



Idaho State
University

University
Honors Program

Weekly Update

September 20, 2021

Autumn Leaves and Homecoming Traditions

A letter from UHP Acting Director Alex Bolinger

Trivia question: Where did the best-selling pianist of all time (according to Billboard magazine) and the first pianist to get a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame attend college? Answer: Idaho State University!

If you have never heard of Roger Williams, do yourself a favor and Google his signature song: "Roger Williams and Autumn Leaves." The results will most likely lead you to dozens of grainy, black-and-white videos of a handsome young man in a tuxedo, his fingers flying across the keyboard, in front of audiences in some of the most popular venues and television shows (including the "Ed Sullivan Show") of the 1950s and 1960s. With 21 certified gold and platinum albums and the only solo piano recording to ever reach Number One on the Billboard singles chart, it is almost impossible to describe just how ubiquitous Roger Williams was at the height of his popularity.

Why do I mention Roger Williams in connection with the ISU Honors Program? I think that Williams, who was then known by his given name of Louie Wertz (a record executive asked Wertz to take the stage name Roger Williams after the founder of

Rhode Island), would have loved to participate in the Honors Program if it had been available at the time. Wertz attended Idaho State College in the mid-to-late 1940s, first as a Naval officer in training during World War II and then as a piano performance major on the G. I. Bill after the war. He was an instrumental part of a booming arts scene on campus during the post-war years (I would have loved to have sat in on the student-organized talent shows!). After graduating from Idaho State College, Wertz went on to earn a Masters degree at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music and was discovered by a record executive. And the rest, as they say, is history.

I often think of "Autumn Leaves" when I think of Homecoming week at ISU, partly because the song itself captures the vibe of this time of year, with cooler days, crisp evenings, and the gorgeous red and yellow colors of the changing leaves in the foothills. But I also think of that song because Louie Wertz never forgot his roots in Pocatello. For decades, Wertz/Williams would return to ISU from time to time, often

during Homecoming week, to perform a concert for the students of ISU and the citizens of this region.

There is something both comforting and exciting about Homecoming, a feeling of being connected to traditions that have been carried out on this campus for generations. And yet, this week you also have the opportunity to leave your mark by participating in a brand-new tradition. This Saturday, September 25th, the Honors Program will be holding our first-ever Homecoming Rendezvous open house after the football game, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Many of you are participating by displaying your research, exhibiting art, giving musical performances, or chatting with the members of our community who come to eat tasty hors d'oeuvres and find out what Honors students are all about. I have no doubt that they will be very impressed.

If you haven't already, I want to encourage you to please consider RSVPing via email to honors@isu.edu to attend the Homecoming Rendezvous, even if you can only stay for 30-45 minutes, to enjoy some great food, to meet and congratulate Honors Program alumni (many of whom were unable to receive recognition in-person the last couple of years because of the pandemic), and to network with people from the community. This event is a celebration of all the work that you and your peers are putting into your studies as an investment in your future. I am especially excited about the Homecoming Rendezvous (and very grateful to Miriam Dance and Dawn Brooks for their hard work in planning it!) because, as much as we savor the past with traditions such as Homecoming, we are even more excited about what the future holds for you.

Gratitude Challenge Update

We're making progress!

54% of our goal has been accomplished! Working together we'll be able to reach our 400 letter goal.

You can write your letters now and report your contribution to The Gratitude Challenge at:

isu.edu/honors/gratitude.



Current Progress:
217 Letters

Goal:
400 Letters

THE GRATITUDE CHALLENGE

LED BY THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

The Background: In the aftermath of this past year, facilitating campus and community connections (and overall well-being) are top priorities.

The Premise: "I can live for two months on a good compliment." – Mark Twain Letters of gratitude to people who have made a positive difference in your life are remarkably effective at increasing perceptions of well-being, social support, and motivation for both the sender and the recipient (e.g., Grant & Shandell, 2021; Kumar & Epley, 2018)

The Audacious Goal: 400 letters of gratitude by students, faculty/staff/administrators, alumni, and friends of ISU in September.

