

ALUMNI CONNECTION

THE HONORS AT IOWA NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2018



A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR



University of Iowa Honors Program Alumni/ae,

With this, our second newsletter created expressly for alumni/ae, we want to make you aware of recent happenings at Honors at Iowa and encourage you to mark your calendars for an exciting upcoming event.

Highlighted in this issue is one of our more famous alumna, Lana Zak, who is an award-winning reporter for ABC News. She covers government and politics, and is a regular member of the press corps at the Capitol as well as the White House. We're also fortunate to have her as a member of the Honors Program Advisory Board.

You'll also read in this newsletter about the accomplishments of some of our current honors students – e.g., miniature profiles of honors students who were awarded 2017 Fulbrights; and an honors student, Sean Finn, with whom I've worked closely on the national level of honors education. These vignettes of some of our students will show you why they are our pride and also our hope for the future.

We've also made space in this issue for a listing of our last year's donors. It's such a pleasure to acknowledge the generosity of our supporters and the trust they place in the Honors staff and program. I can verify for our donors the commitment that the Honors staff has to our students: I've never worked with a group so dedicated to enabling students. So, our collective thanks to our donors for helping us to help our students.

Finally, we want to make you aware of the upcoming celebration of the Honors Program 60th anniversary. Honors began at Iowa in 1958, when it was founded by Professor Samuel Rhodes Dunlap. Rhodes then directed the program for twenty-three years – until he retired in 1981. Since that founding in 1958, over 12,000 students have graduated as part of it. In honor of these many and distinguished alumni/ae, we will be holding several events this coming October. Details on the Honors Program 60th anniversary celebration will be published on the Honors Program website and in the electronic newsletters.

I invite any comments or questions you have on the Honors Program. Your feedback and engagement with the program are essential for our current and future students. We hope you'll reconnect with Honors at Iowa.

Cordially yours,

Art L. Spisak

Director, UI Honors Program
Professor, Classics Department
Immediate Past President, National Collegiate Honors Council

OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF*

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HONORS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
IOWA CENTER FOR RESEARCH BY
UNDERGRADUATES DIRECTOR



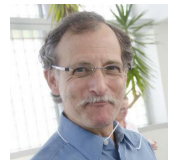
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COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST,
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



MELINDA LICHT

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
COORDINATOR



*In addition to our professional staff, Honors at Iowa could not operate without the support of its student staff. We proudly employ over twenty part-time student employees who assist with administration, programming, media, and advising.



HONORS BY THE NUMBERS

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HONORS PROGRAM'S ENROLLMENT ENCOMPASSES 3,483 STUDENTS, DISTRIBUTED ACROSS A WIDE VARIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGES AND DISCIPLINES

67.15% College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
15.32% College of Engineering
14.08% Tippie College of Business
3.10% College of Nursing
0.32% University College
0.03% College of Public Health

OF OUR RECENT GRADUATES:

