

UHP Newsletter

April 11, 2014

Dear Fellow Honors Programmers,

Finally a newsletter rather than our recent string of pre-newsletters; we should get a more on-top-of-things Honors director! As you will see, there have been lots of achievements and happenings among you all, with more to come at next week's Leadership Recognition Dinner and at the various graduation convocations. If we have missed something, just let us know.

This has been a semester of significant milestones. To name a few, there was a MSUB first (Elizabeth Mullins' Goldwater Scholarship), the pilot of our capstone course (this year on Hunger in Billings), and the Contemporary Nature and Ecology Writing Seminar, with noted author Gary Ferguson. We hope these milestones will also point the way to more accomplishments, to dreams being pursued and fulfilled. For the Nature Writing Seminar, Jeremy Brooks wrote about this theme in his essay, "The Journey of a Life Time," which he illustrated with pictures of the Beartooths and presented at the Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference.

It has been a semester of discovery for me as well; that's one of the advantages of being a teacher. One place of discovery has been this semester's section of Perspectives & Understanding. I had been worried about the class, since it enrolled only 4 students. But they--Abdulrahman AlBakar, Sharon Williams, LoriAnn Church, and Logan Hoyt—have provided an academic version of atmosphere rather like that of *The Breakfast Club*, as we have pursued our course theme, how to live a life that matters.

And so we move toward the end of another academic year, propelled by the warmth of a spring that has finally arrived and our springing dreams.

David Craig



Graduation & Scholarship Celebration

April 25th 4-6pm
At the Chancellor's house

We invite you to congratulate our prospective University Honors Scholars (Patricia Hampton, Korilynn Kessler, Cory Lovec, Mary Owen, Eli Wickenburg, and Laura Johnson) and UHP Scholarship recipients.

Honors Pizza Picnic

April 23rd 11:30-1pm

Student Union Patio
(Weather permitting)

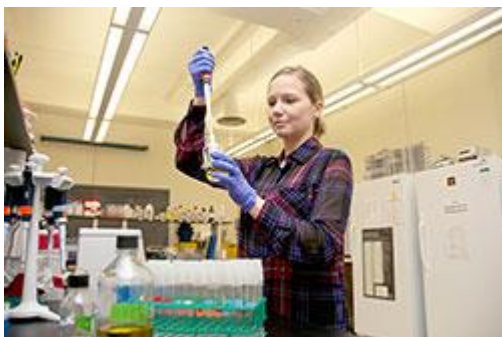


Alternate location: Student Union
Upper Galleria

Chi Alpha Congratulations

Alpha Chi Sigma, the honorary society for student athletes, had its induction ceremony this past Wednesday. Four UHP members were inducted: Mary Owen, Jinise Osborne, Blanca Perez, and Mary Grace Bywater. Induction requires a 3.4 GPA and junior or senior standing.

Goldwater and Noyce Scholarship Winners



As already announced in our pre-newsletter, Elizabeth Mullins won a Goldwater Scholarship and Jehremy Felig a Noyce Scholarship. The Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious award in the United States given to undergraduates studying in mathematics, science and engineering, and, just as Cory Lovec's receiving an Honorable mention, Elizabeth's recognition demonstrates ways in which UHP members can successfully compete on a national stage.

Noyce Scholarships are awarded to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) students who are in the university's Teacher Education program and interested in a career teaching in one of Montana's tribal communities. Noyce recipients receive up to \$17,300 in scholarship aid for each year of their education.

Supporting UHP members in pursuit of such recognition is an important part of our mission, especially in such scholarships as these since they provide a foundation for graduate school and career success.

Congratulations to each on these noteworthy achievements.

Connections!

In his talk and performance, "Connections!", Professor Mark Fenderson explored the evolutionary force of the human mind's ability to make connections and the importance of doing so throughout our individual lives. In introducing his subject, he played music to show compositions are embellished and changed over time as pieces, for example, first composed during the Baroque period provide material for jazz trumpeters. Our thanks to Professor Fenderson for sharing himself, his love of music, and his ideas with us.



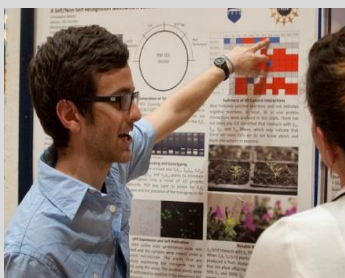
HON 492 Hunger and Food Distribution in Yellowstone County Presentation

Wednesday April 23 at 4:00
Student Union Building Room 135

Fall Orientation: Save the Date!!

