

HONORS FIRST-YEAR ORIENTATION GUIDE

IOWA

Honors Program

FALL 2023

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University of Iowa
Honors Program



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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

03

Dear Incoming Honors
Students,

Welcome to the University of Iowa and to the Honors Program community! Having made it through orientation, you're one (giant) step closer to joining us on campus and starting your college journey.

If you attended an Admissions event, you probably heard the message that community is one of the biggest benefits of being in the honors program. The tagline for the program is Make Your Connection, and community is an important part of that connection.

Our aim is that your first-semester experiences, such as Honors Primetime and your first-year seminar, will help you meet and connect with other



Photo provided by University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communications

students in the program and with the faculty instructing your courses. I like to say that honors will be one of the

first—if not the first—home that you have on campus because of our courses and events.

This Orientation Guide is intended as both a welcome and a starting point for your honors experience. Inside, you'll find articles about our cur-

riculum, which has both coursework requirements and experiential learning requirements. You'll also read about transitioning to the university, using study abroad for honors requirements, living and *not* living in Daum Residence Hall, our newest honors staff, and more. But, remember that there are many other experiences that you can

have through honors. Some will be academic, like your honors Rhetoric section or your first-year seminar; some will involve outside activities, such as under-

Honors Center (BHC). Our staff offices are located on the fourth floor, so please stop by to say hello! Our space also includes convenient study areas that are quiet, comfortable, and close to the heart of campus. (And very close if you're in Daum, which is connected to BHC. Just pay attention to which floors are involved in both buildings—it's not as straightforward as you might expect.)

I hope that your transition to college goes smoothly. Please feel free to email me (shaun-vecera@uiowa.edu) with questions you might have about the program. You can also direct questions to honors-program@uiowa.edu, or visit our website (honors.uiowa.edu) for more information.

Sincerely,



Shaun Vecera
Director, University of Iowa
Honors Program
Professor, Department of
Psychological & Brain
Sciences



Photo provided by Justin Turner, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

graduate research; and some will be fun and recreational, like visiting the Iowa City Farmer's Market with a group of other honors students.

The honors program staff and I look forward to seeing you on campus this fall. When you're moved in, make sure to visit our spaces on the third and fourth floors of the Blank

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

12 S.H. HONORS COURSWORK

DURING FIRST FOUR SEMESTERS IN HONORS PROGRAM

Honors Primetime 1 s.h.

Honors First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.

General Education Courses (Rhetoric, Interpretation of Literature, Principles of Chemistry)

Honors Contract Course: a non-honors course contracted for honors credit

12 S.H. EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

BEFORE GRADUATION

HONR:2990 Experiential Learning Orientation 2 s.h.

Honors in the Major (departmental requirements)

Research/Independent Study

Study Abroad

Internships

Writing Fellows

Service Learning

Experiential Coursework

*Classes and experiences listed are examples. Meet with an honors peer mentor to plan your unique path.

WELCOME, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND A FEW TIPS

LETTER FROM AN HONORS AMBASSADOR
NATALIE KEHRLI

Congratulations! You have completed your four years of high school and are on your way to pave a new path for yourself. I can imagine that you are likely both anxious and excited for this experience, just like I was. However, it can be comforting knowing that almost everyone here is in the same boat as you—yes even the upperclassmen. Just about everyone is a little nervous, enthusiastic, scared, and overall, not exactly sure what they are doing. And I can tell you it is completely okay.

My name is Natalie Kehrli. I

am a third-year student from Manchester, Iowa studying Psychology, with the hopes of pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology someday. I am involved in just about everything on campus. I am the Director of External Relations on Undergraduate Student Government (USG), Vice President of a service organization on campus, a Resident Assistant, a selective member of the Presidential Leadership Class, a volunteer for the Child Psychiatric Unit at the Hospital,



Photo provided by Natalie Kehrli

a leader on the FirstGen Student Task Force, a tutor for marginalized communities within the Iowa City

School Districts, a judge for the Iowa High School Speech Association, a

UI Honors Program. I have lived in Daum Residence Hall for two years now,

My favorite honors experience thus far has been Honors Primetime, a 3-day workshop for incoming first-year honors students to get a feel for campus before school starts. I was enrolled in the section The Psychology of Food taught by Dr. Kelly Danaher. One of my favorite parts of this experience was the opportunity to find my way around campus before all the other students came back to campus.

I hope you were able to relate to my letter in some way, and it gave you some comfort as you enter your college experience. If you have any questions, never hesitate to reach out through honor-program@uiowa.edu!

This article is excerpted from the Honors Program blog, Note to Self. You can read Natlie Kehrli's full letter and get advice from other honors outreach ambassadors on the blog or our website at <https://honorsatiowa.wordpress.com/category/writing-from-honors-students/>



Photo provided by Justin Torner, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

Blood Drive Manager for the Red Cross, and a member of Phi Eta Sigma. I have also served as the Student Life Director and DEI chair within the Residence Halls, and I conduct disability advocacy work in many areas of campus in coordination with many other student organizations. In conclusion, I stay plenty busy on campus.

One of the spaces on campus that has made Iowa feel like home is the

which is where some of the honors students are housed on campus, and I have really enjoyed the connections I have been able to make with fellow honors students. The honors program offers a great community on campus for like-minded, hardworking students, which is something I was looking for. The Blank Honors Center is also one of my favorite places to study on campus!

