

UHP NEWS



MSUB Honors Program

November 2014

Dear Fellow Honors Programmers,

Our immediate focus is now on registration and advising. If you would like more information on or have questions about any Honors courses, just let us know.

But our sights are also on longer term goals. See the article on the possibility of an Honors minor for example (page 2). Or, I ran into Jason McGimpsey, the director of Facility Services, during a fire drill last week, and he remains optimistic about securing space for the UHP in the library sooner, rather than later. We also expect to have a new brochure ready to go in a week or two. The brochure will be an important tool in our efforts to have around 100 members in the program at some point during the 2015-16 academic year.

- **Who Should Take the Capstone?** – Ideally, we want all UHP students to take the course before they graduate. Last year, seniors, but also juniors and sophomores, enrolled in the course. As the term capstone implies, the course is designed to be a culminating experience. The goal of this year's capstone "Hunger and Food Security" is to take the work of last year's class and put the ideas and recommendations into action. For the members of the class, the benefit is having one's work have an impact on an important problem.
- **General Education Courses for Next Year** – By the end of the month, we should have a preliminary list of the general education courses that offer honors credit for next year so that you can plan ahead. There are still classes that we will hope to add in the future to categories which we don't know yet, most notably in science and math.
- **The Gulick Scholarship** – Professor Walter Gulick was one of the founders of the UHP and, if I remember rightly, its first director. Knowing how important research is, especially to students who want to attend graduate school, he and his wife funded this scholarship as a way creating an opportunity to do and recognition for doing research.
- **Our First Advising/Information Lunch** – About 20 students, including a couple of non-members, stopped by the lunch. In addition to providing an opportunity to learn more about our courses, the lunch enabled students to meet or to learn more about other students in the program. Building a community in which we are more than a group of people who occasionally see each other in class remains one of our biggest challenges.

Good luck in what are for many of you busy, busy November days.

DC

SPRING 2015 COURSES

→ **HONR 111 Perspectives and Understanding** - David Craig

→ **COMX 212-001 Intro to Intercult. Comm.** - Melinda Tilton

→ **COMX 482 Women, Media and Society** - Sam Boerboom

→ **HSTA 200 The Historian as Detective** - Jennifer Lynn

→ **HONR 499 Capstone: Hunger and Food Security*** - Virginia Mermel

→ **HONR 294/494-003 African American Literature** - Thomas Nurmi

→ **HONR 294/494-006 Philosophy of the Mind*** - Professor Ana Diaz

→ **HONR 294/494-001 Writing for Stage & Screen** - Tami Haaland & Virginia Spragg

* HONR 499 and Philosophy of the Mind were added to the course schedule late, but are open for registration now.

To Minor or Not to Minor: Inviting Your Thoughts

In the most recent Honors Council meeting, the proposal was made to create an honors minor. Two questions come immediately to mind: 1) what might an MSUB honors minor consist of? and 2) what are the advantages of having one?

Although the proposal is still in the brainstorming and exploration stage, the answer to the first question is probably that the minor would consist of the 21 credits necessary for the honors degree. At this stage of consideration, the second question is really the more important one. Most honors programs don't offer minors, which suggests there is no inherent advantage to having one. So why do some honors programs have them? The reasons vary, but San Diego State University offers an explanation that we can use to consider whether an honors minor would benefit us.

Adapted from San Diego State:

The minor includes a unique offering of courses and seminars dedicated to interdisciplinary exploration and inquiry. The minor provides the ideal avenue for students to become intellectually well rounded. The integrative nature of the coursework invites students to reach beyond the boundaries of their academic major, thereby providing tools for future success.

More info can be found on [their website](#).

Gulick Family Endowed Scholarship

There's a **\$500** scholarship available for Honors students involved in upper-division research. See Dr. Craig for more details.

The Honors Council will meet again on Wednesday, November 12, and we invite your questions and thoughts before that meeting: honors@msubillings.edu.



Derrick Anderson, Chasmin Haggerty, and Thomas Staffileno talking about their experience in last year's capstone class.

HONR 499: CAPSTONE

Make sure you don't miss next semester's capstone course titled *Hunger and Food Security in Billings* which will be taught by Virginia Mermel!

HONORS PROGRAM

Study & Travel for Honors Credit

Reminder: Capital Semester in Washington D.C.

Deadline: November 5

*****Scholarship Funding Available*****

www.DCinternships.org/CS

GET INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE:

Spend your semester gaining real-world experience that will help set you apart when it comes time to find your first job after graduation..

In addition to an internship and classes, our program provides housing in furnished apartments in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of DC, planned social activities, professional development seminars, and numerous opportunities for networking.

Study in Greece!

Join St. Mary College's Greece Study Tour June 2015 with days on the island of Samos and two nights near Ephesus in Turkey.

Examine the changes from about the time of the Trojan War (c. 1200 BCE) to the Classical period (5th and 4th centuries BCE), as well as looking at subsequent developments in Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman times.

To learn more:

www.smcm.edu/greece/

Applications are due before
January 24.

Travel Course to Tanzania

Wildlife Conservation & Sustainable Ecotourism

May 31 - June 14, 2015

Learn about the complexities of sustainable development in the nature tourism sector from the perspectives of wildlife ecologists, international environmental organizations, local Chagga farmer and Maasai herder communities, and private-sector tourism enterprises.

For more information contact:

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