

# University of Idaho

A LEGACY OF LEADING

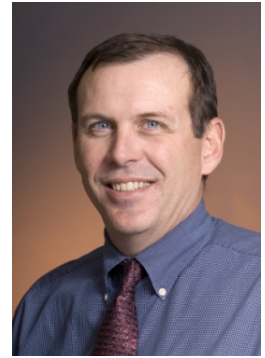
A LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

April 6, 2009

Dear Idaho Engineering and Computer Science Alumni and Friends,

**Dr. Arden Bement, Jr.**, Director of the National Science Foundation [NSF] and University of Idaho metallurgical engineering masters alumnus, is honored that NSF will play a role in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the "stimulus package." At a time when university endowments have lost value, and state budgets are tight, the funding that NSF will be able to provide for research and education will have an immediate impact on campuses across the nation. The \$3 billion Recovery Act investment in NSF programs will sustain and advance major research initiatives, enhance support for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and help renew America's research infrastructure. The immediate impact of this investment will be felt by investigators, post-doctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, and teachers throughout the nation. NSF funding now helps to support nearly 200,000 of these individuals every year and expects to add approximately 50,000 in FY 2009 with Recovery Act funds. Please visit: [www.nsf.gov/news/speeches/bement](http://www.nsf.gov/news/speeches/bement).



Donald Blacketter, Dean  
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Last month, the University of Idaho reached new heights as astronaut **Steve Swanson** carried its flag into space! Swanson took the UI flag on board the space shuttle Discovery last month in honor of his nephew **Greg Swanson**, a UI electrical engineering graduate student who is a NASA International Year of Astronomy student ambassador. The flag is scheduled to be presented to the university at EXPO on May 1.

Congratulations to the University of Idaho College of Engineering Chapter of the **National Society of Black Engineers** [NSBE] for the prestigious awards they brought home from the NSBE National Convention in Las Vegas last month.

Two UI graduate students received national recognition at the 12th Annual GOLDEN TORCH AWARDS honoring the Best and Brightest in Technology. **Edward J. William II**, an electrical engineering doctoral student, is the **2009 Mike Shinn Distinguished Member of the Year**. This award is given to a male and female NSBE student member who have demonstrated high scholastic performance, dedicated service to the Society and other organizations, and who possess high professional promise. Edward received a \$7,500 award and a flight with the Blue Angels.

**Rachel M. Bonas**, computer science doctoral student and the current NSBE-UI Chapter president was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship from the NSBE Board of Corporate Affiliates. The NSBE Fellows Scholarship Program provides scholastic motivation to achieve and serves as a tool to encourage members to continue to strive for academic excellence, while developing professional and leadership skills through organization and community involvement.

I am delighted and proud to announce the third place finish of our students who designed a snowmobile with the best acceleration and fuel economy, and best value in the **SAE International** [the worldwide premier membership society dedicated to advancing automotive engineering] **Clean Snowmobile Challenge** last month. There were more than 160 students participating from 14 different universities in the United States and Canada. They convened in

Houghton, MI, at the Keweenaw Research Center, at Michigan Technological University, to reveal and demonstrate many months of hard work. The young engineering students were enthusiastic and presented different solutions on how to build and improve a snowmobile.

“We have an exceptional group of students working on the clean snowmobile team,” said the team’s faculty advisor **Dr. Karen Den Braven**, mechanical engineering professor. “This program creates an environment where students and faculty can collaborate on design to create a low-emission and fuel-efficient snowmobile. Year after year, the team takes top honors, and team graduates have been hired as engineers by the snowmobile industry.”

An additional congratulations goes to our concrete canoe team that came in first in the overall **2009 American Society of Civil Engineers Pacific Northwest Regional Student Conference Canoe Competition** guided by advisor **Dr. Edwin Schmeckpeper**. **Kiersten Lee**, a senior at the University of Idaho, said she was sad when their canoe broke on the water but the team still had enough points to take the overall prize. Lee’s 13-member team began planning their canoe at the beginning of the year and started molding in February. **Megan Mecham**, a junior at University of Idaho, said she had a great time with the whole process and her team coordinated their efforts well. The University of Idaho team will advance to the national competition this summer, for which they will build a new canoe with the same specifications.

