"Summer school" is a term that often conjures up negative images of long hours in a sweltering classroom while one’s friends are outdoors enjoying freedom and fun. For some University of Idaho students, however, summer courses offer a quick and easy way to get ahead on their degree or experience things they would otherwise be unable to.

"It’s almost better than regular classes," said Austin Warren, a senior double majoring in international studies and psychology. "You get to study something really intensely for a while, as opposed to having to balance studying a whole lot of different subjects and getting barely into each one."

Warren is currently taking History 451 and Philosophy 221, an online class. He said being able to take summer classes is perfect for him, because his busy schedule as a resident assistant and house director during the last two years kept him from being able to take as many credits as he would like.

Kyle Hubler, a senior studying Radio/TV/Digital Media Production, has a different reason for taking summer classes. "I’ve always looked forward to summer courses because I’m taking Documentary and Producing Episodic Television, are only offered during the summer. Thus, summer classes give him the opportunity to study subjects he would otherwise be unable to, and provide the added bonus of allowing him to take fewer credits during his senior year.

Hubler said he enjoys the overall feel of summer classes, adding that there is more emphasis on “learning through discussion” instead of homework.

See SUMMER, page 8
Discover Life
at the Idaho Commons
& Student Union

Going to be around Moscow this summer? Interested in spending some of your time volunteering?

Sign up to receive regular emails about summer volunteer opportunities by registering on our volunteer database:
http://service.sub.uidaho.edu

ASUI CENTER FOR VOLUNTEERISM & SOCIAL ACTION

Student Health Pharmacy Hours:
9:00 a.m. to Noon
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Student Health Clinic Hours:
8:30 a.m. to Noon
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Concerts in June:
Ciroto Marimba Ensemble
June 25
Noon on Commons Green

Sudoku
Hard

Crossword

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Ernest through the years

Matt Adams-Wenger
Summer Arg

This is dating me slightly, but one of my favorite childhood movie characters is the lovable simpleton Ernest P. Worrel, played by Jim Varney. With Wikipedia, IMDb and YouTube, I can find out so much more about him than was ever apparent at the time I saw his movies as a youngster. For those of you with nothing to do this summer, or with stuff to do but who crave some cinematic entertainment on a lazy Thursday night, I have prepared my Top Five Ernest Movies.

5. Ernest Goes to Camp (1987)
Ernest’s first major motion picture, this is what introduced most of the country to the talents of Mr. Varney. Previously, Varney had been working independently as an actor and had already popularized the character of Ernest in commercials beginning in 1980. He would shill for dairy products, food, natural gas, cars, whatever his agency told him to.
He proved so popular that he was given his own movie, as well as a TV show the following year which won a daytime Emmy. In “...Camp,” Hollywood has clearly yet to figure out exactly what to do with this character who had previously been featured for no more than a minute at a time, but the seeds are being planted for a major movie career.

Basically, Ernest and his young friends have to stop evil trolls from taking over the city. The trolls get their power by turning children into little statues, but can be defeated by milk. OK, so it sounds stupid on paper. In fact, most of his movies sound stupid on paper ... Notable for: an epic final battle as well as a supporting role for Eartha “Sexiest Catwoman” Kitt as a crazy witch-type.

Personally, I think this is the best Christmas movie there is. An aging (oh no) Santa comes to Florida to choose his replacement, and Ernest helps out. Again, sounds boring, but the combination of witty antics and conflict (Santa’s replacement just doesn’t understand what the spirit of Christmas is all about) saves the movie from devolving into maudlin mishmash. Notable for: perhaps the first cinematic representation of Santa’s flying sleigh.

1. Ernest Goes to Jail (1990)
This is by far the best Ernest movie. Simple bank janitor Ernest is called to jury duty, but he is switched with a hardened criminal who happens to look just like him.
Notable for: introducing us to Ernest’s house; the antics of Chuck and Bobby, security guard comedy team; Jim Varney playing two separate characters, but one of them being completely serious. Such is the talent of Jim Varney. When this was written, this movie was viewable on YouTube. Go watch it before YouTube notices and takes it down.