It's never too early to plan. Tentatively, our UHP orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3 from 4:00 to 7:00.

2014 Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference



We co-sponsored and helped to organize the first annual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference. Doing so is part of our mission to promote high accomplishment and to contribute to the intellectual life of the campus. The conference was well attended and many presenters were able to provide insight and entertainment. There were terrific presentations on all manner of topics from the Raspberry Pi computer (a \$39 computer that has the capabilities of a notebook or desktop computer) to the role conscientiousness plays in academic achievement. There were also creative writing and interpretive presentation and displays of works of art. MSUB Honors program was well represented and deserve recognition for their participation. The following students shared their talents and research; **Jeremy Brooks** – *The Journey of a Life Time*, **Korilynn Kessler** – *Guidelines to Creative Writing: Using an Interactive blog in the Classroom*, *Shady Pines & Good Night, Nobody*, **Patricia Hampton** – *Dance through Life: Follow Your Passion*, **Laura Johnson** – *Role of Conscientiousness and Academic Achievements in Life Satisfaction*, **Cory Lovec** – *Studying Ozone Chemistry Utilizing Cavity Ringdown Spectroscopy*, **Elizabeth Mullins** – *Identification of Potential Targets of the Grr1p SCF ubiquitin ligase Pathway in Fungi* and **Blanca Perez** – *Effects of Shear Stress on eNOS*

Thank you to those of you that assisted in this being a wonderful first time event. We encourage more students to participate and present in 2015 event.



New Honors Club Members

Jacob Bova Greg Dicharry

Leonie Gelfarth Mckenna Lavalley

William Neville Taylor Preshinger



Fall 2014 Honors Courses Offering

- Introduction to Public Speaking
COMX 110-010
- Introduction to Psychology
PSYX 100-004
- Education and Democracy
EDU 105-001
- Visual Language-Drawing
ARTZ 105
- History as Detective
HSTR 299
- Honors Special Topics Seminar/s
HONR 292/492
- Internships
HONR 290/490
- Independent Study
HONR 291/491
- Perspectives and Understanding
HONR 111

We have just added another course to the fall course list, HSTA/HSTR 299, The Historian as Detective. The course is designed to train students to think and write like historians and may, with special permission, be used for General Education credit; it will also count for credit toward history majors or minors.

We also invite your feedback on a proposal for an honors seminar, Philosophy of Mind, for next year:

An introduction to contemporary debates in the philosophy of mind, focusing on the following questions: what is the nature of the mind? Is the mind just the brain or a special and distinct sort of thing from the brain? How do minds as distinct from brains fit in a world that science tells us is composed of only matter? What is the nature of consciousness, and scientific explanations capture what it's like to see a sunset? Could an artificial device – a computer or robot – have a mind? We will think about these questions by considering futuristic computers and robots, Martians who behave like us but have an internal structure very different from ours, brains in vats, and philosophical zombies. We will ask whether these strange characters have thoughts and feelings, and if so, are they like us in what they think and feel. We will consider how we might know the answers to these questions, and whether they even have answers. The point will be not simply to consider bizarre cases just for the sake of it, but to see what light we can shed on our nature as beings with mental lives. Although no prior familiarity with the subject matter is assumed, the material is challenging and forms some of the most current thinking on this topic.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the posting of the Request for Applications for the GRO Undergraduate Fellowships program. It is offering undergraduate fellowships for bachelor level students in environmentally-related fields of study, with the goal of providing support for their junior and senior years of study, and an internship at an EPA facility during the summer of their junior year. College sophomores should apply now in order to be eligible to receive financial support for their junior and senior years. Subject to the availability of funding and other applicable considerations, EPA plans to award approximately 34 new fellowships in the summer of 2014. The fellowship provides up to \$20,700 per academic year of support and \$8,600 of support for **a three-month summer internship.**

Congratulations to the UHP members who received recognition at the Leadership Recognition Dinner:

- Korilynn Kessler, Outstanding President Award, Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society
- Erin Robinson, Outstanding Peer Educator Award
- Mary Owen, Athletic Leadership Award