



The Update in Brief

March 31, 2026

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Job Opportunity:

Fall 2026 HONORS ENVOY

We are now accepting applications!

- Director's Assistant & Outreach Envoy
- Web Development Envoy
- Communications Envoy
- Instructional Assistant Envoy (2 positions available)

Paid position with \$300 scholarship and up to an additional \$300 (\$9 per hour)

Learn more about each position and submit your application on the [Honors Envoy Webpage](#)

or email [**honors@isu.edu**](mailto:honors@isu.edu) for more info

HONORS THESIS SPOTLIGHT

Mary Za

Building Brand Loyalty in Mid-sized College Athletic Programs: Strategies for Audience Engagement and Competitive Positioning



When Mary Za isn't on the soccer field or studying in the library, she loves to sing and has had the wonderful opportunity to perform at several events across the Idaho State University campus. Beyond her musical talents, Mary is a dedicated student leader. She serves as the Captain of the Idaho State Women's Soccer Team, represents her peers on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC), and is the Co-founder and President of the Black Student Athletes of ISU—an organization focused on building community, supporting professional development, and creating service opportunities for its members.

Mary's honors thesis perfectly aligns her life as a Division I athlete with her academic pursuits. Using the ISU Women's Soccer Team as a case study, her mixed-methods research analyzes how relationship-centered marketing strategies—like athlete-centered storytelling, community-integrated experiences, and interactive digital content—can strengthen audience engagement for programs operating without massive financial advantages. Read her [full abstract here](#).

She developed her project under the guidance of her mentor, Miriam Dance, the Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications at ISU. The two connected when Mary took Dance's Marketing Research class, and they worked together to brainstorm topics that would "bridge the gap between my academic major and my personal passions." For Mary, the best part of the research was experiencing the "direct correlation between my research and my daily life in sports and marketing." She found it incredibly rewarding to see how her data-driven insights could provide a realistic roadmap for ISU Athletics to grow its brand.

After graduation, Mary's primary focus is to continue her soccer career at the professional level. Alongside her athletic pursuits, she plans to launch a career in marketing within the entertainment, sports, film, or music industries. Ultimately, she aims to "leverage my unique perspective as a former Division I athlete to create compelling brand stories."

When offering advice to incoming honors students interested in undergraduate research, Mary admits she initially felt a bit of "imposter syndrome" and wasn't sure if she was ready for the challenge. However, she encourages students not to be intimidated by the Honors Degree. "Choose a topic you are genuinely passionate about. When you care about the subject matter, the work stops feeling like a chore and starts feeling like a discovery (and a massive head start on your future career)."

Wednesday, April 1st | 9:00 AM | Rend 108 or on [Zoom](#)

Upcoming UHP Events

HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Mary Za

Building Brand Loyalty in Mid-sized College Athletic Programs: Strategies for Audience Engagement and Competitive Positioning

**Wednesday, April 1st | 9:00 AM | Rend 108
or on Zoom**

RISE & REGISTER

Wake up early for donuts and to register for F26!

Monday, April 6 | 7:00 AM | REND behind the C-Store

FLOATS & VOTES

Enjoy rootbeer floats while you listen to speeches and vote for the 2026/2027 UHP Club Officers.

Late April, TBD

SAVE THE DATE FOR CIVIC SCHOLAR CAPSTONES

Civic Scholar Capstone Presentations will happen during the week of April 27 (the week before finals week)

Details Coming Soon!

Upcoming UHP Events

SAVE THE DATE FOR HONORS THESIS DEFENSES

Grace Cain

Synthesizing Probes and Refining a Protocol for In Situ Hybridization of Androgen Related Molecules in Bluebanded Gobies

Friday, April 10 @ 12 PM | LA 324 & Zoom

Lindi Pomeroy

Here Out West: Investigating American Intermountain West Dialect Representation

Friday, April 10 @ 3 PM | LC 17 & Zoom

Shannon Hendricks

The rescue of Streptococcus pneumoniae Mn-sensitive growth defect by Magnesium

Tues, April 14 @ 10 AM | LC 17 & Zoom

Amina Miljkovic

Determinants of Oral Health Care Among Idahoan Pregnancies: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Tracking System (PRATS) Analysis

Weds, April 15 @ 10 AM | REND 108 & Zoom

Joseph Funk

Live, Laugh, Resist: A Care Ethic for the End Times

Friday, April 17 @ 10 AM | LA 151 & Zoom

Saige Rigby

Effects of Asbestos Dosage on Kidney IgG Deposition

Friday, April 24 @ 3 PM | LC 17 & Zoom



**Idaho State
University**



Annual Interprofessional Behavioral Health Job Fair

Learn about job openings and internship opportunities in Idaho's behavioral health workforce!

Date and Time: *Wednesday, April 8 from 10am - 2pm*

Pocatello Location: *SUB Wood River Room*

Meridian Location: *Lobby*

ROAR



Idaho State University

ROAR OF THE NATIONS POW-WOW 2026

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY // FREE ADMISSION

HOST DRUM
NDN Boyz
Warm Springs,
Oregon

APRIL 3-4

Reed Gym - Idaho State University
1291 E Terry St,
Pocatello, ID 83201

GRAND ENTRY

Friday, April 3 | 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 4 | 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm

QUESTIONS?

Contact Echo Marshall
(208) 604-7764
echo.marshall@isu.edu



SCAN
for more
information

ROAR

RUN FOR UHP Club Officer!

