

ALUMNI CONNECTION

THE HONORS AT IOWA NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2019

On the cover: Students study on the patio outside the Blank Honors Center during fall midterms. Photo courtesy of Minela Ikanovic

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WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear University of Iowa Honors Program Alumni/ae:

This is our fourth hardcopy newsletter, which goes only to a selected segment of our many Honors Program alumni/ae. Although we also have an electronic newsletter that goes out three times per year, we recognize that a print copy has a value and impact all its own. Our main goal with the Alumni Connection is to give you a feel for happenings over the past year at Honors at Iowa.

One change you may notice is that we have had major changes in staff: three new members since last Fall. First, Emily Hill, Assistant Director, stepped into her role this last Spring when Bob Kirby, longtime associate director for Honors, became the fulltime director of the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates. Heidi Schmitt took over last December as the Coordinator and Communications Specialist for Honors, and Camille Socarras, Scholarships Coordinator, came in September of last year. They bring much enthusiasm and talent to the program.

On a sad note, we lost a beloved Honors faculty member, Donna Parsons, this last year. As you'll see in the article below, Donna gave her all to her profession and her students. Students raved about her honors Harry Potter course, which consistently filled just after minutes of the opening of course registration. We're much moved and also grateful to the Parsons' family, specifically her father and brother, Don Parsons senior, and Don Parsons junior, for the creation of a scholarship to commemorate her. Thus, in spirit Donna continues her strong and personal support of Iowa honors students.

No less than four of the articles in this newsletter have something to do with our students having experiences abroad. Two of those four articles feature honors students who have won prestigious fellowships that have or will take them abroad. Austin Hughes, an honors student who graduated this last spring from our program, was awarded what is probably the best-known fellowship, a Rhodes. Austin is an incredibly unique individual, whom we were blessed to have in our program. Also, we had six honors students awarded Fulbright Scholarships, which is additional proof of just how high achieving our students can be. One of the other two articles is about an honors student, Nicole Hobson, who last summer did a medical internship in Ecuador for honors credit. Nicole integrated an honors project into her internship that gained her honors experiential learning credit. The last article in this series of four details the first ever honors study abroad course, which will take students to Greece. It is planned for the Spring and Summer 2020 semesters.

Remaining articles have to do with recurring Honors Program events. One is on our unique Honors Primetime experience, which is a one-credit hour workshop we offer to entering first-year students the week before classes start in the Fall semester. This year we had over 500 honors students participate in this voluntary event. Another article is on our annual Recognition Ceremony, which we use to recognize the accomplishments of our students, our campus supporters, and our alumni and community supporters.

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 and support Honors at Iowa.

Cordially yours,

Art L. Spisak, PhD
Director, UI Honors Program
Past President, National Collegiate Honors Council
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OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

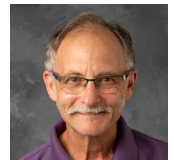
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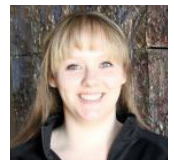
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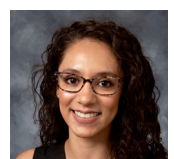
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HONORS BY THE NUMBERS

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
HONORS PROGRAM'S
ENROLLMENT ENCOMPASSES
3,166 STUDENTS, DISTRIBUTED
ACROSS A WIDE VARIETY OF
THE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGES
AND DISCIPLINES

- 66.7% College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- 15.3% College of Engineering
- 12.2% Tippie College of Business
- 3.4% College of Nursing
- 1.4% College of Public Health
- 0.8% College of Education
- 0.2% Carver College of Medicine

WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE DOING:

67% PARTICIPATED IN INTERNSHIPS, PRACTICUMS, OR FIELD EXPERIENCES

79% COMPLETED A CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE OR SENIOR PROJECT

31% PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE LEARNING

38% PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL OR CROSS-CULTURAL ACADEMIC WORK

79% GOT INVOLVED WITH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



Top: Photo by Rubye Ney

Bottom: Courtesy of Kelly Thornburg

ACROSS THE POND: MEET AUSTIN HUGHES, IOWA'S OWN RHODES SCHOLAR

BY SONIA BELTZ

Honors student Sonia Beltz reached out to honors alum Austin Hughes, recent Rhodes Scholar recipient, in his first week of graduate study in October. Hughes offers insight into the Rhodes application process and the importance of mentorship.

