



Idaho State  
University

University  
Honors Program

# Weekly Update

February 7, 2022

## Taking Hold of the Opportunities Where You Are

### A letter from Dalene Hunter

\*Note: This letter from Dalene Hunter is the first in a series written by current Honors students to share about their experiences in the University Honors Program at ISU. I am delighted that Dalene is willing to share about the many remarkable opportunities she has been able to pursue. From ISU, you can truly go anywhere. – Dr. B.

As I recognize that I am a quarter of the way through my last semester at ISU, I have found myself often reflecting on my initial reluctance to come to ISU. Four years ago I was evaluating my options for college, and I desperately wanted to leave Idaho. I, like many of you reading this, had the grades and test scores to go almost anywhere I would have wanted. However, I lacked the funds to do so, and thus I landed here because of the scholarships I had been offered. Looking back, I don't know what would have happened had I chosen differently, but I do not regret where I am today and all the steps that got me here.

### Challenging your Expectations

I came to ISU with the idea that since I was able to afford to be here, I was going to be kept from achieving my goals. I had been fooled by the expensive marketing campaigns of universities that I doubt would have invested as much in my future as ISU has. In my first year, I struggled, as many first-generation college students do. I went from expecting so little of ISU to dealing with massive bouts of imposter syndrome and swearing that I must

have been admitted as a mistake. I wonder, now, if I would have had less trouble if I had challenged my own expectations and sincerely evaluated ISU for what it was - an amazing opportunity to get a quality education, debt-free.

### Finding Opportunities

The first step that really opened a gateway of opportunities for me was applying to the Honors Program, so if you are reading this, then you are likely already well on your way. In my first year, I put effort into making friends in and outside of the Honors Program and networking with everyone I could. I attended Rake-A-Difference and many other events and got heavily involved with ISU's Gamerz Club, which is well known for being among the most involved clubs on campus. I am now the president of that club.

In my second semester, I stumbled across information about studying abroad through ISU, so I applied and was accepted. During the summer after my freshman year, an honors staff member emailed me about an opportunity to be a part of a class where we would write a book, and so I applied and was accepted. In my second year, I wrote a book with three other remarkable

students and your current Acting Honor's Director, Dr. Bolinger. I got to present about this experience, and be in a documentary about the book. Then I went to another country to study. In that same year, I joined the McNair Scholars Program, which has since helped me successfully complete an internship with the Smithsonian, as well as two large research projects including my honors thesis. They have paid for my travel and helped me to get scholarships. I have presented at conferences all over the country and had genuine connections with other people across the globe through the opportunities I have seized here at ISU.

### Opportunities Begat Opportunities

One of the biggest takeaways from my experience is that opportunities lead to more

opportunities. Being in the honors program will lead to more opportunities being presented to you and you can use those to find more opportunities from there. Each time I have taken the leap to involve myself in something here at ISU, I've seen more and more doors open to me. Read the newsletters and all of the announcements, and don't be afraid to use your opportunity here in honors to fuel you towards more opportunities outside of this bubble. Don't hold yourself back with your expectations for yourself, your location, or your institution, and allow yourself to thrive here. Consider me one of those jumping-off points, along with all of your peers, mentors, and advisors here in honors.

– Dalene Hunter

## Save the Date

Honors Students,

You are cordially invited to join us in highlighting the accomplishments of our graduating Honors students for earning their Honors Distinction or Degree, individuals who played a key role in our program's success over the past academic year, and Honors students' contributions on campus.

University Honors Program  
Recognition Ceremony  
Saturday, April 2, 2022  
4:30 PM



## Graduation Deadlines

**February 1** - last day to file for May 2022 graduation

**March 28** - last day to file for August 2022 graduation

Please get your applications in before the deadlines!