FRIENDS IN ALL PLACES

HOW LIVING OUTSIDE DAUM SHAPES THE HONORS EXPERIENCE

NEELY GOERLINGER

When coming to the University of Iowa, many honors students dream of spending their first year in the designated honors residence hall, Daum, amongst their peers. However, out of the thousands of honors students at the university, only a lucky 344 get to live in Daum. The rest live among the other residence halls or off campus. So how can an honors student find their experience outside of the honors residence hall?

After talking with honors students who lived in other residence halls across campus, the overwhelming conclusion is these students wouldn't change their experience for the

world. Despite the physical disconnect from the honors hub at Blank Honors Center (BHC), there are still plenty of ways to get involved.

Annalisa Cinkay is a second-year student majoring in speech and hearing sciences and has been a part of the UI Honors Program since her first

semester, when she lived in Rienow Residence Hall. Located near the hospital and sports complex, Rienow housed students involved in sports teams, ROTC, fraternities and sororities, a variety of different clubs, and so much more. Experiencing all of these different interests in one

"That [difference] was exactly what I needed my freshman year. There's something so special about being completely thrown out of your known environment."

place helped her to feel more comfortable: “That [difference] was exactly what I needed my freshman year. There’s something so special about being completely thrown out of your known environment.” Cinkay said it was eye-opening to see everyone on such different paths, but all willing to push themselves towards their individual goals.

Molly Harris, a fourth-year honors student, echoed these ideas. Harris serves as an honors outreach ambassador – someone who shares about their experiences in the UI Honors Program with prospective members to encourage them to join the program. She spent her first year in Catlett Residence Hall. “A lot of my early experiences at this university were defined by my participation in the honors program,” she said, adding, “I appreciated the opportunity to meet people outside of it.”

She still talks to her former roommate everyday, and says she wouldn’t change a thing about her first year. However, as an ambassador, she understands that

many people are worried about not getting into the residence hall they had originally planned, and especially sees this with honors students looking to live in Daum. To her, the most

hall holds its own unique opportunities just waiting to be taken advantage of.

When applying for housing, Cinkay had a last-minute housing assignment and a last minute roommate, and



Photo provided by Justin Torner, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

important thing is to keep an open mind: “I don’t think that anyone should hold the mindset that where you live will keep you from what you want to do.” Each residence

she was certain it would ruin her first year. But when it was time to leave for winter break, she found herself, two days before, homesick for somewhere

that she hadn't even left yet. Previously, she couldn't wait to go home, but now she wanted to stay with the friends she had

explained, "I would hold myself to such impossibly high standards that I would never be able to reach. It was something I desper-

gardless of distance: "There are so many opportunities out there, you just have to go looking for them." From get-together events to leadership positions, becoming involved in the honors program is about putting in the effort.

No matter where you are at the university, west side or east, on campus or off, the UI Honors Program is open to you, and is ready to help its members thrive.

"That was when I realized Iowa City had become my home, not just my school," she said, "and the fourth floor had become my family."

made on her floor. "That was when I realized Iowa City had become my home, not just my school," she said, "and the fourth floor had become my family." This coming year, she will be living with two others that were on her floor her first year, and sees the rest of her floormates as much as possible.

"It's going to sound cliché to say, but I promise you, everything happens for a reason," Cinkay said. In retrospect, she believes that living in Rienow Residence Hall helped her to escape from what she calls "honors kid syndrome." She

ately needed to get away from." While she may not feel as connected to the honors program as people who shared a doorway with the BHC, she would not change her experience.

Harris, despite living in Catlett, has found her own way to stay connected with the honors program through her honors classes and position as an ambassador. She emphasized how easy it is to get involved re-



Photo provided by Justin Turner, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

FROM AB WORKOUTS TO TUB TIME

DAUM FOSTERS COMMUNITY FOR FIRST-YEARS

AIRIANA MOHR

The University of Iowa can proudly boast that it provides a residence hall strictly for honors students; something not all universities can attest to. Daum Residence Hall, although originally built as an all-women dorm, has since housed decades of first-year honors students, and includes a skywalk to Blank Honors Center right next door.

Having an honors residence hall is exactly what many honors students feel they need coming to college. Daum regularly houses over 300 students from the University of Iowa Honors Program. Each floor has its own study area with private rooms for group

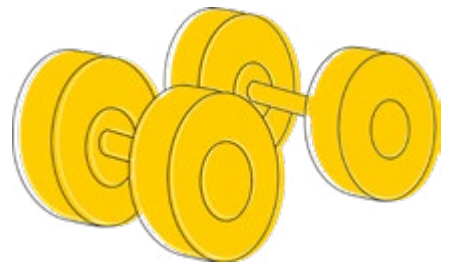
projects and collaborations.

Anna Correa, a resident assistant (RA) in Daum, asserted that the Daum environment has an “overarching academic importance.” As someone who lived in the honors residence hall as a first-year student and later as an RA, Correa experienced the benefits herself and had a front seat to watching her residents succeed.

“A lot of my residents have expressed to me that they enjoy that they can hang out in the hallway with everybody, and they can have a good time. But then also if someone says ‘Wait, we gotta do our assignment,’ they’ll go, and they’ll work, and they’ll just enjoy being

with each other while also getting their work done,” she recalled.

