One of the things I teach is political theory; and one of my favorite theorists of politics is Hannah Arendt. It is the centenary of her birth, and the significance of birth for politics was one of her big themes. Gatherings in her honor have been preoccupied this year with Arendt's ideas about political evils. With George Orwell and others, Arendt made the mythos of totalitarianism that has informed the western responses to Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, the USSR and the Cold War, the lies of ideology and propaganda that surpass statecraft, the killing fields of Cambodia, the martyr-bombers of Islamic radicalism, and more. Even so, the politics of birth are Arendt's most provocative concern; and they bear glad tidings for our University Honors Program.

For Arendt, birth enters politics as free action in the publics composed by the people who collaborate and compete with us. The politics of birth are the politics of beginnings. When we repeat old patterns, argued Arendt, we should be prepared for new departures. When we settle for mere reaction, we should leap past revenge into forgiveness. When we fall into thoughtless habits, we should jump beyond routine into invention. Otherwise we become caught in chains of reaction that preempt the initiatives able to liberate us from earlier limitations.

Honors are high priorities for Arendt's politics. They acclaim excellence in action within the public arenas that Arendt took to make us most fully human. They give us responsibility for who we become, both as individuals and communities. Recently rebranded as the honors program for our whole university, the UHP is acting even more ambitiously than before. Especially this year, it is developing venues for students to learn by doing - in class, research, service, travel, teaching, writing, performing, play and more.

Thus the UHP is giving birth to ICRU (described in the article on page 9).

Last spring, UHP students Mark Kresowik and Lauren McCarthy turned their leadership of the UI Student Government into a university-wide Experiential Learning Council. This fall, the UHP is building on their beginning by hiring Andrew Willard as its Experiential Learning Coordinator. He comes to the University from many years at the Yale School of Law, and his work on public policy connects the academy to larger communities, particularly on matters of environment and human rights. Willard taught an honors seminar for the UHP last spring, and he recently has become a member of the Executive Board of the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights.

By autumn's end, the UHP also plan to hire an Honors Advising Coordinator. The staff additions come courtesy of the Provost's Office, now the UHP's administrative home for the second year. In the spring, the UHP celebrated contributions from the retiring Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Lola Lopes, by presenting her its first Staff Award for Outstanding Campus Support. This fall, the UHP welcomes as her replacement, Tom Rocklin, who earlier created the University of Iowa Center for Teaching.

Also this autumn, the Honors Legislative Research Service led by Professor Tom Rice is enjoying a banner first round of drafting policy paper for the State Legislature. Next door on the BHC third floor, the new Honors Satellite Writing Center is meeting so much demand that it immediately doubled its hours by adding Sunday evenings to Monday evenings each week. The new University Honors House in Daum celebrated its beginning with a successful
moving-week reception in the August
thanks (continued on next page)
(continued from page 1) to leaders-
ship from Lisa Raffensperger. And
Scoops for Scholars, the UHP’s first-
ever ice-cream social, kept Provost
Michael Hogan busy serving vanilla
due to the energetic organization of
Nikki Guarino. (We chocolate fans vow
resurgent demand next fall.)

Over the summer, the UHP expanded
greatly its orientation for new students.
Perhaps as a result, it began the fall
with full complements of students in
seven honors seminars for entering stu-
dents, another five three-semester hon-
ors seminars, and many honors sec-
tions. As the fall unfolds, the Honors
Listserv will be announcing a set of
exciting new spring seminars to come.

And while we’re on the subject of hon-
ors seminars, another innovation by
month’s end is the first annual Honors
Commendation Ceremony. It celebrates
students who complete at least four
honors courses or sections in their first
four semesters at Iowa. Their number
continues to grow, and a public jubilee
in their honor seems only right.