So far, the United Kingdom doesn't seem all that different from the United States. Austin Hughes has only been there for a short time, but as he starts his first term at Oxford University, he is eager to take in all his new environment has to offer. Hughes, who graduated from the University of Iowa in the spring of 2019 with degrees in English and Creative Writing and Asian Languages and Literature, was one of 32 individuals selected as 2018 Rhodes Scholars.

According to their website, "Rhodes Scholarships are the oldest and most celebrated international fellowship awards in the world." The program provides two years of funding for exceptional American students to complete a degree at Oxford. Honors Director of Scholar Development Kelly Thornburg cites three essential characteristics of all Rhodes Scholars: "being a voracious reader or learner, caring about and paying attention to how you and your expertise interact with the rest of the world, and being somebody who really knows how to build and maintain genuine relationships."

When Hughes first came to Thornburg as a sophomore, he showed all of these characteristics. Hughes first became interested in the Rhodes Scholarship after one of his professors, Blaine Greteman, himself a former Rhodes Scholar, suggested he look into the award. After successfully applying to the Beinecke scholarship, which provides graduate school funding, with Thornburg's help, Hughes began to seriously consider the Rhodes.

Thornburg served as a sort of "fairy godmother" to Hughes, who says, "Without [Thornburg] planting that seed and helping me understand I could get it, I probably wouldn't be in the UK right now."

Influenced by Thornburg and Greteman, Hughes researched the scholarship and discovered Oxford offers a world-class program in Japanese Studies, part of his core interests. The program was an enormous draw for Hughes, who hopes to study Japanese, with a focus in classical literature. This program, coupled with "Oxford's reputation for being intellectually rigorous," convinced Hughes to apply in the fall of his senior year.

The application process was intense and sleep-depriving and truly took a village, Hughes said. Rhodes Scholars must submit a personal statement, a two-page resume, and eight letters of recommendation, the last of which, Thornburg says, makes up the bulk of the application. These letters came from Hughes' well-developed "community of support," Thornburg said.

"[Hughes' community] were incredibly engaged. They took lots of feedback and put so much time into trying to represent what their relationship was with [Hughes], as well as what they saw his role turning into as both a person as well as a scholar," Thornburg said. These letters spanned everything from academic prowess to volunteer work, bolstering Hughes' accomplishments – which included reviving the University of Iowa's English Society and numerous research projects – to create a strong application.

"By the time it came to my interview, I was in this fight-or-flight moment—if I want it, I need to fight for this," Hughes said about the interview process for finalists. A panel of experts and past Rhodes Scholars were assembled to help Hughes prepare. When he gave his interview, it was "probably better than I have ever done before," he said.

Hughes has started his first term at Oxford, where he will pursue a Master of Philosophy in Japanese Studies. He hopes to focus on classical Japanese literature, drawing on his interest in poetry and English authors like Chaucer and Milton.

As for his next steps, Hughes said, "I want to be some kind of an educator. I want whatever I do to promote second language acquisition specifically in the United States, because it's not valued very much beyond Spanish." He is also considering a Master of Fine Arts in poetry as his next step, though not an immediate one.

In the meantime, Hughes is looking forward to his time at Oxford and is ready for all the challenges that await. Having never been to the United Kingdom before, he is certain he will find differences between there and the United States while he works on his degree. "Not that different yet," he said. "But it's only been a week."

Photos courtesy of Kelly Thornburg



A SUMMER OF HONORS OPPORTUNITY

BY KINSEY PHIPPS

Honors students who study abroad or do internships complete a reflection process to maximize their learning and aid in self-discovery. Learn more on the [Honors blog!](#)

Summer is filled with open windows to explore and learn. Honors students have the unique ability to take their summer experience and earn credit toward graduation. Junior Nicole Hobson did just that.

