

# Fall Newsletter 2019



## Are you STRESSED OUT?

PSP upperclassmen share  
their advice!

**"Take a break when you  
need one."**

-Carly H., Junior dance/  
history/Spanish major

**"I make sure to eat at appropriate  
intervals throughout  
the day."**

-Julia P., Senior journalism/  
geography major

**"I like to make art. I think it's  
a good creative outlet."**

-Anthony D., Junior  
environmental engineering  
major

**"I like to exercise when I  
need a break. Rock climbing  
is my favorite."**

-Barbara B., Senior  
microbiology major

**"Talking with my roommates  
helps me destress."**

-Kirsten L., Sophomore  
biomedical engineering  
major

## A program update from PSP faculty advisor Dr. Art Spisak



The Presidential Scholars Program (PSP), which was formalized as a program in 2014, is comprised of all the current Presidential Scholars on campus. That number right now is about 145 students. It has elected student officers, other

appointed board members, a staff advisor (Camille Socarras, Honors Program Scholarship Coordinator) and a faculty advisor (Dr. Art L. Spisak, Honors Program Director).

The PSP was designed to help Presidential Scholars get to know each other better so that they could serve as resources for one another. Presidentials are also expected to give back to the Honors Program and university in ways that best match their own capabilities and goals. The PSP offers regular events, at least one per semester with the University's president, as well as less formal events to help build community. Presidential Scholars also take seminars together. For this year the seminars are in the spring semester and are all themed around self-discovery. These are one semester-hour classes, with a high degree of class participation and involvement. Presidentials will learn more about themselves, the PSP, Honors Program, and the various opportunities available to them.

In the recent past there were about twenty new entering Presidentials per year. This current academic year the number of entering Presidentials was 91. The number of awardees was increased in order to make the PSP more inclusive.

## Alumi Spotlight:

Tom Werner, Class of 2017

### What are you currently doing?

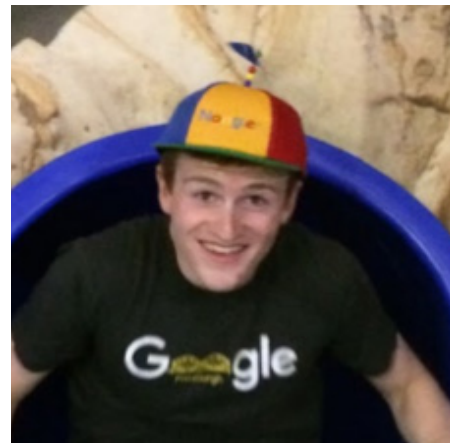
I've been a software developer for Google in their Madison, Wisconsin office since graduating from Iowa. I do back-end software development work, so the software I write runs in data centers around the world, including the data center in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

### Why did you choose to go to the University of Iowa?

I grew up in Cedar Rapids, and when the University of Iowa offered me the Presidential Scholarship, the combination the great school, great location, and cost made it impossible to turn down.

### Favorite memories at Iowa?

That's a tough one. Spending time with the people on my floor in Daum, studying, interrupting other people's studying, getting food together, and just hanging out would be pretty high up on my list. Playing incredibly competitive games of Mario Kart Double Dash with my roommates would also be up near the top.



### What are five words to sum up your Ulowa experience?

Honors Daum Studying Mario Kart.

### Any tips for incoming freshmen/PSP members?

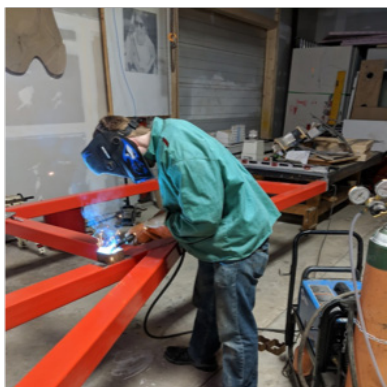
Leave your dorm room door open when you're studying. It's a fantastic way to meet people and make friends. Also get involved with things that interest you, but only if they interest you. Don't feel like you have to join every club and group.

### How did the PSP affect your college experience as a whole?

I was able to meet and make friends with a lot of very ambitious, interesting, and talented people. The events that the PSP put on were also great for meeting faculty and staff around the university and connecting me with a professor for doing research.

### Any memorable moments in the PSP program?

I remember a fun dinner we had with the former president of Iowa, Sally Mason, "Spicing it up with Sally" and hearing some really funny stories about the travelling she and her husband did. We had some delicious Indian food and some great conversations.