For Abby Crow, who lived in Daum her first year, the physical benefits, such as the location, added to the social and academic



benefits. “I absolutely love how close Daum is to all of my classes. It’s a five minute walk every morning to Macbride, and my closest classes are two minutes away in the chemistry building,” Crow stated. On

top of this, the dining halls in Burge Hall and Catlett Hall are only a few steps away.

Living in Daum is similar to living in a Living Learning

healthy academic environment.

"It's amazing how many times I've been talking with a person in class and we find out we both live in

incredible," she said. Friends she met in Daum as a first-year continued throughout college and, as an RA, she enjoyed seeing "those kinds of relationships" forming on her floor.

Each floor did different activities to help its residents develop better relationships with each other. On Correa's floor, a group of people did ab workouts together every night. Gathering in the lounge, a hallway or a resident's room, the group could be heard counting down the reps. According to Correa, their plan was "to have six packs by the end of the year."

Crow, who resided on the third floor, recalled, "Sometimes people on our floor hosted little get-togethers, like game night or movie night."

If there is one thing to define the community of students living in Daum, perhaps it would be "Tub Time." Tub Time was an event inspired by the lone bathtub on the first floor. Students lined the first floor hallway chanting "Tub Time," while others ran through each of the floors



Photo provided by University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

Community in another residence hall; however, instead of just one floor, it's the entire building. Daum has its own community created and impacted greatly by the students who live there. Being in a residence hall with like-minded people who place academics at a high level of importance fosters friendships and promotes a

Daum. It's an instant connection," Crow stated.

Instant connections can often develop into lifelong friendships. For Correa, it was rewarding to see the same benefits she experienced happening with her residents. The sense of community both as a resident and later as a staff member was "absolutely

calling for those who were still in their rooms to join.

While some students ran

getting everyone ready," said Correa, who recalled being pulled from her room to join

"The next day you could walk around and recognize people from Tub Time. Even people who didn't go had heard about it."

Whether it's ab workouts or rubber ducks, honors students find ways to connect, and there is no doubt that Daum can play a part in giving students a great start at Iowa. As Honors Outreach Ambassador Ellie Wojcowski expressed in a recent blogpost: "Being a part of honors has connected me with so many lovely faculty members dedicated to my academic success...Honors Primetime allowed me to explore some interests outside of my major and get familiar with campus well before classes started, [and] living my first year in the honors dorm, Daum, allowed me to meet some of my best friends on campus."



throughout the halls, others stayed behind to watch as the tub was filled with warm water and rubber ducks. After the students who had gone through the floors returned, with their leaders dressed in only speedos, goggles, flip flops, and the occasional swim cap, the chanting changed from "Tub Time" to "in the tub" as students were invited to stand or sit in the water.

"Everyone was running through the hallways in speedos and goggles,

the commotion. "Tub Time is the perfect representation of how Daum kids can get so excited about the weirdest things." Students who attended got to take home a rubber duck to commemorate the occasion along with the hope of another Tub Time in the future.

Georgetta Neuschwander, an honors student from another residence hall, often visited Daum to join in the fun. Having participated in Tub Time, she remarked,

An earlier version of this article, by Airiana Mohr, was published in the 2019 Fall Newsletter.

TRANSITION TO A NEW ENVIRONMENT

HOW OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS CREATE COMMUNITY IN HONORS

EMMA HUSSIN

After torturously long car rides in SUVs packed to the brim with all the essentials of college living, out-

spend most of their lives in the structured K-12 education system while living in the comfort of a familiar

independence and self-sufficiency. Luckily, the honors program at the University of Iowa provides a new sense of family and home.

Natalie Gustin is a second-year honors student majoring in international studies. On her 16-hour drive from her hometown of Gambrills, Maryland, Gustin had no shortage of worries on her mind as she began her first year of college. "I was terrified," Gustin said. "All I could think about was how far away my parents would be. I definitely cried a lot on that first day."

Even though Gustin was initially worried about the distance between herself and her family, she took



Photo provided by Justin Torner, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

of-state students may feel they have been dropped off on the front door step of Iowa City and left to fend for themselves. Students

place. For students who travel hundreds, even thousands, of miles from the communities they grew up in, college is a new test of

this drastic life change in stride when Honors Primetime began. In her Primetime course, “The Collateral Consequences of Incarceration,” Gustin picked up a newfound passion for social work and made lasting friendships within the course. “[The class] changed the trajectory of my life, and I met a lot of people that I still talk to.” Gustin also highlighted the plethora of welcoming events that occur within the first week on campus as a source of community building and friendship, as well as a great resource for getting to know the University of Iowa.

