



The Update in Brief

April 21, 2026

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2026/2027 UHP Club Officer Elections

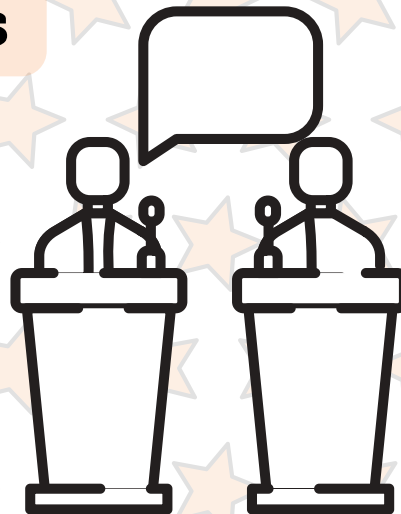
Meet The Candidates

The UHP Club (UHPC) plays an important and fun role in planning social and service events for Honors students. Read about the candidates on the following pages and meet them at the Floats & Votes event tonight.

Vote Online - polls close at 5:00pm on Friday May 1

**There are 5 UHPC
Officer positions**

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Historian
Treasurer



**Floats &
Votes
Tonight!**
**6pm in
REND 204**

Tessa Hale

I am running for the 2026-2027 year, in which I have mostly online classes, giving me plenty of time to dedicate to the position and program. I am studying Surveying and Geomatics, with pilot training on the side. My hometown is Nampa ID. I enjoy reading, baking, spending time with friends and family, arts and crafts.

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC President?

I competed in Speech and Debate in high school, went to three state tournaments and a national tournament. I love public speaking and helping those around me. Being a good role model is something I strive for, and I love this school.

If elected, what would you like to improve about the club?

It would incorporate more service activities, such as volunteering at soup kitchens, Benny's Pantry, and even picking up trash in surrounding areas. I would place an emphasis on the community and the many opportunities that are out there, while also providing fun activities within the school community. I would love to teach real world skills such as building resumes, (providing volunteer items to put on resumes), tips and tricks for organization, mental health, etc. I love UHP right now, but I would incorporate city wide opportunities to get more involved with helping and enjoying the community we live in.



Candidate for UHPC Vice President

Moheet Suthar

I am a Biochemistry major with a Business minor, originally from Waxhaw, North Carolina, and currently living in Idaho Falls. I love the outdoors and exploring it through snowboarding during the winter and hiking in the summer. I also enjoy playing the piano and trying to learn how to golf. One reason I chose to major in Biochemistry and minor in Business is that I aspire to be a leader in the biochemistry field. The kind of leader I want to be leads by example and understands the struggles and challenges my team members may face, so I can empathize with them more effectively. I believe every great leader should have that connection with the people they lead.

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Vice President?

I believe I am the best candidate for vice president because I bring previous leadership experience by being executive board member at my high school, planning events and bringing engagement from the community. I also bring a blend of scientific knowledge and business knowledge, which helps me understand both the analytical and organizational skills that I would need to support and lead club activities and members effectively. Additionally, living in Idaho Falls for four years and coming from North Carolina gives me a perspective on diverse communities and how important it is to foster inclusive environments where people feel welcome and confident.

If elected, what would you like to improve about the club?

One thing that I would like to improve about the club is increasing awareness and engagement among underclassmen by establishing it as a resource for guidance, support, and connection to ease the transition from high school to university, since that transition can be overwhelming. Additionally, I would work to strengthen communication so that all members feel the club is approachable, supportive, and responsive to their needs. This includes creating more opportunities for members to share feedback and have their voices heard. Overall, I hope to encourage greater participation and help members feel more connected to the club.



Candidate for UHPC Vice President

Nate Kopp

Hi, I'm Nate Kopp, a second year student majoring in Biochemistry with a certificate in Biomedical Ethics. My long term goal is to get an M.D. in neuropathology and a Ph.D. in genetics. Originally from Alaska, I now call the foothills of Colorado home. Outside of class, I'm passionate about climbing, mountaineering, sculpting, and diving into philosophical debates with friends. I love the sciences and enjoy being a part of several research initiatives at ISU.

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Vice President?

