



The Update in Brief

December 8, 2025

- Do You Know? Now You Know? | The birth of the University Honors Program (Pg. 1)
- Announcements & Opportunities | HPSS Research Day; America Reads; (Pgs. 2-3)
- Civic Scholars Spotlight | Haley Burke; Lindi Dice Pomeroy; Emma Grayson Moretti (Pgs. 4-6)
- UHP Events | Civic Scholar Presentations, UHP Club Holiday Extravaganza (Pg. 7)
- ISU Events | Chicken Noodle Soup Lesson; Dance Party! (Pg. 8)

Do You Know?

The first UHP cohort was admitted in Fall 2004

The roots of the University Honors Program started growing in 2001 and became official in the 2004/2005 academic year with a cohort of 14 students (pictured). Another 22 students joined in 2005, bringing the total to just over 35 students.



Dr. Cindy Hill, then Professor of Economics, was the first Honors Director. She was part of a group of ISU faculty members who "wanted to create a student-centered program, aligned with all of the colleges across our campuses, and filled with hundreds upon hundreds of opportunities. A program that would stretch student thought, offer a challenging and imaginative curriculum, encourage engagement and leadership beyond the classroom, and create a community designed for academic, social, and cultural development. We wanted to build a program focused on research for undergraduates and civic engagement. A program that in the end, would provide a transformative environment, promoting intellectual curiosity, academic attainment, and the expansion of social connections."

The UHP has grown steadily over the past 21 years to what it is today. In Fall 2025, UHP welcomed 103 new students and currently has a total of over 375 active UHP students.

Now You Know!

Announcements & Opportunities

America Reads Program

The America Reads Program is providing an opportunity for students to be paid, earn an elective credit, and make a difference!

Students are placed in an elementary school where they work approximately two hours a week for 12 weeks and can be paid through work-study for up to 20 hours in the semester.

Interested students should register for EDUC 1170: Tutoring Reading, a 1 credit elective course

Any returning tutors may opt-out of the class and simply do the tutoring!

[Apply on Handshake](#)



Learn more about the program at:
isu.edu/education/students/america-reads:

HPSS

Human Performance and Sport Studies

Research Day

Friday, Dec. 12 | 8:30 - 10:30 AM | Reed Gym

Join the HPSS Department as students present capstone and key projects.

Several topics include:

- Equity in Outdoor Education in Higher Education
- Balancing Visitation with Ecological Capacity in America's National Parks
- Optimizing UCL Repair and Rehab in MLB Baseball Pitchers
- Impact of Media Representation on the Identity and Self-Perception of Professional Female Boxers
- Developing Coaching Strategies for Youth Soccer Players
- How Sleep Duration and Quality Influence Recovery and Performance Outcomes in NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Players
- And many more



CIVICS SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT

Haley Burke

Gem AmeriCorps Member for South East Idaho Behavioral Crisis Center

When Haley Burke joined the UHP as a late admit student last year, she was already an AmeriCorps volunteer. "I got into volunteering after learning about AmeriCorps in the ROAR

1101 class my freshman year." Haley met with her Honors advisor, Conner Suddick, and told him about her volunteer service at the South East Idaho Behavioral Crisis Center (SEIBCC). "The UHP Civic Scholars Program found me shortly after I became an Honors student. He thought it would be a great opportunity for me to take part in the Civic Scholars Program with me already being actively and deeply involved in unique service."

Haley serves as a Gem AmeriCorps member for SEIBCC, volunteering as a Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS), a role that encompasses a wide range of responsibilities. "I provide support to clients facing challenges related to mental health, substance use, and/or basic needs. I share my personal, lived experience with mental health to connect with clients, model recovery, and instill hope. My other responsibilities include assisting with laundry, hygiene access, fresh clothing and bedding, as well as maintaining a clean environment and coordinating meal pickups. I also help manage client intakes, discharges, and readmissions in SEIBCC's client database system. The most rewarding part of my service has been when an individual tells me I make them feel safe."

After graduating with a B.A. in Psychology and minors in Applied Behavior Analysis and Business, Haley intends to attend graduate school to pursue a Doctor of Psychology (PsyD). "I want to study developmental psychology to become a child psychologist."

Haley's advice for students considering the Honors Civic Scholars Program? "Connect with an organization that provides opportunities unique to your interests and long-term goals. Choose to serve a community you feel genuinely drawn to or passionate about!"



