

# UI UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS RECOGNIZED BY GOLDWATER FOUNDATION

**Jacob Isbell**, a member of the [University of Iowa Honors Program](#) and the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#), has been named a 2017 Goldwater Scholar. The [Goldwater Scholarship](#) was established by Congress in 1986 in honor of Senator Barry M. Goldwater, to challenge and support outstanding young scholar researchers who are pursuing careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Goldwater is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields.



**Jacob Isbell,**  
2017 Goldwater Scholar

Isbell, of Garrison, IA, is a junior studying astronomy and physics with minors in computer science, mathematics, and geology. Isbell is currently conducting research on galactic evolution - specifically the effects of galactic collisions in the early universe - with [Dr. Hai Fu](#) in the [Department of Physics & Astronomy](#).

Fu offered this perspective on Isbell's knowledge and skill,

*"Astronomy research often relies on computers to perform detailed measurements of large data sets. In his current project of binary quasars mined from large radio surveys, Jacob has demonstrated remarkable computer programming skills and a deep understanding of the literature. I have no doubt that in the not-too-distant future, we will be reading about his discoveries in the national news."*

Isbell, will receive up to \$7500 in funding for tuition, fees, books, room and board, plans to pursue a Ph.D. in astrophysics and an M.S. in computer science upon

graduation.

The Goldwater Foundation also recognized UI Junior **Lance Heady** with an honorable mention. Heady of Quincy, Illinois, is pursuing degrees in [biochemistry](#) and [neurobiology](#) with minors in psychology,



**Lance Heady,**  
2017 Goldwater  
Honorable Mention

chemistry, and clinical and translational Science. He is conducting research with Dr. [Andrew Pieper](#) on Huntington's disease and potential therapeutics which alter the proteomic causes of the disease. Heady, an [ICRU](#) Ambassador and resident assistant for the UI STEM Scholars LLC, will be continuing his work on neurodegeneration this summer at MIT through the [Amgen Scholars](#) program.

Isbell and Heady worked with UI Honors Program director of scholar development, Kelly Thornburg, the University of Iowa's Undergraduate Fellowships Committee, and an invaluable community of faculty and research mentors during the development of their application materials.

Since 1989, 53 undergraduate researchers from the University of Iowa have been named Goldwater Scholars. Isbell and Heady join our [2016 Goldwater awardees](#) – Rae Corrigan, Erin Maier, Nicholas McCarty, and Tom Werner on campus.

## GOLDWATER 2017 BY THE NUMBERS:

- 1,286 applicants nominated by 470 institutions
- 240 Scholars named
- 307 Honorable Mentions awarded
- 133 Scholars identify as male, 103 as women
- 22 are studying mathematics
- 153 came from the physical and biosciences
- 51 are pursuing degrees in engineering
- 14 are computer science majors
- Virtually all of them intend to obtain a PhD

**For more information about our scholars or applying for nomination, visit**

<https://honors.uiowa.edu/goldwater-scholarship> or contact Kelly Thornburg at [kelly-thornburg@uiowa.edu](mailto:kelly-thornburg@uiowa.edu)