



## The Update in Brief

March 31, 2025

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## UHP Students Publish Book about Zoo Idaho



Collaborative Creativity Group Photo

Back Row: Lauren Jager\*, Savanah Call\*, A.J. Burgin, Daniel Petty\*, and Dr. Alex Bolinger. Front Row: Jordan Mayo\*, Lindi Dice\*, Taylor Cusack, and Rainbow Maldonado. Not Pictured: Donny Vanderholm\*

Zoo Idaho was first established in 1932 at a local trailer with only two exhibits: Josephine the female monkey, and Pete the raccoon. Now, the park houses numerous orphaned or injured indigenous species that would have died in the wild. The span of 25 acres includes 98 barnyard animals, bears, bison, birds of prey, fowl, small reptiles, wild cats, and many more.

In collaboration with the Honors Program and the College of Business, the 2023 Collaborative Creativity Class met the people behind Zoo Idaho, took a tour, and experienced the stories of the animals in person. From there, they compiled their photos to self-publish "Zoo Idaho: Where Every Animal Has a Story."

ZOO PASS

4<sup>c</sup> ADMIT ONE ONE DAY

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Read the full article published in The Bengal Newspaper [here](#).

## Mandi Hesby

### *The Process In Which LGBTQ+ People Leave High Cost and Conservative Religions*



When Mandi Hesby, 25', isn't occupied with their studies, research and being a peer tutor, they love to read and play video games, sometimes at the same time! "I'll put on an audiobook and play whichever game has caught my attention recently. I also love going on walks and wandering around Pocatello, seeing what new places I can find."

Mandi will graduate in May with an Honors Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. Their interests and goals are to provide social services in support of the LGBTQ+ community. Mandi learned about Dr. Ines Jindra's research work on the social and personal impact of religions specifically on women, unhoused, and other people when they took Dr. Jindra's Applications of Contemporary Social Work Theory course.

Mandi's research uses "narrative stories from LGBTQ+ individuals

who have left their HCCRs to identify recurring themes in their experiences separating from the church they were raised in." HCCRs are high-cost and/or conservative religions that require higher investments and participation from members with strict gender roles and stereotypes. Mandi used a qualitative coding method to categorize and identify common themes as they read the stories and interviews. "Those common themes revealed the step-by-step process of LGBTQ+ people leaving HCCRs. HCCR teachings and HCCR communities can be overt or subtle in denouncing LGBTQ+ identities. LGBTQ+ members' religious experience can result in negative, long-term psychological impacts from staying in these unwelcoming environments. There remains a lot to be understood about how LGBTQ+ people leave HCC religions, and what impacts this may have on people." Mandi explains that "The general goal of the paper was to further establish the understanding that LGBTQ+ people struggle with religions, and specifically that they struggle more with HCCRs." And they hope that "social scientists can use this paper to be more culturally competent. This can look like a therapist being able to better understand LGBTQ+ people and religious people. It can also be used to help social scientists understand which parts of a religious lifestyle caused a person to want to leave, which can be grounds for further research on different aspects of religion that conflict with LGBTQ+ identities." Read their full abstract [here](#) and attend her defense if you'd like to know more.

After graduation, Mandi will take the licensure exam to start working in the social work field. They also plan to go to graduate school to earn a Master's in Social Work. When asked about tips for successful research, Mandi says "find a project you are passionate for! Since my project is heavily centered on my interests, that of social services targeting towards LGBTQ+ people, it has made me more motivated to work on my project. It is much, much harder to work on a project that you can't stand."

**You are invited to attend Mandi's presentation of their Honors Thesis**

**Tuesday, April 1 | 3-4pm | LA 308**

## Lauren Owens

### *Injury Reporting and Care Satisfaction of Collegiate Dancers in the West*



When Lauren Owens isn't cranking away at her studies, you'll find the major dinosaur lover exploring museums and keeping up with the latest fossil discoveries. When she's ready to relax and rewind, Lauren tends to her many house plants, goes for hikes in the sunshine, and sets up some hammocks. Even though she's defending her thesis this semester, she's still has two more years until she'll graduate with an Honors Bachelor degree in Health Sciences, a minor in Chemistry, and a certificate in Biomedical Ethics. After that, Lauren is planning to attend medical school.

Lauren's research idea started with her past as a ballerina. "I was a ballet dancer for 13 years and saw firsthand the healthcare gaps dancers face, and I wanted to explore those challenges more deeply." With her advisor Dr. Janette Olsen of the Community and Public Health Department, Lauren worked on developing a research idea personalized to her.