Hobson traveled to Tena, Ecuador for two months last summer for a medical internship. Her unique integrated experience allowed her to intern in two different mediums: Public health and midwifery.

Hobson reflected on her journey in a post-experience questionnaire. Students earn credit for their internship or study abroad opportunities by answering questions and creating a narrative with photographs, telling the story of their term. This allows honors staff and students alike to learn about what individuals are doing to make the most of their time at the UI.

Accommodation varies when traveling abroad, but Hobson opted for a homestay experience. She stayed with a host mom, her five children and 10 grandchildren. This helped Hobson's Spanish language skills, something she was determined to improve while abroad.

Hobson's weeks followed the same structure, but she was constantly doing something different. Monday through Wednesday, Hobson was using her CNA experience at Muyuna Health Clinic taking vitals and signing in patients. She also observed a doctor, an OB/GYN, and orthodontic appointments.

On Thursdays and Fridays, Hobson followed her host mother to work at AMUPAKIN, a midwife association. She got experience learning about traditional medicine, midwifery, cleansings, and cultivating urban medicine.

"THROUGH MY TIME ASSISTING THE VARYING PROFESSIONALS, I GAINED A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF MY ASPIRATIONS."



Nicole Hobson (center) with project nurses Luz and Yolanda, taking a quick break from going from house-to-house to collect vaccination and health data. Photo courtesy of Nicole Hobson

"Going into the internship, I was excited to learn about different types of medical professionals and clinical styles. This excitement grew when I learned that I would have the opportunity to work with multiple biomedical doctors as well as traditional healers," Hobson said. "Through my time assisting the varying professionals, I gained a deeper understanding of my aspirations."

Through her internships in Ecuador, Hobson realized her desire to pursue a Masters of Public Health in addition to an M.D.

The culmination of her internship was a final project that began with two weeks of Hobson making clinical observations. Afterwards, she collaborated with other workers at the clinic to decide on the final project. "The clinic has an upcoming campaign to have all children under eight caught up on four vaccinations. There was one major problem: since there are no street addresses, there were no records of where the children in the area lived," Hobson said. "We decided I should use Geographic Information Systems to create a map of the area. These maps would include locations, vaccination statuses, ID numbers, ages and names of all the local children."

Hobson realized the importance of conducting research abroad in an area she is familiar with. For this reason, Hobson hopes to return to Ecuador next summer to continue her research.

A MUCH LOVED LECTURER: DR. DONNA PARSONS

BY ELEANOR ABBOTT



In May of 2018, the University of Iowa lost one of its most well-loved and brilliant lecturers, Dr. Donna Parsons. A professor for the UI School of Music and the Honors Program, Parsons was best known for her classes on pop culture. To commemorate her life and passion, her family and the Honors Program are developing a scholarship for honors students. They expect the scholarship to be ready within the next two years.

Before becoming a lecturer, Parsons was a student at UI, where she received her Bachelor of Music, Master of Arts in Music, and Ph.D in Interdisciplinary Studies. Rather than accelerate her career at another institution after graduation, Parsons chose to remain at UI.

Dave Gould, a colleague and close friend of Parsons', says "Donna sacrificed a lot in the traditional kind of climbing the ladder academically. Her students were first."

**"SHE SAW
[HER STUDENTS]
AS HER MISSION
IN LIFE."**

Parsons' most popular classes included her honors course on Harry Potter, "Harry Potter and the Quest for Enlightenment," and her class titled "World of the Beatles,"

both of which studied the influence of culture on media and vice versa. In addition to teaching these classes, she was also an avid researcher, traveling to England every summer to conduct extensive study into the history of the Beatles.

A strong advocate for experiential learning, she would often invite students to participate in her research as well.

"She had a sustained passion for her area of interest. That was who she became, but in a very happy way," Julia Poska, one of Parsons' former students and research assistants, says.

Beyond her own research, Parsons was a caring person and exceptionally dedicated to her students.