## Alumni by the numbers

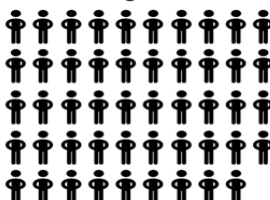
Total Number of Presidential Alumni since the award's inception in 1979

874

Largest Graduating Class

49

2009



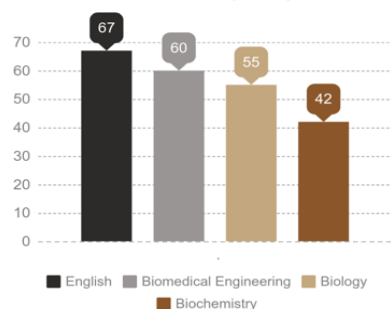
Smallest Graduating Class

1

1982



Top 4 Primary Majors



# A peek into the archives... Check out our first scholars!

## The First Recipients of the Presidential Scholarship in 1979

### Ten H.S. seniors win Iowa Presidential Scholarships

Ten of Iowa's top high school seniors have received \$4,000 University of Iowa Presidential Scholarships, according to U of I president Willard L. Boyd.

The award, which is applied toward tuition and costs at the U of I over a four-year period, will be given annually to 10 college-bound seniors and is based on academic achievement or artistic talent. This is the first year for the award.

The 10 seniors who received the scholarship were selected from among top high school seniors from across the state who were nominated to participate in the U of I Scholars Recognition Program.

The scholarship recipients are Stacy M. Crossland and Timothy J. Freese, Sioux City; Margaret O. Little and Richard D. Meisner, Des Moines; Megan McCormally, Burlington; Charles A. Miller, Davenport; Jennifer S. Overton, Atlantic; Margaret E. Poepsel, Iowa City; Kathryn J. Ulm, Fort Madison, and Scott C. Allendorf, Clinton.

The awards were presented to the students by U of I alumni in their respective communities: In Sioux City by Mrs. Bonnie Killinger, BA '62 and Dr. George G. Spellman, MD '43; in Des Moines by Mr. Kenneth P. MacDonald, BA '26 and Mr. Nolden I. Gentry, Jr., BA '60, JD '64; in Burlington by Mr. Albert H. Hass, BA '57; in Davenport by Dr. Erling Larson, MA '48; in Atlantic by Mrs. Patricia M. Bullock, BA '51; in Iowa City by Mrs. Susan K. Boyd (wife of Willard L. Boyd, president of the U of I); in Fort Madison by Mr. A. Anthes Smith, BSC '42, and in Clinton by Mr. Robert G. Koons, BA '49, MA '50.

The Scholars Recognition Program is a means of recognizing outstanding high school students for their achievements. To qualify, students must be in the top 2 percent of their high school class.

The campus program includes opportunities to visit departments in which they are interested and to participate in musical auditions and artistic critiques.

Funds for the Presidential Scholars Program come through gifts and bequests received through the University of Iowa Foundation. ■



Jenny Overton, far right/third row, with her sorority sisters during Fall Rush 1981, featured in the 1982 Hawkeye Yearbook.



Tim Freese brings a TV into Burge Hall, featured in the 1980 yearbook.

**Thanks Alumni Committee  
Chair Allison Rowe for  
finding these treasures!**

### Take our quick alumni survey!

In this edition, we'd like to know your favorite study spot when you were buried in the books here. [Click here](#) to answer our 10-second survey. Results will be posted in our next newsletter.

### Keep in Touch

If you have recently changed address or contact information, please let us know at [honors-presidential@uiowa.edu](mailto:honors-presidential@uiowa.edu). We look forward to keeping in touch!

### Join us on Facebook

Join the community that connects past and present Presidentials: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UlowaPSP/>



## The newest scholars had a great first semester!



Top left: Class of 2019 at the President's Reception ; Top right: A group of first-year scholars and their T.A. volunteering with Habitat for Humanity ; Bottom left: PSP at Kinnick Stadium ; Bottom right: Attendees of an event on "Perfectionism and Burnout."

## PSP Resources

**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Art Spisak

**Staff Advisor:** Camille Socarras

**President:** Michael Li

**Vice President:** Barbara Badovinac

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Samalya Thenuwara

**Mentoring Committee Co-Chairs:** Elias Kim & Amy Yan

**Events Committee Chair:** Anthony DeSalvo

**Alumni Committee Chair:** Allison Rowe

**Outreach Committee Chair:** Carly Heying

**Senior Class Representative:** Nicole Nucaro

**Junior Class Representative:** Caroline Meek

**Sophomore Class Representative:** Kirsten Lucy