

Editorial

Honors Program presents chance to survive, thrive

Over the weekend, the University Honors Program celebrated its 50th year. We'd like to wish it a happy belated birthday.

Most of you probably shudder at the thought of additional coursework, or the pressure of making the Dean's List every semester.

While those facets are indeed part of the list of requirements, viewing the program through such a narrow lens does it a great disservice.

Yes, you get a key to Jischke, and yes, you get dibs on registration.

You're also allowed to enroll in the honors sections of particular classes, which can turn a survey course into a classroom-sized lecture.

You can even take 21 credits if you're a bit of a masochist.

But the fun doesn't stop there: Honors offers a wide variety of seminars, research opportunities, scholarships and learning communities.

Entire floors of Friley, RCA and the Suites are honors housing, where social and learning opportunities abound. Students on these floors are privy to the sage wisdom of upper-classmen — course advice, study groups and old books for sale are virtually guaranteed.

There are also learning communities, regular social events, a print stipend and crazy library privileges — you can check out on-reserve textbooks, and books in circulation can be checked out for eight months at a time.

That's not a misprint. Eight.

We asked Joan Cunnick, immunologist extraordinaire and chairwoman of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Honors Program, to share her thoughts:

"I have been the chair of the program in the College of Ag and Life Sciences for the past six years, and the Honors Program, like so much at ISU, is what a student decides to do with it. I have seen students who use the Honors Program to challenge themselves and stretch their knowledge, and other students who use it only to get extended library privileges and early enrollment. The strengths are in learning about leadership and finding a community of like-minded individuals who all want to expand their knowledge through depth of curriculum [by taking more upper-level courses in areas] or breadth [by adding diverse majors to strengthen their programs].

"It is easy to imagine students majoring in microbiology and genetics to make a stronger research curriculum or pre-med curriculum, but I really love the example of the students who double majored in microbiology and theater. Yes, there was more than one."

Outsiders may view the Honors Program as a way to graduate wearing a snazzy gold rope and with some fancy Latin words on their degree, but those involved in the program won't hesitate to sing its praises.

The honors students of the Editorial Board had the following to say:

The program differentiates itself from other academic programs on campus, because it's geared toward the upper tier of students.

It isn't based on helping you survive, but presenting you with opportunities to thrive.

If you're one of the lucky few given the chance, we definitely encourage you to jump at the opportunity.

One of our roommates, a computer engineer, recorded an album of jazz pieces played on his saxophone for his honors project.

If that doesn't scream "enjoy your adventure," we don't know what does.

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Journalism

Foreign news absent



By Rick.Hanton @iowastatedaily.com



Courtesy photo: Flickr/United Nations Photo

U.S. media's shift away from international news narrows worldview

What do you want to see when you look at the newspaper? After reading it, how much more do you know about what has transpired in the world over the last 24 hours? The real question, though, is do you care about what happened yesterday in the whole world, or just in your little corner of the world?

According to the main news providers in the nation like CNN and The New York Times, you don't care much about what is happening today in the world. I feel that the truth of that is debatable. While each of us probably cares more about what is happening next door than what is happening in New Delhi, that doesn't mean it isn't important or interesting to us. I would hope that as a student of higher education, your interest in the rest of the world would be greater than what the small "World" section of the *CNN.com* main website provides.

Why do we have this dearth of world news reporting? It certainly isn't the case that most world news suddenly dried up overnight. I think it has more to do with the post-Sept. 11 world and the new U.S. industry of 24/7/365 politics in the United States.

Looking back at the news on *CNN.com* from Aug. 27, 2000 — via the Internet Wayback Machine — I can see that the top news story was about a fire on a giant TV tower in Moscow. Other news that day discusses a plane crash in Costa Rica, hostages in the Philippines, an Israeli friendly-fire incident and a special report on the drug war in Colombia.

Looking at the same *CNN.com* this past Sunday, the main stories are about Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-Alaska) campaign for the U.S. Senate, the cemented BP oil well, Bermuda's preparations for Hurricane Igor, and a political Youtube video from Lady Gaga. Notice that all of the current top stories happened within about a 3,000-mile radius of the United States.

Now, you'll have to dig a bit deeper over at *CNN.com* or visit its major world competitors like BBC News, Aljazeera or Xinhua News to find out about Japan's issues with China over a contested group of islands, the dozens killed in a blast in Baghdad, or a British terror suspect arrested in Amsterdam. But you might note that all of those stories happened a world away, so why should we care?

We should think about and care about this type of world news because each of these stories is important in world politics, both for Americans and other people around the world. We are going to be better off if China and Japan settle their differences and decide to not battle over who owns the Diaoyu Islands off the coast of Japan. It is in our interest to know how the government of Iraq is faring since the U.S. invasion in 2003 because the outcome of that war will shape the image the people of the Middle East have of the U.S. for decades. Our worry about men like the suspected terrorist in Amsterdam should extend further out than the borders of the United States, because we want a decrease in terrorism and an increase in safety worldwide.