How You Can Contribute:

- Write letter(s) of gratitude toward our campus-wide goal of 400 letters. We especially invite you to join us for one of the [UHP Club's Letter-Writing Get Together in the Rendezvous building, behind the C-store, Monday, September 20th, from 7 to 9 p.m.](#)
- Consider contributing a story or memory to be included in our campus-wide book, Orange, Black, & Thankful: Stories from The Gratitude Challenge.

For more details about these activities, please visit [The Gratitude Challenge web page at isu.edu/honors/gratitude](http://isu.edu/honors/gratitude).

Internship Info Session with Southwest Airlines

Info session with Princesses Young, ISU alum 2014, Senior Analyst - Cyber Security @ Southwest Airlines

Southwest Airlines is an amazing company & has over 80 internships available to apply for. Princess is a very successful alumna who is here to share her wisdom with our students & faculty.

Sept 23rd, noon - 1 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://isu.zoom.us/j/88971328140>

Updated Peer-Advising Hours

To supplement the advising you receive from your Honors advisor, the Honors Program is happy to offer walk-in peer advising for all Honors students. Third-year Honors student, Exko Ramey, is available to meet with you in REND 306A during the following times:

Mondays	12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Fridays	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Honors Research Funding Award

Applications for the Honors Research Funding Award are currently being accepted for Fall 2021 awards.

Application Deadline: November 12, 2021

This funding is awarded to Honors students who are completing research in pursuit of an Honors Degree. Awards are given every Fall and Spring semester. This award is funded through the Hill Honors Program Endowment.

The scholarship can be used for expenses related to their research (e.g., research materials, supplies, books, and conference fees for conference presentations and attendance). Students must be in active UHP status (have a GPA of 3.2 or greater, and have fulfilled the credit progress, civic engagement, and BAHM requirements).

Apply for the Research Funding Award through the Bengal Online Scholarship System (BOSS).

Homecoming Rendezvous

Saturday, September 25
6:00-8:00 p.m.

This is an amazing opportunity for Honors students to mingle with current students, alumni, and friends of the Honors Program.

We'd love to showcase the many talents of the Honors Program.

If you'd like to share your musical talent or research activity at the this event, we still have space. If you are interested, please email Dawn Brooks at dawnbrooks@isu.edu.

Honors Leadership Opportunities

We are currently accepting Applications for Spring 2022 Honors Envoy and 2022 Peer Mentor positions! Applications are due by Friday, November 12, 2021.

Honors Envoy

Envoy members support Honors Leadership, are deeply involved in UHP work and recruitment, and become the face and representative of the UHP and its student members. There are typically five Envoy positions available every Fall and Spring semester.

As an internship position, Envoy positions are semester-long terms (available each Fall and Spring semester) and include a \$300 scholarship and a stipend of approximately \$300 (at \$9 per hour, paid over the semester).

Honors Peer Mentor

Honors Mentors provide Honors students a resource on campus that they can rely upon to answer questions related to their education, the university, and even personal matters. Their knowledge of ISU campus resources and professional training offer new Honors students with a reliable advocate for a successful college experience.

To apply for an Envoy or Peer Mentor position, visit isu.edu/honors/current-students/honors-student-leaders/

2021 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Education Virtual Conference

Call for Proposals

This year's conference theme is Equity and Inclusion in Rural and Diverse Educational Communities. We invite researchers and practitioners to share their research and experiences related to this year's conference theme or any other area of educational research related to equity and inclusion.

Visit the conference website to view the Call for Proposals, proposal template and proposal submission form.

isu.edu/education/dei/

Interested students are encouraged to submit proposals to be a presenter at the conference. Conference presenters may provide a live or pre-recorded presentation. Proposals are due September 30.

Follow Us on Social Media!

Stay up to date by following the University Honors Program on your favorite social media platforms.

Instagram	@idahostatehonors
Twitter	@Idaho_Honor
Facebook	@isuhsonor

UHP Advisor Contact

Dr. Alex Bolinger	alexbolinger@isu.edu
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Miriam Dance	miriamdance@isu.edu
Lori Tapanila	loritapanila@isu.edu

Study Abroad

Want an opportunity to study in a different country? See the flyer attached to the email for times on info sessions.



