

University of Idaho

A LEGACY OF LEADING

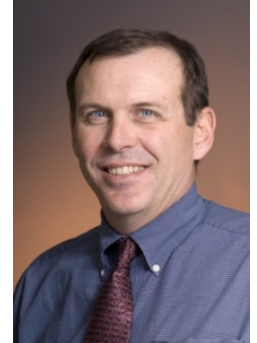
A LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Science
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

September 9, 2009

Dear Idaho Engineering and Computer Science Alumni and Friends,

Tenth day enrollment figures have been released this morning and we are happy to announce the positive direction and momentum that is building for the future. We welcomed 1800 new students--the largest freshman class in the University's history--to our Moscow campus this fall. The College of Engineering enrollment, slightly above the university's growth, is up about 3%. This marks the third consecutive year of increases, including a large boost in the number of transfer students. Among this fall's enrollment in the College of Engineering is an accomplished group of 17 National Merit Scholars who are in the top one percent of the nation's high school graduates. Enrollment success is the result of a wide range of factors but faculty and staff are one of the most critical and valuable factors. Special thanks to our excellent faculty and staff who help the university deliver its mission and serve the greater community. Their work is the heart of the university.



Dean Don Blacketter
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The University received several national recognitions last month, including the *U.S. News and World Report's* guide, "America's Best Colleges," the most widely read college guide in the country, listing UI for 2010 and *Forbes* ranking the University 62nd for "America's 100 Best Public Colleges" in 2009.

At the University of Idaho, private philanthropic support is vital to maintaining the quality of teaching, research, and public service. One of the most important types of gifts to higher education is an endowed chair to ensure faculty excellence. Created by generous gifts, these highly prized academic positions are supported by earnings from invested funds. While the state budget pays for the faculty's salary, the proceeds from the endowment provide enrichments—such as support for instruction and research money—that are important to the recruitment and retention of the greatest scholars.

We are honored to acknowledge the first inaugural gift to the college's **Chemical Engineering Endowed Chair Campaign** given by chemical engineering alumna **Bess Vance**. Bess earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1955, the first woman to do so, and belongs to a Vance family tradition of four-generations of UI chemical engineers! Bess says, "My education at Idaho made a major difference in my life and I feel good about giving to a public university. I'm pleased that I can contribute money that will go to set up an endowment for the college to use for a worthy cause forever." My sincerest thanks and appreciation is sent to Bess for this remarkable gift.

The **National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology (NIATT)** recently named **Karen Den Braven**, professor of mechanical engineering, as its new director. The Idaho institute is one of 10 "Tier I" centers selected competitively by the University Transportation Centers (UTC) national program.

Professor Den Braven has worked hard to create an engineering environment for our students so that they can put into practice what they learn about transportation engineering. She is the right person to continue to lead NIATT in preparing the transportation workforce for the 21st century while helping to solve transportation problems through research and professional training.

Over the past decade, Karen has led the University of Idaho's clean snowmobile team to three national championships. She plans to use that experience to enhance existing NIATT programs and expand the institute's already wide scope of interdisciplinary research.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) recognized **NIATT** at its 2009 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in August, by awarding the research center the **Transportation Education Council's Best Innovation in Education Award**. Two educational programs initiated at NIATT by recent past director **Michael Kyte**, the **Traffic Signal Summer Workshop** and the **MOST** project, were selected by ITE due to the "real life impact" the programs have on attendees. The educational programs were recognized as an "excellent example of researchers at universities and members of the consultant community coming together to fulfill a need to educate the transportation workforce."

NIATT's Traffic Signal Summer Workshop, held at the University of Idaho campus in Moscow was a five-day, intense hands-on workshop during which participants worked with industry professionals using state-of-the-art traffic control equipment and hardware. The workshop served students and professionals from 26 states. As a result of the workshop's success, FHWA asked NIATT to develop a version for professionals that supports FHWA's signal timing roadmap, awarding a grant of \$705,274.

The **Mobile (Hands-On Traffic) Signal Timing Training**, or **MOST**, project is a new approach to learning about traffic signal timing. MOST uses a new simulation environment to let users directly observe how the signal timing parameters selected affect the quality of traffic operations at a signalized intersection.

More information about NIATT's work is found online: <http://www.webs1.uidaho.edu/niatt/>.

Engineering alumnus **Wayne Wohler** is the 2009/2010 **president of the University of Idaho Alumni Association**. Wayne was a 1973 Grangeville High School valedictorian graduate and in 1977, earned a degree in electrical engineering and computer science summa cum laude from the University of Idaho. Wayne began his career at IBM at Boulder working on document transmission equipment, scanned image segmentation and compression algorithms. He also wrote the microcode that controlled the daisy wheel typewriter. He then designed the VLSI data adapter module for the PS/2 Mod 60 and later the PC AT personal computers.

Wayne now works as an applications architect and technical consultant in the Enterprise Content Management (ECM) domain. He led the content management system design and implementation for the Wall Street Journal's web site that was released in 2000 and the design and build of the XML-based U.S. Senate legislative drafting and publishing system. He still works for IBM and lives with his family in Colorado.

It is with deep sadness that I share with you the loss of College of Engineering retired professor emeritus **Richard Stewart, Ph.D.** Dr. Stewart died at his Moscow home on August 14 at the age of 84. He earned a B.S.M.E. in 1946, a M.S. in 1948 and Ph.D. in 1966 from the University of Iowa. In 1969, Dr. Stewart was appointed professor and chairman of the mechanical engineering department at UI and founded the Center for Applied Thermodynamic Studies. His research work on thermodynamic properties was used by NASA in

the design of life support systems for Apollo spacecraft. His work also resulted in national and international tables of thermodynamic fluids for a large number of engineering fluids. Dr. Stewart established the **Richard Stewart Thermoscience Scholarship** in the college and donations can be made in care of the UI Gift Administration Office, P.O. Box 443147, Moscow, Idaho, 83843.

I am looking forward to meeting with the **College of Engineering Advisory Board** at our fall meeting on September 18. My sincere thanks go to this leadership team for their time, dedication and commitment to the College of Engineering.

Save-the-date and **join us on October 5 at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Administration Building Auditorium, Moscow** for the **2009-2010 Engineering Distinguished Speaker Series** presenting **Steven Ray Swanson, NASA astronaut**, highlighting Mission STS-119. On **October 3** during half-time at the UI vs. Colorado State football game **Astronaut Swanson** will present the UI flag to President Nellis that he carried into space on board the shuttle Discovery last March in honor of his nephew Greg, a graduate student at the university.

If you can, please join us on Friday, October 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in a public ceremony to inaugurate **President M. Duane Nellis** as the 17th president of the University of Idaho at the Kibbie Dome. Hope to see you then.

Sincerely,



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Dean, College of Engineering

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