



The Update in Brief

April 21, 2025

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UHP FUN FIND!

This fun find challenge is a word scramble!

- Using the letters below, unscramble and reassemble them to solve the clue that will send you to a landmark on campus.

h o n r s a c w n s a

Answer: _ _ _ _ _

- After you've solved the clue, your objectives are to:
 - 1) Visit the location and take a selfie of yourself at the landmark.
 - 2) Look up information about the landmark and write a blurb about it and its history.
 - 3) Email your selfie and the blurb to honors@isu.edu

The first UHP student to submit a complete and correct entry to honors@isu.edu will win a \$15 Visa Gift Card and a shout out in next week's UHPWU!

2025/2026 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. Honors students run for club office in the Spring semester and are elected by UHPC members. Learn more about the UHPC at isu.edu/honors/current-students/uhp-student-club

There are five UHPC Officer positions

President

Vice-President | Secretary

Historian | Treasurer

Candidates for UHPC President

Christian Done

My name is Christian Done, a mechanical and nuclear engineering double major with a minor in physics. I'm originally from Auckland, New Zealand, and I left home at the age of 16. Since then, I've been self-sufficient—working as a diesel mechanic, traveling the U.S. in an RV from age 18 to 19, and eventually coming to Idaho State University. I'm focused on gaining deep competence so I can better the communities I occupy, and I'm currently involved in several research projects dedicated to applied machine learning and advanced engineering systems.

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC President?

I believe I am the best candidate for this position because I lead by doing. I'm currently involved in five research positions—four of which I lead—which reflects my commitment to building, mentoring, and driving progress across complex teams and topics. I bring the same intensity and focus to leadership that I bring to research: structured systems, long-term vision, and accountability. My goal isn't just to represent the Honors community but to actively sharpen it—by creating opportunities that help students grow, lead, and contribute at a higher level.

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

If elected, I'd like to create more structured opportunities for Honors students to grow beyond the classroom. This includes launching a research support system with guided workshops, peer collaboration, and professor connection events—designed to make research more accessible and actionable for everyone. I also want to cultivate a culture of deeper ambition, where students challenge themselves, support one another, and take pride in building something meaningful together. The goal is to make the Honors Program not just a title, but a community that sharpens everyone in it.



Amina Miljkovic

I'm a first-generation student studying Health Sciences with a Pre-Dental focus and Spanish for Health Professions. I aim to attend dental school with a focus on providing multilingual and culturally sensitive care for the underserved, specifically for those who face health disparities due to barriers such as language, inadequate access or poor health care utilization. In Honors, I have served as a Collaborative Research Fellow, the upper-division representative on the Honors Program Advisory Committee, and as a Peer Mentor. I call Meridian, ID my home (and Chipotle a close second!) and enjoy attending concerts, snowboarding and breaking a concerning amount of glassware in any chemistry lab.

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC President?

I am qualified for the position of President owing to my proven leadership skills, strong sense of organization, and dedication to upholding organizational integrity. As a first-generation student with ambitions to pursue a career in the field of dentistry, I possess a first-hand understanding of the importance of dismantling barriers to foster opportunity, specifically for the historically diverse student cohorts of the University Honors Program. My personal aspirations as a multilingual student of an underrepresented demographic is to provide future compassionate and culturally aware patient care across the Intermountain West. This commitment reflects my passion for advocacy and empowerment—qualities I would bring to this leadership role—where attentiveness and dynamic adaptability is essential for success. In the Honors Program, I have been privileged to serve various advocative, research-based and engaging roles that have equipped me with the necessary skills to represent the values of the program that I deeply cherish. These values include a commitment to curiosity and life-long learning, a strong sense of community, and personal and scholarly excellence. In my current capacity as a student representative on the Honors Advisory Committee, I contribute to discussions that help shape the direction of the program with a valuable glimpse into the driving administrative operations. Moreover, as an Honors Peer Mentor, I embrace the collaborative mentorship of incoming students in providing an irreplaceable perspective of guidance in their pursuit for excellence that eases their transition into higher education. Derived from the skills and leadership I have gained in these roles, I excel in fostering collaboration, advocacy, and effectively navigating multifaceted responsibilities. Of all the values and strengths I carry, my commitment to ensuring that every voice is heard stands out, making me well-suited to lead a group as dynamic and diverse as the students involved in the UHP.

