



**University Honors Program**  
*“Alumni News”*

**Fall 2018**



**University of Idaho**  
University Honors Program

# Greeting from the Director

On behalf of the University Honors Program students, staff, and faculty, I am pleased to welcome you to our new "Alumni News," a publication for and about our program's alumni. This is the very first alumni newsletter in the history of the program and I am excited about the fact that its launch coincides with the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University Honors Program! As you may know, the first cohort of Honors Program students began their studies in the fall of 1983. Since then, hundreds of students have taken part in this amazing program of study. In order to provide you with a channel of communication and information we started "Alumni News."

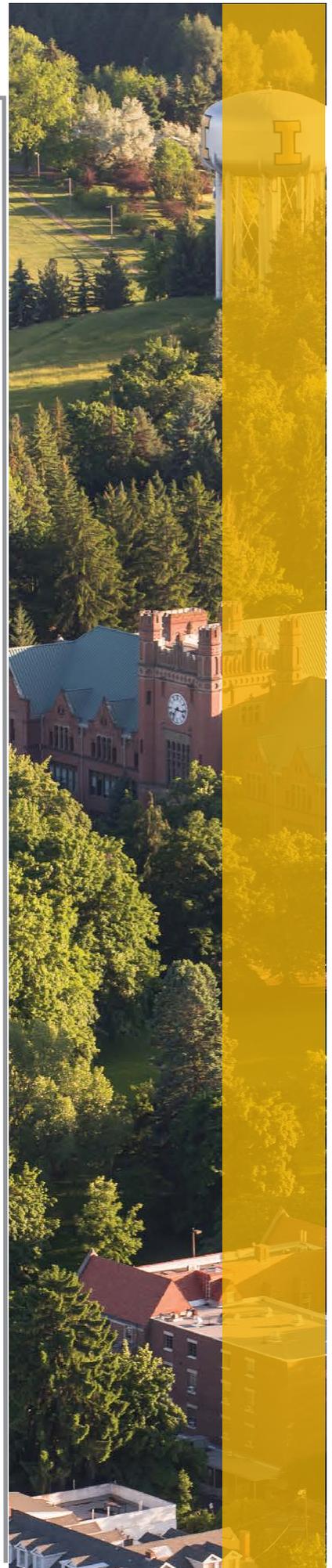
I have been the Director of the program since January 2017 and it is my dream job! I am faculty of political science at the University of Idaho since 2001 and had the great fortune of being involved with the program over many, many years before accepting this position. I taught several honors courses for the program, engaged with honors program students in undergraduate research, and served on the program committee. I feel very fortunate that I can now devote all of my professional time and energies to this great program and to serve the educational goals of our students. I could not do this important work without our very gifted and dedicated staff, our program coordinators Holly LaHann and Emily Hill and our administrative coordinator Kendra Buell.

Together, we would like to celebrate with you the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program, and wish you a happy new year 2019!

Sincerely,



Sandra Reineke  
Director, University Honors Program





## Stay Connected

- ❖ We are now on **Facebook** and **Instagram!** Please follow us #uidahohonors. (There is an old Facebook page #uihonors, which is defunct and should not be confused with our new page #uidahohonors)
- ❖ We would like to stay in touch with you and invite you to our events and keep you updated. Please send us your updated **contact information** at [honors@uidaho.edu](mailto:honors@uidaho.edu).
- ❖ Thinking about visiting your alma mater soon? Why not for our next graduation celebration? The 2019 **University Honors Program Graduation Celebration** will take place on Friday, May 10, 2019 at 2:00pm in the Administration Auditorium on the Moscow campus. We would be delighted if you could join us and help us celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our students!
- ❖ Or consider attending one of our student's **Honors Thesis presentations**. Since 2017, Honors Program students have the option to complete an Honors Thesis as part of our curriculum. Students present their thesis work at a public forum on campus in late April or early May. Join our students, staff, and faculty for this unique academic event! Check our Facebook or Instagram pages for event updates #uidahohonors
- ❖ Order a copy of the newest edition of our **student-run publication *The Looking Glass***. Volume 14, Issue 1 of 2018 is available for purchase now. *The Looking Glass* is the academic and creative publication of the University Honors Program, edited and published by our students. Please email Kendra Buell at [honors@uidaho.edu](mailto:honors@uidaho.edu) for information on how to order.



# Student Spotlight

Our feature "Student Spotlight" highlights our students' engagement in undergraduate research, scholarship, creative activities, study abroad, internships, post-graduate and leadership opportunities.

