginia, which covers politics and policy in the United States and internationally. Jones will be covering California education.

TRENT RAWDAN '21, currently enrolled in law school at Penn State, is serving a summer position as a legal extern with the Governor's Office of General Counsel in Pennsylvania.



RICARDO TIME '21 was named the 2022 Cascade Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Year after leading the Yotes to the NAIA National Tournament. He led the team in scoring and 3-point field goals and was also named first-team All-Conference. Time took graduate courses at the College while playing basketball this year after completing his undergraduate degree in business last year.

MITCH HAWLEY '21 will be attending medical school at Oakland University (Michigan) William Beaumont School of Medicine.

JAD JABAREEN '21 has accepted a new position as a software development project manager for Panaton Software, based in Boise.

KAELYNN CRAWFORD '22 was selected as Chair of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the 2022 Model UN Competition in New York City, one of only 21 delegates at the 1.300-student conference to serve in such a role.



CHRISTOPHER TRUKSA '22 was invited to the ASIANetwork Annual Conference in Geneva. New York, to accept an award for the top student essay. His essay was titled, "Trust the Process: Evaluating China's Social Credit System."



MAKENZIE STAPLEY '22 was

invited to present research at the 2022 Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics in January. Stapley demonstrated research on star-forming regions within the Milky Way galaxy called Yellowballs that is led by Physics Professor Dr. Katie Devine.

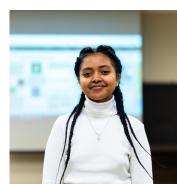
#### **CURRENT STUDENTS**



CHELSIA NETO was one of 24 finalists – and the only international student - at the 2022 Idaho Entrepreneur Challenge. She showcased a business that she began when she was just 19 years old, C.D. Master Center.



ERICA KYLE earned a coveted research opportunity with NASA, where she'll spend a good portion of the summer as a part of SARP, the Student Airborne Research Program, in California.



BEZAWIT KASSAYE was an invited presenter at the same 2022 Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics as Makenzie Stapley. Kassaye's presentation also stemmed from research on star-forming regions within the Milky Way galaxy with Dr. Devine.

#### **FACULTY/STAFF**



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Political Economy Professor ROB DAYLEY has been recognized by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs on their Fulbright Specialist Roster. Dayley is believed to be the second Fulbright Specialist from the College. Jim Angresano, Emeritus Professor of Economy, also earned Specialist status from 2003 to 2006.



NICK UNDERWOOD, the chair of the Judaic Studies program at the College, has published his first book. "Yiddish Paris: Staging Nation and Community in Interwar France," was published on March 1.



JORGE AGUILAR retired as lead custodian from the College in April. He spent 18 years on campus helping to maintain the facilities.

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#### **BOB & JEAN BONAR**

#### PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF.

**Bob** was raised on a small dairy farm on the Snake River canyon ridge near Buhl, Idaho. He graduated from Buhl High School in 1962 and then joined five other classmates matriculating at The College of Idaho that fall. He graduated magna cum laude four years later and enrolled at George Washington University Medical School. After receiving his M.D. four years later, he completed his post-graduate studies at UCLA and USC Medical Centers. He is boarded in both Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. His specialty practice included positions at the University of Southern California Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, The United States Army, University of Nevada School of Medicine and lastly Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento, California. He served on various boards and commissions of governmental and non-profit organizations during this time and was a member of the clinical faculty of the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine. His interests include photography, food, movies, friends and family.

**Jean** was raised in San Rafael, California. She comes from a long tradition of families who value education. Jean's mother, Carol Houston earned a master's degree in English at the University of Washington. It was there that she met Jean's father, Bob, who was pursuing a doctorate in chemistry. After the war in 1947, the growing Houston family settled in San Rafael, California, where her father worked for Chevron Oil in Richmond. After graduation from The College of Idaho in 1966, Jean earned her secondary teaching credential. She and Bob were married in 1968 and moved to Silver Spring, Maryland. Jean taught high school biology while Bob finished medical school. There was a large ex-pat College of Idaho community living in the Washington, D.C. area at the time. Everyone was in the early portion of their career development and these Yotes provided a wonderful support group for each other. Jean joined Bob in his career moves over the next 50 years while they raised a son, Andrew, and daughter, Alison. She returned to school in the late 90s and earned her California Reading Credential and a master's degree in Literacy at Sacramento State University. She finished her professional career by working with struggling elementary readers in the Galt School District.

#### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT THE VIRTUAL ALUMNI EVENTS?

Bob: I am continually impressed with The College of Idaho's adoption and implementation of digital technology. The first streaming alumni presentations started with the Half-Century Society programs and have continued to include the current series of Yote Talks. The speakers, alumni and students exemplify and celebrate the value of a College of Idaho liberal arts education. Featured students are always impressive, participating faculty demonstrate that the traditions of academic excellence are ongoing and the selected alumni are shining examples of continued professional growth and exploration. The programs are compelling, continue to improve and should gain even greater alumni participation over time.





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

**Bob:** To paraphrase a statement made by my classmate and friend, Dr. Gerald Baur '66, everything I have achieved and the person I have become is attributable to the firm foundation I received from my education at The College of Idaho. As an added bonus, I met my eventual wife of 54 years, just as William Hedley, Dean of Men at the time, predicted during freshman orientation.

**Jean:** I was employable because of my education. Women's career choices were limited in those days, and I was fortunate to find teaching both challenging and rewarding

The College of Idaho broadened my horizons. Going to Mexico, attending musical concerts (Duke Ellington), hearing inspirational political speeches (Senator Frank Church) and the wonderful College of Idaho choir are all significant memories. And of course, I saw the natural world with new eyes after my geological and zoological education with Dr. Stanford.

#### **ALUMNI CALENDAR**

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 17 - SUNDAY, JUNE 26
LONDON ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRIP



TUESDAY, JULY 12
YOTES NIGHT AT THE BOISE
HAWKS

THURSDAY, JULY 14
COEUR D'ALENE ALUMNI &
FRIENDS GATHERING

FRIDAY, JULY 22
MCCALL ALUMNI & FRIENDS
GATHERING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11
COLLEGE OF IDAHO NIGHT AT THE
SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL - LITTLE
SHOP OF HORRORS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
FIRST HOME FOOTBALL TAILGATE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND



The College of Idaho 2112 Cleveland Blvd Caldwell, ID 83605



MAY 21 2022

Associated Students of The College of Idaho (ASCI) Treasurer Moubarak Abdoulaye Soumana carries the REX flag in the commencement procession.

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