

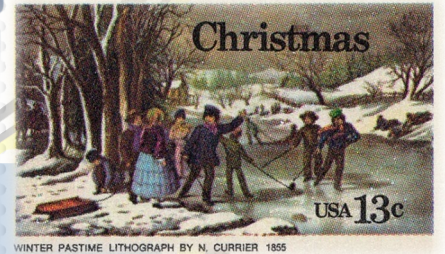


# Happy Holidays!

Don't forget – We are now accepting applications for the Sixth Annual Research, Creativity, and Community Involvement Conference, which is scheduled for Friday, April 12.

For more information, including our fully electronic application, please visit our website:

[www.msubillings.edu/research](http://www.msubillings.edu/research)



**Can you guess?**  
How much will a U.S. postage stamp cost when most of you are retiring?



## Winter Solstice 2019

Let's Celebrate the Break and the Holidays, Honors Programmers,

It's Winter Solstice today that turning point in the annual interplay of light and darkness. Exams are over; grades are in and posted; and the campus is quiet almost as if at rest.

Or rather, it just seems quiet without many of you dropping by to print, get a form signed, chat, or grab a cookie. Actually, a lot is going on though—a letter has just gone out to all the school counselors in the state about the UHP; letters of recommendation are being written; and we are getting ready for the spring and summer recruiting cycle. Not to mention graduation, ten of you are on track to graduate with Honors this spring.

When these breaks go well, there is progress in the UHP, not just a cycling through of the academic calendar. So what do we want to happen this break?

- Progress on enhancing the quality of UHP courses and contracts – we'll announce developments on this front when you return.
- A newsletter for UHP alumni, friends, and parents – it's in draft form, and, if you would like your parents or friends to receive a copy, please send us their names and addresses.
- Respond to Provost Arnold's call for an assessment of the UHP and a timeline on our strategic plan – we are ahead of the game on the latter. We have a strategic plan; we just need to put our objectives on a 1, 3, or 5-year timeline.

And, of course, there are the holidays ahead. A full house in my case with both of my daughters' families coming to stay this year. It will be a festive, rowdy time filled with games including what one grandson (at 16!) calls the annual Christmas Eve game of *Life*, eating, and talk, talk, and more talk. Actually, there are many Christmas traditions in our family, the pleasure of which residing in their occurring this time every year. A wonderful cycle. The need to celebrate this time of year runs deep as we know from such celebrations as those of the Winter Solstice and Hanukkah.

Wishing wonderfully festive and relaxing holidays and all the best for 2019, DC



# Congratulations, Amanda Hemmen!



Claiming top academic honors in the NCAA on Wednesday, Montana State University Billings women's soccer junior *Amanda Hemmen* was named a Google Cloud first-team academic All-American announced by the College Sports Information Directors of CoSIDA.

The center back from Renton, Washington, carries a perfect 4.0 grade point average while working towards her degree in biology. "This award only continues to show the depth of Amanda's character, and what she means to the program and our university," MSUB women's soccer head coach Stephen Cavallo commented. "She commits so much of her life to her academics that it would be impressive for her to have the academic success she has even if she was not a student-athlete. It makes the achievement even more remarkable because she excels so much on the field as well."

Hemmen is the first MSUB women's soccer player to earn first-team academic All-America since *Jennifer Larsen* won the honor in 2012. Overall she is the sixth player in MSUB history to earn the award and the fourth to garner first-team honors.

<https://msubsports.com/news/2018/12/5/womens-soccer-amanda-hemmen-named-1st-team-academic-all-american.aspx>

## **Meet Honors Scholars in Our Own Backyard!**

**The Western Regional Honors Council Conference @ MSU Bozeman,  
March 29 – 31**

**Please visit the Honors office in COE 297 for more.**



**Register Here:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XXW58P2>

### **Faculty Nominations**

**Thanks, in part, to past nominations, we now have 125 members. For nominations, just send us the names of your outstanding students and, ideally, their e-mail address, so that we can contact them, or have them contact us in COE 297. Whether nominated students choose to take a class or join the program or not, your recognition of their talents in this way will likely mean a great deal to them.**

