Dear fellow Honors alumni,

Memories of friends I made and classes I took through Iowa State’s Honors Program are still with me. Do students in Dr. Mathew’s class still go to the board for integral races? I am still friends with colleagues I met through the Iowa State Honors Program. The Program was a wonderful experience, offering me opportunities and guidance that would not otherwise have been available. Undoubtedly, your experiences in Osborn Cottage, and with professors, classes, and friends you met through the Honors Program, were equally as rewarding.

I married Alison, my college sweetheart, after graduation and we have two wonderful kids. I received a Ph.D. at Stanford and now chair the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Florida. Alison is a community organizer and works on education and recreation issues around town.

Our new Honors Program can be so much more than you and I experienced a few years ago, or a few decades ago.

With your help, we can enrich the lives of current and future Honors students. Here are just a few ideas...
Honors News Roundup

• The past year marked a transition for Honors 121, the seminar for first-year Honors students. Each section selected a theme—from “Tour d’Ames” to “Where’s Waldo?”—to help its members form a common identity, organize the tours, speakers, and discussions that are an important part of Hon 121, and create a final group project. Board games, books and videos were among the final projects for the first-year class of 2008.

• What do you do when a freshman is not a freshman—when new students enter with so many credits that they are already “sophomores”? Honors has faced that dilemma, with family members inquiring whether their son or daughter is in college. As this trend is likely to continue, we’ve changed FHP to, well, FHP—the First-Year Honors Program. This change in terminology also helps Honors in sync with other programs in higher education that have adopted “first-year” as the preferred term.

• The Honors Program has received approval for a new Learning Community for transfer Honors students. The Program has streamlined procedures for transfer students to enter Honors and began to coordinate outreach to the many transfer students who are eligible for Honors. The Honors Transfer Learning Community will offer transfer students an opportunity to meet one another, to learn about Iowa State and Honors, and to discover academic, research, and leadership opportunities on campus. Iowa State is nationally recognized for its Learning Communities—of which, it could be said, Honors is the largest and oldest.

• Honors students were busy with research this year! Iowa State’s Undergraduate Research Symposium, in its third year, included 67 participants, of whom 32 were members of Honors. Ten Honors students were among the 22 Iowa State undergraduates who presented their work at Research in the Capitol, a meeting of state legislators with student researchers from Iowa’s Regent institutions. And 16 first-year Honors students presented the fruits of their research mentorships at the Honors Poster Presentation.

• Jean-Pierre Tsaotelo, senior lecturer in World Languages and Cultures, and Kathleen Wagoner, adjunct associate professor in Political Science and Sociology, received Honors Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Advising this year. Joan Cunnilick, associate professor of Animal Science, received the Robert W. Parks Award for faculty, and Paul Castleberry, adviser in the College of Engineering, was awarded the Parks prize as a Friend of Honors.

• The ranks of ISU Honors Program alumni increased by 111 this year. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences led the way with 34 new honors graduates, followed by Design with 28 and Business with 15. Congratulations to all!
Letter (continued from page 1)

I would love to see at ISU:

- Throughout the United States, other Honors programs provide thought-provoking speakers, people who may be future colleagues for our best and brightest. The Honors Program and the Martin Jischke Honors Building provide an intimate setting for one-on-one conversations with such speakers.

- Past graduates can and should serve as mentors, providing internships and practical experience for current Honors students.

- Undergraduate research is a tremendous opportunity for students. Students need stipends for travel, equipment, independent studies, and experimental costs to help make the research experience a reality.

Alison and I created an endowment to help bring greater opportunities to Honors students at ISU. This newsletter, With Honors, is one result of our endowment. Helping alumni to be aware and involved is a small but important step to upgrading the program to a college. We are “honored” to be a part of the program and its continued success.

We hope you’ll help us enhance the futures of ISU’s best and brightest.

Dr. Mark Law (EE’81, Masters and Ph.D., Stanford University) is Department Chair of Electrical Engineering at the University of Florida.

Alison Law (B.S., accounting) is a professional volunteer involved in children’s education and other issues.

Support Honors!
You can help strengthen ISU’s Honors Program and support our outstanding students in academics, research, and all the opportunities that make Honors unique.

If you are interested in making a gift to enhance Honors programming — from exciting speakers to cutting-edge laboratory experiences — your support is welcome. For more information, please contact our development officer, Amy Bickel, at (515) 238-1735 or arbickel@foundation.iastate.edu.

Side by Side with Cy

Former Honors director Liz Beck (‘74, history) is likely to be found in all sorts of interesting places. No matter where she travels, Liz is sure to be in interesting company. Here she is in Hilton Coliseum with everyone’s favorite Cyclone! Liz ran into Cy in May. She was working—for the 27th time!—with the Summer Games sponsored by Special Olympics Iowa (SOIA). SOIA provides sports training and athletic competition for people with intellectual disabilities.

WITH HONORS

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