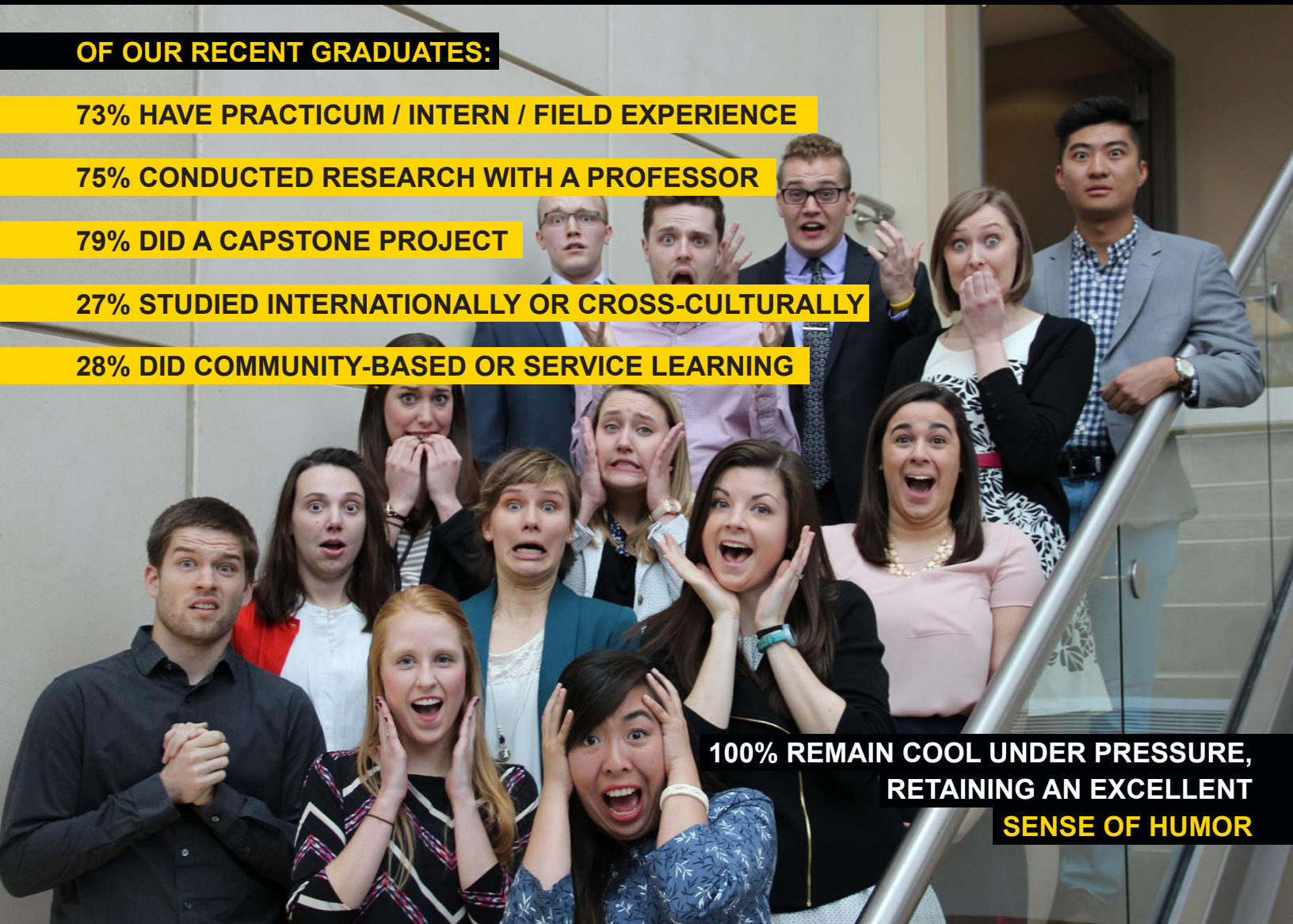
73% HAVE PRACTICUM / INTERN / FIELD EXPERIENCE

75% CONDUCTED RESEARCH WITH A PROFESSOR

79% DID A CAPSTONE PROJECT

27% STUDIED INTERNATIONALLY OR CROSS-CULTURALLY

28% DID COMMUNITY-BASED OR SERVICE LEARNING



100% REMAIN COOL UNDER PRESSURE, RETAINING AN EXCELLENT SENSE OF HUMOR

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT
LANA ZAK: ABC REPORTER,
HONORS PROGRAM ADVISORY
BOARD MEMBER AND DONOR,
UI CLASS OF 2000

WRITTEN BY CLAIRE JACOBSON



[photo courtesy of ABC Radio]

Lana Zak is a familiar name to viewers of ABC News and within the University of Iowa Honors Program, where she serves on the Honors Advisory Board. An Iowa Honors alum herself, Zak is a distinguished news correspondent and producer who brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the program.

Upon graduating from Bettendorf High School in Bettendorf, Iowa, Zak entered the University of Iowa in 1996 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Journalism & Mass Communications from the University of Iowa in 2000. During her time at Iowa, she participated in the Honors Program and served as Student Government president her senior year. "I had the good fortune of coming into Honors as a staff member just when Lana was graduating and I got to work with her as a candidate for the Rhodes scholarship and as a Fulbright recipient," said Honors Associate Director Bob Kirby. "When Art and I came up with names of people to invite as Board members, Lana was one of the first individuals who came to mind."

After a year on a Fulbright grant researching racial identity among Asian-Americans living in South Korea, she earned a Master of Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2003, funded in part by



Lana Zak pictured with the rest of the Honors Program Advisory Board at the banquet preceding their 2017 annual meeting

a Truman Scholarship. She later went on to work at ABC News in Washington, D.C.

Early in her broadcasting career, Zak covered then-Senator Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign and is currently a member of the White House press corps with ABC News. She has also reported from Korea, Hong Kong, South Africa, Haiti, and around the United States. According to ABC News, "Lana has been integral on many of ABC's biggest stories including the Shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the Jacqueline Kennedy Interview, Jaycee Dugard's Triumph Over Kidnapping, the Prescription for America Forum at the White House, and the incredible recovery of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords." Zak is the recipient of multiple Emmys, the Edward R. Murrow Award, and the Newswomen of NY Frontpage Award, among others.

Zak has already infused the Honors Program Advisory Board with her curiosity and enthusiasm. "The energy and passion she brought to being a student at the university are much the same as how she has approached being a board member," Kirby added. "Her personality immediately came through to everyone on the Board, and she can add enthusiasm to even the most mundane conversations. Her 'dig deep and get to the bottom of things' training as a journalism major has now become an asset to the program through her membership on the board."



