

# WITH HONORS

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## Please let us know what you're up to!

Honors Program staff hopes to update the Family Book soon, but we need your help! Please fill out and mail us the insert sheet in this newsletter, or use the electronic form at [honors.iastate.edu/alumni/familybook.php](http://honors.iastate.edu/alumni/familybook.php), to let us know of your news, achievements, and milestones. Any questions? Contact Diane Maxwell at [dmaxwell@iastate.edu](mailto:dmaxwell@iastate.edu).

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## Alumni Board Discusses Mentoring

Forging connections across years and disciplines emerged as the theme of the most recent Honors Alumni Board meeting. Members of the newly enlarged board heard a proposal for an alumni-student mentor program, welcomed a new student member, and learned of the growth of the Honors Student Enrichment Endowment.

Honors Student Board (HSB) representatives spoke in the morning about current students' interest in connecting with Honors alumni. Connections could range from in-person visits to lunches with Skyped-in alumni. One of the representatives describing the plan was Ellen Meis ('19, Biology). Ellen is the incoming HSB president and will develop the board's ideas and suggestions in the coming year.

One student with whom Ellen will work closely is Erin Wagner ('18, Ag Business), who attended her first meeting as student representative to the board. In this position, Erin looks forward to developing ways for Honors alumni and current students to interact. Students are eager to learn from alumni about how Honors might affect their careers and are excited to share how Honors is changing and growing. As an Honors Ambassador, Erin talks with students and families about the program; being on the alumni board, she says, extends that role in a new direction.

Board members also received a report from Melissa Rowan of the ISU Foundation about the Honors Student Enrichment Endowment, a fund supporting student research and professional development. Created by the Alumni Board and supported by many Honors alumni, the endowment

can now support student travel and other experiences. In addition, the Freeman Fund (formerly connected with VEISHEA) now supports active Honors students in Chemical Engineering, and a new source, the Melampy Fund, will support Honors students in Animal Science or other STEM fields (see p. 3).

The board expanded this year to better represent graduates from different periods. Attending their first meetings were Nate Dobbels ('12, Ag Ed and International Agriculture), Blake Hanson ('12, Political Science), and John Potter ('91, Computer Engineering). Also attending their first board meeting were Ashley Arellano ('06, Finance and Accounting), Andy Appleton ('87, Ag and Ag Business), Stephen Ho ('82, Civil Engineering), and Justin Miller ('15, Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry). Read more about the board members at [honors.iastate.edu/alumni/board.php](http://honors.iastate.edu/alumni/board.php).

## A Peek at Honors Life

Whether you've been out of college for five years or fifty, you'll have a few favorite memories of your experiences. But what is Honors like today? Are some things still the same? Here are four glimpses of Honors life from students in various colleges and stages of college life.

For Jack Wannarka, a Civil Engineering major, Iowa State was inevitable. Many family members are alumni, so there was "a lot of urging" that he become a Cyclone. Jack has enjoyed his first year, including his first-year (FHP) seminar and doing research with Peter Savolainen, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, on when drivers are likely  
*Cont. on p. 2*

## A Peek into the Lives of Honors Students

*Cont. from p. 1*

to use cell phones. But for Jack, Honors means Barton Anders. Living on the floor “has given me about 40 close friends” with whom to do homework, play intramurals, and attend Honors events. This year Anders has also gone camping, held cookouts, organized a formal, and run Olympic Games. And if that’s not enough, “we have dinner plans each night and play a sport called crumpets every Friday.” Jack’s “favorite and funniest memories” have come from Anders, and he relishes their win in this year’s Kaleidoquiz, which still stirs rivalry among the Honors houses.

Des Moines’ Zoey Mauck, a double major in Landscape Architecture and Community and Regional Planning, shares Jack’s fond memories of Honors housing, in her case Martin Starbuck. She still hangs out with the “motivated, smart, and fun people” she met there, following a pattern familiar to many an Honors student. When Zoey arrived at Iowa State, “the feeling of a community was instant,” in both Jischke and the College of Design. Zoey’s found a number of ways to keep busy – doing research on transportation in Iowa towns, and indulging in her “major nerd thing” of checking out plenty of books from Parks Library. She plans a career promoting “active transportation” such as walking and biking.