It seems like the terrorist attacks of 9/11 left the United States curled up in a fetal position, not worrying about what happened outside its borders. Thinking that I would get less 9/11 news in October 2001, I pulled up a copy of *CNN.com* on Oct. 6, 2001. Reading the headlines, I was struck by the three main sections of news: "Investigation," "Retaliation" and

"Recovery."

Maybe after 9/11 the news companies realized that local and national news "sold" better than world news to the American public. They decided to go where the money and ratings were instead of reporting all the news, U.S. and world news alike, to the American public with equal vigor.

The massive reporting focused on the Sept. 11 tragedy was followed by a focus on the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, then the invasion of Iraq, then went back to politics for the 2008 elections. But, it seems like the focus on politics didn't stop with the election. For some reason, major news agencies simply started reporting on politics 24/7, making whatever politicians want to say headline news.

I can understand news agencies like CNN creating separate U.S., World and Mexico news sections, but apparently there was a decision made that the U.S. version of the site would not include much international news and the international version would not include any U.S. news. Can't I go to one place and get all the major news stories, maybe with a higher percentage from the U.S., but with many stories from England, China or India? If you also realize how U.S.-centric the news has become, I urge you to go find a good international source for news so you can understand what is happening in the world.

The business world today is very international in nature. Some U.S. companies have grown to the point that more of their business comes from international sales than from sales within the U.S. We can't keep looking inwards and worrying about political issues from minute to minute if we are to succeed in the global economy.

Hopefully the news giants realize this fact soon and go back to covering international news and doing investigative journalism, otherwise I worry that their days are numbered.

Graduation

Consider fall career fair



By Curtis.Powers @iowastatedaily.com

Back when I was a little kid, people would ask me, "So, what are you going to be when you grow up?" I'd say stuff like, "Major League Baseball player" or "NBA player."

Once I hit high school, I think I started to realize that most unmotivated, fat, slow, finesse athletes don't make it to the pros, even if their height and weight look good on the roster — me: 6'1", 215 lbs.

It's also pretty bad when you get put into the last game of the JV basketball season and when your Hail Mary 3-pointer goes in at the horn to give your team a 25-point victory, the crowd roars.

So I thought that I might become a sports announcer or something else really rad. Then I remembered that my parents had been preaching for years that I needed to go to college and major in something that will get me a job — some of you reading this may need to think about that.

I thought they might be onto something, so I applied for college. Since my dad had majored in engineering, I thought that was the way to go.

After about six weeks into my freshman year in electrical engineering at Iowa State, I

decided that was a bad idea. So I switched into the college that many other weeded-out freshmen end up in: business.

Since my mom was an accountant, I settled on accounting even though most of my early accounting classes were pretty boring. The reason I stayed in accounting was due to one of the best professors I ever had, Bill Terando.

During all of these boring accounting classes, I was coaching a third- and fourth-grade basketball team. Terando's oldest child happened to be on the team.

After one practice, we were talking and he said something to the effect of, "You know, most accounting classes suck. Just hang in there because there's probably going to be one or two classes that you just love."

And you know what? He was right. I took his tax accounting class and just loved it.

My internship ended up being in auditing, but my heart was still with taxes, which means I'm pretty nerdy. After all, how many people do you know who are passionate about tax codes?

Anyway, so there I was as school was winding down and the question had become, "What are you going to do after

you graduate?"

If you're graduating soon, you already know how annoying this question is. If you're not, know that this question is not far around the corner.

Beyond the annoyance, though, it's a good time to think about this question right now. After all, it's Career Fair week.

The Engineering Career Fair is Tuesday from noon to 6 p.m. The Business/LAS Career Fair is from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday. They're both being held outside the Scheman Building, which is on the west side of Hilton Coliseum.

Even if you're just a freshman or older folks who've never been, you should consider going because it will give you an idea of what these things are like before you are in a job hunt.

Plus, it's a great time to start networking with people for future internships or full-time jobs — remember, internships often lead to full-time jobs.

I remember when I was a freshman and showed up to the career fair. Hilton was packed with so many companies that there was overflow in Scheman. When I was back as a senior, not even all the spots on the floor of Hilton were occupied. It was a little creepy.

After deciding that I wanted to pursue a career in the government/nonprofit world, I decided to pursue jobs in that field and apply to graduate school to Iowa State's Master in Public Administration program — the only one in the state of Iowa.

It would help me meet my requirement for becoming a certified public accountant and give me some flexibility in case I couldn't find a job.

Turns out, that was a good idea. I couldn't find a job, but I did get accepted into the MPA program.

It's been one of the best things to happen to me, too. My time in the program has been wonderful and is helping me figure out what I want to do and what I don't want to do.

In fact, over the past few years, I think the best idea I've had about figuring out what I want to do with my life is first figuring out what I don't want to do. Process of elimination has been a far better strategy than trying to precisely plan my path.

So when people ask me that question now, "What are you going to do after you graduate," I look at them and say, "I'm not sure, but I'm slowly figuring it out."