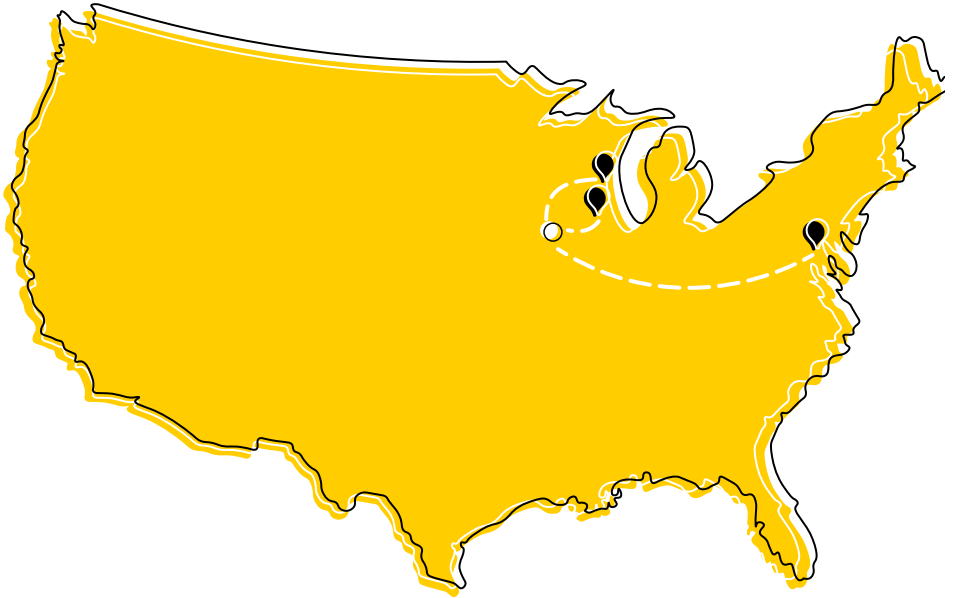
Though Gustin made the UI her home, she didn’t forget about her family and friends back in Maryland. “I have a call with my friends at home once a week, and I call my parents at least once a week,” said Gustin. “Even though I’m far away now, it’s not a permanent situation. I’m still connected to them.”

Like Gustin, Connor Linzer, a fourth-year human physiology major from Wales, Wisconsin, remembered

Honors Primetime as one of the most notable welcoming experiences on campus. “The first day, I met a good group of kids through our Primetime,” said Linzer. “That was the beginning of a little study and social group we had.” Linzer added

people I could talk to and ask questions.” Linzer later became an honors outreach ambassador, sharing with prospective students about ways to get involved.

Leighton Barnes is a fourth-year honors student



Honors students come from 39 states and 10 countries. Gustin, Linzer, and Barnes journeyed from Maryland, Wisconsin, and Illinois, respectively, to attend Iowa.

that this early group of honors students was instrumental in making him feel like a member of the Iowa community and helping him navigate a new state. Additionally, the friendships he made early on through the honors program extended into other aspects of his first semester at the University of Iowa; “I had friends from Primetime in other classes that first semester,” Linzer said. “I had different

from Rockford, Illinois, double majoring in chemistry and history. The ride to Iowa City is only three hours via car, but Barnes still felt the distance. “As soon as my parents left, I felt ready to go out and meet people, but that same night, I was bawling because I missed my family,” Barnes said. Like most honors students, Barnes elected to live in Daum as a first-year, giving her a community of

hard-working individuals that always seemed to be going through the same experiences. “I loved Daum,” said Barnes. “It was a big bonding thing when the entirety of Daum had to go out and take a [chemistry] test at the same time.” Additionally, Barnes found a group of honors students and took the same classes with them within her major.

Familiar faces in honors sections weren’t the only similarities Barnes found among her peers; when she struggled with her adjustment to Iowa City, she was met with compassion and sympathy from her fellow students. “It helped me knowing that other honors students were doing the same thing,” said Barnes. “We would go out to eat and bond over how much we missed our parents and friends.”

Barnes also credits the UI Honors Program for serving as a great “stepping stone” that helped her branch out of her comfort zone and seek new opportunities for growth. “I became a

teaching assistant (TA) because I took an honors rhetoric class,” said Barnes. “I was an honors outreach ambassador, and now I’m an honors peer mentor.”

The honors program provides a multitude of

my horizons.”

Whether through Honors Primetime, chemistry classes, or residence halls, new honors students are able to find an abundance of welcoming communities on campus. Though travel-



Photo provided by Tim Schoon, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

meaningful connections and methods of achieving an excellent college education. “[The honors program] was a big part of me being able to branch out and do things,” said Barnes. “I’ll be forever grateful for that and how it helped me expand

ing over state lines into a new environment may be stressful for an incoming college student, the honors program aims to ensure that each student has the ability to make Iowa feel like home.

HONORED TO BE AN ATHLETE

HOW HONORS BENEFITS IOWA STUDENT-ATHLETES

COLIN VOTZMEYER

The University of Iowa Honors Program does not only serve the general honors student population—it offers the same career exploration, academic support, and mentoring to its student-athletes. Student-athletes must satisfy the same requirements as other honors students, but the program provides them with countless opportunities to push themselves in academics and prepare for the workforce after their careers in sports.

Liz Tovar is the senior associate athletics director of Student-Athlete Academic Services, a center that collaborates with other

programs on campus to ensure student-athletes are offered the necessary academic opportunities to develop themselves and their careers. The honors

in the honors program, however, Tovar pointed out that more fit the academic profile and could take advantage of honors opportunities: “It’s about our



Photo provided by Tim Schoon, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

program is one of such collaborations.

In spring 2023, forty student-athletes were already

student-athletes really understanding what the benefits are of being in the honors program.”