Dietetics junior Sophie Puente is just two semesters away from her required internship. She’d like to find one in pediatric and community nutrition, or possibly related to athletes and

sports nutrition. That would connect her major and minor, Exercise Science, with a favorite pastime: Sophie plays goalie for the ISU women’s hockey team. Sophie playing hockey isn’t surprising – she’s from New Prague, Minnesota, known for chilly winters – but she’s done that while pursuing multiple paths of research. Her current research is on sarcopenia, loss of muscle tissue as part of the aging process, with D. C. Lee, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology. Sophie will explore sarcopenia – not hockey – for her Honors project, specifically the connection between the disease and nutrition and lifestyle.

Traer Schon, senior in Journalism and Mass Communication, didn’t look far afield for his Honors project – he created a series of videos for the Honors website. Working on them brought back his days on Martin Starbuck and allowed him to think about “the doors my experience in Honors has opened for me.” Hailing from tiny Glidden, Iowa, Traer credits Honors, especially FHP, with helping him move from a class of thirty to one of thousands. Whether filming a satirical video with his FHP section or stumbling through HSB’s ice-skating night, “I made friends in Honors right off the bat, which made the university much less intimidating.” This semester held a few “lasts” for Traer as he said goodbye to the mascot squad as well as his roles as editor-in-chief of *Ethos* and a member of Grandma Mojo’s improv group. Looking forward to a career in broadcast journalism or media production, he’ll miss talking with prospective students but remains ready “to give a succinct overview of Honors 121 to anyone who requests it.”

## Music Seminar Could Be Model for Arts-Based Courses

A biology student, math major, and budding industrial engineer walk into – no. Not a bar. Stephens Auditorium, where, along with a dozen other Honors students, they participated in a new seminar, “World Music – Live!” Organized with the Iowa State Center, this seminar let students learn about various kinds of music as well as the business and production sides of live performance.

Students took in three shows – South Africa’s Ladysmith Black Mambazo, the Ukrainian Symphony, and a Riverdance-inspired show, Celtic Fire. They heard talks before the concerts from professors of music and from Michael Londra, Celtic Fire’s producer. Before the Ladysmith Black Mambazo show, the students heard from an original member of the group about life under apartheid. Students also took a backstage tour of Stephens.

During the seminar, students explored connections between their majors and aspects of music performance. So, junior Edel Aron (Biology and Math) looked into the woods used in instruments, senior math major Charlie Labuzzetta talked about musical scales, and junior IE major Jenna Oftedal explained how touring companies plan coast-to-coast tours.

The success of this seminar has Honors co-directors Laurie Smith Law and Susan Yager thinking about other ways

to offer arts-centered seminars. For example, a seminar on public art could introduce students to art on campus and in Ames, and include a weekend in Chicago to visit the Picasso sculpture and Millennium Park’s “Cloud Gate.” Laurie and Susan would also like to bring back the popular “Comedy College” seminar. They agree that intensive arts-based seminars add a further dimension to the Honors experience.



**Far Traveler.** *Stephen Ho traveled furthest to the Alumni Board meeting; he lives in Taiwan. Stephen is interested in research opportunities in Honors and connections between students and alumni. Here, he talks with Jake Hill ('17, Environmental Science) about his research.*

## Shanks Encourages Research

Brent Shanks ('83, Chemical Engineering) was the keynote speaker at ISU's 11th Annual Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression in April. Brent, an Anson Marston Distinguished Professor in Chemical and Biological Engineering, spoke to more than 100 students and faculty on "The Power of Interdisciplinary Research," focusing on Iowa State's Center for Biorenewable Chemicals, which he directs.

Brent's talk focused on both the intrinsic and extrinsic rewards of doing interdisciplinary research through collaboration with disciplinary experts. For example, he pointed out the enormous opportunities for chemists, biologists, and engineers to develop materials that could eventually substitute for petrochemical products. He displayed a slide of a typical operating room, then showed the same room with all the petrochemical elements being removed – the difference was stark! Through an interdisciplinary definition of the challenge, in this case the replacement of petrochemicals with

renewable chemicals, new research directions and novel paradigms can be revealed.

Brent's career developed in parallel with increasing national interest in interdisciplinary research. An Ames native, he met his wife Jackie – also a professor in Chemical and Biological Engineering – at Iowa State. While in Honors, he focused his research on alternative energy. "That's ironic," he now recalls, since he later worked for an oil company, "and now I work on how we can utilize biomass."