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

If elected, I would focus on amplifying the visibility of honors students and their remarkable contributions within Idaho State University, building on the foundation established by the Honors Program and its inaugural magazine, Honors in Perspective. By celebrating student achievements, community involvement, and academic excellence, I aim to foster a stronger sense of pride in the program and connection within the UHP to inspire greater participation. This initiative would also serve to bridge the gap between different student cohorts, fostering connections between more experienced honors students and those just beginning their honors journey. When there is a disconnect between different cohorts, this limits opportunities for incoming students to learn from the experiences, achievements, and insights of their peers, leaving them without the guidance that could enhance their success in the program. By facilitating mentorship opportunities and peer engagement, first-time honors students can benefit from the guidance and insight of upperclassmen who have navigated similar paths. These interactions would not only build a supportive community but also create a platform for shared experiences and mutual encouragement that can therefore increase approachability to the Honors program itself. Furthermore, by highlighting the breadth of opportunities and initiatives offered through the Honors Program and beyond, this ensures that other students can be inspired to pursue similar paths. This will ultimately strengthen connections to spotlight the program's impact, showcase the diverse talents of honors students, and reinforce a sense of community and shared purpose.



Elijah Escobedo

My name is Elijah Escobedo, and I am a second-year student pursuing an Honors Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in Biomedical Science and a Basic Spanish Certificate. My ultimate goal is to enroll in a dual-degree program offering a Doctor of Medicine (MD) and a Master of Public Health (MPH) to become a dermatologist. I aim to provide health education and conduct skin assessments in rural Idaho communities, equipping marginalized populations with essential knowledge about skin cancer risks and preventive measures. In my free time you might find me climbing, hanging out with my friends, or more realistically, watching some sort of movie or TV show absolutely mesmerized by the cinematography (Sharknado).



Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Vice President?

I am the most qualified candidate for Vice President due to my leadership capabilities, advocacy efforts for underrepresented groups, and deep admiration for the University Honors Program. In my capacity as an Honors Advisory Committee Member, I have contributed to the selection of a diverse array of honors seminar courses designed to be engaging amongst the entire population of honors program students, ensuring interests of all students were met. I constantly advocate for unequivocal belonging by uniting those who feel disconnected to amplify the concealed or disregarded voices amongst students. I effectively address the needs of students to foster a supportive environment while maintaining values of mentorship, collaboration, and peer-to-peer engagement. As a UHP Peer Mentor, I am dedicated towards advocating and informing incoming students in their transition to higher education to ensure their sense of belonging and success at Idaho State University is developed within a supportive community. Moreover, in my role as a Collaborative Research Fellow, I utilized qualitative research methods to analyze factors that contribute to belonging for underrepresented students in higher education. From this experience, my fellow researchers and I ultimately prompted a call to action to implement potential policy changes and to educate the public to address solutions to prevent further exclusion in higher education. This experience factored into my desire to further explore avenues of research and policy implementation that dismantle recurring barriers that marginalized or underserved populations commonly face. I will therefore do so as a CDC John R. Lewis Public Health Scholar in Columbia University's Summer Public Health Scholar Program in the Summer of 2025. In this experience, I expect to immerse myself in an academic community that fosters key principles that are directly transferable to the experiences of students in the Honors program: representation of multifaceted identities within differing communities, advocacy for pathways to success, and a celebration of student opportunity and achievements.

