



The Update in Brief

April 28, 2025

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UHP FUN FIND WINNER!

Congratulations to Markus Pettinger '26

Markus has submitted a solution for every UHP Fun Find this year, but this is the first time he's had the first winning entry! When Markus isn't solving puzzles and working on his Computer Engineering Degree, he likes to golf and play other sports like spikeball. "I also like coding goofy things and baking sometimes."



Swanson Arch

March Through The Arch
www.isu.edu/archmarch/

Built in 1902, Swanson Arch was the entryway of the original Swanson Hall which was the first building at the Academy of Idaho. Named after Theodore Swanson, an original member of the

Board of Trustees for the Academy, Swanson Hall had classrooms, administrative offices, and the original library. The building was destroyed in 1973, but the arch has stayed as the entrance through which the March Through The Arch ceremony is held every year. Incoming new students walk into ISU through the arch in the fall and graduates walk out of ISU after graduation. It serves as a reminder of how far the university has come.





Maria Tapia Romero

Maria Tapia Romero '26 started her volunteer career at her local church food pantry while she was in high school, attracted by the opportunity to give to underserved communities. But she found a passion for medicine and service when she volunteered at the Pocatello Free Clinic (PFC) in 2023. "When I heard about the Civic Scholars Program, I had already been serving with my partner organizations for a couple of months. I thought that the UHP Civic Scholar program was the right path for me and I am very thankful for that because it feels like it truly represents who I am!"

Her partner organization, the Crisis Text Line (CTL), a nonprofit organization that aims to provide 24/7 free mental health services

to those battling any kind of mental crisis through text-based crisis counseling. Maria learned about CTL from ads that showed up in her Instagram reel. "Something about mental health advocacy really drew me into it and that is how I started training to become a Bilingual Crisis Counselor." After 30 hours of training, Maria now spends 4 to 5 hours texting in English and Spanish with people who are reaching out during times of anxiety, depression, self-harm, or suicide. "During every conversation, I aim to bring my texters through a hot moment to a more cool environment. Our mission is to promote well-being to those in need, more matter where they are or where they come from."

Being a Crisis Counselor, Maria has heard many meaningful and significant stories from her clients, that after being someone who struggled with mental health at one point, "puts a band-aid to my heart." Maria says, "There was one time I received feedback from one of my clients that specifically said, 'you stopped me from suicide, thanks to you I will now be getting help. You are the reason some people are still living to this day.' This was the moment I knew I had found my purpose in life."

Along with her schoolwork and volunteering for CTL, Maria works two part-time jobs at the PFC and as a Combat Engineer in the U.S. Army Reserve, and likes to work her body at Reed Gym. "If you can't find me at school or at work, I am probably going to be in the gym lifting some weights " She has always dreamed of being a doctor, so after she graduates with a Bachelors in Health Science with a minor in Spanish, she will pursue a graduate degree in pediatrics, women's health, or maybe psychiatry.

As for advice, Maria says that for honors students interested in service, the Civic Scholars Program is the way to do it! "Make sure you pick an organization that you actually feel a close connection to, something that you love doing! Only those that have served know the fulfillment that it brings to your heart and soul, it truly is a blessing. However, if you are doing something you don't enjoy, it can be a little harder. Pick something that fulfills who you are and something that is either your purpose or can help you find your purpose in life.

If you are interested in learning and hearing more about the Crisis Text Line, including if you want to help save lives, attend Maria's Capstone presentation.

You are invited to attend Maria's Capstone Presentation

Tuesday, April 29 | 4:00 - 5:00 pm | REND 102

UHP Civic Scholars Spotlight:

Austin Bunde



When Austin Bunde, '27, learned about the Wilhelm Civic Scholar program from Instructor/Coordinator Conner Suddick, he knew it was the right path for him. "I've volunteered on-and-off with the Pocatello Free Clinic since June 2023, so it only made sense to use that time and knowledge to my own advantage through this program. I wanted to do something between the degree and the distinction, so this fit in perfectly to my collegiate goals." Austin credits his parents for instilling a desire to volunteer, and he has volunteered for several organizations and clubs.

Pocatello Free Clinic is a popular volunteer partner, so Austin decided to switch it up and partnered with Pebble Creek Ski Patrol as a medical volunteer. "I used to be a ski instructor

there and was interested in working in a different field." Austin completed the required training and began patrolling the slopes. "The most important service we provide is a safe and timely first aid response to someone on or off the mountain. After locating individuals in distress, we either treat them in the field, in our base patrol station, or send them to a higher level of care through an ambulatory service." The most memorable moment for Austin was the opportunity to provide assistance in a LifeFlight rescue. "We utilized full-body vacuum splints, technology that was brand new to the mountain, to immobilize and transport the patient. During this rescue, I hiked around 100 yards up the hill and rode back down on a snow machine for the first time during my time at Pebble. Aside from all the fun experiences I have had here, I would say this is the most prominent event of my service and I was extremely proud to be able to provide my service to this incident."

Austin isn't just doing schoolwork, skiing, and volunteering, he's also a Pharmacy Tech at Fred Meyer and more. "I'm interested in rock climbing, fly-fishing, and backpacking. Luckily enough, I generally spend my time at work, at school, or at Pebble whenever I can." When Austin completes his Bachelor of Health Science with a Pre-PA minor he plans to apply to the ISU Physician's Assistant program. "I would love to specialize in trauma medicine or wilderness medicine" he says, but a doctorate is also on his radar. He encourages service-oriented Honors students to look into the Civic Scholars program and consider taking the civic engagement courses. And, he has advice for choosing a partner organization, "I advise any future honors students interested in this program to find a partner that fits your values. A big focus on the HONS 3399 and 4499 is to determine your personal values and align them with your service partner. I have personal interest in the Free Clinic and at PCSP, so that also influenced my decision to join them. The 250 hour requirement may seem difficult, but throughout my time at ISU I've amassed around 600 volunteer hours."