Primarily, I think these movies are entertaining because of the talent of Jim Varney. While Ernest himself is just simply goofy, he’s more entertaining by virtue of his facility for impressions, expressions, voices and characters.
In this low-budget flick from way-back-when, Ernest finds a family album in his attic and tells his neighbor Vern all about it through the magic of flash-back vignettes.
In doing so, Varney plays several different characters from his family history, each different enough to not be boring, but each similar enough that you can see Ernest coming from these people. The best scene is when a pioneer ancestor guards a fort by convincing the attacking Indians that there are in fact a whole army of rabid soldiers inside. Notable for: every second. 

No. 1
“UP” full of sentiment

Kelcie Moseley
Argonaut

From the moment Carl Fredricksen, the main character of Pixar’s latest film “UP,” comes on screen, it is difficult not to be swept away by his story and endless devotion.

The film features many more lovable characters besides Fredricksen, including his accidental sidekick Russell, and others they find along the way, like Dug the dog. Each one is endearing in ways only Pixar seems to be able to achieve, but with a flair of originality not seen in its previous films.

Fredricksen’s character is a 78-year-old holding onto the memory of his wife and childhood friend, Ellie. He lives in the house where they met, and one day takes off on the adventure to Paradise Falls, a location in South America he and his wife always talked about. As a former balloon salesman, Fredricksen has plenty of balloons lying around, and he fills them all up and takes his home with him on his adventure.

The rest of the plot is better off told by the film itself, because it is brilliantly done. In the first ten or fifteen minutes of the movie, the audience knows exactly how much Fredricksen’s wife meant to him and the loneliness he feels with her gone. The contrast between Fredricksen’s personality when she was alive is stark because in the present, he is grumpy and almost spiteful. Through the course of his adventures with Russell, his 8-year-old counterpart, Fredricksen finds himself forced to face his unwillingness to love anyone else, let go of the past and start living his life in the present.

While the premise of the film is deeper than many other Pixar films, there are plenty of laughs to be found throughout all 96 minutes. “UP” is easily enjoyable for older audiences as well as younger ones, and in fact, might be even more appealing to an older age bracket for its subject material.

As always, the animation is superb. Another plus for “UP” is that it is full of action from beginning to end, complete with fight scenes. It is packed with warmth, color and wit, and it’s sure to keep you entertained until the last balloon pops.

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SUB Ballroom renovation starts

Marcus Kells
Summer Arg

In 1961, the University of Idaho Student Union Building got a ballroom.
That same ballroom - which in the last few years has hosted Death Cab for Cutie, Del tha Funkee Homosapien, and Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts - has been essentially the same since. Over the summer, it will receive its first complete renovation since its construction.

"What used to be the signature room of its size in town essentially became a tired, old, big room," said Mark Miller, assistant director of the Idaho Commons and Student Union.

Miller said the renovations will address the "tired nature of the room," specifically with the stage, floor and ceiling.

The design has many partners, including trimmerraystudios in Seattle, Castellaw Kom Architects in Lewiston, and Coffman Engineers with an office in Spokane. Golls Construction Inc. from Eagle is the general contractor. Zimmerraystudios and Castellaw Kom are both UI alumni.

Miller called zimmerraystudios - Robert Zimmer and Harry Ray - the driving force behind the design. Coincidentally with the ballroom design, the firm created a master plan for the SUB's second floor.

The stage has been expanded several times, and the plans call for a return to the stage's original height of 2 feet. The installed lighting and sound will be replaced, and rigid wall dividers will take the place of fabric ones.

Christina Kerns, the Vandal Entertainment adviser, is one user of the ballroom. Vandal Entertainment uses the space for concerts, speakers and performing arts.

"This is a difficult campus to program on," Kerns said. "We do a lot of shows in the ballroom we could've sold a lot more tickets to," referring to sold-out shows by Craig Morgan and Taylor Swift. The ballroom's former capacity was 850, seated or standing, but after the renovation it might be hundreds more.