The start of the 2006-07 academic
year is bringing us a wealth of begin-
nings, with more to come. Each of these
births bestows new capacities for learn-
ing and doing through the UHP. As
Honors Secretary Mary Uhl says, ours
is the emerging spirit expressed by Bill
Watterson in his final comic-strip panel
for feisty Calvin, the adventurous little
boy, and his sidekick Hobbes, the so-
phosticated tiger: “Let’s go exploring!”

Participants of University Honors Program Blitz Build pose for a picture, put up siding, and cut siding for the house they helped construct with Habitat for Humanity

UHP students volunteer for Blitz Build

by Mark Hemberg

On September 9th, 13 people armed only with
hammers and a will to serve, made a difference. For hours
that Saturday afternoon, 11 first-year honors students,
UHP student staff member and coordinator for the Vol-
unteering Program Anastasia Bassis and LaShelle Christensen, UHP
professional staff member, came together with the Iowa
Valley Habitat for Humanity to help build a house in
Coralville.

The students and UHP staff members worked with
IVHFH on what is called a “Blitz Build”: a concentrated
effort to build one or more

houses with a swarm of vol-
unteers, usually working in
shifts. A national Blitz Build
this summer built hundreds of
simple, affordable house
for low income families. Like on Extreme Makeover:
Home Edition, these houses
were all completed in just
one week. But unlike the
show, which is fueled by mil-
ions of dollars and profes-
sional homebuilders, Blitz
Build uses the ‘sweat power’
of volunteers who sign up for
a shift lasting a minimum
of 2-4 hours. In Coralville,
the team of volunteer worked
to put up siding on the house
and clean up inside and
around the area. Working
with the father of the family
that would eventually move
into the house, the team
got the chance to get dirty, ham-
mer things, and meet new
people, all while helping the
community.

Blitz build is just one of the
many volunteering opportu-
nities the UHP provides for
students. If you’d like to
know just how fun and ful-
filling it is to give up your
time and energy to serve oth-
ers, then check out some of
the upcoming volunteering
events you can attend
through the UHP.

- Twice a month students
go to the Wesley Center (a
three minute walk from the
Blank Honors Center) and
help with the Free Lunch
Program. FLP was created
almost 25 years ago and
serves, on average, over a
hundred lunches a day. The
next opportunity to serve in
on November 8 from 11am
- 1:30pm. Students who vol-
unteer get a chance to pre-
pare and serve the meal.

- Every weekend (until
Halloween) students can vol-
unteer to help out at Field of
Screams. This will be at
night and will typically take
a few hours.

- On October 24, there will
be an opportunity to volun-
teer for a Big Brothers, Big
Sisters event from 6:30-8pm.

