



The Update in Brief

March 10, 2025

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UHPC's Largest Event:

Undergraduate Research Mixer

The UHP Club has worked hard along side the ISU American Nuclear Society Club to put together a Research Mixer that is open to all ISU undergraduates and faculty.

This event is designed to create a relaxed environment where students can engage with faculty from departments across campus (not just science departments!) to discuss research opportunities, academic interests, or simply get to know each other. It aims to break down the formal barriers typically associated with research inquiries, offering a chance for students to find research mentors or be referred to faculty members who suit their interests.

Featured Speakers:

- Dr. Marty Blair, Director, Office for Research
- Dr. Michele R. Brumley, Associate Vice President, Office for Research
- Sonia Martinez, MPA, Undergraduate Research Coordinator

Lots of free refreshments and appetizers!

Tuesday, March 11 | 6 - 8pm | SUB Wood River Room

Honors Thesis Spotlight:

Jaden Palmer

Utilizing Physics-Informed Synthetic Data to Predict Reactor Operations



Jaden Palmer '25, is an ambitious and busy guy. He's the current UHP Club President, a UHP Peer Mentor, Vice President of the ISU American Nuclear Society, an Intern at Idaho National Laboratory (INL), and a student researcher at the ISU Measurement & Control Engineering Research Center ([MCERC](#)). Along with all of that, Jaden will graduate in May with an Honors B.S. in Nuclear Engineering and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Physics.

Jaden has been working at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) for the past two years and his Honors Thesis is based on the work he has been doing at INL with Dr. Ryan Stewart. Jaden is grateful to former honors director, Dr. Shannon Kobs Nawotniak, who helped him connect with INL scientists and led to his employment there.

Jaden's research is intense. "The goal of this work is to determine how synthetic data can be used to train a recurrent neural network model for predicting the reactor power of the AGN-201. This approach will help bridge the gap between the virtual and physical sides of a digital twin, where reactor physics models based on as-built data can be corrected for actual operating parameters to ensure the virtual model mirrors reality." This involves collecting data from nuclear reactors and using it to put into neural networks to train virtual reactors, which means he's spent a lot of time in the computer lab. Here's his [full abstract](#), if you're interested in learning more.

Jaden likes to keep his plate full and loves the work he does, but he'll take a break now and then. "When I am not working on schoolwork or research, I enjoy playing chess, fishing, and hanging out with friends, family, and my dog."

Jaden is headed to North Carolina State University to pursue a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering. "I will be developing digital twins and reduced order models for nuclear non-proliferation studies of advanced nuclear reactors." We asked him if he has any tips for incoming honors students who are interested in undergraduate research. Jaden says, "Be proactive. Professors and faculty generally gauge how successful students will be in research not by their initial competence, but by how motivated and passionate the students are about that research. Research is something that anyone can do successfully, you just have to find what you truly enjoy doing and work hard at it."

You are invited to attend Jaden's presentation of his Honors Thesis

Wednesday, March 19 | 2-3pm | REND 108

or <https://isu.zoom.us/j/87003539579>

OPPORTUNI-TEA

Call For Creative Submissions for the Opportuni-Tea Silent Auction

A silent auction of donated items raises funds that provide scholarships for students in the Honors Program. Donors love to bid on creative works produced by Honors Students.



If you are interested in donating an original piece of creative work or a service, please fill out the [Opportuni-Tea Creative Work Donation Form](#)

Share Your Honors Story in a Video!

The annual Honors fundraiser, [An Opportuni-Tea](#), will be held on Saturday, April 5. If you are interested in being included in a video about Honors scholarships or being an Honors student for the event, please fill out this form.



[Opportuni-Tea Video Form](#)

Volunteers Needed for the Tea!

Friday, April 4

Volunteers will begin preparation for the Tea at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 5

We are looking for volunteers from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to help set up, operate, and clean up the Tea.

You don't have to be there for the entire day. We will appreciate any amount of time you are willing and able to provide!

Explore the volunteer opportunities and fill out the [Opportuni-Tea Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Announcements & Opportunities Continued

WANNA BE A VOLUNTEER?

March 17th from 4-8 @ Gate City Elementary

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SCHOOL CARNIVAL & SILENT AUCTION

The money we raise supports the students, teachers, and staff.

Games, Prizes, Dinner, Cotton Candy, & Silent Auction!

**NACHOS
PROVIDE
FOR ALL
VOLUNTEERS**

We need volunteers:

- Setting up (4-5)
- Running Games (5-7)
- Cleaning Up (7-8)

Let us know you'd
like to volunteer:



Volunteer for Bengal Visit Day on Saturday, April 12



**BVD
2025**

As the largest event we host on campus, this open-house style event allows students and guests to explore campus completely at their own pace. During the event, they have the opportunity to visit departments, hear about our different resources available, chat with our student clubs/organizations, take a campus or housing tour, and so much more! We will need volunteers in all of these areas along with general volunteers (current students or faculty/staff) that can assist with information tables, distribution of materials, bus guides, set up/clean up, etc.

