



Idaho State
University

University
Honors Program

Weekly Update

April 18, 2022

The Future is Bright

A letter from Alex Bollinger, UHP Acting Director

In many ways, keeping up with the Honors Program during the month of April requires running on pure adrenaline. And the push actually began at the end of March, with three full sessions of our Bi-Annual Honors Meetings (BAHM). Dawn Brooks, Miriam Dance, Lori Tapanila, and I had the chance to see over 200 of you, in most cases in-person.

It was a treat to get to recognize so many Honors students who have served in leadership and mentor positions, who are graduating, and/or who are completing their Honors Distinction or Degree this year. Every single one of you has made an impact during your time in the Honors Program and your recognition during BAHM only scratches the surface of our gratitude for your willingness to be a part of the Honors family here at ISU.

Saturday, April 2nd represented the return of Opportuni-Tea after a one-year hiatus because of the pandemic. This year's version of Opportuni-Tea was coordinated by a team of Honors students in Miriam Dance's Honors event planning course. Opportuni-Tea 2022 was, from start to finish, an event about Honors students, for Honors students, and focused on showcasing the musical, artistic, academic, and leadership capabilities of Honors students.

There are lots of ways to measure the success of an awareness-raising and fundraising event, of

including the number of people in attendance, amount of money raised, and positive feedback from attendees, among many other metrics. Let me give you just one number that demonstrates just how well Opportuni-Tea met its goals of being a student-centered community outreach event to raise money for student scholarships: this year's event raised just shy of **\$10,000 in Owl-opportunity scholarships alone**, more than double the previous record! That scholarship money goes directly to current Honors students to offset the costs of important educational needs. Thank you to Miriam and her class, the entire Honors team, many stakeholders and friends of the Honors Program who contributed in ways large and small, and the many Honors students who donated their time to making the event everything that it turned out to be.

In the midst of all of these activities, I want to highlight something else that is coming up this week and next that has important implications for the future of the University Honors Program – and a way that you all can participate. As you have learned from reading the Weekly Update over the past six weeks, Dawn and Miriam will be leaving us at the end of the semester to pursue new chapters in their lives and careers. I want to say out loud what many of you may have been thinking: What does their leaving mean for the future of the Honors Program?

I want to assure you that the Honors team has moved quickly to initiate searches for their replacements and we have been delighted that the search committee has been able to draw from a deep pool of applicants. (No surprises here, but it turns out that a lot of people really covet the opportunity to work with Honors students.) Later this week and the following Monday, we are inviting to campus four finalists for the University Honors Program Instructor/Coordinator positions.

Here's the deal: We need your input! In deciding whom to hire for these roles, we greatly value the input of Honors students, so we are inviting you to two separate sessions each day:

1. A 45-minute Teaching Session, in which each finalist will present on a topic from ACAD 1104. This will give you an opportunity to learn a little bit about their teaching style and approach.
1. A 30-minute Chat with Honors students, which is reserved for Honors students only. This is your chance to ask the finalists questions about their backgrounds, abilities, philosophies, and what they would intend to bring to the Honors Program. Here's a summary of the schedule:

Wednesday, April 20th

- 9:30-10:15 a.m. – Teaching Session, REND 315
- 10:15-10:45 a.m. – Chat with Honors Students, REND 313

Thursday, April 21st

- 9:30-10:15 a.m. – Teaching Session, REND 243
- 10:15-10:45 a.m. – Chat with Honors Students, REND 225

Friday, April 22nd

- 9:30-10:15 a.m. – Teaching Session, REND 315
- 10:15-10:45 a.m. – Chat with Honors Students, REND 313

Monday, April 25th

- 9:30-10:15 a.m. – Teaching Session, REND 315
- 10:15-10:45 a.m. – Chat with Honors Students, REND 313

Thank you in advance for your participation in these portions of the on-campus interviews. If the past two years have taught us anything, it is that the future can be unpredictable and change is inevitable. But with change comes opportunity and we have finalists with exciting ideas and energy to build on the University Honors Program's momentum. I have no doubt that the future is bright – but come and see for yourself!

Floats and Votes

Honors Family,

As we quickly approach the end of the year, we plan on holding our annual club elections at the end of April, beginning with Floats and Votes on April 22nd at 5pm where all candidates are expected to give a speech, followed by rootbeer floats. This event is extremely important because it is where the next club officers are chosen. You get to choose who runs the UHP next year, so come cast your vote!

You can see who is currently up for office by visiting this website:

<https://sites.google.com/isu.edu/honorselections/home>



End-of-Year Celebration

Join us for our end-of-year celebration on April 29 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Cadet Field. We'll be having a powdered color war, as well as the ICCU green machine.

We'll also be celebrating Professor Brook's retirement!

You Can Still Apply for an Envoy Position

The deadline to apply to be an Envoy has been extended to April 22.

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

Get more details and apply online here:

<https://www.isu.edu/honors/current-students/honors-student-leaders/>

UHP Club Events

April

- 22** Floats and Votes | 5:00 PM | Rendezvous Planetarium
Come enjoy root beer floats and vote for our University Program officers for next year.
- 29** End of Year Celebration | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Cadet Field
Keep an eye out for more details!

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