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT SEAN FINN: HONORS STUDENT, NCHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER, UI CLASS OF 2018

EDITED BY KATIE KIESEWETTER

Sean Finn, a senior studying Ethics & Public Policy and Economics, is among the most involved of our honors students. Sean is the founder of the UI Trans Alliance and has multiple years of experience leading and participating in the LGBTQ+ community. He is also a member of Delta Lambda Phi fraternity, a Presidential Scholars Program events committee member, and a Matthew Shepard Scholar. With such dedication to his studies and extra-curricular activities, there is no question as to why Sean was chosen to represent our student body on the national level as a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Board of Directors.

Honors Program Director Art Spisak urged Sean to get involved with NCHC early on. Spisak had nothing but great things to say about him: “I approached Sean about running for the NCHC Board of Directors when he was a freshman. It was a lot to ask of a first-year student, but the timing was necessary if he was to have a full two-year term on the board. Sean came to the annual NCHC conference (in Chicago) with me later that year in order to campaign. Watching him interact with all the various people, I felt strongly that he was going to be successful both in getting elected and then as a board member. He’s a natural with people – engaging, highly communicative, and unusually empathetic – and he took his role as a student representative for honors education very seriously.”

When asked about how it was to work with Sean, Spisak said, “Working with him on the board for his two years was a delight. He paid attention to the issues and was always deliberative and reasonable in presenting his opinions. He was also very well-

liked and respected by the rest of the board members and the NCHC staff. In sum, he was an inspiration to the rest of us board members.”

Sean wrote a blog post for our Honors Wordpress page about his first experience at NCHC. In it, he wrote, “I was doubtful at first if this was the kind of position I was interested in. Would it be too much responsibility? Once I learned that this would be a chance to represent the honors students here at Iowa and influence the organization in a manner that would benefit them, I felt that it was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up.”

He continued, “The entire NCHC experience was eye-opening. We [members of Honors at Iowa] are part of the national honors community, and the work we do here affects honors students, faculty, and staff everywhere. Similarly, their work affects us. The numerous initiatives others implement and share with members of the NCHC give us the opportunity to learn from them... I am honored to have been chosen to represent honors students at Iowa and around the country.”

If you are interested in reading Sean’s full blog post along with many other student narratives, visit our Wordpress page at www.honorsatiowa.wordpress.com.



L-R: Director Art Spisak, Associate Director Bob Kirby, Sean Finn, Liam Crawford, and Assessment Director Emily Johnson at NCHC 2017



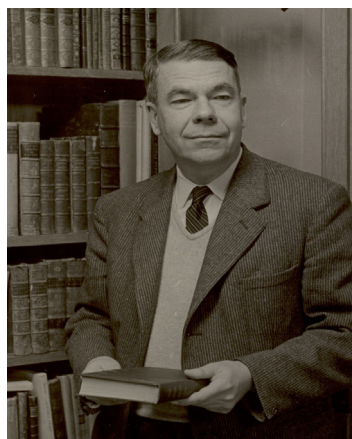
SAVE THE DATE: HONORS AT IOWA IS TURNING SIXTY!

The University of Iowa Honors Program was created in 1958 by Samuel Rhodes Dunlap. Professor Dunlap introduced the program as a response to the U.S. government's call for better and more competitive education. His intent was to ensure the University's position as a leader in research and learning. Dunlap was the program director from its founding in 1958 until his retirement in 1981, and was instrumental in the growth of the program from the half-dozen or so departments at its beginning to the many involved when he retired. He worked with the various departments to get them interested and was also involved with honors at the national level. He attended many conferences and seminars across the country in order to promote honors.

Although Professor Dunlap worked hard at all levels in promoting honors, he never lost sight of his own program's primary mission of serving the students. Dewey Stuit, the former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and a colleague of Dunlap, said, "You sometimes read that the University

doesn't show individual attention to students. Samuel Dunlap was an example of a person who puts students first... He always looked out for the individual."

Dunlap's specific approach to, and philosophy of, academic excellence has been carried through and augmented in the Honors Program to this day. Honors at Iowa now extends across all the undergraduate colleges and departments at the University of Iowa. It is truly a university-wide program, with its administrative home being the University College housed in the Provost's Office. Even with the scope of the program, our primary concern is with the individual student. Our tagline, Make Your Connection, captures it most concisely: through our program our students make their connection with who they are, their social community, and with their particular area of study and their career.



THE CELEBRATION
WILL BE HELD THE
WEEKEND OF

**[OCTOBER
6 & 7]**

FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA TO
STAY POSTED!