If any of these events
sound like something you’d
like to participate in, if you
want more information, of if
you have ideas for future vol-
unteering, contact Anatasia
Bassis at honors-
volunteering@uiowa.edu.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>John Nelson</strong></th>
<th><strong>Bob Kirby</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sarah Prineas</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Position:** Director  
**Years on Staff:** One in the UHP, thirty-one in Political Science at Iowa | **Position:** Assistant Director and Director of ICRU  
**Years on Staff:** Six | **Position:** Scholarship Coordinator and Publications Wrangler  
**Years on Staff:** Three |
| **What do you do for the UHP?**  
Generate initiatives | **What do you do for the UHP?**  
Anything needed | **What do you do for the UHP?**  
Like Grover, I am many things to many people. Mainly, I run the UHP scholarship program and work with honors students who are applying for major national and international scholarships. I also work with the student staff members responsible for the website, newsletter, and the old Gold and Presidential scholars. And I write/edit all the UHP publications. |
| **Education:**  
University of Kentucky  
- BA in Philosophy and Political Science  
North Carolina at Chapel Hill - PhD in Political Science | **Education:**  
Western Washington State College  
Washington State University  
University of Washington  
University of Virginia  
Psychology and biopsychology for BS, MA, and PhD degrees | **Education:**  
Carleton - BA  
U of Wisconsin-Madison - MA  
U of Arizona - PhD in English Literature with a minor in Rhetoric, Composition and the Teaching of English |
| **Favorite inspiring quotation:**  
To go in the dark with a light is to know the light. To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight, And find that the dark, too, blooms and sings, and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.  
- Wendell Berry | **Favorite inspiring quotation:**  
“The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority.”  
- Ralph W. Sockman | **Favorite inspiring quotation:**  
“All we wanna do is eat your brains.”  
- Jonathan Coulton |
| **Goals for the UHP:**  
Create intellectual communities, especially through honors courses | **Goals for the UHP:**  
Leave it a better place than I found it. | **Goals for the UHP:**  
Take over the universe(ity)!!! |
| **Favorite food in the Honors Center:**  
Chocolates - Stop for some in 447 BHC | **Favorite food in the Honors Center:**  
PEZ (maybe that’s not a food). | **Favorite Book:**  
See if you can guess. I have the following action figures in my office: Gollum, Legolas, Gimli, and Boromir, and a student-built trebuchet with orc head accessories on my bookshelf. |
**Meet the Professional Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Lashelle Christensen</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mary Uhl</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position:</strong> Interim Coordinator of Student Programs</td>
<td><strong>Position:</strong> Office Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Years on Staff:</strong> Two</td>
<td><strong>Years on Staff:</strong> Four</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What do you do for the UHP?</strong></th>
<th><strong>What do you do for the UHP?</strong></th>
<th><strong>Favorite inspiring quotation:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I coordinate extra-curricular programs. That means I help set up and guide the totally awesome programs that the student staff coordinate. Along with making sure there is art on the walls, food in the kitchen, and an open door for students to come talk to me about any sort of thing. Ultimately if the students want it, it is my job to see that we can make it happen. Which means the students that want something - should come talk to me!</td>
<td>I pay the bills</td>
<td>Life is mostly froth and bubble; Two things stand like stone; Kindness in another’s trouble, Courage in your own.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education:</strong> University of Iowa - BA with honors in Psychology</td>
<td><strong>Education:</strong> Northern Illinois University - BA Northern Illinois University - MA</td>
<td>- Adam Lindsay Gordon, “Ye Wearie Wayfarer”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education:</strong> University of Iowa - MS in Epidemiology</td>
<td><strong>Education:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Community College - AAS Sign Language Interpreting</td>
<td><strong>Favorite food in the Honors Center:</strong> Any chocolate I can wrest away from Sarah Prineas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Love the UHP? Join the Facebook group “Honors Programs Rock!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Favorite Book:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Need help with your writing?</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After having little time to read for pleasure when I was in college, I found that the Harry Potter series could get me lost in that wonderful world of pleasure reading again.</td>
<td><strong>Call the UHP at (319) 335-3220 to set up an appointment for a writing center session.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mondays 6pm-8pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sundays 7pm-9pm</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# honorable mention