The role of Vice President in the University Honors Program demands a leader equipped with a diverse and proven skillset. I have hundreds of hours of leadership experience both inside and outside of the Honors program. This year I served as the underclassman representative on the Honors Program committee where I created a survey to determine what you needed, enjoyed and experienced from UHPC. Earning the Silver Medal Congressional Award in 2024 for community leadership, service, and initiative also serves as tangible evidence of my capacity to take ownership and drive positive change. Furthermore, my experience leading initiatives ranging from large-scale community events and impactful fundraisers that engaged thousands, to the organization of club football tournaments, showcases my adaptability and effectiveness across varied contexts. I have additionally developed my communication skills while teaching English in a Nepali orphanage. Beyond these experiences, I am deeply invested in the core values of the UHPC. I believe my leadership experience, coupled with my genuine enthusiasm for the program's unique opportunities, positions me not only to support its existing structures but also to contribute a forward thinking vision for its continued growth and enhancement.



If elected, what would you like to improve about the club?

The University Honors Program and Club provides many opportunities for educational, personal, community and professional enhancement. As a member of the honors committee I asked you all what you wanted from the program and I am ready to respond to what I heard. If elected, I hope to maintain and expand club opportunities by developing the program to increase awareness abroad, encouraging community engagement and seeking research opportunities. Awareness: One of the most important functions of any college experience is networking and is especially true of an honors college. I want to see Honors students connecting with the schools and programs they dream of. The first step to accomplish this is to increase awareness of the UHPC. To do this, I will propose an initiative to connect with other universities and industry employers not just in the Idaho area but across the country, ensuring Idaho State University Honors students are on their radar. This can be done through partnerships with other clubs on campus like the pre-health club. Student Engagement: I will seek to increase student engagement and enjoyment in two primary ways. First and foremost, by encouraging connection between and across cohorts. We want to see honors be more than just a resume booster. It should be an opportunity for connection. Secondly, I will ensure that program funds continue to be allocated for enjoyable club activities. Finally, Research Connection: As someone with two years of involvement in multiple research projects at ISU, I understand how valuable these opportunities are for our students. Not only would I be happy to share my experiences and advice with interested students, I will seek to keep UHPC informed on existing opportunities and develop new ones with professors across the departments. The current University Honors Program has many strengths including engaged advisors, entertaining honors seminars, and great flexibility, but I believe under my leadership we can maintain these aspects and accomplish much more.

Candidate for UHPC Secretary

Daniel Enriquez

I'm a first-year student majoring in Health Science and Spanish for Health Professions. My goal is to finish undergrad here at ISU and attend medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon. I also serve as secretary of Lambda Theta Phi, an Honors Peer Mentor, and a research assistant. I'm originally from Gooding, Idaho, and I enjoy playing tennis, working out, and Panda Express.



Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Secretary?

I'm qualified for this position because I held leadership roles during my first year of college. I have developed skills in organization, dedication, and advocacy. I have contributed to the Honors Program by becoming a Peer Mentor and helping at events when I'm able to. I'm prepared to attain another level of responsibility and foster a community for current and upcoming members. Coming from an underserved community, Honors presented an opportunity for me to apply to the Summer Health Professions Education Program, where I got an internship at Columbia University this summer. I hope to gain more leadership skills from this great opportunity and use them to improve the UHP club as a leader.

If elected, what would you like to improve about the club?

The University Honors Program and Club have access to so many resources to help students succeed. I would like to make these opportunities more advertised to students to maximize their chances for success. Through Honors, I found out about internships, jobs, and research opportunities. If elected to the secretary position, I would not only encourage members to take advantage of these opportunities but also connect them with the correct people who can give them a different point of view as well as set them up for success.

Candidate for UHPC Secretary

Olivia Burnside

I am pursuing degrees in Health Sciences and Spanish for Health Professions with the intent to attend medical school. I am from the great city of Pocatello, and this is my second year at ISU. Outside of school and work, I love being outside in the mountains, live music, traveling, and meeting new people!

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Secretary?

I served as secretary of the Public Health and Safety Student Association during my first year at ISU. I was able to gain valuable experience in communication and organization. I hope to become more involved in the Honors Program and also help other students become more involved. I like to keep things organized and efficient, and believe that my communication skills and work ethic will be great assets to the UHPC. The Honors Program has done so much for me during my time at ISU and I would love to give back and help others the way that I have been helped.

If elected, what would you like to improve about the club?

If elected, I would love to improve communication between UHPC and Honors students. I feel that there is already great communication throughout Honors as a whole, but there could be more focus on the individual student. There are many students at ISU and in the honors program who may feel unseen or uninvited. As secretary, I would ensure that activities, updates, etc., are communicated effectively and that everyone feels invited and included. I have lived in Pocatello for almost my entire life. I absolutely love the community here and would love to be able to give back. I hope to use my knowledge of the ins and outs of Pocatello to connect UHPC to the community.