All candidates must give a speech at the Votes & Floats Event at the end of April.

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Historian (Social Media)

Learn more about each position and submit your candidacy on the [UHP Student Club Webpage](#)

Contact Dr. Rick at sarahrick@isu.edu for more info

Job Opportunity: Want to be on the radio?

Sustainable Idaho Radio Show Host GPI

No experience necessary--student hosts will receive training--but an interest in sustainable topics is a must!

Sustainable Idaho, an award-winning weekly radio show on KISU, is seeking new student host interns to start this summer. Hosts work every week with professionals from the Portneuf Resource Council to decide on topics, write questions, arrange and hold interviews, edit the recorded interview with professional equipment, and revise their drafts after feedback.

This position is funded through the Career Path Internship program at **\$13/hour**. To be eligible, students should be prepared to train over the summer and then be available for a **10 hour per week** commitment during the academic year.

If you're interested in the position, send a cover email explaining your interest in the position, along with a resume, to Linda Engle LindaRSEngle@gmail.com

EARTH FORUM 2026

APRIL 22, 2026 | 09 AM

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Panel Discussions*
- Networking*
- Poster Presentations*

LOCATION

SUB / Ballroom

IMPORTANT

You must be registered to attend this event.

Scan Me Now to Register



Registration closes on April 6, 2026



Participate in **Benny's Closet**, a service project to bring affordable secondhand items to campus



The Sustainability Club needs your help!!

- Build your resume
- Get involved on campus
- Connect with other sustainability opportunities

In need of volunteers to help with collection and storage of thrift items.

Email betinastrawhun@isu.edu for more information.



Volunteer for Bengal Visit Day

Saturday, April 11

As the largest event we host on campus, this open-house style event allows students and guests to explore campus completely at their own pace. During the event, they have the opportunity to visit departments, hear about our different student resources available, chat with our student clubs/organizations, take a campus or housing tour, and so much more! We will need volunteers in all of these areas along with general volunteers (current students or faculty/staff) that can assist with information tables, distribution of materials, bus guides, set up/clean up, etc.

Register Here: [Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Partners in the Parks®

Registration is now open for Partners in the Parks®, NCHC's immersive summer projects designed for honors students seeking hands-on learning, service, and adventure in national parks across the country. These are a great opportunity for those interested in experiential learning, environmental studies, civic engagement, outdoor leadership, or capstone development. These small-cohort programs offer meaningful academic and personal growth experiences beyond the classroom.

Summer 2026 Projects

- *Capitol Reef National Park (May 15–22)*
- *Acadia National Park (May 18–23)*
- *Shenandoah National Park and Appalachian Trail (May 29–June 5)*
- *Indiana Dunes National Park (August 4-7)*

Across all projects, students will:

- Engage in place-based learning and conservation work
- Collaborate with peers from honors programs nationwide
- Learn from faculty leaders and local experts
- Gain experiences that often inform capstones, research, or career pathways

Space is limited for each project and registration deadlines vary. Full details, eligibility information, and registration links are available at nchchonors.org



DONATE TO BENNY'S CLOSET

EVERY MONDAY • 12 - 2 PM

Pond Student Union Table

Bring clothing and any items in good condition!



If you have any questions, reach out to sustainability@isu.edu

- ✔ Clothing
- ✔ Household Items
- ✔ Stationery

Thank you for your donation!



Summer Authentic Research Experiences (SARE)

Summer Authentic Research Experiences (SARE) is designed to engage Idaho undergraduates in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields related to I-CREWS research and increase the number and preparation of skilled scientists and engineers in I-CREWS fields (geosciences, biological sciences, social sciences, and resilience science, computational modeling, machine learning and artificial intelligence) to provide analytical outcomes to proactively address the impacts of meteorological, population, and technological change on energy-water (E-W) systems.

Each student receives hands-on, paid (up to \$6,000) summer research experiences (full-time or part-time educational opportunities available), where they study topics broadly related to the I-CREWS project. Each SARE educational opportunity is designed as a learning experience and not employment.

Students participating in SARE will be expected to present research results at the Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research (ICUR) in July 2026, as well as the Idaho NSF EPSCoR Annual Meeting. Students will be expected to participate in a virtual Summer Research Community, hosted by Boise State University, and network with other students in the SARE program. Students will also be required to submit a research profile to the Idaho EPSCoR website.

Student Applications are due on May 1, 2026

Find more information at idahocreeds.org/sare/
or contact ISU SARE lead Emma Fox-Fogle (emmafoxfogle@isu.edu)



IDAHO
NSF EPSCoR
ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



ISU Bengal Theater Showings



The Snake and the Whale
NR
April 1st, 6:30pm



Anaconda
PG-13
April 2nd, 3rd, 7pm
April 4th, 4pm & 7pm



Avatar: Fire and Ash
PG-13
April 8th, 9th, 10th, 7pm



Zootopia 2
PG
April 11th, 4pm & 7pm



Idaho State University

University Honors Program

Dr. Sarah Robey | Honors Director | sarahrobey@isu.edu

Dr. Kathryn Holt | Instructor/Coordinator | kathrynholt@isu.edu

Dr. Sarah Rick | Instructor/Coordinator | sarahrick@isu.edu

Lori Tapanila | Academic Support | loritapanila@isu.edu

www.isu.edu/honors



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