The STUDS of the UHP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year:</th>
<th>Major:</th>
<th>Favorite book:</th>
<th>Favorite room in the Honors Center:</th>
<th>Favorite season:</th>
<th>Country you most want to visit:</th>
<th>Least favorite food:</th>
<th>Least favorite food:</th>
<th>Favorite onomatopoeia:</th>
<th>Favorite onomatopoeia:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shajia Ahmad</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Journalism and International Studies</td>
<td><em>Midnight's Children</em> by Salman Rushdie</td>
<td>A lactation room on the fourth floor of the women’s bathroom</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Grape flavored stuff</td>
<td>Oink</td>
<td>Actor to play you in a movie about your life: Meryl Streep</td>
<td>Favorite food in the Honors Center: Marshmallow Mateys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Carey</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Ha ha, good question</td>
<td><em>On the Road</em></td>
<td>Blam</td>
<td>Season 11 of the Simpsons</td>
<td>Favorite Room in the Honors Center: The library. On most nights, it’s what death sounds like.</td>
<td>Actor to play you in a movie about your life: Meryl Streep</td>
<td>Favorite food in the Honors Center: Marshmallow Mateys</td>
<td>Favorite onomatopoeia: Oink</td>
<td>Favorite onomatopoeia: Oink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anastasia Bassis</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>Favorite rainforest animal: Spider monkey</td>
<td>Favorite Room in the Honors Center: The library. On most nights, it’s what death sounds like.</td>
<td>Favorite Room in the Honors Center: The library. On most nights, it’s what death sounds like.</td>
<td>Favorite Room in the Honors Center: The library. On most nights, it’s what death sounds like.</td>
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<td>Favorite Room in the Honors Center: The library. On most nights, it’s what death sounds like.</td>
<td>Favorite Room in the Honors Center: The library. On most nights, it’s what death sounds like.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrett Anderson</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Economics and Political Science</td>
<td>Favorite onomatopoeia: Swish</td>
<td>Favorite food in the Honors Center: Popcorn</td>
<td>Most embarrassing moment: When I hit an old NASA scientist in the crotch with a heavy bag while trying to shake his hand</td>
<td>Favorite Room in the Honors Center: The library. On most nights, it’s what death sounds like.</td>
<td>Actor to play you in a movie about your life: Harrison Ford</td>
<td>Favorite book: <em>John Adams</em> by David McCullough</td>
<td>Least favorite food: Asparagus</td>
<td>Least favorite food: Asparagus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# honorable mention

The STUDS of the UHP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Major/Program</th>
<th>Favorite book:</th>
<th>Country you most want to visit:</th>
<th>Favorite Room in the Honors Center:</th>
<th>Most embarrassing moment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amy Domeyer</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>English, Pre-Medicine</td>
<td><em>Pride and Prejudice</em> or <em>Great Gatsby</em></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>The reception area - where all the conversation happens</td>
<td>Crying in front of my advisor the first week of freshman year because I had to drop a class and add a different one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Guarino</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Mathematics and English</td>
<td><em>Whamo</em></td>
<td>Lucky Charms</td>
<td>Toasty Os and Earl Grey tea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Long</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Psychology and Philosophy</td>
<td><em>Yowee!</em></td>
<td>Egypt or Japan</td>
<td><em>All the King’s Men</em> by Robert Penn Warren</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody Beckman</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Cinema and Asian Languages and Literature</td>
<td><em>The Lorax</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Marshmallow Roos</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favorite onomatopoeia:</th>
<th>Least Favorite Food:</th>
<th>Favorite food in the Honors Center:</th>
<th>Actor to play you in a movie about your life:</th>
<th>Favorite Room in the Honors Center:</th>
<th>Favorite rainforest animal:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amy Domeyer</td>
<td>Tuna</td>
<td>Olives</td>
<td>Woody Allen</td>
<td>The north end couches are lovely for naps</td>
<td>Proboscis monkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Guarino</td>
<td>Olives</td>
<td><em>Whamo</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Long</td>
<td><em>Ah-choo!</em></td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody Beckman</td>
<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td><em>Mini spooners</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>The north commons...have you seen the TV?</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favorite onomatopoeia:</th>
<th>Favorite food in the Honors Center:</th>
<th>Favorite Room in the Honors Center:</th>
<th>Favorite season:</th>
<th>Favorite book:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amy Domeyer</td>
<td><em>Great Gatsby</em></td>
<td><em>Mini spooners</em></td>
<td>Baseball because it never ends</td>
<td><em>The Prophet</em> by Kahlil Gibran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Guarino</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Long</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody Beckman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Honorable Mention

