



The Update in Brief

August 31, 2026

- You Need to Know | Important Upcoming Deadlines (Pg. 1)
- Honors Bengal Spotlight | Hannah Jensen, Stage Manager (Pgs. 2-3)
- Do You Know? Now You Know! | Honors Canvas Course (Pg. 4)
- What's Happening This Week? | ISU Events and Activities (Pg. 4)
- Announcements & Opportunities | No Classes on Labor Day; Dolsen Visiting Writer; ISU's 9/11 Day of Service; UReCA Call for Submissions (Pgs. 5-9)

Important Upcoming Deadlines

We hope your first week of the semester went well!

Last Day to File for December Graduation

The last day to file for an application
for December 2026 graduation is
Monday, September 21st.

Here is the link to do so:
<https://www.isu.edu/graduation/apply/>



Last Day to Submit Honors Contract

The last day to submit a contract to
earn Honors credits for a course is
Friday, September 4th.

Here is the link to make the
submission:
<https://www.isu.edu/honors/current-students/honors-curriculum-and-courses/contract/>

Last Day for Class Changes

The last day to register,
add/drop, change
section, or audit full
semester courses is
Friday, September 4th.



Do you know what stage managers actually do?

Hannah Jensen does!



When we sit in the audience of a theatrical production, our eyes are naturally drawn to the actors under the spotlights. But behind every successful show is a hidden, coordinating force keeping the entire production on track. For Honors Program student Hannah Jensen, that force is the stage manager—a role she describes as the "ultimate support role in a production."

If you've ever wondered what a stage manager actually does, you're not alone. Far from just a backstage assistant, the stage manager is the operational backbone and leader of the rehearsal space. As Hannah explains, their duties span every phase of a show's life cycle:

- Running the Communication Loop: They lead meetings with designers and directors, making sure the cast, crew, and creative teams are all on the same page.
- Schedules, Schedules, Schedules: They build, organize, and share all the schedules so everyone knows where to be and when.
- Owning the Rehearsal Space: They keep time and manage rehearsals to keep things moving.
- Calling the Show: Once the curtains go up, the stage manager is at the headset calling live cues — meaning they tell the tech crew exactly when to trigger lighting changes and sound effects.

"Without the stage manager, there's not a facilitator, and processes become less efficient and things generally go off-track," Hannah says. "So I love that I get to support all facets of a production!"

Continued on Page 3



View from the stage manager's booth during a live performance of School of Rock.

Hannah's love for stage managing started back in high school and followed her to ISU, where she is pursuing a degree in Communication, Media, and Persuasion, along with a minor in Theatre, of course! She started out as an Assistant Stage Manager, learning the ropes by running rehearsals, managing the backstage area during live performances, and working closely with the cast.

Her dedication has opened up huge opportunities both on and off campus. If you caught ISU's awesome campus production of *School of Rock* during the summer of 2025 or *Emme and the Taking of the Woods* at the end of the Spring 2026 semester, you were watching Hannah's stage management in action! This past summer, she applied and was hired for ISU's big summer show, *Dear Evan Hansen*.



Hannah and an assistant on the Mezzanine of the Bistline theater.

Her talents have also taken her into the local community theater scene. Hannah recently served as both the stage manager and assistant director for a production of *Ride the Cyclone* at the Old Town Actors Studio. The director had worked with Hannah before and specifically reached out and asked her to take on both of those leadership roles.

For Hannah, the endless scheduling, fast-paced communication, and high-pressure multitasking are all worth it for one reason: a love of the craft. "I love storytelling, and to me, theatre is one of the best forms of storytelling out there," Hannah says. "I love that being a stage manager helps me do that."

As an Honors student, Hannah exemplifies what it means to lead through support, ensuring that everyone on and off stage has the structure they need to succeed. The next time you enjoy a theatrical production, remember that behind the scenes, leaders like Hannah are key in making the magic happen.



The cast & crew of Dear Evan Hansen. Emma in on the right in the front row.

Do You Know?

There is a UHP Canvas Course that is a resource for Honors Students!

It includes:

- the current edition of the UHPWU,
- links to schedule appointments,
- links to forms you might need, like requesting a leave of absence or petitions,
- information about contracting courses and more!

