

CREATE  
INTEGRATE  
ADVANCE

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



**University of Idaho**  
College of Engineering

September 29, 2010

Dear Idaho Engineering and Computer Science Alumni and Friends,

In a fall address this week to the University of Idaho's statewide community, **President Duane Nellis** noted several positives at the University of Idaho: it generates 70 percent of the state's annual research expenditures; produces 55 percent of all degrees in science, technology, engineering and math; 61 percent of the state's PhDs; has created a sustainable learning environment with 12,302 students statewide; has a nearly \$1 billion economic impact on the state, with a 9-to-1 return rate on the state's investment; leads the state in National Merit Scholars, with 81 of the nation's top high school scholars; increased retention to 81 percent over the past year; and has generated nearly \$96 million in research expenditures with competitive funding secured last year at a 23 percent increase over the previous year.

Developing the **College of Engineering's signature research areas** and securing more competitive research funding is an essential ingredient of the college's strategic plan for 2011-2015. To implement this strategy the college will work on developing a business plan to identify emergent research areas as well as supporting existing research expertise. This year the College of Engineering will work to incentivize and identify research focus areas that include multidisciplinary initiatives cutting across engineering and related disciplines to address state and national priorities.

The College of Engineering is also working to hire multiple faculty positions to attract exceptional and diverse faculty members. The expansion of our faculty will be complemented by corporate educational contracts, professor partnerships and joint positions with industry. We will create an environment for multidisciplinary work in areas of strategic importance.

In conjunction with our fall advisory board meeting this month, a **special reception** was held to recognize the high-achieving students who made the previous semester's **Dean List**. Students were invited to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments with **COE Advisory Board** members, faculty and staff. The Dean's List scholars enjoyed the opportunity to meet and speak with our advisory board industry partners to learn who they are and what they do, and the advisory board members were enthusiastic to meet some of the outstanding students in the college.

This past summer, **Dean's List computer engineering junior, Anthony Kanago**, experienced a taste of post-graduation success at Micron in Boise. "Ultimately, the work being done at Micron in research and development is what I want to do," says Tony. "I would like to work for Micron when I get out of school."

As an intern in the system compatibility group at Micron, Tony spent the summer debugging and tracing problems with memory chips in GPS units, car audio systems, e-book readers and cell phones. A unique challenge he enjoyed was when a problem was solved in the firmware he was working on, it often created a new problem. "I typically work on tracing the logic, seeing what it's doing wrong and then ensuring the issues get resolved," says Tony.

While he had several other offers on his plate for summer internships, Tony jumped at the chance to work with Micron after meeting with a recruiter at a career fair on campus last spring. Not only is Micron a company he'd like to work for after graduation, an extra opportunity with his internship is that Micron offered training sessions every week from industry speakers. "It was a great opportunity; I was exposed to a great breadth of topics and information in addition to what I learned on the job," says Tony. For a streaming video of Tony, visit:

<http://www.uidaho.edu/newsevents/features/summervacation/anthonykanago>.

A 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](http://www.uidaho.edu/careercenter) or contact Mary Lee Ryba at 208.885.6774 or email at [mryba@uidaho.edu](mailto: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](mailto:jpilcher@uidaho.edu) to RSVP or more information.

I also had an opportunity on Wednesday, September 29, to be part of an alumni gathering at the world-renowned **Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center** near Sandpoint, Idaho. **Drs. Forrest and Pamela Bird** hosted a University of Idaho Alumni Association Reception with University of Idaho President M. Duane Nellis and Ruthie Nellis. This event had over 300 alumni and friends. To learn more about the museum, visit [www.birdaviationmuseum.com](http://www.birdaviationmuseum.com).

Again, I appreciate your enthusiasm and look forward to hearing your thoughts. E-mail me at [dblack@uidaho.edu](mailto:dblack@uidaho.edu).

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