Kerns said she was excited about increased access to the stage. Presently, storage compartments are behind pillars on the west wall, but the pillars will become a wall themselves. The new wall will have access doors for catering and technicians - and transport between dressing rooms and the stage.

The renovation has developed quickly. Feasibility studies began in 2005, but the architects were only selected on December 24 of last year and blueprints were finalized in May.

UI gave the constructors notice to proceed on June 2, though asbestos removal began earlier than that.

The Appaloosa meeting room in the Borah Lounge will be connected to the ballroom, as well, and the east wall of the main stairwell will be removed to promote an open atmosphere in the SUB.

In accordance with the new master plan for the second floor, the next several years will see work done on the Borah Theater and the lounge and meeting rooms south of the ballroom. Up next will be heating, ventilation and air conditioning work: Miller said that the university had the funds for renovation or HVAC right now, but not both.

"We're way due," Miller said of the renovation. "It's been almost 50 years. On the other side of the coin, it's held up tremendously well."

Evolution: it's all around Moscow

Marcus Kells
Summer Arg

Though evolutionary biology is not the most well-known of the University of Idaho's researches, beginning Friday the campus will host Evolution 2009, the annual combined conference of three scientific societies.

Twelve hundred participants are expected, including many from both UI and Washington State University. Olle Pellmyr, a UI professor of biology, is the program chair for the conference.

"We have a critical mass of evolutionary biologists," Pellmyr said about UI and WSU's researchers. "We want to show off. We have mass, and now we need visibility."

The conference is the meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Society of Systematic Biologists and the American Society of Naturalists. New this year will be the Stephen Jay Gould Award for Public Outreach. Eugene C. Scott, an activist against the teaching of creationism in public school science classes, will be its first recipient.

Scott will give a lecture open to the public at 8 p.m. Friday in the Kibbie Dome on the public understanding of evolution.

Erica Bree Rosenblum, an assistant professor in UI's department of biological sciences, will be presenting research at the conference about the gene that turns some lizards white. She did her graduate, doctoral and postdoctoral work at the University of California-Berkeley.

"You might be surprised to realize that our infrastructure is the same (as theirs)," Rosenblum said.

Rosenblum's research covers both speciation, or the creation of new species, and extinction. Both Rosenblum and Pellmyr said UI's evolutionary biology program has a great strength in multidisciplinary work - mathematicians and statisticians work with biologists in the program.

"I kind of work from the level of the molecules to the level of communities, but a colleague might go from the species all the way to the tree of life," she said.

The conference is the preeminent one in its field. Pellmyr has been to between 10 and 15 conferences, and Rosenblum has been to around 10.

Previous hosts include the University of Minnesota and Stony Brook University. Following Idaho, the 2010 conference will be held at Portland State University.

"This is the intellectual highpoint of the year for me, this week," Rosenblum said. "It's not just that we have the best and brightest (at the conference) - you meet people you wouldn't otherwise meet."
Peddling out stress

In these stressful times, it is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Regular exercise is one of the best ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Last week, some friends and I decided we would take our bicycles riding. First, we rode two miles out on a county road near my house in Troy.

But last Thursday, we decided we would tackle the Latah Trail between Troy and Moscow and not stop until we got to Subway. To my surprise, we all made it, so we decided to take the trail back instead of calling for a ride.

I admit I don't exercise regularly like I should, so after this ride every muscle in my body was sore. What made the ride worth it was the amount of energy I had the next day and the aura I felt around me. I felt rested.

Most days I'm waiting for every opportunity to sneak in a nap, but after the ride I had a feeling of renewed happiness and accomplishment. My days went by much quicker and I felt a huge release of stress I had been feeling with the routine of my job.

This is the first summer riders have had the opportunity to embark on the adventure of the 11-mile ride since the Latah Trail was completed October 2008.

As it runs over the old railroad tracks, the trail is moderately level with only slight slopes.

It is perfect for beginning riders, or those who haven't been on a bicycle in several years, like me. The first two miles out of Troy through the forest is perfect for cool air and calm riding. Once you get next to the highway there are many views of the rolling hills of Idaho.

