

CREATE  
INTEGRATE  
ADVANCE

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



**University of Idaho**  
College of Engineering

March 23, 2010

Dear Idaho Engineering and Computer Science Alumni and Friends,

Fifteen months have passed since I accepted a term appointment as Dean of the College of Engineering, just as the University's program prioritization was taking place and the economic and higher education challenging times were unfolding. During this time, working together with the engineering leadership team and my campus colleagues, the college has been able to successfully move forward with a strategic plan and vision that will allow us to reach those infinite possibilities of an Idaho land-grant College of Engineering of the twenty-first century.

It is with great honor that I let you know that I have been chosen as the permanent dean of the College of Engineering to serve the students, faculty, alumni and friends. Our students are impressive for their hard work, intellect and creativity, and they constantly are teaching us, as we pass along our knowledge and expertise. Faculty members are remarkable with their unwavering dedication to mentoring students through instruction and research. And, the dedication of our advisory boards and the success of our alumni demonstrate the high quality of our programs.

I want to thank the wonderful college community of faculty, staff, students and advisors for all their hard work and whose strengths enhance and complement our ability to teach and allow us to move forward to build strategically on those strengths. The need of society for quality engineers and computer science graduates is more important than it has ever been. The College of Engineering will continue to have as its mission to be an engine of innovation for creating new knowledge and developing the people that will apply science to benefit society. Certainly the current economic situation is challenging and the achievement of our mission will require us to grow ongoing and new collaborations with our friends and partners.

I am delighted to announce **two University of Idaho Honorary Degree, Doctor of Engineering, recipients, Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr. and Stanley P. Desjardins**, who will join us for the University Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 15, 2010. **Dr. Bement** is the **Director of the National Science Foundation [NSF]** and a metallurgical engineering master's alumnus. **Stan Desjardins** is **President and Founder of Safe, Inc.**, in Tempe, Arizona and received his mechanical engineering degree at Idaho in 1958. On behalf of the College of Engineering, congratulations and we look forward to the presentation of this prestigious honor in May.

As mentioned in last month's letter, Senior Associate Dean Larry Stauffer and I are visiting alumni and friends throughout the Northwest to talk about the exciting new student support center called the **Think Tank**. The **Think Tank** will serve as a gateway to the college for prospective students and will offer assistance for every need of an engineering student from tutoring and advising to scholarships and professional development. The **Think Tank** will also include a place where student teams can effectively collaborate on projects, hold student engineering professional society meetings, or just plain study. The mission is to assist students in developing the skills, strategies and behaviors needed to perform as confident, independent and active learners.

With much gratitude we acknowledge hosts **Mark Hedge** and **Ryne Stoker** for their support of the first two **Think Tank Kick-Off** receptions last month in Las Vegas. Mark, a 1985 civil engineering graduate and principal of Lochsa Engineering, Las Vegas, is a member of the University of Idaho Foundation Board of Directors and Ryne, a 1990 geological engineering graduate and principal engineer at GeoTek, Inc, Las Vegas, is a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Board as well as a member of the Department of Civil Engineering Advisory Board. Thank you Mark and Ryne, we sincerely appreciate your commitment and loyalty to the College of Engineering.

**Please save the following dates** in your area and **join us** as we talk about the “**State of the College**” as well as the proposed dynamic **Think Tank** program. We sincerely want to hear from you, so please visit with us!

**Don't miss our upcoming reception in Coeur d'Alene, Wednesday, March 24 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort!**