WHERE WE WERE: SHAMBAUGH HOUSE

For those of you who attended the University of Iowa before Honors House moved to the Blank Honors Center, the above picture probably looks pretty familiar. Shambaugh House was home to honors student learning for many years, so let's take a look at some of the things we found out in our archives. The story of the Shambaughs comes from an *Honors Newsletter* special issue, published in September of 1982.

Who are the Shambaughs?

Benjamin Franklin Shambaugh, 1871-1940, was born in Elvira, Iowa and educated at the Iowa City Academy and the University of Iowa. After studying in Germany and receiving a Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, Shambaugh returned to the UI as a professor of political science and shortly thereafter became chairman of the department, a position he held for forty years, until his death.

Bertha Horack Shambaugh, 1871-1953, was and remains an enigma. The daughter of a respected Iowa City attorney, she was, before her marriage to Benjamin, a distinguished naturalist and photographer.

After her marriage, when she lived by all accounts, "only for her husband and his work," she managed to produce the work for which she is best known, *Amana: Community of True Inspiration* and its revised version, *Amana That Was and Amana That Is*. Her assessment of the Amanas and its society is considered the most definitive and sensitive study available, though written in 1909 and revised in 1932.

Before moving to Shambaugh House in the 1980s, our program called an Honors Center at 303 N Capitol its home. After the move, this building was demolished. In 2004, the program moved to its new home in the Blank Honors Center, 225 N Clinton, where honors students continue to grow today.



Honors Newsletter writers & editors have been studying articles from the past—like the one above—to prepare for our 60th anniversary!



HONORS AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Pictured: 2017 Honors at Iowa Scholars

DURING THE 2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR,
HONORS AT IOWA AWARDED
\$173,324
IN SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships, which
all come from donor funding,
were used to support students
in the University of Iowa
Honors Program.

We know we couldn't have reached such a number without the help of our generous alumni, faculty, and friends. This honor roll gratefully recognizes University of Iowa Honors Program donors from the calendar year of 2017.

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Mrs. Maureen L. Arndt & Mr. James E. Arndt
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 Dr. Douglas A. Wolfe & Mrs. Marilyn J. Wolfe
 Ms. Lana S. Zak & Mr. Seth Andrew
 Dr. Michelle L. Zoss & Mr. Nicholas A. Zoss



Brett Williams, alumnus, donor, & Honors Program Advisory Board member with William Fuelberth, a 2017 recipient of the Williams Scholarships for students in Physics

HONORS STUDENTS RECEIVE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

The University of Iowa Honors Program is pleased to share that many of our former students received Fulbright Awards and Fellowships during the 2017 award cycle.



JASMINE MANGRUM
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Fulbright: Study / Research in Romania
Area of Study: Doctor of Pharmacy, Masters of Public Health, (Undergrad B.S. in Health & Human Physiology)



IAN DUNSHEE
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Fulbright: Study/Research in Martinique
Area of Study: B.A. French, B.S. Anthropology, Minor in Geographic Information Science (GIS)



ALEXIS KOCH
Hometown: Solon, IA
Fulbright: English Teaching Assistant in Spain
Area of Study: B.S. Human Physiology, Spanish, Psychology, Chemistry



SAMANTHA KORNS
Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Fulbright: English Teaching Assistant in Russia
Area of Study: B.A. International Studies, Russian, Political Science



NICHOLAS McCARTY
Hometown: Geneva, IL
Fulbright: Fulbright-Imperial College London, Masters Program
Area of Study: B.S. Biochemistry, Clinical Science, Chemistry



KELSEY O'DONNELL
Hometown: Sergeant Bluff, IA
Fulbright: English Teaching Assistant in Taiwan
Area of Study: B.A. International Studies, Anthropology



SAMANTHA WESTPHAL
Hometown: Urbandale, IA
Fulbright: English Teaching Assistant in Argentina
Area of Study: B.S. Human Physiology, Spanish



KATHERINE WILL
Hometown: Des Moines, IA
Fulbright: English Teaching Assistant in Argentina
Area of Study: B.A. Spanish, English

Former student Laura Wang's 2016 Fulbright was renewed for another year during this award cycle. She will continue her English Teaching Assistantship in Taiwan through 2018.

Honors at Iowa
420 Blank Honors Center
Iowa City, IA 52242-0454

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We couldn't have come so far without the generosity of our alumni. Help our students grow by making a donation.

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OR

Call the UI Center for Advancement:
(800)648-6973

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WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- > Become a mentor in the Alumni & Friends Mentoring Program.
- > Send us pictures of your time at Iowa so we can share them with the honors community.
- > If you know of an internship opportunity that's perfect for an honors student, let us know!

Contact Art Spisak with information and ideas: art-spisak@uiowa.edu

Honors at Iowa has t-shirts and sweatshirts available at Iowa Book! For pricing and order instructions, visit our website: www.honors.uiowa.edu/forms/order-honors-iowa-apparel