## Alayne Chipman

*By Holly LaHann, Distinguished Scholarships Program Coordinator/Honors Program Coordinator*

Alayne is from Coeur d'Alene, ID, and is currently in her fourth year pursuing a bachelor's degree in Interior Design and Architecture through the College of Art & Architecture. She has been part of the Honors Program since her freshman year and is hoping to complete our highest level of distinction in the program. As a top high school student, Alayne had many options of where to go to school. She comes from a long line of Vandals as both her parents and grandparents attended the University of Idaho, but she was looking at schools everywhere. Ultimately, for Alayne "the price to attend the U of I was unbeatable and my degree program was a good fit." Alayne's degree program is a seamless bachelors and masters in Interior Design, which she will complete in six years.

Alayne has enjoyed her honors classes. "When I first thought of honors, I thought the classes would be ridiculously difficult, but instead I found the classes to be both fun and challenging and allowed me to dive deeper into the subject." Alayne's experience in her sophomore year in Honors CORS 233: How Humans Use Insects was one of her most memorable courses. This course gave her the opportunity to learn something different than what she was learning in her other courses while still meeting degree requirements. "This course got me interested in insects – we brought baked goods with insects and everyone got to sample, it was a lot of fun!" In addition to the honors courses, Alayne really enjoyed the free tickets she received as an honors student to regularly attend the Chamber Music Series in the Administration Building Auditorium.

As an undergraduate honors student, Alayne has been involved in many experiences out of the classroom. In fall 2017, Alayne received a prestigious U.S. Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to spend the semester in New Zealand at Victoria University of Wellington. She was able to take classes that fulfilled degree requirements for both interior design and architecture.



She now serves as an ambassador for both the University of Idaho Education Abroad Office and is a senior global ambassador for the International Studies Abroad Program to encourage and support her peers pursuing study abroad. In summer 2018, Alayne received a grant through the Bruce Haglund and Tisha Egashira Earth Stewardship Fund to conduct research in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Her research focused on how culture and climate impact the built environment. This experience is translating into a leadership role for Alayne in her college. "In January, I will be working with Bruce Haglund to start a student-led workshop series on becoming globally-minded citizens and designers. I will lead the first couple sessions and will then find students for other workshops." This coming summer 2019, Alayne will travel to London with other students in the College of Art and Architecture to conduct research and complete an intense one-day team design charette drawing, which will be conducted at a prominent architectural firm in London.

Thank you, Alayne, for sitting down with us to share your experience as a University of Idaho student in the Honors Program, and we wish you all the best as you continue your education!

# Alumni Profiles

Our feature "Alumni Profiles" introduces program alumni to our larger community. Recently, the University Honors Program had the fortunate opportunity to connect with two alums from the early days of the program to hear about their experience as honors students and how that education helped shape their future. The University Honors Program started in 1983 and Boise High School's College and Career Counselor, David Chehey, was a student in the program from 1984-1988. Ada County Prosecuting Attorney, Jan Bennetts, graduated as an honors student in 1989.

**David Chehey**, College and Career Counselor, Boise High School, Boise, ID, '89

*By Holly LaHann, Distinguished Scholarships Program Coordinator/Honors Program Coordinator*

**University Honors Program: Why did you choose to join the Honors Program and why was it important to you?**

**David Chehey:** I came from an extremely small senior class in high school (25 students!) in rural Washington State, so I was definitely seeking a way to make the larger university experience more interesting, valuable, and "hands on" from an academic and personal perspective. I was very interested in the cohort model, the challenging and broad-based/supplemental coursework across a variety of disciplines, the high-quality level of instruction, and the seminar-style discussions with classmates and professors.

**UHP: Can you tell us about your academic program, where you lived, and what kinds of organizations or activities in which you were involved?**

**DC:** I started out as a Computer Science major, then switched to Mathematics, and eventually earned my B.S. in Education -- with a secondary math and social studies/history credential. In fact, the history minor was a direct result of my freshman Western Civ classes in the Honors Program -- the content and instruction inspired my ongoing interest and pursuit of that subject. I was in a fraternity (Pi Kappa Alpha) and made great friends in the Honors Program who lived in the Greek system, dorms, and/or off-campus throughout the four years, along with their/our involvement and leadership in student government, housing, SARb, intramural sports, work study or other employment, and the performing arts.



As I recall, several of us also spent a semester (or year) on an exchange program, whether abroad or, in my case, at the University of Rhode Island.

**UHP: What are your favorite memories from your time as an honors student?**

**DC:** Quite simply, the camaraderie and intellectual challenge and range of ideas, opinions, and opportunities shared among my classmates and professors. Two specific memories include seeing Kronos Quartet perform live (we occasionally received tickets or 'first dibs' on visiting art shows, music groups, and prominent lecturers, sometimes including a reception or pre-/post-discussion with the guest(s) and taking a drawing class (completely out of my comfort zone). As referenced above -- although fairly common now in schools -- the Socratic seminar-style and collaborative, inquiry-based instruction was certainly new to me and was incredibly valuable in further developing my reading, analysis, writing, communication, and critical thinking skills.