**You are invited to attend Haley's Capstone Presentation
Monday, December 8 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm | REND 241**

CIVICS SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT



Lindi Dice Pomeroy

Improvisational Comedy and Mental Wellbeing: Volunteer Work with the Comedy Project

Lindi Pomeroy is an avid reader and an experienced volunteer. She's been a volunteer for the Pocatello Animal Shelter, the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, and the Intensive English Institute. "I have always been involved in some capacity with a volunteer organization since I was young"

Lindi learned about The Comedy Project (TCP) from former UHP Instructor/Coordinator, Jacob Andrysiak. "I was able to become an active member and player for TCP, helping on their board with social media and marketing as well as playing in shows and helping run workshops and large community events." When the Civic Scholars Program was started, "it drew me in because it was a way to spread awareness for volunteer work and put the word out there for TCP as well as share what I learned, as this experience has been very transformative for me. This service has meant facing a lot of fears and overcoming challenges I didn't even realize I had. Doing improv, as simple and often as silly as it sounds, has shown me how to let go of my intense need for control and instead allow things to occur naturally. As someone who prioritizes getting things done "properly," TCP has shown me how amazing it can be when I allow collaboration to rule what is happening in a group situation rather than my own pride. I have become a better public speaker and leader through TCP."

Lindi is currently applying to law school. "My goal is to become a public defense lawyer, specifically in rural and marginalized communities. I grew up in financial hardship in a rural community, and I want to be able to give back to and support families and individuals who are facing similar situations."

Lindi's advice for students considering the Honors Civic Scholars Program? "Do Civic Scholars because you want to share the experience, not because you want to brag or force yourself to do community service. This program is...about being an active community member and working towards helping others. It definitely helps you become a better person, but I would make sure you have the right motives before doing it. That being said, do it if you can! It seems very intimidating, but the experience is 100% worth it all."

**You are invited to attend Lindi's Capstone Presentation
Thursday, December 11 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm | REND 104**

CIVICS SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT

Emma Grayson Moretti

Volunteer Event Planner at Journeys Developmental Disability Agency

Emma Moretti is a Secondary Education major with an emphasis in Biology and Math, and is already getting work experience as a part-time teacher at Grace Lutheran High School teaching Chemistry and Physical Science, and as a coach for the girls basketball team. "After I graduate I plan to work full time for Grace Lutheran teaching Science and Math."



Emma was drawn to the Civic Scholars program because she "was able to be more involved with the honors community without pursuing an honors degree. I have always enjoyed serving others. I grew up volunteering in school, and the opportunity to dedicate time to a specific organization was exciting." When she learned about Journeys Developmental Disabilities Agency, a care center for adults with disabilities, and reached out to them to discuss the type of work she would do there, she was immediately interested. "There was one week where I decorated and helped to plan a Science Party. (We) decorated with a large banner, multiple science related cutouts taped to the wall, and streamers hung around the center. There were stations where participants could engage in different science experiments. I was able to explain and teach them how to participate in this experiment. This experience brought me joy, and I observed the participants be fascinated with the science 'magic' happening before their eyes. This was also a special experience for me because I love science, and I love to teach others. I was able to share this joy with the participants at the center."

Emma's advice for students considering the Honors Civic Scholars Program? "It is a unique experience where you can connect your values to your service, and dedicate meaningful time to an organization. Find a partner organization where you enjoy serving them. 200 hours is a huge dedication of time, and finding joy while serving will make this experience extremely worthwhile."

**You are invited to attend Emma's Capstone Presentation
Friday, December 12 | 10:00 - 11:00 am | REND 103**

HONORS EVENTS

Civic Scholars Presentations

HALEY BURKE

Monday, Dec 8th

3:00-4:00 pm | REND 241

Thursday, Dec 11th

3:00-4:00 pm | REND 104

LINDI POMEROY

EMMA MORETTI

Friday, Dec 12th

10:00-11:00 am | REND 103

UHPC Holiday Extravaganza



Kick off the holiday season with festivities while celebrating the near end of the semester. There will be free pizza, hot chocolate and more! Activities will include a holiday movie and paper crafts.



Friday, Dec 12 | 6:00pm | REND 203

HONS Requirement Reminder!



If you haven't attended an Honors endorsed activity this semester, pick one to attend this week. There are four to choose from!

TIGER TUNES PRESENTS

END OF SEMESTER PARTY!

FEATURING DJ WRAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

7PM-10PM

STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

18+

DISCLAIMER:
MUSIC MAY
CONTAIN MILD
EXPLICIT LYRICS!

Teaching KITCHEN

LEARN · COOK · ENJOY

Learn how to make...

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

December 10th
6:00 pm-7:00 pm

scan to sign up



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



@idahostatehonors



@Idaho State University Honors

@Idaho_Honor