



Idaho State
University

University
Honors Program

Weekly Update

February 28, 2022

Playing the Long Game

A letter from UHP Acting Director Alex Bollinger

Like me, I suspect that many of you have been following the events in Ukraine over the past few days. It has been jarring, in this age where warfare is often virtual or even cyber, to watch a nation like Russia openly invade its neighbor to the west with tanks, bombs, and troops on the ground. In fact, some people have lamented that the scene looks like a return to the '80s.

They are referring to the Cold War between the West and the Soviet Union during the 1980s, of course. On a more personal note, though, the events of this past week have reminded me of the 1880s. That was the decade when my great-great-grandmother was born in the city of Odessa (now in western Ukraine). Her family was from eastern Germany and moved to the Black Sea region near Odessa at the invitation of Catherine the Great, the Empress of Russia in the late 1700s. Catherine, a German by birth, signed a decree in 1763 to invite German farmers to move to the western lands of Russia (now Ukraine) to farm the rich, black, fertile soil.

From what I can infer from family records, members of my family probably lived and farmed near Odessa for much of the 1800s. But a shifting political and economic environment, as well as the deadly Russian flu

pandemic in 1889 (which some scientists think may have been a type of coronavirus), probably helped to convince my family to leave the Black Sea region and migrate to the United States. It turned out to be a good decision. While my great-grandparents eventually found stability as farmers in Pleasant Valley, Idaho (near American Falls), I can only imagine that some of my relatives who stayed behind in Ukraine or East Germany may have faced exile, captivity, deprivation, or even starvation during the trying years of World War I and World War II.

I am afraid that I don't have much in the way of profound insights to share about the dynamics of the situation today; I will leave that to the experts. However, in reflecting on my own family's connection to Ukraine in light of the events of the past week, I have begun to appreciate how much my great-great-grandparents' decision to move to the United States has positively influenced my life.

Leaving what is now the Ukraine to move to the United States could not have been an easy decision. In the Black Sea region, my great-great-grandparents had been farming some of the most productive land in the entire world. In Pleasant Valley, they had to contend with land that was covered with sagebrush and lava rock. They had to protect their crops from hordes of

hungry jackrabbits. They had to withstand the worry of summers that sometimes brought very little rain. On top of all of that, they were coming to a new land where they did not speak the language and really only had each other to lean on. Yet in retrospect, my entire family (for generations!) has benefited enormously from their decision.

It begs the question: What decisions will you make in your life that will affect, for good or bad, the lives of the people connected to you? One decision in particular comes to my mind. As Dr. Hunt, the Dean of the College of Business, likes to say, by going to college and earning your degree you are not only

positioning yourself for success. You are also setting up your children and grandchildren for greater opportunities and better lives.

If you have ever wondered whether what you are doing today in your classes is really making a difference, I encourage you to take the long view. Looking back, I have no doubt that you will find that your persistence in doing the hard work and making the sacrifices necessary to earn your degree will pay off. And who knows, you just might be surprised by how many people down the road (some of whom you might never have the chance to meet) will be grateful for what you have done.



**Who Do You Think
Should Join Us at
An Opportuni-Tea?**



An Opportuni-Tea is a perfect time for friends and family to see what the Honors Program is all about and to learn more about how they can support the amazing students in the Honors Program.

Features of An Opportuni-Tea include a three-course lunch, student performances, a silent auction composed of Honors students' creative work and Owl Trees displaying opportunities to support Honors Students.

If you know someone who would like to attend - family, friends, faculty advisors and mentors - we have seats available for purchase. Seats will be at a table for four and can be purchased for \$75.

Contact miriamdance@isu.edu for seat reservations.

University Honors Program Recognition Ceremony

Saturday, April 2 | 4:30 p.m.
Stephens Performing Arts Center Rotunda

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.

[RSVP by March 21](#)



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[RSVP for the Recognition ceremony by March 21 here.](#)

The Pocatello Free Clinic is in Need of Volunteers

The Shamrock Shuffle is an annual fun run fundraiser held by the Pocatello Free Clinic, scheduled for March 12. The clinic is looking for volunteers to help with the event.

Volunteers will help with registration, route guides, and one runner will lead the race to leave coins along the route for runners to collect. If you're interested in volunteering, contact MiriamDance@isu.edu.

Look Out for BAHM!

The time for the bi-annual honors meeting is approaching, so keep an eye out in your emails for a sign-up link. This event is required for all honors students to keep your active status.

Honors Scholarships Updates

Scholarship Extension

The deadline for the Lookout Credit Union Scholarship for Excellence in Business has been extended to March 1.

You'll be asked to submit a 1-3 page statement on your career goals in business as well as a letter of reference from a staff member in the College of Business.

Honors Research Scholarship

Keep an eye on BOSS for open scholarships for Honors students, including the Honors research scholarship. This will be awarded to students engaged in research activities in the fall semester.

I Applied for the Owl-portunity Scholarship. What Do I Do Now?

The Owl-portunity scholarship is unique to the Honors Program. Applying for the scholarship is the first step.

Now, you get to pull out all of your crafting skills and create an owl ornament to hang on an Owl Tree at An Opportuni-Tea. Donors will have the opportunity to select and sponsor individual Owl-portunity Scholarships online and during the UHP annual fundraiser, An Opportuni-Tea.

There will be two Honors Club activities in March where you can make your owl ornaments:

March 7 and March 15

7:00 pm

Honors Lobby, Rendezvous 3rd Floor

Making your owl is an important step to receiving the scholarship, so make sure to mark your calendar!

Become a Sustainable Idaho KISU Radio Show Host

KISU radio is looking for one of two hosts in the creation of eight-minute episodes that air every Tuesday morning.

Episodes include sustainability topics of interest to you, the ISU community, and the greater SE Idaho area. This position is 15 hours a week working on research, interviewing and production. Training is provided.



To apply, you must be a junior or higher and should send a cover letter explaining your interest in sustainability along with a resume and three references to PRC4RE@gmail.com.

UHP Advisor Contact

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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	@isuhonor



Do you want to inspire your fellow grads?

Are you proud to be a Bengal? Are you looking for an opportunity to give your college experience the perfect ending? Speaking at commencement is a great opportunity to share your experience with your fellow Bengals.

Submit your application by April 1 at isu.edu/commencemen/studentsspeaker

UHP Club Events

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 and Game Night | 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.
- 28** Be the Match Donor Drive
Details for how to become a bone marrow donor will be coming soon. Keep an eye out for information on how you can participate!