

Fall 2023 Graduates



Congratulations to the seniors graduating from the University Honors Program this fall. We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you the best in your next adventure.

View who's who by college:

[Agriculture & Life Sciences](#) | [Ivy College of Business](#) | [Design](#)

[Engineering](#) | [Human Sciences](#) | [Liberal Arts & Sciences](#)

Missed the convocation ceremony? Watch it now: [Fall 2023 Honors Convocation](#)

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences



Ally Baumhover

Woodward, IA

Animal Science

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, Mentor Program Participant

Honors Project: Impact of high liver copper status on epithelial integrity in dairy x beef steers

Moment of pride: I am proud of the work that I was able to help do in different labs through the first-year honors research program and where it lead me after.

Post-grad plans: Attending graduate school at Iowa State University to get a Master's Degree in Animal Science with a focus on feedlot ruminant nutrition.



Emma Bock

Lisbon, IA

Biology (AGLS)

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, Mentor Program Participant, Summer Grant Recipient

Honors Project: The Effectiveness of Plant Compounds in Inhibiting Bacterial Growth in Chicken Fecal Samples

Moment of pride: I am proud to have been involved in research and serve as the president of the Pre-Vet Club.

Post-grad plans: Attending Iowa State University Vet School.



Darcy Bonds

Troy, MO

Horticulture

Minor in Design Studies, Bioinformatics & Computational Biology

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, Mentor Program Participant, Mentor and Student Enrichment Grant Recipient

Honors Project: Exploring the genetic diversity of genes involved in plant fatty acid elongation across a diverse set of maize inbred lines

Moment of pride: Publishing 4 papers in academic journals and presenting at 4 conferences.

Post-grad plans: Working in the plant design or



Mason Erger

Marengo, IA

Biology (AGLS)

Minor in American Indian Studies

Participation & Awards: FHP Member

Honors Project: : Researching a Novel Biosynthesis for GHB

Moment of pride: Working as an RA in Friley Hall and providing advice to honors students there.

Post-grad plans: Acquiring a certificate in Education and Outreach in AG and Natural Resources.



Rebecca Lynn

Brighton, IA

Forestry

Minor in Insect Science

Honors Project: Wildlife Report on Restored Riparian Buffer in the Bear Creek Watershed

Post-grad plans: USGS as a Physical Scientist.



Jenna Plotzke

Osage, IA

Global Resource Systems, Environmental Science (AGLS)

Minor in Sustainability

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, Mentor Program Participant

Honors Project: Drainage District Main Improvements in Iowa

Moment of pride: I got to participate in the Best Buddies Club on campus and create meaningful connections with members of the community.

Post-grad plans: I have accepted a position with State Farm Corporate Headquarters as a Sustainability Analyst.



Christina Speicher

New Hampton, IA

Animal Science

Minor in Meat Science

Honors Project: Characterization of the Physiochemical Properties of Plant-Based Bigels in Comparison to Animal-Based Fats

Moment of pride: Member (2022) and now assistant coach of the ISU Intercollegiate Meat Judging Team.

Post-grad plans: Supervisor in-training at Upper Iowa Beef in Lime Springs, IA.



Whitney Winter

Muscatine, IA

Animal Ecology

Minor in Animal Science, Genetics

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, Mentor Program Participant

Honors Project: Validation of AIM 2 Research Utilizing Primer Design

Moment of pride: Position as a Peer Mentor and Ambassador for the NREM Department.

Post-grad plans: Attending veterinary School.

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Ivy College of Business



Luella Gaskell

Sioux City, IA

Finance

Minor in Supply Chain Management, Philosophy

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, Mentor Program Participant

Honors Project: The Ethical Coffee Bean: An Analysis of Resource Efficacy and Smallholder Colombian Coffee Growers

Moment of pride: I'm most proud of the scholarships I earned that allowed me to study abroad in London in Fall 2022, it allowed me to travel more than I ever dreamed. I can't wait to go back.

Post-grad plans: I'll be working part time for my family's corporate housing company and part time as a substitute teacher before moving to Ohio with my best friend next summer.

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College of Design



Nora Alarifi

Al khobar, Saudi Arabia

Architecture Professional Degree

Minor in Digital Media

Honors Project: The City of Saudi Cultures and Traditions (Fana', فناء)

Moment of pride: IFYE leader, MSS assistant

Post-grad plans: Enjoy my time with my family and friends, practice my hobbies, and find a great job opportunity.

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College of Engineering



Megan Hellman

Cedar Rapids, IA

Biological Systems Engineering

Minor in Spanish

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, HON 121 Leader, UHP Grant Recipient, Honors Ambassador

Honors Project: Assessing water quality and gas emissions of habitat and CREP wetlands

Moment of pride: Awarded Outstanding graduating senior for College of Engineering.

Post-grad plans: Environmental Engineer for Iowa DNR



Aaron Hendricks

Fairmont, MN

Mechanical Engineering

Participation & Awards: FHP Member

Honors Project: Campus Emergency Shelter Validation

Moment of pride: Mechanical Lead of the ISU Robotics Club's Exoskeleton Project

Post-grad plans: I have accepted a full-time position as a Mechanical Design Engineer.



Ohik Kwon

Incheon, South Korea

Electrical Engineering

Minor in Physics

Honors Project: Investigate the physical principles of Memristor

Moment of pride: I wrote a peer reviewed paper as a second author.