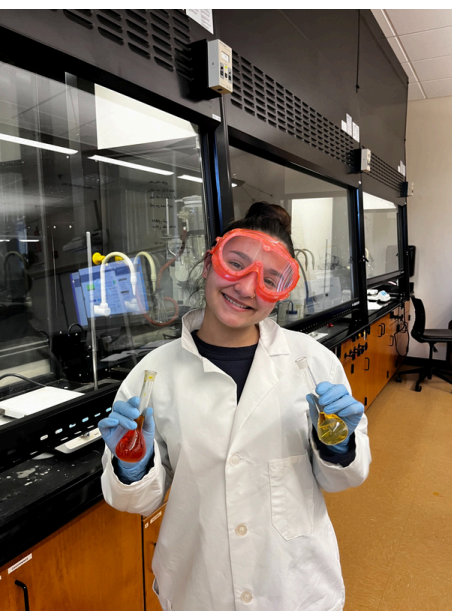
You are invited to attend Austin's Capstone Presentation

Friday, May 2 | 11:00am - Noon | REND 209

Riley Ortiz, Creative Works Winner of the 2025 ISU Research & Creative Works Symposium



Pleistocene Epoch acrylic painting on 10x15 inch canvas



Riley Ortiz '28, has fond memories of painting with her grandma while growing up. "Now as an adult, her and I still try to set aside time to paint together." Riley is a Biochemistry major with a passion for chemistry, art, and conservation. "Currently acrylic is my preferred painting medium, but my favorite overall is colored pencils. I also do textile art such as crochet and sewing!" Riley also keeps busy as a campus chemistry tutor. "It is one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever had, and I am so grateful every day for the opportunity to help others excel in their degrees!"

During the winter break, Riley worked on a painting for her husband, Zackery. "He is absolutely in love with mammoths. I

wanted to create something that you would typically see in a museum, that we could have in our home." The "mammoth painting" was a complete success with her husband, who says "I love that I now have two of my favorite things at home, my wife and a mammoth!"

Riley noticed flyers for the ISU Research and Creative Works Symposium in the Rendezvous, looked into it, and submitted her acrylic mammoth painting. The day came, judging commenced, and the painting was again a complete success, Riley was awarded first place, which included a beautiful certificate and prize money. "I decided to submit to the symposium because I feel like I don't tell myself 'yes' enough, and if I keep telling myself 'no' to things out of fear of failure, then how will I ever accomplish anything." That's something we all should keep in mind!

Congratulations to the New 2025/2026 UHP Club Officers

UHPC President: Amina Miljkovic, '26,



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.

UHP Vice-President: Elijah Escobedo, '27

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).



UHPC Secretary Jersie Chapple, '27



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!

UHPC Treasurer Cameron Isenberg, '28

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.



UHPC Historian Shaun Stosich, '26



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.

April

UHP EVENTS

MARIA TAPIA ROMERO CIVIC SCHOLARS CAPSTONE PRESENTATION

*Serving as a Bilingual Crisis
Counselor at Crisis Text Line*

Tues, April 29 | 4:00- 5:00 pm | REND 102



AUSTIN BUNDE CIVIC SCHOLARS CAPSTONE PRESENTATION



*Serving as an Medic at the Pebble
Creek Ski Patrol*

Fri, May 2 | 11:00 am - 12:00pm | REND 209

UHP GAME NIGHT



**Play your favorite games with your
favorite friends! Pizza, cookies, drinks,
and games will be provided, but you can
bring your own game 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)



GRAND PRIZE BINGO!

Don't miss out on our **BIGGEST PRIZE GIVEAWAY** of the semester!

April 29 | 7 pm
Pond Student Union Ballroom

Students: Free
Staff & Faculty: \$3 | Public: \$5

SAB For more information, call (208)282 - 3451



Bengal Wednesday

April 30 | 12 pm
Pond Student Union Lobby

Wear Bengal gear
Bring your Student ID
Get Free ISU Sweatpants!

SAB For more information, call (208) 282-3451.

WEDNESDAY WELLBEING

On Thursday....

Drop by and learn more. Pick up educational materials and free giveaways, including affirmation cards. Visit with wellness and mental health professionals.

Self-Care When You Are Caring for Someone Else

May 1
10 AM - 2 PM

Graveley Hall Lobby



Sponsored by: Recreation and Wellness Counseling and Mental Health Center.

Recreation and Wellness | (208) 282-4383 | isu.edu/wellness

ISU MUSIC

Student Chamber Music Night with the Chamber Orchestra

Mon, April 28 | 7:30 - 9:30pm
Goranson Hall - Fine Arts Building

ISU Wind Ensemble & Civic Band Concert

Weds, April 30 | 7:30 - 9:30pm
Jensen Hall - Stephens Performing Arts





Portneuf Resource Council

presents

Join or Die Film Screening and Social Event

Thursday, May 1st 2025

5:30 to 9:30 pm

Idaho State University

Pond Student Union Wood River Room

Join the Portneuf Resource Council and our co-sponsors for a free screening of the award-winning film *Join or Die*. This powerful sequel to *Bowling Alone* explores the decline of community participation and how we can revitalize local engagement.

The event includes a social mingle with local organizations, and a keynote address about the importance of civic participation. Our co-sponsors include Sierra Club of Idaho, League of Women Voters, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Snake River Alliance, Trout Unlimited, Neighborworks, and several more. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with local leaders and learn how to make a difference. Refreshments will be served.

Don't miss out! Join us for an inspiring evening and take a big step toward creating a stronger, more connected community.



**Idaho State
University**

**University
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www.isu.edu/honors

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