

CREATE
INTEGRATE
ADVANCE

*Donald M. Blacketter, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean
College of Engineering*



University of Idaho
College of Engineering

August 31, 2010

Dear Idaho Engineering and Computer Science Alumni and Friends,

Fall classes for the 2010-2011 academic year began on August 23 and in the College of Engineering we are optimistic that there will be an increase in freshman enrollment again this year. The snapshot of student enrollment happens on the 10th day of classes and the numbers will be released following the Labor Day holiday. Last fall, the University had an increase of 4.2 percent in freshmen – for an entering class of 1,780, reflecting the third consecutive year of increases in new students for the University. The University also counted a large increase in the number of transfer students, 733 or 9.7 percent from the previous year.

We're also very pleased about the quality of students the University is able to attract. Last fall 45 percent of the freshman class boasted a grade point average of 3.5 or greater and 94 students were former senior class or high school honor society presidents. The number of **National Merit Scholars**, the top one percent of scholars in the nation, continues to grow at the University of Idaho. The distinguished high school students, representing the top one percent of those taking the test, are selected as scholars after a rigorous process looking at a combination of accomplishments, skills and potential for success in rigorous college studies. I'm pleased to note that this year we'll have approximately 22 new National Merit students and two-thirds of the scholars entering this fall plan to study in the science, technology, **engineering** or math disciplines (STEM), critical growth areas for the state and nation. Among Northwest universities, only the University of Washington has more National Merit scholars than the University of Idaho.

This fall the College will hold its first **Sophomore Engineering Forum** on September 1 for students to share ideas and help improve the experience for future engineering students at the University of Idaho. Topics of discussion led by **Senior Associate Dean Larry Stauffer** and **Director of Student Services Maria Pregitzer** will be internships, feedback on the freshman experience and career resumé writing, job applications and interviews.

Another fall ritual at the University of Idaho is the **Engineering Career Fair** which will take place on **Wednesday, October 6** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and interviews from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Companies like Schweitzer Engineering, Micron and Boeing will work to sell their highly paying jobs to engineering and computer science students. The College's traditional **Corporate Breakfast** for all our annual participants in the fair this year will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the Silver and Gold Rooms of the Student Union Building. If you would like to join the Career Fair or for more information please visit the web site at www.uidaho.edu/careercenter or contact Mary Lee Ryba at 208.885.6774 or email at mryba@uidaho.edu.

To our Seattle area engineering alumni, please save-the-date on **Thursday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Museum of Flight**, 9404 East Marginal Way South to join us for a **Seattle Engineering Alumni Reception**. Please join me and our fellow Vandals for hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. It's free museum admission, what a good deal! Please call Jeff Pilcher at 208.885.7978 or email at jpilcher@uidaho.edu to RSVP or more information.

The annual meeting of the **College of Engineering's Advisory Board** is held on the University of Idaho campus each fall. This year it will occur on **September 16 and 17** at the Student Union Building before the Saturday UNLV vs. UI home football game. The Advisory Board helps to shape and support the College of Engineering's vision and goals and provide guidance, insight, and feedback on many topics. **Tom Bourque, TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering**, serves as the current chair of the board. In alphabetical order the current Advisory Board members are: **Harold Blackman, Center for Advanced Energy Studies; Bruce Bouton, Boeing; Bill Eisinger, POWER Engineers; Lisa Grow, Idaho Power; Brent Keeth, Micron; Bob Morris, Schweitzer Engineering; Don Kopczynski, Avista; Jim Miller, Miller Energy Consulting; David Nelson, Visual Mesa; Remy Newcombe, Blue Water Technologies; Tom Pfeiffer, INL; Terry Precht, Technology Driven Products; Mike Simon, Creation Logic; Paul Smith, ABR Medical; Ryne Stoker, GeoTek; Gil Walker, consultant FEMA;** and **Sandra Woods, Dean College Engineering Colorado State University**. Thank you to our advisory board members for their support and time. They are significant constituents of our team and essential contributors in shaping our future. We are especially grateful to all the members for their participation, several over many years, in support of the College, including attending university galas and celebrations, engineering receptions and the football game activities.

Another opportunity for North Idaho alumni not to miss is on Wednesday, September 29 at 6 p.m. at the world-renowned **Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center** near Sandpoint, Idaho. **Drs. Forrest and Pamela Bird** are hosting a University of Idaho Alumni Association Reception with University of Idaho President M. Duane Nellis and Ruthie Nellis. Please call Jeff Pilcher at 208.885.7978 or email at jpilcher@uidaho.edu for more information.

This Dean's E-Letter is archived on our web site so that past editions can be reviewed and shared. I appreciate your enthusiasm and look forward to hearing your thoughts. E-mail me at dblack@uidaho.edu.



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Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Additional graduate degrees: Nuclear Engineering, Geological Engineering, Environmental Engineering and Engineering Management