



## At a Glance

The theme of this alumni newsletter is: We want to hear from you! Several pieces in this edition of "With Honors" ask for your input: your recollections of the program, updates about your life, an opportunity to connect with you online. And we of course invite you to stop in and say hello the next time you're on campus.

## Connecting Online

As we move online, we want to continue to highlight the importance of alumni connecting with one another and with current students.

You can find more ways to network on the Alumni section of our website, [honors.iastate.edu](http://honors.iastate.edu). Featured there is a link to the ISU Honors Alumni LinkedIn group.

We invite you to engage with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as well.

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## Traditions: Old and New

Traditions are important at Iowa State: generations of Cyclones know what it means to go campaniling, not step on the zodiac, celebrate Homecoming with fireworks and midnight pancakes. Within the Honors Program, we treasure the FHP Retreat, Honors seminars, the Jischke Honors Building, and Honors Housing. Faculty, staff, and students come and go, but the core Honors experience remains the same.

We'd love to hear memories of your time on campus. What is the Honors seminar you remember? What year did you attend the FHP retreat? Did you ever sit in the bathtub in Osborn Cottage? What Honors house traditions did you have? Send us an email at [honors@iastate.edu](mailto:honors@iastate.edu) with photos and stories of your time in Honors and help us fill in the gaps in our institutional knowledge. In the meantime, here's an update on some of our valued traditions.

### FHP Retreat

The FHP Retreat has been happening at Camp Hantesa since at least 1993, when students were encouraged to rent sleeping bags from the Armory for \$2/night per bag. Fall 2007 was the last time it was a genuine overnight retreat and included activities like square dancing, Olympics, skin-the-snake, campfires, and midnight hikes. Generations of Honors students have spent time at Hantesa doing skits, participating in "Childhood Regression,"

learning Latin dancing from Roy Salcedo, playing Space Crunch (called "Team Challenges" prior to 2003), roasting marshmallows, and running around in the dark. Monsoon rain forced the cancellation of the 2017 retreat and moved the 2018 retreat to campus, but we returned to Camp Hantesa with nearly 500 students this September for the 2019 event.

### Honors Seminars

Honors seminars are a treasured way for students to get to know faculty, learn something outside of their academic area, and connect with other Honors students in the classroom. Honors seminars over the years have included:

Radio Astronomy (Fall Quarter 1972): John Basard, Electrical Engineering

Responsible Parenthood (Spring Quarter 1973): Ed Lewis, Psychology

The Presidency in an Age of Media (Spring 1984): William Underhill, Speech Communication

Tolkein's Mythology (Fall 2006): Alan Myers, Biochemistry, Biophysics, & Molecular Biology

Sherlock Holmes: From Page to Screen (Fall 2010): Gloria Betcher, English

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## Traditions

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The Fall 2019 seminar slate includes offerings from veteran instructors like Don Beitz, “Are You What You Eat?”; Jean-Pierre Taoutel, “Conflicts in the Middle East”; and Alyssa Stoehr, “Human Trafficking”; as well as brand-new instructors and topics like “All Aboard the Blockchain Hypetrain” with Frank Montabon and “Gardens, Class, and Power” with Mira Engler.

### Jischke Honors Building

In 1967, the first permanent office for the Honors Program was opened in Old Botany (now Catt Hall), and in 1975 the Honors Program moved to Osborn Cottage on the site of the current Gerdin Building on Central Campus. Osborn was a two-level cottage originally built for a faculty member in 1883. It had two study rooms, two meeting rooms, a kitchen, and a computer lab (in addition to a few heating and plumbing problems). Students could have 24-hour access to the building, provided they went and got the key from the main desk at the Memorial Union – or crawled in an upstairs window. After a year in Pearson Hall, Honors moved to the brand-new Jischke Honors Building in 2002, where it remains. Honors students still have 24-hour access to the building and continually inhabit it throughout the year.



Osborn Cottage on ISU's campus circa 1980.

### Honors Housing

Honors housing remains a uniquely “Honors thing.” If you lived in Honors housing, you know what we mean. Honors housing began in 1995 with Lyon Harwood, followed by Barton Anders in 1996. Martin Hall was built in 2004 and became the home

of Starbuck Honors house. Honors cluster floors have included Friley Lorch-Russell, Larch Cessna, Elm Miller, Birch Stevenson, Roberts Fairchild, Eaton Tilden, Eaton Hughes, Eaton Nelson, and Eaton Davidson. Presently, we have three Honors houses (Barton Anders, Lyon Harwood, and Martin Starbuck) and two Honors clusters (Friley Lorch-Russell and Geoffroy Ebbers/Day). Honors housing is where many students find their first friends and occasionally a spouse. Students eat, compete in intramurals, study, and experience life at ISU together. The floors themselves often have unique traditions: Anders plays crumpets each Friday at 5:00pm on the lawn, and Harwood has a bonfire each fall. Honors houses also continue to participate in KQ, with the 2019 trophy going to Anders, and Harwood as runner-up.



Lyon Harwood's annual house portrait.

### A Few New Traditions in Honors

**Bagels and Brew:** The first two days of each semester Honors students gather for bagels and coffee in Jischke.

**Honors Salons:** Honors Salons started in 2013 as a reincarnation of the old Fireside Chats from the Osborn days. Faculty members are invited to speak about their research, interests, or other interesting topics. Six years of Salons have included topics like triathlons, the science of beer/wine/spirits, and the nature of design and how it transcends boundaries.