If you are not seeing the "ISU University Honors Program, 2026-2027" course in your Canvas Dashboard, please let us know now at honors@isu.edu

Now You Know!

ISU Events and Activities

- Love at First Bite - Monday, August 31st 5:30-7:30pm in Turner Dining Hall
- Get Psyched for Back to School - Monday, August 31st 6-8pm at the field between Garrison Hall and Reed Gym
- 2026 Faculty Art Exhibition Opening Reception - Tuesday, September 1st 6-7pm on the main floor of the Fine Arts Building | Room 105
- Reed Gym Night - Wednesday, September 2nd 7-9pm
- ICCU Benton Branch Block Party - Friday, September 4th 11am-5pm located at 515 E. Benton St. in Poatello

No Classes Monday September 7th

Labor Day Weekend

**Have a great
labor day
bengals!**





Idaho State University

DOLSEN VISITING WRITER

At 11 a.m., Dr. Johnson will teach a creative writing craft class for all interested ISU students in Liberal Arts 243. No previous experience with creative writing or advance preparation is required; attend ready to write!

**Sept. 9th |
11 a.m.
Liberal Arts
243**

**Sept. 9th | 5 p.m.
Salmon River
Room in the
SUB**

The Department of English and Philosophy will welcome attendees with light appetizers and a chance to briefly socialize. At 5:15, Dr. Johnson will read from her most recent poetry collection, *Fatal*. The reading will be followed by a Q&A session. This event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Dr. Johnson is a poet, translator, and literary editor and critic; and holds an M.A. from Johns Hopkins Writing Seminars, an M.F.A from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and a Ph.D. in Renaissance Literature from the University of California at Berkeley. Her work has appeared in a variety of esteemed publications, including *The New Yorker*, *The Iowa Review*, and more.

DOLSEN VISITING WRITER

Fatal Kimberly Johnson



Kimberly Johnson

Wednesday, September 9 | 5 PM
Salmon River | Pond Student Union

This event is sponsored in part by the Department of English and Philosophy

BRS
B&S

blackrockandsage.org



**Idaho State
University**

Announcements & Opportunities

ISU's 9/11 Day of Service Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed for multiple events scheduled throughout September

Memorial Art Volunteers

Volunteers will make art in any form to share at our 25th Anniversary Tribute Tunnel.

Community Preparedness Fair Volunteers

Volunteers will help direct and educate participants as well as help organize supplies and handouts.

9/11 Stair Climb Volunteers

Volunteers will help set up and run community service booths.



Learn more about the program and other events:

isu.edu/serviceday/911-events/

Announcements & Opportunities



**The NCHC Journal of
Undergraduate Research
& Creative Activity**

Call For Submissions

URECA is by students, for students. Any undergraduate at any institution (associate's or bachelor's program) can submit, and published work can be added to resumes or grad school applications. Plus, this is a great opportunity to have your work seen by an interdisciplinary national audience.

What you need to know:

- Open to any discipline
- Submissions are capped at 7,500 words (references don't count)
- Submissions are blind-reviewed: leave your name, school, and advisor out of the document itself
- Word docs only (.doc/.docx)
- No cost to submit
- Selected pieces are published online in November
- AI-generated content isn't accepted, unless it's specifically required for your research

Learn more and submit your work at
ureca.scholasticahq.com/for-authors

Honors Bengals, Share Your Stories!

We want to know what you've been up to during the summer break!

Let us know by filling out the
UHP I Did A Thing form

And we'll spotlight you in a future UHPWU edition!



Idaho State
University

University
Honors Program

www.isu.edu/honors

Dr. Margaret Johnson | Honors Director | margaretjohnson@isu.edu

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

Dr. Morgan Musquez | Instructor/Coordinator | morganmusquez@isu.edu

Lori Tapanila | Academic Support | loritapanila@isu.edu



[@idahostatehonors](https://www.instagram.com/idahostatehonors)



[@Idaho State University Honors](https://www.facebook.com/IdahoStateUniversityHonors)



[@Idaho_Honor](https://twitter.com/Idaho_Honor)