Using a Qualtrics study of 75 dancers across 28 different universities, Lauren examined the statistical significance between collegiate dancer injury reports and care satisfaction. Although she talked with and looked at a variety of healthcare providers, her research focused on physical therapists and doctors. Lauren discovered that about 40% of all injuries went unreported because of cost concerns, lack of access to proper care, not knowing where to go for treatment, fear of missing opportunities, and worries about fellow dancers' opinions. Additionally, Lauren found that many dancers preferred to be treated by a physical therapist, rating them significantly higher than doctors. Addressing these barriers to injury reporting could involve improving access to specialized care, increasing education on available resources, and reducing the stigma around seeking medical attention. Lauren's research focused on assessed injury history, reporting behaviors, type of provider seen, satisfaction with medical care, and baseline demographic information. "Injury reporting among collegiate dancers is inconsistent, and satisfaction with medical care is influenced by perceived quality of treatment with physical therapists being regarded more highly than physicians or other healthcare providers." Read her full abstract [here](#).

When asked about tips for successful research, Lauren says "Ask!! It never hurts to ask—the worst they can say is no. Keep asking and keep thinking. When you finally start your research journey, ask for help, ask people to review your process, and ask them to review your final product. It won't be perfect the first time, and asking can help catch any mistakes."

**You are invited to attend Lauren's presentation of her Honors Thesis**

**Friday, April 4 | 2:30-3:30pm | REND 108 or**

**[isu.zoom.us/j/8344322256](https://isu.zoom.us/j/8344322256)**

## Announcements & Opportunities

# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## UHP Now Accepting Applications for Fall 2025 Envoy Positions!

Four F25 Envoy positions are available.

- Director's Assistant
- Communications & Outreach
- Web Development
- Instructional Assistant

These are paid positions with a \$300 scholarship and up to an additional \$300 (\$9 per hour worked through the semester).

Learn more about each position and fill out the online application at [isu.edu/honors/current-students/honors-student-leaders/envoy/](https://isu.edu/honors/current-students/honors-student-leaders/envoy/)

## Sustainable Idaho Podcast Host

The Portneuf Resource Council (PRC) is hiring a host for the Sustainable Idaho podcast for the summer with the possibility of continuing in the 2025/2026 school year. This is a 10 hour a week, \$13/ hour internship position. Student applicants must be interested in research and interviewing experts on the climate, the environment, wildlife, and other topics as they relate to sustainability in Idaho. PRC fully trains our hosts on all aspects of the job including: finding experts, writing interview questions, and how to edit the audio recording to make a professional podcast. Previous hosts have won awards from the Idaho Press Club.



The Sustainable Idaho podcast is broadcast on our local campus NPR station, KISU. You can listen to past episodes at <https://www.kisu.org/podcast/sustainableidaho> and learn more about the position in the [job description file](#).

If you would like to apply or have any questions, contact Liana Litzsinger at [recycleliana@gmail.com](mailto:recycleliana@gmail.com)

## Announcements & Opportunities Continued

# WANNA BE A VOLUNTEER?



## 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](#)

**BVD  
2025**



## Volunteers Still Needed for Bengal Visit Day on Saturday, April 12

These are the areas where we could still use more assistance!

- Morning Building Guides/Greeters (would need to be available from 6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)
- Afternoon Building Guides/Greeters (would need to be available from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
- Information Table Volunteers (would need to be available from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

**Register Here**

**by Friday, April 4th:**

[Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

## Student Survey for CMP Research Project

A group of Communication, Media and Persuasion students are conducting a research project on the effects of product packaging in marketing and want to survey you! In an effort to gain a rigorous and random sample, they're asking you to kindly take 5 minutes to complete the survey. Your response will go towards important research and help CMP students gain experience presenting accurate and abundant data.



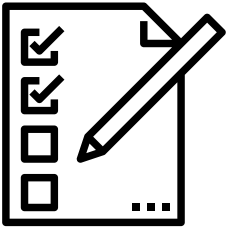
Thank you in advance for your participation! [Take the Survey](#)

## Announcements & Opportunities

# FALL 2025 REMINDERS

**The Fall 2025 Course Schedule is LIVE and Registration begins on April 7th at 7:00am!**

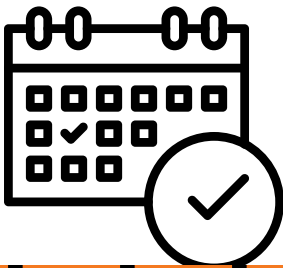
Here's your checklist:



Check your [Degree Works](#) and plan of study for needed courses and Honors credits.

Create your F25 Course Plan using the registration tools in [MyISU](#) and this list of [F25 Honors courses](#).

S	M	T	W	T	F	S



Schedule an appointment with your major advisor and [Honors advisor](#).