Tovar believes student-athletes can take advantage of membership in the honors program by doing hands-on applications of their studies to the real world. “I think the

courses and the number of courses that you have to take in order to earn honors, [which] I think needs to be re-emphasized.” Student-athletes can spread the required 12 semester

able to time-manage, and a key strategy for doing so was contracting a course—doing a more in-depth extra project for a regular class to get honors credit. “If I couldn’t necessarily make my honors hours that I needed, the department was very flexible in letting me turn normal classes into honors classes by doing an extra project,” she said.

The honors program provided Cape with opportunities in experiential learning that she would not have known about had she not taken the chance in joining the program. One of such opportunities was the Writing and Community Outreach class, in which she taught creative writing workshops to kids in Iowa City



Photo provided by Justin Torner, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

benefits are the experiential learning opportunities and the research opportunities,” she said, “then also working with professors in getting letters of recommendation from people who they’ve come into close contact with in the honors program.”

Balancing collegiate athletics with the honors workload may look like too big of a time commitment, but Tovar said the student-athletes have leeway in making their schedules. “There’s great flexibility in terms of scheduling

hours of coursework out so they can have a lighter workload when in season and do more of the work in the offseason.

When applying for honors, biomedical sciences student Jenny Cape was concerned with the time commitment on top of her demands with the Iowa women’s soccer team. Looking back as a fourth year student, she appreciates the program’s flexibility to help her balance both. Student-athletes have to be



Jenny Cape photo provided by University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

schools. "That was a really cool class just because it tied experience actually into the class," she said. "Instead of just learning about something, we actually were able to apply what we learned." experiential learning opportunities. The reflections helped her on her medical school applications, on which she answered questions she had already thought about in the reflection process.

"[The honors program] really encourages and promotes reflection and self-discovery," Cape said. "I think that's also similar with grad schools, and they want you to really reflect on why you want to do it and what it means to you."

In addition, tutoring and research that she was already pursuing also counted as experiential learning credit for University Honors. "That was just really helpful because it didn't make honors another thing I had to do on top of everything else," Cape said.

Cape emphasized the reflection skills honors students develop in doing the post-experience questionnaires after their expe-

"[The honors program] really encourages and promotes reflection and self-discovery," Cape said. "I think that's also similar with grad schools, and they want you to really reflect on why you want to do it and what it means to you."

Kieran Monaghan, a second-year human physiology major and member of the honors program, is a student manager for the Iowa football team.

Monaghan is at every team meal to help out, every practice to set up drills and move equipment, and every game to ballboy. He works long hours, so the honors sections for his classes allow him to connect with honors classmates via group chats and get the support he needs when he is crunched on time.

"Those are the people that are going to help you with your assignments and work collaboratively to figure out what you've got to study for the test," Monaghan said. "Honestly, when that happens, that makes my job with football easier. I'm not worried about school as much because I have the resources that will help me out."

The University of Iowa goes beyond just stellar Big Ten athletics—it supports and encourages its student-athletes in the classroom too. Talk to your advisor, explore the UI Honors Program, and see the benefits honors offers you in the game and beyond.

SAY YES! TO STUDY ABROAD

EARNING HONORS CREDIT ACROSS THE GLOBE

BERKLEY BARNETT

So, you're an honors student looking to study abroad. But where do you start? Studying abroad is an exciting and engaging experience for many students. Despite this, some honors students feel that their program's rigorous coursework and demand for outstanding grades prohibit their opportunity to study abroad. The truth is, honors students can earn credit for studying abroad through a few clearly-defined steps.

Experiential learning is learning by doing. Honors students fulfill their University Honors curricular requirements by getting hands-on experience through volunteering, internships, and

"In terms of graduating, it's a great experience in so many different realms — not only to complete requirements for honors but also to grow as a person."

yes, even studying abroad. The three-part honors reflection process—composed of pre- and post-experience surveys and a narrative piece that may be a blogpost or creative work—documents their learning for honors credit.

Iris Peimann is the student engagement intern for the honors program and has

often advised students about experiential learning. Peimann recognizes that students have concerns about studying abroad and how it fits with their academic goals. With advising and resources available through UI Study Abroad and the honors program, she believes it is doable for many students

"We want you to do what fits for you," Peimann explained, "In terms of graduating, it's a great experience in so many different realms—not only to complete requirements for honors but also to grow as a person."

Honors student David Roth only looked into studying abroad as he approached his fourth year of undergraduate study. Roth is triple-majoring in actuarial



Photo provided by Iris Peimann

science, data science, and mathematics. He explained, "The first thing that made me want to study abroad is that I realized I could study abroad." Roth's hesitance grew from seeing his peers lean towards conventional academic opportunities to earn experiential credit

rather than going abroad.

Departing from the familiar, Roth will be studying in both Berlin, Germany and Kyoto, Japan in the fall of 2023.

When asked about his advice to students looking into studying abroad, Roth advocated for experiencing something new: "I'm a proponent of 'Go [to] the place that makes you almost as uncomfortable as you can be'."

While David Roth is looking forward to studying abroad, third-year honors student Maya Torrez is excited to share her experience of studying in Greece. Torrez explained: "I always thought, 'I would love to do that, but it's not for me.'"