"She was very people-centered," Art Spisak, director of the honors program, explains. "If you saw her walking on campus, she would invariably come over to talk to you. She wouldn't just wave at you, you would have a conversation."

In a particularly memorable instance, Parsons invited Anthony DeCurtis, a famous writer for Rolling Stone Magazine, to speak in her class. Later, because of Poska's interest in music journalism, Parsons set up a meeting between Poska and DeCurtis to discuss her research and class projects.

"It's amazing that she worked hard to bring in someone of that standing for her students and that she thought of me while she was doing it," Poska says.

Parsons said in a 2013 interview with Honors at Iowa that "in all my classes there is an emphasis on research, developing each student's critical thinking and writing skills, and pushing the envelope. Cultivating the life of the mind is crucial to succeeding and even thriving in today's world."

Parsons was a greatly respected and well-loved member of the honors community. "You never knew exactly what you were going to get with Donna, but it was always delightful," Spisak says. "I think [her family realizes] the effect she had on students. She saw [her students] as her mission in life."

"It's so fitting," Poska says. "Her students were everything to her. To think that she's going to continue to help students, albeit in a different way, through this scholarship, is totally what she would have wanted."

The Dr. Donna S. Parsons Honors Scholarship Fund represents the efforts of the Parsons family and the Honors Program to continue Parsons' work in supporting and inspiring students. To donate to the Dr. Donna S. Parsons Honors Scholarship Fund, visit givetoiowa.org/2020HP99. For assistance, email honors-program@uiowa.edu.

Above: Donna Parsons teaching her signature Honors Harry Potter class as Madison Bennett, undergraduate teaching assistant, looks on. Photo courtesy of the Honors Program archive



THE 2019 HONORS RECOGNITION CEREMONY

BY HONORS STAFF WRITERS

Over sixty Honors Program students were recognized at the Honors Recognition Ceremony on Sunday, October 13th, 2019, for being this year's Honors scholarship recipients. University faculty and staff were also acknowledged, with much gratitude on behalf of everyone in the Honors community, for their hard work and various contributions to the program.

The scholarships include three years of Rhodes Dunlap awards, the Dewey B. Stuit scholarship, the James D. Roberts Award for Excellence in the Social Sciences, Honors Program Fellows, as well as the Phi Eta Sigma Award. The Honors Program also recognized the recipients of the Richard Tyner Scholarship and Guy D. and Betty J. Williams Honors Scholarship, for which the students are able to personally meet the donors of the awards.

Mackenzie Cross, the 2019 student speaker and recipient of the James D. Robertson Award for Excellence in the Social Sciences, explained how the UI Honors Program "encouraged me and my peers to pursue our passions, even if it's in a nontraditional way." As a student whose studies have ranged from lemurs to autopsies to brain development and aging, Cross focused on chasing "ideas that were intriguing, odd, or off the beaten path." Cross, who created her own major of Biological Anthropology, told students, "There are no mistakes in how you get to your end goal. It can be a winding path or a straight line, just make it your own path, whatever it may be."

Above: Some of the 66 students at the 2019 Honors Recognition Ceremony gather for a photo.

Other notable awards included the Honors Award for Alumni and Friends and the Honors Award for Campus Support. The recipient of the former was Judy Lewis, a public health sociologist and emeritus professor of the University of Connecticut who has taught for nearly fifty years. Lewis worked in some 50 countries during her career and, though retired, continues to work in Haiti. The Honors Award for Campus Support was granted to the Office of Admissions for its efforts to develop an application process for entry into the UI Honors Program, which was launched just this year. Thanks to the efforts of staff like Office of Admissions Assistant Director Susan Dickinson, whom Honors Director for Admissions and Enrollment Emily Johnson personally thanked at the ceremony, the University has created "a more intentional, but also a more equitable way of students coming into the program." Honors Advising Director Holly Blosser Yoder presented the Honors Advising Award to Josh Atcher, Director of Academic Resources and Support in the College of Engineering. She noted that, "advisors who distinguish themselves in advising honors students are valuable assets to both departments and to our program."