**UHP: What did you do after graduating from the University of Idaho and what are you doing now?**

**DC:** This is another direct result of my Honors Program experience -- the mother of one of my cohort/classmates was an assistant principal at Bishop Kelly High School in Boise. When it came time for me to student teach after my senior year, I was able to take advantage of that connection, was eventually hired there, and spent over 12 years in the classroom (primarily teaching Calculus and Geometry). I then earned an M.A. in School Counseling from Boise State, along with my LPC (for private practice as a counselor). I was a school counselor for four years at Hillside Jr High, here in Boise, and am in my 15th year at Boise High School (most recently, as the College/Career Counselor for the past two years).

**UHP: What advice would you give an honors student today?**

**DC:** Actually, it's quite interesting in that my current role as a college counselor often leads to this discussion -- mainly advising strong students to check out the Honors Program at their perspective colleges/universities as a great way to enhance the overall experience. Now as I attend college tours throughout the country (and even a few overseas), I often find Honors Programs that have specific dorms, dedicated living/learning spaces, an entire "village"/community, but the underlying concept always includes smaller, challenging courses and opportunities to thrive, both educationally and personally. I imagine the curriculum, resources, events, advising, and connections have only increased since those "early days" at the U of I, and I'm certain that current students are engaged and immersed -- and hopefully grateful!

**UHP: Are there any fun facts about you that you would like to share?**

**DC:** Probably, that I've been incredibly fortunate in my career and personal life to have traveled quite a bit -- whether leading students or participating in tours, visiting college campuses, involvement with professional organizations/boards, or presenting/speaking at regional and national conferences. I've been to the majority of states and big U.S. cities on my "bucket list" and have been several times throughout Western Europe (including this past summer to Portugal and the Basque Country), Peru, Cambodia, China, and last spring to Abu Dhabi. Additional passions/hobbies include running, yoga, mindfulness, healthy eating, reading, and other forms of "self-care" -- particularly in this stressful, yet vastly rewarding, job working with young adults, along with the broader issues and fast-paced political/global/technological challenges (dare I say 'chaos'?) that we face as a society.

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**Jan Bennetts, Ada County Prosecuting Attorney, Ada County, ID, '89**

**University Honors Program: What years were you a student in the Honors Program?**

**Jan Bennetts:** I cannot recall the exact years I was in the Honors Program, but I started at the University of Idaho in the fall of 1985 and graduated summa cum laude in the spring of 1989.

**UHP: Why did you choose to join the Honors Program, and why was it important to you?**

**JB:** I wanted to challenge myself and it was a way to stretch myself.

**UHP: Can you tell us about your academic program, where you lived and what kinds of organizations or activities in which you were involved?**

**JB:** I lived off campus. I studied English with a pre-law emphasis and minored in Latin.



**UHP: What are your favorite memories from your time as an honors student?**

**JB:** I thoroughly enjoyed working with the professors and other students. Their enthusiasm was contagious and motivated me to strive to do better.

**UHP: What did you do after graduating from the University of Idaho? What are you doing now?**

**JB:** After graduating from the University of Idaho, I attended law school at Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon. I graduated from Willamette Law School in 1992. I then returned to Idaho and clerked for the Honorable Thomas G. Nelson, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, until the fall of 1994 when I started as a deputy prosecutor for the Ada County Prosecutor's Office. I have served in multiple capacities during my career as a prosecutor and was appointed to the position of Ada County Prosecuting Attorney in November of 2014. I was elected as Ada County Prosecutor in 2016 and continue to serve in that role.

**UHP: What advice would you give an honors student today?**

**JB:** Take advantage of the opportunities you have to challenge yourself and to work closely with, and learn from, your professors and other students who are in the program with you.

**UHP: Are there any fun facts about you that you would like to share?**

**JB:** I am the first woman to become the Ada County Prosecuting Attorney. I grew up on a ranch in Challis, Idaho and enjoyed every minute of working on our family ranch in beautiful central Idaho.

**UHP: Is there anything more you would like to share about your experience as an honors student?**

**JB:** Thank you for asking me to contribute to your newsletter. It was a privilege to attend and graduate from the University of Idaho. I truly believe the University of Idaho laid a foundation for my future, including the fact that I received a scholarship to attend Willamette Law School.

**University Honors Program:** Thank you, David and Jan, for sharing your stories as honors students and for serving as mentors and leaders in your service to our state in your respective roles. Go Vandals!

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