Last month, faculty advisor **Dr. David Drown** lead our student team to first place in performance at the **American Institute of Chemical Engineers [AIChE] Chem-E-Car Regional** competition qualifying them to enter Nationals next November and they also won first in poster presentation for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year!

Students from engineering will be among the 31 teams representing 21 colleges and universities from across the U.S. and Canada at the **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Design Contest** this week at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The engineering challenge is sponsored by WERC: A consortium for Environmental Education and Technology Development. The environmental design contest challenges student teams to develop solutions of real-world environmental problems that have been submitted by various companies and government institutions. UI students will compete in the task of sulfate removal from ground water and the task of converting wind energy into mechanical energy for water treatment. The University of Idaho team is lead by advisor **Dr. David Drown**. Go Vandals!

We are excited and looking forward to reveal the work of our senior students at **the Engineering Design EXPO on May 1** in the Student Union Building. The EXPO 2009 Honorary Chair is **William Eisinger**, Vice President, Transmission & Distribution Division, **POWER Engineers, Inc.** 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 event which includes a distinguished speaker, tours, workshops and other unique experiences that demonstrate what engineering really is. For more information and to register for the student activities, please visit: [www.engr.uidaho.edu/EXPO/outreach](http://www.engr.uidaho.edu/EXPO/outreach).

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.engr.uidaho.edu/EXPO/judges](http://www.engr.uidaho.edu/EXPO/judges).

This year the EXPO distinguished speaker is **Russell W. Strong**, design leader of Integrated Vision, Inc. (Washington, D.C.) and '76 Engineering Tau Beta Pi graduate of the University of Idaho. With a degree in agricultural engineering as well as Professional Engineer Registration in mechanical engineering, Russell credits his U of I experience as a key part of a foundation for a broad design and management career, and now heads a defense program that will likely transform a major sector of military capabilities. Known for creating the global "look" of New Holland by bringing together both engineering and styling within a team approach, his work grew to cover major programs at Caterpillar, John Deere, CNH Global, AgChem and Fiat-Hitachi, among others. Holder of over 50 patents, Russell's strengths in engineering, ergonomics, styling and team dynamics have contributed to the success of over 40 industry-leading programs. Following the lecture, we invite you to the **Golden I Reception**, an alumni luncheon.

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 **Janet Pope, DeVlieg Foundation, George Russell, Ph.D.**, Department of Civil Engineering and **Wendell Satre**, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 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.

It's with great pleasure that I recognize **Dr. Corby Anderson**, a UI Ph.D. graduate in metallurgical engineering, who has been selected by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, as the recipient of the **2008 Milton E. Wadsworth Award**. The Wadsworth Award is given for a distinguished contribution that advances understanding of the science and technology of non-ferrous chemical metallurgy.

Sadly, **Raymond Alvah Hanson**, a great friend of the College of Engineering, and a prolific inventor and engineer, passed away on February 19. Ray began his engineering career as a mechanical engineering student at the University of Idaho and went on to develop more than 100 patents. During his career, Ray built one of the world's largest cranes for the Grand Coulee Dam, canal digging machinery that was used in more than 50 countries and a backfilling machine that was used to build the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

He and his wife Lois have cared deeply about this campus and are forever a part of its history. From his concern for young students to his extraordinary generosity to the UI Teaching and Learning Center [TLC], Ray made a profound difference to the College and University. While Ray's spirit lives on, we will deeply miss his warmth, caring and personal commitment.

*Ray was honored last July for the innovation and development of the self-leveling control for hillside combines by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and the College of Engineering.*

Sincerely,



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Dean, College of Engineering

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