Bengal Service Corps

The Bengal Service Corps is a great way to serve around the community with fellow ISU students. It's a great way to build your resume and help make an impact. If you participate, make sure to log your hours online and tag Bengal Service Corp on social media if you post pictures of the service projects they put on. They love seeing the work you're doing!

Visit isu.edu/service/ for ideas on how to serve or to get dates on upcoming service projects!



UHP Club Events

All Honors students are invited to join the University Honors Student Club. The UHP Club strengthens connections among Honors students, positively impacts the community through service and enhances campus life by hosting fun activities. Here's a look at upcoming club events!

September

23 *Game Night | 8:30-10:30 PM | Honors Lobby*

Join us for an evening of Mario Kart and other games.

24 *Cowboy Carnival | 5 PM-8:30 PM | Cadet Field*

Come stop by and see the UHP Club at our Ring Toss booth! To help us out with getting extra points, you must be wearing Bengal gear and send a picture/video of you or a mentee (in their Bengal Gear) on the mechanical bull to @idahostatehonors on Instagram! We will submit the most fun/creative one to SAB!

25 *Homecoming Parade | 9 AM | Parade Entrance: 2nd Ave & Sutter St.*

Rules for marching:

- No throwing candy! We will have bags for you to hand it to the crowd!
- IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MARCHING WITH US, PLEASE EMAIL BOTH JESS AND EXKO (chaljess@isu.edu and exkoramey@isu.edu) WITH THE UHP CLUB.
- If you will be participating in the parade, we will email you with details on where and when to meet. It will be EARLY on Saturday morning.

If you want to march in the parade, you must be wearing Bengal gear, preferably something Honors related. We get more points if those who march are:

- Cheering loudly and constantly and interacting with crowd constantly.
- Very clearly portraying School Spirit.
- Very clearly portraying the group represented (Honors)

Saturday, Sep 25th | Homecoming Tailgate| 11 AM | Practice Field Near Holt Arena

Come stop by and see the UHP Club at our booth! To help us out with completing the Gratitude Challenge, you can fill out a short thankfulness note! If you submit a note, you will be entered into a drawing for one of two Honors Swag Baskets, which will include various Honors merch and a \$25 gift card to a surprise location. Just for being an Honors Student and signing in with the QR code at our booth, you get a bonus entry, and you can also gain bonus entries throughout the week by tagging @idahostatehonors in photos from other events in the week! Every tag from a new event will be counted as a new entry. Come say hi, then head on into Holt Arena and enjoy the game!

First-Year House Competition Results

Here are the results based on the first four weeks. The members of the House of Benny earned many of their points by the lengths that they went to during the Scavenger Hunt at the Meet and Greet.

Benny	913
Panthera	844
Night	744
Stripes	469

The competition continues for five more weeks. There is still ample time and opportunities for any house to gain the lead and become the Fall 2021 Champions. Remember you are working to earn your house's name on the Recognition Plaque and the opportunity to participate in the House Completion celebration.

The mentors established two more additional ways to earn House points. See the new ways in the list below:

1. Meet with your Honors advisor either in person or over zoom. Let your UHP mentor know when you meet. These meetings with your advisors are worth **10 points**.
2. Meet with your mentor. These meetings can be in person or over zoom and can range from questions about classes or life at ISU, study sessions for homework, or just plain hanging out and having fun. These meetings are worth **10 points**.
3. Text or email your mentor. These conversations with your mentor are worth **5 points**.
4. Attend Honors events with your mentor. This will earn your House **10 points** for each Honors event attended. There will be a sign-in sheet at each Honors event so that the club can keep track of how many students. You'll earn **25 points** for attending the Homecoming Rendezvous event on September 25. Be sure to sign in.
5. Report a written letter of Gratitude or a verbal expression of gratitude to your mentor. **5 points**.
6. Follow and Tag pictures you have taken at any Honors Program events on Twitter (@Idaho_Honor), Facebook (Idaho State University Honors), and/or Instagram (@idahostatehonors) to earn bonus points. **1 point per Follow or Tag**.