## The STUDS of the UHP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Favorite Food in the Honors Center</th>
<th>Least Favorite Food</th>
<th>Most Embarrassing Moment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Niblock</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Economics and Religious Studies</td>
<td>Pink lemon-ade in an official BHC mug with lots of ice cubes</td>
<td>The special food they make for vegetarians at Burge cafeteria</td>
<td>Basically every date I’ve ever been on. It’s pretty hard to tell them apart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Hernberg</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>English and Physics</td>
<td>Swoosh!</td>
<td>Brussels sprouts</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kat Rokhlin</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>International Studies</td>
<td>A triathlon bike</td>
<td>A trip to Australia and New Zealand</td>
<td>The Rock (honestly, would probably be DJ Qualls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Savage</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Management and Music</td>
<td>Where the Wild Things Are</td>
<td>Rainbow Bright</td>
<td>Splat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Favorite season</th>
<th>Favorite onomatopoeia</th>
<th>Best Birthday Present</th>
<th>Favorite Room in the Honors Center</th>
<th>Actor to play you in a movie about your life</th>
<th>Country you most want to visit</th>
<th>Favorite Rainforest Animal</th>
<th>Favorite Food</th>
<th>Favorite season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Niblock</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Economics and Religious Studies</td>
<td>College Football bowl game season</td>
<td>Ender’s Game</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Hernberg</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>English and Physics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Swoosh!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kat Rokhlin</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>International Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td>Buzz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Savage</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Management and Music</td>
<td></td>
<td>Me Talk Pretty One Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Honorable Mention

The STUDS of the UHP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Jacque Leonard</strong></th>
<th><strong>Favorite book:</strong> <em>Pride and Prejudice</em> and <em>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</em></th>
<th><strong>Favorite onomatopoeia:</strong> Yowza!</th>
<th><strong>Best birthday present:</strong> A surprise breakfast hosted by my mom in the school parking lot for my 18th birthday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Year:</em> Junior</td>
<td><strong>Actor to play you in a movie about your life:</strong> Julia Stiles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Major:</em> Political Science/ International Business Certificate</td>
<td><strong>Favorite food in the Honors Center:</strong> Hot chocolate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Lisa Raffensperger</strong></th>
<th><strong>Favorite book:</strong> <em>Life of Pi</em></th>
<th><strong>Favorite Room in the Honors Center:</strong> Study Room #2. Have you seen the dry erase board? The biggest and whitest one imaginable.</th>
<th><strong>Country you most want to visit:</strong> Spain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Year:</em> Senior</td>
<td><strong>Actor to play you in a movie about your life:</strong> Drew Barrymore</td>
<td><strong>Favorite food:</strong> Beef Jerky</td>
<td><strong>Favorite rainforest animal:</strong> Tapir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Major:</em> English and Biology</td>
<td><strong>Least Favorite Food:</strong> Beef Jerky</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Favorite season:</strong> Spring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ever wondered if there’s more to college than 400-person lectures? Wanted to take college beyond the class room? Get involved with something hands on and really yourself and learn? Then maybe research is for you. There’s no need to wait until you’re a graduate student, Bob Kirby and the ICRU want to help you get involved now.

ICRU is the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates. Bob Kirby, assistant director of the UHP, is the director of ICRU. He has a strong desire to see undergrads involved in research around the university and across various disciplines. Bob views research as not just something for students studying biology or chemistry, but something that spans the humanities as well. For example, humanities research might explore the history of choreography and dance. Ultimately he says that “research is a creative process that cuts across all boundaries between sciences, getting creative students together with creative faculty.”

In the past, undergrads involved with research would look to the USA (Undergrad Scholar Assistant), a program providing stipends for students doing research projects with faculty, and the IREU (Iowa Research Experience for Undergrads), a program providing stipends and research money for advanced undergraduates working independently. Students were also given the opportunity to present their research at SURF (Spring Undergraduate Research Forum). All of these programs have been combined into ICRU.

Kirby described ICRU’s role as “connecting students with other students and faculty, advising them about time management, helping them secure funding, providing opportunities to present their research, and giving advice on how to approach faculty.”

For more information about ICRU email ICRU@uiowa.edu or robert-kirby@uiowa.edu