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

If elected, I aim to improve cross-collaboration and communication between different cohorts of the Honors program, fostering connection across the students of the program. In its current state, there exists a lack of connection between cohorts within the Honors program due to the compartmentalization of each cohort, intrinsically leading to the separation or loss of connection between Honors students. I will intentionally promote efforts to encourage meaningful interactions and collaboration among students to promote inclusivity, approachability, and peer-to-peer mentorship. If elected as UHPC Vice President, my ultimate goal would be to implement wide-appealing events and socials with the aims to increase the interconnectedness of the Honors program, fostering an environment that is most beneficial for the collaboration between peers who are not a part of the same cohort. These events would extend beyond the cohorts of Honors students, including workshops, mixers, and upper division student panels. With additional collaboration for social media outreach, I aim to highlight achievements and relatable stories to enhance visibility while fostering a welcoming atmosphere. By keeping the program social media platforms active and updated with cross-cohort events, this will ensure continuous dialogue, advertisement and adaptation to strengthen the program's commitment to supporting all students and building a unified community. Furthermore, by allowing the Honors community to interact with open feedback channels, such as polls and commenter boxes, this will embrace the opportunity for leadership to cater to the immediate needs and wants of the UHPC and its members.



Nate Kopp

Hi, I'm Nate Kopp—a incoming sophomore majoring in Biochemistry with a certificate in Biomedical Ethics. 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. My understanding of leadership extends beyond simply holding titles; it encompasses the proactive initiative to identify needs, the strategic planning to develop effective solutions, the clear

communication necessary to inspire and align others, the collaborative spirit to foster teamwork, and the underlying confidence to guide initiatives to successful completion. My background has cultivated these abilities. Earning the Silver Medal Congressional Award in 2024 for community leadership, service, and initiative 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 and through multiple leadership training conferences. 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. If elected I hope to maintain and expand these priorities by developing the program to better increase awareness abroad, encourage student engagement, enhance program prestige. Awareness: One of the most important functions of any college experience is networking and this 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 the Idaho State University Honors students are on their radar. Student Engagement: I will seek to increase student engagement and enjoyment in two primary ways. First, by developing the existing honors theme of interdisciplinary study by encouraging the establishment of new honors seminars and projects which deliberately put honors students from across departments together to solve interesting problems. Secondly, I will ensure that program funds continue to be allocated to enjoyable club activities. I want to know what my fellow honors students want and need out of the program and if you tell me, I will do my best to ensure that those things are accomplished. Prestige: By increasing the prestige of the Idaho State University Honors Program in the view of employers and postgraduate institutions all Honors students will reap the benefits of respect and notoriety in their school year, summer, and future applications. By most metrics UHPC's prestige currently falls well below the nation's leading Honors Universities, many of which are fellow state schools. I intend to develop the program through improved public image, proposals to amend the requirements for entry into the honors program and fund raising for additional Honors student benefits. I will do all of this with the goal to make the UHPC a program that Honors students are proud to be a part of. The current University Honors Programs has many strengths including engaged advisors, entertaining honors seminars, and great flexibility but I believe that under my leadership we can maintain these things and accomplish much more.

Jersie Chapple

Hello! My name is Jersie Chapple and I am a sophomore majoring in Health Science and minoring in pre-physician assistant studies! I'm from St. Anthony, Idaho and I love doing anything outside! I enjoy softball and volleyball, dirt bikes, and music! I have a cat named Saydee that is my baby and love her more than anything!

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Secretary?

I am the best candidate for this position because I have years of leadership experience in multiple student offices of many different clubs. These experiences have allowed me to gain the knowledge that I need to be the best club officer that I can, and allow me to share these abilities with others. Through my communication skills, I can ensure that the club runs smoothly by organizing and making connections wherever I may need to. I bring many different abilities to the table and can ensure that if I were to be a UHP leader I would do my absolute best to improve the program.

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

If elected, I would like to improve the communication system throughout the club (not that it isn't already great). As someone who is fairly timid when trying out new things, I know that getting involved in the club can be an intimidating factor. One thing that really helped me feel included was my peer mentor reaching out to me individually to keep me in the loop. As a possible secretary, I want to help everyone feel included by reaching out in ways that are more individual rather than just a broad message to many! I feel that by improving this aspect of the club, we can have members that love the program and feel like they have a family to rely on when away from home.



Candidate for UHPC Treasurer

Cameron Isenberg

I'm an accounting student from Twin Falls, but have been around Idaho and even a bit in Texas. Love reading, playing games, and playing piano.

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Treasurer?

I am familiar with a role like this, I have been part of club leadership in the past. I also am an accounting student, which gives me the tool kit to better take on this specific role.