Hi! I am a first-year pre-dental student pursuing an Honors B.S. in Health Science. I'm originally from Malad, Idaho, a small town about 45 minutes south of ISU. Outside of school, I enjoy getting raspberry cheesecake ice cream from Jungle Retreat, doomscrolling Instagram reels, and staying active through hiking, biking, and running.

Brycen Talbot

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Treasurer?

I am a strong candidate for Treasurer because I bring attention to detail, teamwork, and meaningful leadership experience. Through experiences in high school student council and leadership camps, I gained experience planning events and working to maximize participation and engagement. More recently, as a UHP peer mentor, I have enjoyed collaborating with other mentors to support the incoming cohort. These experiences have taught me how to organize effectively and follow through on responsibilities, skills that I would bring to help maintain organization and momentum throughout the year. I work well collaboratively and enjoy supporting a team to ensure ideas are carried out successfully. Rather than taking on smaller roles in many areas, I value being deeply involved in a few commitments I am passionate about, which allows me to contribute consistently and thoughtfully. I enjoy meeting new people and building connections, and I would bring that energy to create a welcoming, organized, and engaged Honors Program community.



If elected, what would you like to improve about the club?

If elected as the Club Treasurer, I would focus on strengthening unity and engagement within the Honors community. There is significant potential to deepen connections among Honors students by creating events and initiatives that encourage meaningful interaction and a stronger sense of belonging. I am also interested in supporting efforts to sustain involvement throughout the entire academic year, ensuring that students feel connected to the program beyond just its early momentum. Beyond individual events, I hope to help cultivate a culture where students feel genuinely invested in the overall Honors experience. Ultimately, my goal is to build on the strong foundation already in place by enhancing organization, continuity, and the collective experience of being part of the Honors Program.

Candidate for UHPC Historian

Noelia Juarez

I am a pre-nursing major from Twin Falls, Idaho. My favorite hobby is baking sourdough bread for friends and family. I love spending time outdoors and getting to know the people around me.

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Historian?

I believe I am the best candidate due to my experience. Throughout high school I was in Key Club, a member of Student Council, Business Professionals of America, and Speech and Debate. Being a member of these clubs has given me experience in almost everything club related. My skills vary from good communication to outgoing and showcasing every event. I am a very communicative person, so advocating for our club and making everyone feel welcome is my number one priority.

If elected, what would you like to improve about the club?

As Historian I would work to improve the way we promote UHP events by creating more ways to reach out to the members to increase interest in attending these events. I believe if we can change the way we reach out through social media and in person, we can increase attendance every time we offer an event for our members. I truly feel I could create a great environment for all Honors Program members and to any new coming member. As well as highlight what a great experience people in the program can have.



Upcoming UHP Events

FLOATS & VOTES

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

Tuesday, April 21 | 6:00PM | REND 204 (Planetarium)

HONORS THESIS DEFENSE

Saige Rigby

Effects of Asbestos Dosage on Kidney IgG Deposition

Friday, April 24 @ 3 PM | LC 17 & [Zoom](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR CIVIC SCHOLAR CAPSTONES

Lizbeth Arellano Santoyo

Thursday, April 30 @ Noon

Amina Miljkovic

Wednesday, May 6 @ 12 PM

More Details Coming Soon!

HONORS THESIS SPOTLIGHT

Saige Rigby

Effects of Asbestos Dosage on Kidney IgG Deposition



When Saige isn't in class or the lab, she is a dedicated leader and volunteer in her community. She serves as president of the ISU Pre-Dental Association, where she gets to plan fun activities with fellow pre-dental students, and she also works as a third-year Honors Peer Mentor. Off campus, Saige volunteers at the Compassion and Hope Pregnancy Center and the Pocatello Free Clinic, providing education, material items, and dental treatment for underserved communities. To unwind from her busy schedule, Saige notes, "I love to crochet and draw in my free time."

Saige's honors thesis explores how environmental and occupational asbestos exposure impacts the body's immune response. Using a mouse model exposed to high and low doses of Libby Amphibole asbestos, her research analyzed kidney tissue to identify Immunoglobulin-G (IgG) deposits, which are indicators of immune activity linked to autoimmune diseases. Interestingly, her data revealed a higher level of IgG deposition in the low-dose group, indicating a prolonged immune response that could be consistent with the early development of autoimmune conditions. Read her [full abstract here](#).