As Art Spisak, Honors Program Director, remarked in his opening statements at the ceremony, "If you don't recognize... accomplishments, they tend to be forgotten." The 2019 Honors Program Recognition Ceremony proved that the exceptional actions of the UI Honors Program community – from students to administrative staff to lecturers – are remembered.

Below: Honors Assistant Director Emily Hill (far right) poses with seven of the UI Honors Fellows. They partake a course she teaches focused on self-discovery. Photos courtesy of Kelly Thornburg



HONORS PRIMETIME: ACADEMIC PROGRAM AIDS TRANSITION

BY AIRIANA MOHR

When students begin their collegiate journey, they are often faced with fears and obstacles including developing friendships, adjusting to life away from home, and familiarizing themselves with campus. With the rush of moving in and orientation activities, students need time and space to truly acclimate themselves to the environment. For honors students at the University of Iowa, however, a program exists to both counter these challenges and launch students into academic life – Honors Primetime.

Hosted each year during the week before fall semester begins, Primetime is a three and a half day class designed to help incoming honors students transition to college by fostering friendships, staff relations, and positive academic behaviors. Students register in mid-July before being placed into a session based on their indicated areas of interest.

Composed of about twenty students, each section, both designed and led by a faculty member, explores and introduces students to a specific area of academic study. This year, subjects ranged from exploring the sounds of Iowa City to how birds function during flight.

With a variety of topics and professors comes a wide array of experiences. Like many first-year students, Kendra Erdman was nervous about the transition, but she said that Primetime was the best decision she made for beginning her life in college.

Her section, "To Know is to Tell," covered the art of conversation in relation to professional environments and personal relationships. Erdman felt that not only had her Primetime section prepared her for multiple conversational situations, but also helped her create lasting friendships.

Part of the Primetime application is ranking one's interests, and students are encouraged to be open to topics unrelated to their major to broaden their academic background. Despite being a public health major, Caitlin Morris selected law, government, history, and biology as the subjects she was interested in for Primetime.

"I learned how to be more comfortable in front of a crowd and how to get through a trial," Morris stated in reflection of her class, "Arguing in College and in Court."

Even with the algorithm of placing students based on their rankings, there are surprises. Many students aren't sure what to expect from the workshop they are assigned. Jenna Yang was placed into a section about Stand-up Comedy. She was glad to find that she and classmates did many activities to help them feel more comfortable with each other.



First-Year Honors students eager to begin Primetime gather outside the Blank Honors Center. Photo courtesy of the Honors Program

"The class definitely started my time at the University of Iowa on a great note. It helped me feel comfortable around my peers, and helped me settle into my new life feeling comfortable with myself and opening up to others," Yang said.

Students aren't the only ones who benefit from Primetime. The professors who lead the sessions get to introduce students to their own interests and areas of study, while also getting an insight into members of the incoming class. Undergraduate Engagement Librarian Katie Hassman recalled how welcoming her group was toward each other despite being strangers.

"I'll never forget the visual. As more people came, [their] circles just got bigger and bigger," Hassman remembered. She hopes that her students keep the same welcoming mentality.

Primetime is one of the many programs that the University of Iowa Honors Program can boast that it provides for students. "I think it's a unique program, nationally speaking. There are very few honors programs or colleges that have something similar to this," stated Dr. Art Spisak, director of the Honors Program.

Spisak, who has done research regarding the success of students, both academically and in regards to the continuation of their involvement with the honors program, has first-hand experience with the benefits of Primetime. Collected data suggests that students who participate in Primetime generally have a higher success rate, which further increases when they also live in honors housing.

This year's Primetime received overwhelmingly positive feedback in regards to many aspects including the workshop topics, skills acquired, friendships made, and the final symposium where each group showcased their discoveries from the week. The experience exceeded most students' expectations, and many were pleasantly surprised at how quickly they were able to make friends.

In comparison to other years, Spisak mentioned that he and the rest of the Honors Program staff were excited to see that this year had the largest percentage of student participation in Primetime. Over five hundred students chose to do Primetime this year out of 654 students that were accepted into the honors program this year. That's a much higher percentage in comparison to only three or four hundred students that chose to participate out of classes of over one thousand in prior years.