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

I know it's not part of the role, but if I can help change it, the newspaper needs a few changes. A few people I've talked to this semester agree that the newspaper in the events section do not actually outline which are campus events vs. honors events... the ones you need to go to once a semester. I've gone to at least a couple events outlined in the paper only to find out it was just a regular event. If I can change this, I will.



Shaun Stosich

My name Shaun Stosich and I am a Junior going for a Bachelor's of Health Science. I am also interested in physics informed neural networks (PINNs). PINNs incorporate differential equations into the loss function to minimize residuals for physical interpretability.

Why are you the best candidate for UHPC Historian?

I am the only candidate. I also have Instagram to make posts

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

Raise spirits with encouraging posts.



April UHP EVENTS

FLOATS & VOTES

Enjoy rootbeer floats while you listen to speeches and vote for the 2025/2026 UHP Club Officers.

Tuesday, April 22 | 7:00 pm | REND 203



Save The Date! GAME NIGHT



Play your favorite games with your favorite friends! Games will be provided, but you can bring your own if you'd like!

Friday, May 2 | 6:00 - 9:00pm | REND 203

ISU Events

(The following events do not fulfill the UHP event requirement)



IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

health fair

Pond Student Union Ballroom
Wednesday April 23, 2025 | 7 AM - 6 PM
isu.edu/healthfair | healthfair@isu.edu



Healthy Bengal Zone for ISU Students

Topics include sleep hygiene, healthy breakfast options, substance use prevention, physical activity, and more.

Giveaways | Games | Trivia

Enter to win for prizes like a lego set, a backpack, a water bottle, kitchen equipment, and lots of swag.



Healthy Bengal Walking Map Initiative

ISU Recreation and Wellness is launching the Healthy Bengal Walking Map Initiative from April 21–25 to encourage students, faculty, and staff to stay active, reduce stress, and connect with campus. The map is available to view at isu.edu/wellness. It features a variety of campus routes, with maps posted in high-traffic areas and walkthroughs shared on @bewellbengals. Whether solo or with a friend, a quick walk is an easy way to reset, recharge, and stay well during finals season.



Walking Routes

Reed Gym Indoor Track	Eames Complex	Physical Science Complex to Gale Life Sciences	Bartz Field
Gale Life Sciences	Quad	Corner of MLK and Cesar Chavez to College of Education	Davis Field to Reed Gym
Cadet Field	ICCU Dome		Alvin Ricken Dr.
	Pillars		

Walking Route (shortest to longest)	Distance (miles)	Time (minutes)	Elevation Change (feet)
Reed Gym Indoor Track	0.18	5	6
Gale Life Sciences	0.41	10	12
Cadet Field	0.42	10	24
Eames Complex	0.45	11	31
Quad	0.52	12	20
ICCU Dome	0.53	13	9
Pillars	0.56	20	170
Physical Science Complex to Gale Life Sciences	0.61	15	48
Corner of MLK and Cesar Chavez to College of Education	1.14	25	60
Bartz Field	1.35	32	118
Davis Field to Reed Gym	1.36	33	65
Alvin Ricken Dr.	1.78	40	217

SPRING 2025 GRAMSESH

For the homework that was due yesterday.

April 24 | 3 - 6 PM
Rendezvous Suites

- ☒ **DEADLINES**
- ☒ **PIZZA**
- ☒ **SNACKS**
- ☒ **PRIZES**

*For more information,
visit blackrockandsage.org.*



**Idaho State
University**

Civic Jazz Band Concert



Come show
your support
and enjoy some
amazing music.

Monday, April 21

7:30 - 9:30pm

Jensen Hall

Stephens Performing Art Center

HPSS Student Research Day

Join the Idaho State University Human Performance and Sport Studies (HPSS) Department for the annual research day event.

Undergraduate students from the sport and exercise science, sport management, physical education teaching, outdoor education, and coaching programs will present their captivating research from a variety of topics through in-person poster presentations hosted in Reed Gym.

Friday, April 25

11am - 1pm

Reed Gym



**Idaho State
University**

University
Honors Program

www.isu.edu/honors

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