Several other Honors Student Board activities are quickly becoming traditions: Powerpoint Karaoke (improv powerpoint presentations), ice skating, and the Java and Jams talent show are all must-haves on the annual calendar.

## New Faces in Honors: Katie Flannery



A familiar face newly hired: Katie Flannery.

Honors added a new staff member, in a brand-new position, in fall 2018. Katie Flannery was an FHP leader in 2011, an Undergraduate Assistant in 2012, and is now the Program Assistant for Upper Division Honors.

Katie's position was created to provide additional advising

for upper division students and to bridge the gap between the First-Year and University Honors Program. Her goal is to build on the Honors connection students develop in FHP and make sure upper division students feel seen, heard, and connected. Katie spends the bulk of her time working with sophomores and juniors. In 2018, Honors staff started meeting with all of the juniors individually to talk about their degree plans and projects, and Katie will be assuming the lion's share of those meetings in 2019. She has also initiated a sophomore interest survey, is a presence at FHP events to connect freshmen to more Honors staff members, and will be enlisting upper division Honors students as Peer Advisers to do small group programming as well as help her co-lead Program of Study workshops.

Previously, Katie served as a Cyclone Success Coach for a grant-funded program for first-generation and Pell-eligible students. Cyclone Success Coaches were created with the goal of employing data analytics for proactive advising. Katie spent a good deal of time coaching, working with students one-on-one, and identifying student needs and creating specific programming to address those needs (e.g., creating a meal planning event to help students who were experiencing food insecurity or cooking on their own without a dining center). Katie's passion for social justice was evident in her time as a Success Coach, and it directly contributes to why Katie has been an excellent addition to the Honors staff.

Katie has a BS in history and psychology from Iowa State and an MA in leadership in student affairs from the University of St. Thomas. In her spare time, Katie

likes to go camping and hiking with her husband Mike ('16 aerospace engineering) and their dog Lola, try out craft breweries, and make her own kombucha.

## The Beatles Return

Dr. Jen Leptien's day job is the Director of Learning Communities, but a side passion of hers is serving as Iowa State's screaming Beatles fangirl. This spring marked the third time Dr. Leptien co-led the Honors travel seminar "Here, There, & Everywhere: A Retrospective of the Beatles (r)Evolution" with Political Science's Dr. Jason Chrystal. The class traces the career of the Beatles from their inception through their breakup and into their solo careers, and features a 10-day spring break trip bouncing around the UK to Beatles sites. A perennial highlight is a trip to Liverpool to Paul and John's childhood homes, where without fail an ISU student will play the piano in McCartney's living room: This year John Mobley IV ('21 physics/mathematics) played "Hey Jude," and everyone wept. The group also visits Abbey Road, participates in the London Rock Tour, and enjoys general tourist things in London like the British museum, theatre visits, and attending football games.

## News and Notes about Honors

Honors students are cleaning up in nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships. Among Iowa State's 2018-19 award winners were these Honors students:

**Carissa Moyna** (civil engineering) was named a 2019 Udall Scholar. Carissa's focus is on sustainable construction practices.

**Collin Powell** ('19 interior design/German) will be spending the next year in Vienna, Austria, as a 2019-20 Fulbright Scholar studying architectural design, housing policies, and community outreach.

Iowa State can nominate up to four Goldwater Scholar applicants, and all four of them won the award in 2019: **Jackie Blaum** (physics), **Atte Kadoma** (materials engineering), **Nikita Kozak** (mechanical engineering), and **Matt Ryan** (chemistry) received the research-intensive award and have bright futures in graduate study.

## New FHP Common Reading

The 2019 FHP Common Reading is *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. FHP students were instructed to read it over the summer when they attended the Honors session at June orientation. FHP Leaders will lead discussions about the novel on the second day of Honors 121 and are encouraged to work its many themes, ranging from Shakespeare to pandemics to ethics in times of crisis, into their syllabi during the rest of the fall semester. Find a copy and read along with us!

## Record Number of Honors Graduates in 2019

2019 is a banner year for Honors: our students are graduating in record numbers! This spring and summer, 130 students graduated with Honors: 25 Agriculture and Life Sciences, 16 Business, 8 Design, 31 Engineering, 20 Human Sciences, and 30 Liberal Arts and Sciences students. With 37 more students set to graduate in December, we need to order more Honors medals.

## Alumni Updates

**Chris Jacobs** ('14 chemical engineering) was recently promoted from Optimization Engineer to Starch/Fibersol Department Superintendent and lead Technical Advisor for the Chinese Division of Archer Daniels Midland.

**Alexis Coulter** ('15 biology) started graduate school this fall at Vanderbilt University.

**Lizzy Doebel** ('15 mathematics) moved from teaching at an international school in Singapore to teaching at an international school in Vienna, Austria.

**Brian Garrido** ('17 philosophy/economics) used his Honors Comedy College skills to perform a standup set at Best Buy's corporate HQ talent show.

**Jamie Steyer** ('18 journalism & mass communication) is earning her esthetician's license and moving back to Ames in October to work at My Salon & Spa.

**Allye Bodholdt** ('18 management) recently accepted a job in ISU's Athletics Department as an Associate for Student-Athlete and Letterwinner Engagement.

**Michaela Minock** ('18 food science) spent the summer in a community theatre musical and is going to be an extra in a TV show.