Register Here: [Volunteer Sign-Up](https://isu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0BdAFZ4qnMWZ3ca)

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Announcements & Opportunities Continued

Research & Creative Works SYMPOSIUM

Volunteer at the ISU 2025 Symposium!

The ISU Research and Creative Works Symposium committee is excited to be preparing for the symposium on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. At the Symposium, students participate in an Oral Presentation Session and/or a Poster Presentation Session or a Creative Works display. Presenters include Graduate, Undergraduate, and PharmD students, and Health Residents. We encourage you to attend the Symposium! We are also seeking volunteers for the event.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about volunteer opportunities, [Click Here!](#)

STUDENT SURVEYS

Bengal Newspaper Book Bundle Survey

The Bengal Newspaper would like to hear from YOU about your thoughts and experiences with the ISU Book Bundle. Take the survey to voice your opinion.

Student Survey:

<https://forms.gle/9nSEm8bqWFtiMtUd6>

Faculty/Staff Survey:

<https://forms.gle/bfreGNwysFRBY5hn8>



Be a Participant in a Survey for a PSYC 3303 Course Project



UHP student Haley Burke is surveying ISU undergraduates to determine if a parent's undergraduate education has an impact on that of their undergraduate children. The participants must be ISU undergraduate students.

[Take the Survey Here](#)

https://isu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hvtznfg0YcmNh4

Announcements & Opportunities Continued

North American Language and Culture Assistants Program (NALCAP)



The North American Language and Culture Assistants Program (NALCAP). American college students and graduates - who are native-like speakers of English - partner with elementary and secondary schools in Spain to bolster language programs, as language assistants (TAs) under the supervision and guidance of teachers in Spain.

NALCAP falls under the category of public diplomacy programs. As a language assistant, you will be fulfilling the role of a cultural ambassador as you advance English language learning and mutual understanding through cultural exchange.

As such, your role is to encourage students of all ages in Spain to broaden their knowledge of your language and culture.

Placements are offered across Spain, in practically every city and town in the country, running from October 1st to May 31st for most assignments. NALCAP recipients teach 14 to 16 hours per week and receive a monthly stipend along with medical insurance.

NALCAP offers recipients the opportunity to immerse themselves in the language and culture of Spain while sharing the language and culture of the United States with students in Spain, as well as a tremendous opportunity for professional and personal growth.

Deadline to Apply is March 26, 2025

For more information and to apply go to

<https://www.educacionfpydeportes.gob.es/eeuu/convocatorias-programas/convocatorias-eeuu/nalcap.html>

The Palouse Review is Accepting Literary Submissions



The Palouse Review is the biannual arts and academics journal of the Washington State University Honors College. We accept submissions from current and former honors students from throughout the Western Regional Honors Council. Our editors are looking for carefully crafted, evocative work that demonstrates the literary, artistic, and academic excellence of our broader honors community.

The submission deadline for the Spring 2025 edition is March 23.

For more information or to submit your work, go to: palousereview.wsu.edu

2024/2025 Undergraduate Student Travel Grant

The College of Arts and Letters (CAL) seeks proposals for travel funds from full-time undergraduate students in the college. Proposals will be accepted until funds are expended. Proposals must be submitted prior to the dates of travel. Funds for travel MUST be expended by May 2, 2025, and all paperwork completed by June 2, 2025.

Details about submitting a proposal can be found in the linked document below. Contact Carrie Page (carriepage@isu.edu) with questions.

[CAL 2024/2025 Undergraduate Student Travel Grant](#)

MARCH UHP EVENTS

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MIXER



Interested in undergraduate research but not sure where to start? Join us to discover research opportunities from across campus, get to know your professors, and learn how you can get involved!

Tuesday, March 11 | 6 - 8pm

Wood River Room (Pond Student Union)



UPCOMING...

**Lots of Honors
Thesis/Project Defenses!**

Plan for future UHP Events at
isu.edu/honors/current-students/honors-student-events/

The Medieval World

2025 History Speaker Series

"Before Da Gama: The Asian Age of Exploration When Spices and Ceramics Traveled Halfway around the Globe."

Featured Speaker:
Dr. Valerie Hansen
Yale University



Weds, March 12 | 4 -5 pm
SUB, Little Wood River Room
or by Zoom

Be Well:

Bowling Night

Saturday, March 15

8 - 10 pm

SUB Games Center - Bowling Alley





JOIN US FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL IMPROVATION!
THIS TWO-DAY, 18-HOUR CELEBRATION OF
COMEDY WILL BRING YOU ALL SORTS OF FUN!

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH | 6PM -12AM
SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH | 10AM-10PM

WESTSIDE PLAYERS - 1009 S 2ND AVE,
POCATELLO, ID 83201

**Featuring Honors students Lindi Dice,
Sean Phinney, and Alex Henderson!**



New Performances
Every 20 Minutes



High School Showcase
March 14th



Community Workshops
March 15th 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Food Trucks &
Beverage Service
Available!



Guest Performers
From CA, ID, MT, UT & WA



50/50 Raffle
Both Nights



Idaho State
University

University
Honors Program

www.isu.edu/honors

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