After receiving his B.S. at Iowa State, he went to Cal Tech for an M.S. and Ph.D., then worked for several years at Shell before returning to academic life at Iowa State. He was drawn home by family ties as well as Iowa State's commitment, as a land-grant institution, to both



*Professor Brent Shanks speaks at ISU's annual Symposium on Research and Creative Expression, run by the Honors Program.*

undergraduate and graduate education and to research.

Since his return to campus, Brent has worked with many Honors students, both through the First-Year Mentor program and in upper-level work in his group's lab. "Several of those students went on to receive NSF graduate fellowships," he adds proudly. His numerous teaching awards as well as his lengthy publication list demonstrate his success in all aspects of his discipline.

## Joe Ford Establishes Melampy Fund for Students in Animal Science



*Honors alumnus Joe Ford*

A strong relationship between a student and a faculty member can have effects that linger over decades, or even longer. Such is the relationship between Joe Ford ('66, Animal Science) and Robert Melampy, a longtime professor in the Department of Animal Science. Ford has established a gift planning fund

named for Melampy, his mentor, which will support undergraduate research for animal science students in the Honors Program.

Ford, a native of Orient, IA, worked as an undergraduate in Dr. Melampy's laboratory. Melampy was a popular teacher of undergraduates and a mentor to many graduate students. According to a profile on the Animal Science website, "Melampy was a familiar sight walking across the campus with a cigar that could end up on your laboratory bench, only to be discovered and reignited the next day."

With encouragement from Melampy, Ford participated in undergraduate research through the Honors Program, working with Dr. Lloyd Anderson on the growth of pigs without pituitary glands. After two years in the Army, Ford returned to Iowa State and earned

his doctorate in 1972 under Melampy's supervision.

After earning his Ph.D., Ford's path diverged from Melampy's – he enjoyed a long career in the USDA, while Melampy retired from Iowa State in 1974 and passed away a decade later. But Ford never forgot his mentor, and began this fund in the hope that other students and mentees of Melampy will also contribute in his memory.

Now retired, Ford lives in Maryville, MO, where he spends time with his family and in volunteer activities. These include mission trips with the Methodist church, supporting the local food pantry, and working with Habitat for Humanity, both locally and internationally.

Donations to the Melampy Fund can be made via the "Alumni and Giving to Honors" tab at [honors.iastate.edu](http://honors.iastate.edu).

## News and Notes about Honors

### ❁ **Goldwater Scholarships: Four-for-four, again**

In 2014, Iowa State had its first-ever perfect year in the competition for Goldwater Scholarships, a nationally prestigious award for students heading for research careers. A college or university can nominate only four students for the award. In 2014 Dana Schumacher, then Honors Assistant Director for Research and Scholarships, mentored four Goldwater winners, including three Honors students: Jake Harry ('15, Aerospace Engineering), Thomas Knief ('15, Physics), and Rachel Philiph ('15, Materials Engineering). As a closing act before retiring this past April, Dana once again guided four ISU students to Goldwater success, and again three of the four are in Honors: Matthew Cook ('18, Biochemistry and Genetics), Courtney Smith ('18, Genetics), and Mengyu "Allen" Wang ('18, Aerospace Engineering). Congratulations to all!

### ❁ **Barron Winners**

Honors seniors Jeffrey Carley and Sam Schulte, both majors in BBMB, have received 2017 Wallace E. Barron All-University Senior Awards. The Alumni Association established the Barron Award in 1968 to recognize seniors who display high character, outstanding achievement in academics and university/community activities, and promise for continuing these qualities as alumni. Barron, a 1928 graduate, served as Iowa State's director of alumni affairs from 1937 until 1968.

### ❁ **Honors Students at ISU Symposium**

This year's Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression (see related story, p. 3) was bigger than ever, featuring some 103 oral presentations and 32 posters and engaging more than 180 students and 120 faculty in all. For the first time, the best oral and poster presentations received awards of \$100. Three of the winners are in Honors: Colby Behrens ('17, Biology & Animal Ecology), Kevin Wagner ('17, Psychology and Spanish), and Kaylee Hahn ('17, Nutritional Science).

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