## NASA Internship

Interested in a Summer 2022 NASA or Idaho-Based internship? How about a NASA ISGC Fellowship for the 2022-2023 school year? The NASA ISGC is having a NASA Internship, Idaho-Based Internship, and NASA ISGC Fellowship information webinar! Learn about:

- Creating a successful and competitive NASA Internship Application, as well as have us recommend you to your NASA Center
- Creating a successful and competitive Idaho-Based Internship application, a new internship created by NASA ISGC which fully funds students during the summer to work on a new or current STEM research project with their professor
- Creating a successful and competitive NASA ISGC Fellowship application and how a fellowship works with ISGC

The webinar will be held Thursday, February 10th at 6 pm PST. Zoom link:

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/83458086234?from=addon>

## Honors Scholarships Now Open in BOSS

There are currently several scholarships open on BOSS available exclusively to ISU honors students. The application deadline is February 15th, so apply quickly! Here is a list of the honors scholarships currently open:

- [Heitoff Scholarship](#)
- [SDS Scholarship](#)
- [Lookout Credit Union Scholarship for Community Service](#)
- [Lookout Credit Union Scholarship for Excellence in Business](#)
- [ICCU Perseverance Scholarship](#)

### Honors Owl-portunity Scholarships

Open to full-time Honors students with a 3.20 GPA or higher. This scholarship is intended to help students with expenses related to their education. Applicants may request a specific scholarship amount to be used for a specific need and must provide a short bio that will be made available to donors to the University Honors Program. Donors will have the opportunity to select and sponsor individual Owl-portunity Scholarships online and during the UHP annual fundraiser, An Opportuni-Tea.

When applying for this scholarship, you'll be asked to provide:

1. How much money you are requesting and what you need it for. Examples of acceptable funding reasons are book costs, lab fees, specialized equipment for your major, or MCAT/LSAT/GRE fees. Your reason can be outside this list, but please be specific when making your request.
2. A short bio. Include your major, class, a few words about yourself, and what you are requesting support of. Scholarship sponsors will be reading your bio during UHP fundraising. Do your best to keep your bio to 108 characters or less. If your bio is longer it will be edited by Honors staff.

Example Bio – I'm Lily, a 2nd year Geology major. Many of the courses I take include field trips & high course fees. I need \$250 for fees. Thanks! (107 characters without spaces)

### Special Event with General Motors (GM)

Do you have an interest in the automotive industry and all things car-related? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to work for a major corporation such as General Motors (GM)?

To kick off National Women's Month, join us on Monday, February 28th at 5:30 p.m. for pizza in PSC 140. ISU alum and GM Senior Information Technology Business Analyst Bonnie Hill will be speaking at 6:00 p.m. (via Zoom) about her career in the automotive industry. She will also talk about her involvement with the interest group GM Women and exciting initiatives that GM is pursuing toward a cleaner, safer, and more inclusive future.

Additionally, GM is hiring (including several positions with remote work flexibility)! A representative from GM will join Bonnie to describe career opportunities and to answer questions from the audience. Please join us!



## Call for Volunteers



An Opportuni-Tea is the premier fundraiser for the University Honors Program. This annual fundraiser grows funds used to support students in the Honors Program through scholarships. The event is made possible with the help of many student volunteers from the honors Program.

An Opportuni-Tea is scheduled for April 2 and we are looking for volunteers from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. to set up, operate and clean up the tea. Volunteer assistance is also needed to prepare for the tea on April 1.

There are several options for volunteering and you can see a list in the sign-up form:

<https://forms.gle/ihuMxSHq4MvkDyYB8>

We appreciate your help! This hallmark fundraising event couldn't happen with you!!

## UHP Club Events

### February

- 10** Women's Basketball: Bengals vs. U of I Vandals | 6:45 PM | Reed Gym  
Cheer our Bengals on to victory over the U of I Vandals! Meet by the computer lab in the Rendezvous (2nd floor) to check in with Beckett Bodell and walk to Reed Gym.
- 21** Movie Night | 7:00 PM | Bengal Theater  
Night at the Museum with the UHP Club!
- 28** Special Event with GM | 5:30 PM | PSC 140  
Pizza at 5:30 p.m. and a special guest from GM at 6:00 p.m.

### March

- 1** UNO Night | 7:00 PM | Wood River Room in the SUB  
Join in the UNO tournament to win awesome prizes!
- 7** Owl Activity | 7:00 PM | Rendezvous, 3rd floor - Honors Lobby  
Make your owl for the Owl-portunity scholarship. These will be displayed at An Oppotuni-Tea for donors to sponsor student scholarships.
- 15** Owl Activity | 7:00 PM | Rendezvous, 3rd floor - Honors Lobby  
Make your owl for the Owl-portunity scholarship. These will be displayed at An Oppotuni-Tea for donors to sponsor student scholarships.