As an English and creative writing major, she observed that most honors students in her major fulfilled experiential learning credit through a single activity, honors in the major. Despite this, Torrez said, "Once the idea of Greece was planted in my brain, it was where I wanted to go." Her interest

in the power of written word is something she utilized in her experiential learning reflection. Torrez said the reflection was a

"I'm a proponent of 'Go [to] the place that makes you almost as uncomfortable as you can be.'"

good way to look back on her time abroad. She advocates for sticking through the initial hardships of traveling and saying 'yes' to new experiences.

Students interested in study abroad can reach out to honors advisors such as Iris Peimann, along with anyone at UI Study Abroad, to get started. By filling out the short pre-questionnaire on the honors ICON page, students are a step closer to earning experiential learning credit from anywhere around the world.

A HUB FOR WRITERS

IWP HOME BRINGS WORLD LITERATURE TO IOWA

KATE GLEMOCKI

On the corner of Clinton and Fairchild street, the Shambaugh House stands underneath autumn foliage. The house displays a white and forest-green exterior, where, tucked under the shade, foggy windows stare out at the street. Though the Victorian house seems unassuming, inside lies the English major's dreamland. A place that commonly hosts readings, international writers, and those fascinated with the written word, it carries a certain energy that you can feel upon walking through the door. From the towers of books, groups of antique reading chairs, and posters of poetry, art, and writing on the walls, it's easy to guess that the Shambaugh House must be connected with one

of the University of Iowa's writing programs. That is certainly the case as the Shambaugh House is the center of The International Writers Program (IWP).

As a hub for international literature, the IWP is a one-

"We live in a globalized world, and it is evermore important to have a sense of who people are."

of-a-kind opportunity. It connects students in Iowa with international writers and their works. Along with this, it offers panel discus-

sions, classes, readings, and international movie screenings. Many undergraduate students are unaware of the IWP; however, there are a multitude of opportunities for students to discover international literature on campus.

According to Director of the International Writing Program and award-winning author Christopher Merrill, engaging with international literature is "the quickest way to get a sense of another culture," broadening your worldview and improving your understanding of other cultures. "We live in a globalized world, and it is evermore important to have a sense of who people are," he added. Regardless of your major, world literature can benefit you as a

student, exposing you to new perspectives and giving you a clearer outlook on the world around you.

The IWP has a long history of bringing world literature to Iowa. As Merrill stated, “Over the 55 years this program has been around, we’ve hosted over 1,600 writers from more than 150 countries.” The IWP offers a course to undergraduates called International Literature Today. The course exposes undergraduates to international writing and connects them with the visiting international writers that the IWP hosts in the fall. Merrill described the class as “a forum for visiting writers to talk about their homelands, their literary traditions, and their own writing processes.”

The IWP also offers free online courses in world literature, some of which boast over 12,000 students. By engaging with these opportunities, participants strengthen their writing and their own voice. “Writers leave our program as bigger

writers; they have a bigger vision of what the world is all about, and they have the chance to be in conversation with writers all over the world, writers they would never under ordinary cir-

“You can always find a reason not to write; not to do this, not to do that. But the ones who stay on the bus, they find success.” Writing teaches us discipline, not only in our own



IWP photo provided by Justin Torner, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

cumstances have a chance to meet,” said Merrill.

Taking advantage of these opportunities will lead to self-improvement, not only as a writer but also as a person. Merrill stressed this when discussing his own writing and life experiences:

craft but in life. Going after opportunities and trying new things is at the heart of the creative process. Merrill continued, “It doesn’t matter whether [your writing] is any good or not. It’s the act of trying to do it intently and regularly. For me, it

makes it easier to live with all the anxieties I have about the world." No matter who you are, writing has the ability to improve your perspective. Spending time with literature and the written word is a great way

Along with this, poetry—both domestic and international—is an important part of understanding life. Poetry has the ability to expand our empathy and ability to connect with others, especially on a global scale.

complicated moment we live in right now, it's all the more reason to hear what the poets are saying; to help us navigate these times." Engaging with writing of any kind, especially poetry, can connect us, which is what the IWP is all about. Poetry is a way of communication, one that can bring together people, countries, and cultures. In its simplest form, it is a way to understand one another.

The IWP has shown through its programming that writing and literature have the ability to connect people from completely different countries and backgrounds. Writing helps us understand each other and, most importantly, understand ourselves. What the IWP strives to bring to Iowa is a global perspective, one that gives students the ability to broaden themselves and their worldviews. By taking advantage of these international opportunities, students have the chance to improve their writing and themselves for the better.



Photo provided by Tim Schoon, University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

to organize your thoughts, gain empathy, and broaden your worldview. Overall, it is something honors students should strive to incorporate into their lives.

As Merrill said, "In my experience, when something terrible happens to us, when our hearts are broken, or somebody dies, we often turn to poetry. In the very

MEET MADISON, MARK, VERONICA, AND CANDICE

NEWEST HONORS STAFF

JASMYN JORDAN

WITH ADDITIONAL CONTENT BY STAFF WRITERS

When you visualize the University of Iowa Honors Program, you might picture the student ambassadors who served as tour guides during your campus visit or maybe you think of Honors Primetime, the program's signature experience for first-year honors students. Leaning into your practical side, you might associate honors with scholarship opportunities or that internship that you hope will help you to get your dream job one day. Whatever you imagine when you think of honors, there is a staff member who helps to make that aspect of the program possible.