Her research journey began the summer before her sophomore year when she decided to cold email professors to find research opportunities. This led to a meeting with her thesis advisor, Dr. Serve. "I immediately was interested in the research, especially with how connected it is to real human populations, and I began working in the lab," she recalls. They eventually collected kidney samples from an ongoing mouse study for her summer INBRE project, which she then built upon for her Honors thesis.

For Saige, the best part of the process was the immense personal and professional development. "My favorite part of my thesis was how much I was able to learn and grow through the process," she notes. "I had to learn all of the techniques, statistics methods, and writing styles that are common in my field, which overall made me a lot more experienced in research to the point where I now feel confident in my skills and excited to take on more independent projects in the future." She especially loved learning how to perform immunofluorescence stains on the kidneys to visualize antibodies under a confocal microscope.

During her senior year, Saige plans to enter the biology BS/MS program to work toward her Master's degree so she can continue her work in the Serve lab. Following that, she plans to attend dental school to "pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a general dentist."

When offering advice to honors students looking to get into undergraduate research, Saige's message is to "just dive in! There is no shame in cold emailing professors," emphasizing that "if you are truly excited to join a lab and do research, any professor would be excited to have you there!" Reflecting on the numerous doors that research has opened for her—from conferences and presentations to fellowships—she concludes, "I believe it was the most rewarding decision I have made."

Friday, April 24 | 3:00 PM | LC 17 or on [Zoom](#)

Summer Graduate School Advising

With Dr. Kathryn Holt

This summer, UHP will offer a speciality advising curriculum where students will work 1:1 with honors faculty to work through common graduate school application requirements, including:

- **Researching Graduate Programs**
- **Resume and Curriculum Vitae**
- **Personal Statement / Statement of Purpose**
- **Letter of Recommendation Requests**



All sessions will be held on Zoom and exact dates will be determined in collaboration between Dr. Holt and participants. Advising will consist of some group sessions and individual advising sessions.

There are only 15 spots available.

Applications are due

Monday, April 27 at 11:59pm

and decisions will be made by May 1st

Apply Here

9/11 Memorial Art Display

This year marks the 25th anniversary of September 11—a moment in history that continues to shape our hearts, our communities, and our commitment to service.

As we prepare for the [ISU 9/11 Day of Service](#) and the Memorial Stair Climb, we're inviting YOU to be part of something deeply meaningful.

We're looking for volunteers to create art pieces that will be displayed during the event – poems, posters, clay sculptures, and other creative expressions – that honor the lives lost, the heroes who served, and the strength of our nation.

- No experience needed—just a willingness to create from the heart
- Themes of remembrance, unity, resilience, and hope
- All ages and skill levels welcome

Your artwork will help transform the space into a powerful tribute—a place where every step climbed is surrounded by stories, reflection, and remembrance.

If you'd like to contribute a piece or learn more, [reach out today](#).



**Idaho State
University**

**Mathematics
and Statistics**

Fall 2026

Thursdays, 4-4:50 pm

Graph Theory Seminar

MATH 4491/5591

This is an informal 1 credit seminar on metric graph theory. Faculty presentations on advanced topics in graph theory alternate with sessions for students to learn background for the talks.

Students may take this course for credit or audit the course. The prerequisite is Math 2240, Linear Algebra.

Please email the instructor if you would like more information or need an override to register.

Instructor: Dr. Tracy Payne, tracypayne@isu.edu



DANC 1199-01 | FALL 2026

Argentine Tango

Nell Flanders, instructor

Mondays | 7-8:30 PM

Red Hill Building | Room 101

1 Credit

All dancers will learn both roles, so you
don't need a partner to join.
Please wear socks or soft-soled dance shoes.



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 idahocrewws.org/sare/
or contact ISU SARE lead Emma Fox-Fogle (emmafoxfogle@isu.edu)



IDAHO
NSF EPSCoR
ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM





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





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!

ISU Bengal Theater Showings



Marty Supreme
(R)
April 16 & 17 - 7pm
April 18 - 4pm, 7pm



The Biggest Little Farm(PG)
April 19 - 4pm & 7pm
\$1 admission



Wuthering Heights
(R)
April 23 & 24 - 7pm
April 25 - 4pm & 7pm



The Secret Agent
(R)
April 26 - 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
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www.isu.edu/honors



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