



Dear Fellow Honors Alum,

There comes a time in our lives when we need to stop and ponder the moments that have truly impacted us as individuals. Without question, for me the four years spent at UNI were filled with these, and, the majority of those moments came through my involvement in the Honors Program. While most of my studying (for better or worse) was because of honors, my honors experiences went well beyond the classroom. I worked with Cedar Valley businesses, local artists, area high school administration and students to organize the funding, planning, and painting of a mural in downtown Waterloo. I spent evenings discussing the finer points of leadership with former Governor Terry Branstad, John Deere Waterloo Works General Manager Dave Rodger, UNI President Ben Allen and his wife Pat. These experiences, along with countless other honors experiences, were vital to my personal and professional development and none of them would have been possible without the Honors Program.

A predecessor to what we now know as the University Honors Program was established in 1959. That program eventually led to the development of the Presidential Scholars Program in 1986. Our current university-wide Honors Program, which now administers Presidential Scholarships, was established in 2001 with an inaugural class of 65 students. In ten years, the program has grown to 470 students representing each college on campus. The numbers speak for themselves; word is getting out about the benefits the Honors Program provides to UNI students. These growing numbers show the rising popularity of the program and with that growth an opportunity has arisen. You and I, as Honors Alumni, have the opportunity to support honors students who are seeking the same moments we experienced. Those same moments that helped define who we are as individuals.

Because of what the Honors Program did for me, I am inspired to give back. With the establishment of the Honors Alumni Endowed Scholarship, we each have the opportunity to impact the lives of high-ability honors students. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 over the next five years in order to endow this scholarship in perpetuity. The \$30,000 endowment will initially allow us to award a \$1000 scholarship each year. But think of the potential, with new alumni every year, to elevate this scholarship to something of truly monumental heights. Imagine how rewarding it would be to contribute to something bigger than ourselves – something that will provide generations of students the same opportunities we had to excel through the Honors Program. **I invite you to join me in support of the new Honors Alumni Endowed Scholarship to help provide other bright young honors students with the social and educational opportunities that will forever impact their lives.**

Sincerely,

Matt Bries '09

Go Panthers!!