According to an article in Fitness Magazine, people are nature-deprived because of the amount of hours we have been devoting to work.

Riding a bicycle instead of attending a spin class is one cure to this problem. Being outdoors can increase happiness. It's not just the presence of the plant life, but the sun can also provide enrichment to our bodies.

June 13 was named National Get Outdoors Day by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. If you haven't taken the time to rid your life of unnecessary stress, use Saturday as the jump start to a healthy lifestyle.

Starting a healthy lifestyle during the summer will prepare you for the winter ahead.

Not only does regular exercise and being outdoors decrease your stress, there are many other benefits, specifically to bicycle riding. It tones your muscles, keeps your joints healthy, trains your heart for healthy circulation and improves lung capacity.

Riding a bicycle is beneficial for all areas of the body, keeping your legs strong and fit without becoming too large, and your shoulders and arms are put to work when climbing steep slopes.

Summer style without breaking your wallet

Summer is a great time for camping, baseball games, boating and new fashion. It is a time to kick off your jeans and let your legs breathe. During the winter clothes are all about deep, rich colors, a lot of layers and bundling up to keep warm.

But in the summer it is time to peel off the layers and grab a cute pair of strappy sandals and a skirt.

Summer clothes are full of fun colors, different patterns, unique styles and multiple ways to create a chic ensemble and a fresh from the beach look. Trying to accomplish all potential summer attires can easily become expensive, but it does not have to be with a few key multi-purpose pieces.

Keeping a few staple garments in your closet for any season is a good idea if you're trying to maintain a budget. For the summer, staple garments in each main clothing group can make it possible for you to have a fresh from the beach look one day and the next, a chic ensemble that looks like it is worth a million bucks.

Summer leg wear includes shorts of various lengths, capri pants and an assortment of skirts. Depending on personal preference, each of these categories can be used for staple garments and dressed down or up. Summer tops include a variety of tank tops (also single shoulder tops), camisoles, tube tops, T-shirts and classic dress tops. And finally there are always the ever popular sun dresses.

Accessories and shoes also help to either dress up or down summer style. Shoes of any kind can be put to good use, including flip flops, sandals, heels and tennis shoes. Accessories can be found on good sales throughout the year and can easily be used in any season. Each of these summer fashion elements can be mixed and matched to create low cost ensembles.

 Staple items from each of the summer fashion elements can be reused and mixed-matched. For example, a comfortable, mildly styled pair of denim shorts (regardless of the length) can be worn to the beach with a swimsuit and flip-flops or coupled with a cute pair of wedge heels and a dressy top. Capri pants generally follow the same guidelines as shorts with one exception towards heels — they do not have to be limited to wedges.

Like shorts, a staple skirt, whether it is neutral colored cotton or denim, can also be worn with flip-flops and a tank top or heels and a sassy top. Tops can be worn with any form of leg wear, and depending on the style, can be used for either the beach or a chic look. Tops are also typically less expensive than other elements of summer fashion making it possible to have more outfits.

Sun dresses are fun and represent personal style, so as long as you pick one or two that you like, you can rock them all summer. Shoes for sun dresses are unlimited. For the beach a pair of flip-flops or flat sandals can make for a casual look, while any form of a heel will generate a chic, on-the-town feel.

Accessorizing these items can be simple. A few basic pieces, like a set of silver hoops, gold hoop and then one or two other pairs of jazzier earrings can be used for any of these outfits. Simple hoops work well with a ring at the beach and jazzier earrings add a little emphasis to a more high fashion look.

The same theory works for necklaces and bracelets. When going to the beach, if you wish to wear a necklace, then choose something simple with a short chain. For a night out on the town, grab a longer necklace with a little more flair, and save the bracelets for then too.

Purchasing one or two items from the main categories, including leg wear, shoes and dresses that use basic colors and style will provide clean canvases for accessories and tops. By adding and subtracting elements of an outfit, it is easy to create a fresh from the beach look or a chic ensemble without having to buy a new wardrobe.

Read Women’s Wednesday and Nylon Summer Tour review online at uiargonaut.com