When prospective students and their families come to an honors session at a Hawkeye Visit Day or tour

the Blank Honors Center, the faces they see as panelists or tour guides are likely those of honors outreach ambassadors. The person responsible for instructing and supervising them is Student Engagement Coordinator **Madison Schulte**.

Schulte sees the significance of the ambassadors as two-part: "One, the ambassador class is an intentional space for the honors program to nurture holistic student development and, two, it is a place to train students to speak knowledgeably and honestly about the University of Iowa Honors Program."

Ambassadors, in turn, can offer prospective students "insight into how they might find a home and a place on

this campus," she explained.

In reflecting on her own undergraduate experience, Schulte observed that "the most meaningful parts of it were outside of the classroom," where she worked for Orientation Services and Special Olympics, and served as student manager for the women's basketball team. "What made those experiences powerful were the connections I made and the mentors I had in each," she said, and added: "That is something I hope to give back to ambassadors."

Schulte graduated from the University of Iowa with an M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs in May 2023. In addition to serving as supervisor for the Honors Outreach

Ambassadors, she will work with the Honors Diversity Council to plan events, and will be the staff advisor for Phi Eta Sigma honor society. "The honors program is in a position to strengthen community," Schulte asserted. "I want students to have a say in

sports. She is a big fan of Iowa athletics, the US Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT), and the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). She also volunteers for the Special Olympics and has aspirations of being a coach someday. She welcomes

part title in a sentence: "I'll be the one keeping track of honors students' progress and sending out reminders so that, when you graduate, you get that University Honors recognition," he explained.

While much of his work involves databases and requirements, Archibald values and supports each student's individual pathway. "Students unveil the myriad ways in which one's education is much more than a set of classes. Sometimes with intention and sometimes by accident, but always through wonder," he said.

"You'll likely hear from me at the beginning of the semester about where you are in terms of progress towards completion of University Honors," he continued, "but I am always glad to take your questions about requirements or the steps you need to take to gain credit for the amazing things you are doing."

Archibald worked in higher ed for 20 years before joining the honors program. He said that he has never stopped taking classes and



Maddison Schulte photo provided by University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

what they need and then use my experiences and connections to make that happen."

In her free time, Schulte enjoys playing board games, going hiking, camping, and

students to visit her office to discuss any aspect of their experience such as academics, experiential learning, student organizations, hobbies, or the latest show they watched.

The newest

addition to the staff is Honors Records and Enrollment Analytics Specialist **Mark Archibald**, who started on July 24 of this year. Archibald explained the meaning of his multi-

continues to learn about students and the college experience wherever he finds a relevant opportunity to engage. Archibald has a BA from the University of Iowa and an MEd from Loyola University. His PhD studies are in Iowa's Education Leadership and Policies Studies program. His doctoral dissertation explores "how students engage in a diversity mindset while learning on a college campus."

Outside of higher ed, Archibald spends his time being a dad. "Being a parent to a tween is one of my favorite roles," he said. This past spring, he and his son travelled to Spain together. Archibald is also a runner and enjoys running races around the country.

In terms of work goals, Archibald said, "I plan to anticipate and respond to the needs of students in a way that removes some of the confusion and barriers so that students can focus on all the great things they're doing!"

Archibald's sense of purpose grows from his experience first as a student

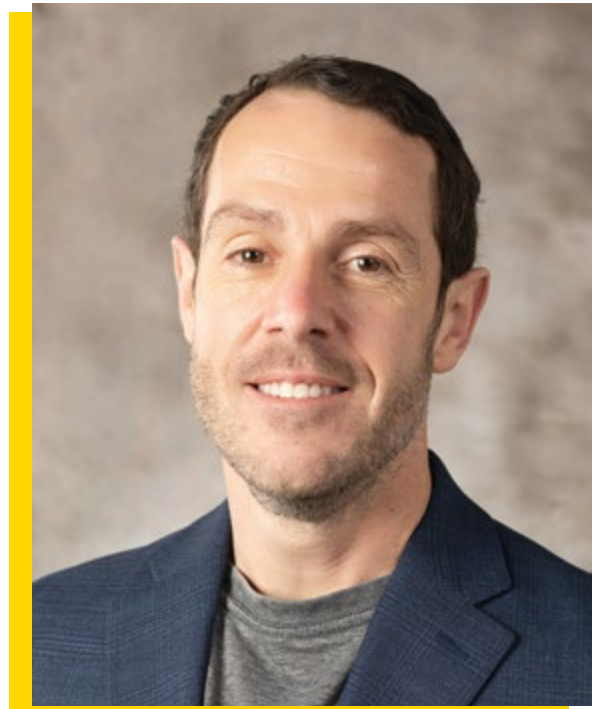
and later an academic advisor. "As an undergrad, I majored in philosophy.

There was an endless parade of critics interrogating me wanting to know, 'Why Philosophy? You'll never get a job with that degree!' But I was learning for the sake of learning and got so much more out of my education. I thank Philosophy for my skills, abilities, and successes throughout my career."

He sees the honors program as supportive of such learners. "Honors affords a space where students work under the assumption that we are here for an education and that the level of engagement will be deep," he explained. "A class that starts with significant engagement by the students is something that cannot be overestimated."