Although each year is different, there is no doubt that Primetime 2019 will be remembered positively by its participants. The experience is what each student makes of it, and hopefully the program will continue to garner high levels of participation and satisfaction.

2019 PRIMETIME COURSES

- **Iowa Under the Sea** - with Jonathan Adrian
- **Doing Politics** - with Sarah Prineas
- **Go Outside and Play** - with Shaun Vecera
- **Standup Comedy: The Why and the How** - with Megan Gogerty
- **Composing Iowa Soundscapes** - with Trevor Harvey
- **Creative Writing: Remember Stories of Our Lives** - with Tameka Cage Conley
- **Arguing in College and Court** - with Ryan Seelau

2019 FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

BY JACK LAUER



Claire Carmichael



Dani Lipman



Jenna McCoy

No stranger to excellence, the University of Iowa claims seventeen Fulbright Scholars for the 2019-20 school year.

The Fulbright Scholar Program, named after U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright, is an international multidisciplinary fellowship program providing grants for study and research projects or for the English Teaching Assistant Program. By cultural immersion and exposure to diverse viewpoints, the program instills competitively-selected students with a deep appreciation of community and inclusion of beliefs by living, working, teaching, and learning from the people of their host countries. According to Karen Wachsmuth, associate director for international fellowships in the Department of International Programs, the University of Iowa had 51 total applicants for the current year, the most ever. Among the 17 UI recipients, six Honors alumni can be found globetrotting with Fulbright.

Wachsmuth lauds, "The University of Iowa has been a 'Top Producing Institution' of Fulbrights nationally for the past 4 years, ranked with University of California-Berkeley, University of Chicago, and Stanford University, so our students have a great chance of success winning Fulbrights." Wachsmuth also states that Honors students are gifted academically and are often involved in service and extracurricular activities, all vital facets of the Fulbright application.

Alex Bare is a 2019 graduate of the UI with a degree in international studies. Earning a Fulbright Teaching Assistant Award to Colombia, Bare is actively teaching English and working closely with local university students to write for Colombia's English language newspapers.

Claire Carmichael graduated from the UI in 2019 with a degree in biology. Carmichael was awarded a Fulbright Study/Research Award in public health to Brazil to research the effects of leptospirosis, a bacterial disease, in urban areas of Salvador, Brazil. Carmichael opted to pursue medical school at UI this year instead of traveling with Fulbright.

Jeffrey Clark is a 2019 graduate of the UI with degrees in history and English. With his Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award to South Korea, Clark is helping students in their English and cultural understanding of the world. He has also formed a choir with his students to perform at their school and in their community.

Dani Lipman earned degrees in physics and astronomy from the UI in 2019. Awarded a Fulbright Study/Research Award in education to China, she investigates barriers to, and facilitators of science outreach by university faculty in China. She is also planning a university student extracurricular club at Nanjing University focusing on English academic presentation skills.

Jenna McCoy graduated from the UI in 2019 with degrees in biology and environmental science. McCoy is exploring the La Rioja region of Spain on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award, working with rurally located students. Additionally, McCoy has created a health club and an environmental service initiative while in Spain.

Lydia Sinclair is a 2019 graduate from the UI with a degree in Spanish and garnered a secondary Spanish teaching license and an English as a Second Language [ESL] endorsement. Galicia, Spain is where Sinclair will call home, using her Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award to teach English as well as start a South Asian fusion dance club for high school students to get active, practice English, and learn how different groups have influenced American culture.

The University of Iowa and the Honors Program is incredibly proud of these Honorables as they actively make a difference in the world.

Photos courtesy of International Programs



Jeffrey Clark



Alex Bare



Lydia Sinclair

GREECE: ANCIENT PERSPECTIVES, MODERN EYES

BY KINSEY PHIPPS

The first Honors Program-specific study abroad opportunity will jet off in June 2020, exploring the country of Greece.