## ISU Visiting Artist Scholar Presenters Program: Eric Anderson

Join the ISU Department of Art for a virtual guest lecture by Eric Anderson, Senior Animator at Epic Games and former artist at Pixar, Disney, and Blue Sky Studios. Anderson, who has contributed to major films like Inside Out 2, Elemental, Lightyear, and Encanto, will share insights into the animation industry and creative processes behind these iconic productions.

The lecture will be followed by a Q&A session. The event is free and open to the public. Contact Rachele Cooper at [rachelecooper@isu.edu](mailto:rachelecooper@isu.edu) for more information



Wednesday, April 2 | 2:30 – 3:30pm | FA 401

April

# UHP EVENTS



## MANDI HESBY THESIS DEFENSE

*The Process In Which LGBTQ+ People Leave High Cost and Conservative Religions*

Tuesday, April 1 | 3-4pm | LA 308



## LAUREN OWENS THESIS DEFENSE

*Injury Reporting and Care Satisfaction of Collegiate Dancers in the West*

Friday, April 4 | 2:30-3:30pm | REND 108  
or <https://isu.zoom.us/j/83443222256>



## RISE & REGISTER!

*Get up early with Honors and register for your classes! Meet behind the C-Store in Rendezvous*

Monday, April 7 | 6:30am

Plan for future UHP Events at

[isu.edu/honors/current-students/honors-student-events/](https://isu.edu/honors/current-students/honors-student-events/)



Idaho State University

# Farmworker Awareness Week

**Meet Jose – local artist/farmworker in Aberdeen, Idaho**

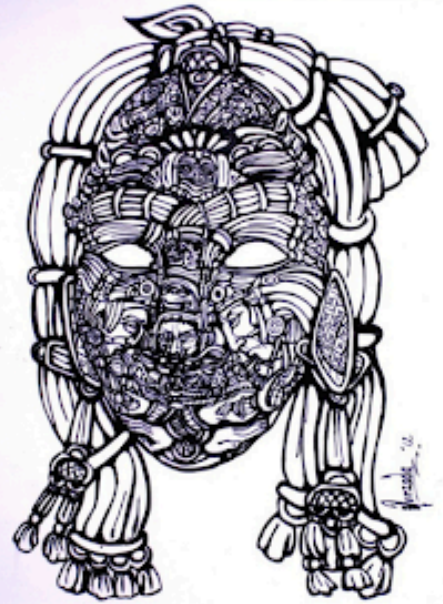
During his life Jose has learned

**“The true work of an artist is not just to display art and amaze an audience. More importantly, it is to inspire those who come after us so they do not give up on their dreams.”**

Everything you need will be provided:

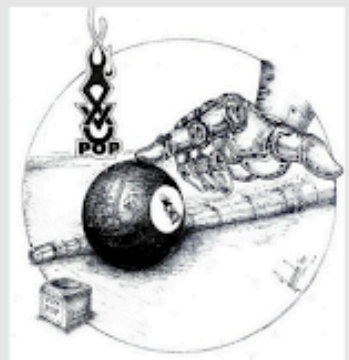
- Canvas
- Paint
- Paintbrushes

Participants can paint a guided painting with Jose or paint freely their own art.



**April 2nd at 3:30pm  
Wood River Room**

**FREE Art Workshop with Jose Antonio Quezada Rodriguez**



**College Assistance  
Migrant Program**

**High School  
Equivalency  
Program**





Celebrating  
Women's  
History Month

## WOMEN *in STEM*

Join us April 2nd to  
hear from our  
keynote speaker, Dr.  
Sharma, talk about  
her journey and how  
it has led her to be  
where she is today!

Wednesday, April 2nd | 6:00-7:30 pm  
Location: ISU PSUB North Fork



### **Dr. Kumari Kavita Sharma**

- Assistant Professor
- Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Research: Metabolomics and Proteomics

Refreshments will be served

RSVP Here





Idaho State  
University

# FRANK CHURCH SYMPOSIUM 2025

**Women Today**  
Politics, Perception,  
and Power



**April 3-4, 2025**

International Affairs Council | (208) 282-2211 | iac@isu.edu

Each spring, Idaho State University's Pocatello campus hosts the Frank Church Symposium—a rare, student-led, and student-funded event that brings diverse global perspectives to Idaho. Named in honor of Senator Frank Church, known for his pivotal role in U.S. foreign relations during the Vietnam War, the symposium celebrates his legacy of diplomacy, insight, and leadership.

**Lectures will be held in the Rendezvous ABC Suites and can be viewed using Zoom and Youtube.**

For more information, links, and the schedule, visit:

[www.isu.edu/frankchurchsymposium/](http://www.isu.edu/frankchurchsymposium/)



Idaho State  
University

University  
Honors Program

[www.isu.edu/honors](http://www.isu.edu/honors)

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