Post-grad plans: Attending graduate school.



Gregory Ling

San José, CA

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Minor in Entrepreneurship

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, UHP Grant Recipient

Honors Project: Embedded Testing Platform (Compute Tester) for Solar Car Club

Moment of pride: Solar Car software lead

Post-grad plans: Getting a Master of Science in Computer Engineering at Iowa State University.



Jessica Melville

Sioux City, IA

Aerospace Engineering

Participation & Awards: FHP Member



Rebecca Patush

Joliet, IL

Materials Engineering

Minor in Biomedical Engineering



Honors Project: Cultivating a Sense of Belonging in Engineering for Gender-Minority Students

Moment of pride: Society of Women Engineers Corporate Relations Vice President

Post-grad plans: Structural Analysis Engineer at Spirit Aerosystems.



Participation & Awards: FHP Member, HON 121 Leader

Honors Project: Hydrogels for Biomedical Applications

Moment of pride: I have been selected as the Student Marshal for the College of Engineering.

Post-grad plans: completing a co-op with Arthrex in Naples, FL and then pursuing my Master's Degree in Biomedical Engineering.



Aaron Schoon

Goose Lake, IA

Mechanical Engineering

Minor in Spanish

Participation & Awards: FHP Member

Honors Project: Aerosol Jet Printing for Integrated Surface Sensors

Moment of pride: Finishing off my Honors project while building depth in Mechanical Engineering researching Aerosol Jet Printing.

Post-grad plans: Process Engineer for Pella Corporation in Pella, IA.

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College of Human Sciences



Hunter Davenport

Marshalltown, IA

Kinesiology & Health, Biology (LAS)

Participation & Awards: Mentor and Student Enrichment Grant Recipient

Honors Project: COVID-19 Vaccination Rate Uptake Amongst the Meskwaki Nation: A community-level study

Moment of pride: President of my fraternity (Sigma Lambda Beta).

Post-grad plans: Taking a gap year.



Emma Schluttenhofer

Clarion, IA

Elementary Education, Endorsements in Reading and Language Arts

Honors Project: Critical Literacy for Elementary Children

Moment of pride: Getting invited to become an Iowa State University Honors member.

Post-grad plans: Find a full time elementary teaching job in Iowa while continuing my education to complete my masters.



Luke Westrick

La Grange, IA

Nutritional Science (H Sci)

Minor in Microbiology

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, HON 121 Leader, Honors UA

Honors Project: The Effect of Chicken Egg Proteins on Bacterial Conjugation of Antibiotic Resistance Plasmids

Moment of pride: Working as a UA of the First-Year Honors Program.

Post-grad plans: Attending medical school.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences



Leah Christopherson

Ankeny, IA

French, Spanish

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, HON 121 Leader

Honors Project: Culturally Sustaining World Language Education

Moment of pride: World Languages and Cultures: Outstanding Achievement in French Award.

Post-grad plans: Becoming a French and Spanish High School Teacher.



Ann Marie Lent

Carlisle, IA

Political Science

Minor in Music and Psychology

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, HON 121 Leader

Honors Project: How 1972 Changed 1858: The Effects of Title IX on Iowa State University

Moment of pride: Being Chapter President of Alpha Delta Pi.

Post-grad plans: Political Science Masters Degree at Iowa State University.



Luke Marzen

North Liberty, IA

Computer Science

Participation & Awards: FHP Leader, HON 121 Leader, Honors Ambassador, Mentor Grant Recipient

Honors Project: Efficient Data Transfer in OpenMP GPU Applications through Static Analysis

Moment of pride: Active involvement in research projects, and I'm proud to have been accepted into the master's program here at Iowa State University.

Post-grad plans: Getting a Master of Science in Computer Science at Iowa State University.



Jess Mouw

Bettendorf, IA

Public Relations, Psychology

Minor in French

Honors Project: Mind Over Major: How to Use Psychology to Thrive in College

Moment of pride: Completing my honors project.

Post-grad plans: Currently searching for jobs in public relations.



Megan Smith

Cedar Falls, IA

Biochemistry

Minor in Minor in Pharmacology & Toxicology

Participation & Awards: FHP Member, Mentor Grant Recipient

Honors Project: Determining the Structure and Atomic Interactions of the BTK-PLCg Complex

Moment of pride: I was one of the student speakers at the student-organized biochemistry symposium (Stupka) and got to speak about my research.

Post-grad plans: I have accepted a position with the University of Iowa State Hygienic Lab as a Clinical Lab Analyst.



Elora White

Beaver Dam, WI

Psychology

Participation & Awards: FHP Leader, Mentor Grant Recipient

Minor in Minor in HDFS

Honors Project: Guilt Status and Stress on Miranda Decision-making

Post-grad plans: Speech Language Pathology



Sirius Xaedax-Stanley



Des Moines, IA

Sociology (LAS), Psychology

Minor in Minor in Women's & Gender Studies

Participation & Awards: Honors Student
Executive Board

Honors Project: Proposal for Re-modeling
External Locus of Hope

Moment of pride: Serving as the Transfer Student
Representative for HSB.

Post-grad plans: Work in non profit or higher ed
for a while while my husband attends college and
then pursue my PhD in sociology or social policy.

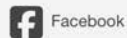
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