For the first time in program history, students will take off for Greece on an honors-specific study abroad trip in June.

Students will spend 22 days visiting 16 major ancient cities under the guidance of Dr. Debra Trusty. A lecturer in the department of classics, Trusty has spent much of her academic career in Greece and fell in love with the culture there.

"I've participated in archaeological excavations and projects in the Argolid and Corinthia, studied at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, and love leading students around this wonderful country," Trusty said in the information brochure handed to students.

When Honors Program Assistant Director Emily Hill arrived on campus in April, she had big dreams. One of those dreams was providing an honors-specific study abroad opportunity. She had led trips like these in her past job at the University of North Dakota and saw the benefit of bringing those experiences to Iowa City and beyond.

"In my past experience with leading honors-specific study abroad trips, I have found giving honors students the opportunity to explore the world together is an incredible community building experience," Hill said. "It's unique to travel and study with a group of honors students because they come from differing academic areas—which then turns the study abroad class into a very interdisciplinary experience."

With the help of many Honors Program staff, the UI International Programs, and Trusty, Hill's dream for Hawkeye honors students was made a reality, she said.

Students will earn three semester hours of honors credit earned over the spring and summer terms. In the spring, Trusty will lead a preliminary 1.0 credit course to learn about major historical events in Greece, significant sights the students will see, and the culture they will experience. During their travels, students will keep a daily journal and earn 2.0 credits when the experience is over.

"Combined, these two courses will place ancient worldviews within a modern context in order to gain an appreciation for the landscape, history, and significance of ancient Greece," the brochure states.



Applications were open to any UI student in the Honors Program or any UI student majoring or minoring in Classical Languages, Ancient Civilizations, Anthropology, or History.

You can help another student realize their potential through a gift to Honors at Iowa at giveoiowa.org/2020HP99. About 40% of Honors Program students study abroad compared with 25% of other UI undergraduates. Your gift to the Honors Student Enrichment Fund will help support our students with this powerful out-of-the-classroom experience. Please make a gift today to provide more life-changing opportunities to a student.

Dr. Debra Trusty and students pause their adventuring to take a photo. This is one of the many Greece trips Trusty has taken in the past, but this group will be filled with Honors Program students when they take off in June. Photo courtesy of Debra Trusty

MEET THE WRITERS: HONORS STUDENTS AT YOUR SERVICE



AIRIANA MOHR

Airiana is a freshman from Machesney Park, IL studying biochemistry with minors in Spanish and Chemistry. In her free time, she enjoys touring Iowa City by foot, listening to the soundtracks of Broadway musicals, and playing volleyball. During the summer, you can find her reading on the warm sand of Manhattan Beach, CA.



ELEANOR ABBOTT

Eleanor Abbott is an open major freshman who loves English, Spanish, math, and drawing. After graduation she plans to pack a travel bag and see the world. She's always looking for a chance to learn a new skill.

JACK LAUER

Jack is a freshman from Pleasantville, IA. He is pursuing degrees in history and gender, women's, and sexuality studies on a pre-law interest. In his free time, Jack loves political advocacy, baking, and gabbing to anyone and everyone about ice cream.



SONIA BELTZ

Sonia is a freshman from Beavercreek, Ohio, studying English and creative writing. In addition to writing and reading, she enjoys listening to music and spending hours researching European history.



KINSEY PHIPPS

Kinsey Phipps is a sophomore studying English and Creative Writing with minors in Spanish and Translation. With a heart for travel, she spent last summer interning in Dublin, Ireland. You probably won't see her without a coffee in hand.



GABBIE MEIS

Gabbie Meis is a senior studying English and Creative Writing with minors in Spanish and Translation. Apart from editing and writing, she enjoys baking bread, drinking Starbucks refreshers, and reading whatever she can get her hands on.

GENEVIEVE CLEVERLEY

Genevieve is a fourth-year Psychology and Studio Art major, with Human Relations and Social Work minors. She is an admin and graphic designer for the Honors Program. In her free time, she enjoys working at the Iowa Children's Museum, printmaking, NPR podcasts, and her cat.



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



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