Trevor Lund

University Honors Program

February 11, 2011

Statement of Honors Purpose

Since the beginning of my life, I’ve wondered how things go. I was a curious child, taking, or attempting to take things apart just to see what makes them tick. I believe that that curiosity and thirst for knowledge has allowed me to thrive in school and understand difficult concepts. In 7th grade, although I didn’t know it at the time, I used calculus to find the amount of dirt I needed for a flowerbed I was building for my Eagle Scout project. In high school, I took AP Physics and excelled, partially because I was genuinely interested in the concepts and their practical applications. I would sit in the front row and ask questions like, “What if all the people of the world stood in one spot and jumped?” Obviously theoretical and moot (The mass of the people would hardly cause anything to happen), I was still very interested in that higher level of thinking. These curiosities led me to apply for the Freshman Honors Program at Iowa State, which was probably the best decision I’ve ever made.

By being a part of the honors program, I’ve had so many opportunities open up to me. From the spectacular floor I was placed in as a part of honors housing (The outstanding Lorch-Russell), to the great opportunities I’ve had (Applying to be an FHP Leader), the Honors Program has fulfilled my college experience thus far. My experience in the program is largely what is motivating me to apply to stay in the University Honors Program. The other piece is the opportunities Honors offers me. There are places to go and things to do all the time that are hosted by the Honors Student Board. I’m offered special perks that other students at Iowa State University don’t receive. And finally I get that feeling that I’m a part of something. It’s hard to identify with all twenty some thousand at ISU, but the Honors Program is smaller, and everyone has a similar mindset here.

My academic goals are to graduate with not only my degree in hand, but many other exciting experiences under my belt as well. I believe that the University Honors Program can provide that for me by motivating me to keep my grades up and stay involved. I believe that when I graduate with honors, I can step up to an employer and tell them all about what that means to me, and how that shaped my college experience. Some say graduating with honors isn’t really that important, but I think they didn’t talk about it enough. Sure, graduating “with honors” isn’t all that great by itself, but if I talk about it, explain my experiences, that “with honors” could really end up meaning something; it may end up meaning I have a job whereas another might not.

In short, I hope that being a member of the University Honors Program will help me become a better student, make more connections, and eventually prepare me to excel beyond college, into my career, and throughout the rest of my life.