Based on his advising experience, Archibald has a sense for what is possible in an honors education and looks forward to seeing

the results: "It's always amazing when a student takes a leap of faith to



Mark Archibald photo provided by University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

try something they never thought they would, such as a summer research position or study abroad, and they come back a happier, more evolved, more interesting person."

Previously, the University of Iowa Honors Program welcomed two new members in fall 2022: **Veronica Sanchez** serves as the Administration and Communications Coordinator and Dr. Candice Wuehle serves as Scholarship Coordinator.

From Brookfield, Illinois,

Sanchez graduated from the University of Iowa in 2019 with a Bachelor of leads the student administration (admin) team in addition to performing



Veronica Sanchez photo provided by University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

outreach duties via social media, the honors program website, press, and publications. She also collaborates with the honors program professional staff to ensure everything is running smoothly

spends time with her dog and any new animals she meets, and watches Netflix. Sanchez looks forward to having more students stop by her office, since her door is always open.

Scholarship Coordinator **Candice Wuehle** is from Iowa City, Iowa. She graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature/Letters. She received a Master of Arts in English Language and Literature from University of Minnesota, a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and a Doctorate for English Language and Literature at the University of Kansas.

Arts in Communication and Media Studies. She worked at a pet-care business in Iowa City before joining the honors program staff in September. Sanchez enjoys outreach jobs that suit her ambivert personality. The honors students motivate her to come to work each day: "It's good to be surrounded by students who want to do better and be better as honors students."

In her position, Sanchez

and the staff is getting what they need when they need it. Are you a fan of Honors Primetime? Thank Veronica, who pulled together many of the pieces that make the pre-semester workshop experience so memorable.

As a member of the staff, she enjoys the welcoming atmosphere, her fourth floor office space overlooking the pedestrian walkway, and her collection of plants. In her free time, she exercises,

She has taught creative writing at various universities.

She was attracted to the scholarship coordinator position because she was an honors student when she attended the University of Iowa. As an undergraduate at the University of Iowa, she took honors courses specific to the English Department and wrote a 100-page thesis about celebrity culture and Edith

Wharton's novels.

Wuehle has enjoyed seeing what has changed in the honors program since then and comparing her experiences to what the program now offers. Among her duties, she hosts workshops that introduce students to curriculum vitae (CVs), resumes and professional skills to help them stand out in their scholarship applications: "I'd really like to give students great skills that will help them for the rest of their lives," she said.

Wuehle appreciates the community aspect of honors that encourages students to support each other and meet new people through small class sizes.

As a first generation college student, Wuehle did not know what being in college was like; her professors guided her through it, and

she aims to do the same for current honors students.

She enjoys talking to students who are taking advantage of the honors program and learning about their activities.

In her free time, Wuehle writes novels, does yoga, attends FilmScene

screenings, and spends time with her pet rabbit.

She loves to meet with students and answer questions about being at the

University of Iowa, applying for scholarships, and oppor-



Candice Wuehle photo provided by University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication

tunities inside and outside of honors. You can stop by her walk-in office hours or schedule an appointment with her on MyUI.

To meet the full honors program staff, visit the people directory on the honors program website at:

<https://honors.uiowa.edu/honorspeople>

MEET THE WRITERS



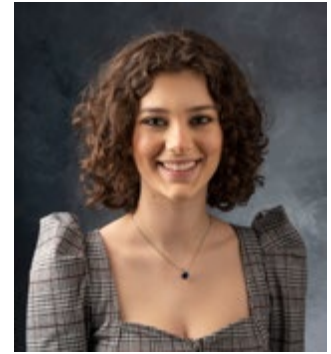
BERKLEY BARNETT

Berkley is a first-year student from Highlands Ranch, Colorado. She is majoring in international studies, with a minor in Arabic studies, and pursuing a certificate in writing. Berkley hopes to develop her communication skills while exploring interdisciplinary coursework across campus.



KATE GLEMBOCKI

Kate is a first-year from Phoenix, Arizona, majoring in English & creative writing on the publishing track with a second major in business marketing. She hopes to hone her skills in publishing and go on to work as an editor or book designer.



NEELY GOERLINGER

Neely is a second year student from Clintonville, Wisconsin. She is majoring in English: creative writing on the publishing track, with a minor in ancient civilizations and certificate in nonprofit leadership and philanthropy. She loves writing and came to the University of Iowa to develop her skills and become the best writer she can be.



EMMA HUSSIN

Emma is a first-year student from Tulsa, Oklahoma majoring in English and creative writing and journalism and mass communications. She hopes to learn more about literature while studying at the University of Iowa. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, writing, composing music, and playing the clarinet.



JASMYN JORDAN

Jasmyn is a second-year student from Normal, Illinois majoring in political science and international relations on the pre-law track. Aside from her studies, Jasmyn is Vice-Chair of Young Americans for Freedom, a member of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity, a Student Reporter for the College Fix, and working on two political campaigns.



COLIN VOTZMEYER

Colin is a second-year student from Mount Prospect, Illinois, majoring in journalism and mass communications with minors in history and sports studies. In his time at the University of Iowa, he hopes to perfect his writing skills for a career in sports writing.

**HAVE A GREAT YEAR,
HONORS 2023 COHORT!**



**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT
honors-program@uiowa.edu**