#### **“State of the College” and Think Tank Kick-Off Schedule**

- **Coeur d'Alene Reception**, Wednesday, March 24, 5:00 – 7:00 pm  
Coeur d'Alene Resort, Board Room Five, 7th Floor  
Hosted by **Remy Newcombe, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Blue Water Technologies, Inc.**, Hayden
- **Phoenix Reception**, Monday, March 29, 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
The Buttes, a Marriott Resort, 2000 Westcourt Way, Tempe, Apache and Navajo Rooms  
Hosted by **Stan Desjardins, President and Founder of Safe, Inc.**, Tempe, Arizona
- **Tucson Reception**, Tuesday, March 30, 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
Marriott University Park Hotel, Ventana Room, 880 E. 2nd Street, Tucson
- **Idaho Falls Reception**, Tuesday, April 6, 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
Hard Hat Woodfire Grill, Coyote Wyoming Room, 1175 Pier View Drive, Idaho Falls  
Hosted by **Tom Pfeiffer, Idaho National Laboratory** and **Dr. Harold Blackman, Director, Center for Advanced Energy Studies**
- **Twin Falls Lunch**, Wednesday, April 7, 11:30 – 1:00 pm  
Location TBD
- **Boise Reception**, Wednesday, April 7, 5:30 – 7:00 pm  
UI College of Engineering, Water Center, Legacy Pointe, 322 East Front Street, Boise  
Hosted by **Jim Miller, Miller Energy Consulting**, Boise and **Gil Walker, Transportation & Civil Solutions**, Boise
- **Spokane Reception**, Wednesday, April 14, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
Davenport Hotel, Spokane  
Hosted by **Sheila Janssen-Klages, Benefactor College of Engineering**
- **Seattle Reception**, Thursday, April 22, 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
Location TBD  
Hosted by **Ron Olson, Retired Executive Boeing Company** and **Pat Hauge, Philips Electronics** and **Vice President, Vandal News Service**, web site: [govandals.net](http://govandals.net)
- **Portland Reception**, Tuesday, May 4, 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
Location TBD

Senior Associate Dean Larry Stauffer and I look forward to visiting with you soon! You can RSVP to Kjelda Berg at [kjeldab@uidaho.edu](mailto:kjeldab@uidaho.edu) or call at 208.885.5201.

**EXPO 2010!** We are excited and looking forward to reveal the work of our senior students at our annual **Engineering Design EXPO** on **April 30** in the Student Union Building. The **EXPO 2010 Honorary Chair** is **Kim D. Zentz, P.E.**, and

**Executive Director of Sirti, Spokane.** This event is not only a chance for current students to display their work, but more importantly an opportunity to inspire guests of all ages to discover their own ways to engineer a better world.

One of the best ways to explain what an engineer does is to show engineering fundamentals applied to a project, and our EXPO projects are sure to build some excitement. This year we again encourage high school students to attend the Friday student outreach STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) event which includes an **EXPO Innovators Poster Competition**. This year's theme is "Engineering Your Everyday Life." Students may select three engineering or computer science majors offered at the University of Idaho and create a poster that depicts how these engineering disciplines affect everyday life. Winners of the EXPO Innovators 2010 poster challenge will be awarded in Idaho SCHOLARSHIPS! Students can design a poster showing how engineering affects everyday life for a chance to win! Register at: [www.uidaho.edu/engr/EXPO/innovators](http://www.uidaho.edu/engr/EXPO/innovators).

Engineering **EXPO Passport of Innovations** is another STEM activity of EXPO. High school Innovators will be given a passport and guide to many of the exciting projects our senior design students have completed in the past year. EXPO 2010 also offers **Engineering Department Open Houses**. EXPO Innovators will have the opportunity to tour engineering labs operated by students and faculty from each of our engineering departments. Hands-on activities, exciting demonstrations, and question and answer sessions will provide in-depth information about the possibilities within our degree options. For more information for the student activities, please visit: [www.uidaho.edu/engr/EXPO/innovators](http://www.uidaho.edu/engr/EXPO/innovators).

We invite you to join us as an **EXPO judge** this year. As a judge, your review of design products and processes serves as the basis for EXPO student team awards and your interactions with students will serve as an outstanding chance for them to learn about the diverse career paths available in engineering and beyond. Judging opportunities are available on the EXPO website at: [www.uidaho.edu/engr/EXPO/judges](http://www.uidaho.edu/engr/EXPO/judges).

The evening before EXPO, **Thursday, April 30**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., please join us for the **Dean's Reception** at the Best Western University Inn in Moscow. The College of Engineering will honor **Burt Berlin, Sheila Janssen-Klages, and Bess Vance, for their lasting contributions to the field of engineering, to the College of Engineering, and to the University of Idaho campus**. Please RSVP to Kjelda at [kjeldab@uidaho.edu](mailto:kjeldab@uidaho.edu) or 208.885.5201.

Thank you for all your support and hope to see you at one of these outstanding activities!

Sincerely,



Donald M. Blacketter

Dean, College of Engineering

P.O. BOX 441011    MOSCOW, ID 83844-1011    PH: 208-885-6470    FAX: 208-885-6645

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