

# UHP NEWS



MSUB Honors Program

September 2016

Dear Fellow Honors Programmers,

Our Honors semester has started with a great rush, to borrow the words from an old Bob Dylan song with a sense that "The Times They Are A-Changin'." Our new space is one factor contributing to the change. By having our orientations in our own space, the sessions had a more personalized feel, and yesterday the seminar room/lounge -to-be was used for the first time as a place for quiet study. The Student Advisory Committee is another force for change, as in their planning orientation, developing the mentor plan, and arranging for us to sponsor a Service Saturday. With the new *Honors Handbook* and Honors Council initiatives, foundations are being laid for more change, to make the UHP one of the most prominent—and we hope—respected organizations on campus. Changing times.

- **Our Space:** We leave the office open even when Jenay and I are out so that you can use the seminar room and stop by for a cookie or whatever other snacks we have available. If you want to reserve the room for a meeting, you can do so with Jenay. Today, there is the usual cookies and candy, but also rice crispy treats leftover from orientation and Doritos from a meeting.
- **Annual Writing Assignment:** This is another mechanism for change. Yes, we have had this assignment for a while, but now are connecting it more closely with the UHP goal of helping our members to take full advantage of their academic and personal talents. That is why we are mandating it, i.e. make it a mandatory part of membership.
- **Setback:** We didn't get enough students to have the capstone course go (but were able to make arrangements for the students who were registered for the course to gain capstone credit). It's a setback, because there are a number of programs on campus for which it is not easy to gain honors credit for a departmental capstone requirement. Also, our capstone—with its real-world problem-solving feature—not only offers valuable experience, but also can make a difference in Billings or in one of its organizations.

*continued...*

## RAPPELLING

## THE RIMS

SATURDAY  
9:30

RSVP "YES"  
TODAY!



- **Extending the Impact of the Advisory Committee:** If you would like to serve on the Advisory Committee or to help with its initiatives, let Jenay, me, or one of the committee members know. The committee is working service, academic/advising initiatives such as the mentor system, and social activities (games nights & bowling night are among the ideas being tossed about). You could indicate what kind of activity you would like to be involved in. The current Advisory Committee members are: Jehremy Felig, Kaity Moodie, Lacey Mogan, Ryan Reddick, Douglas Raymond, Shiloh Skillen-Robison, and Bailey Nedens. We will also be inviting some first-year students to join the committee.
- **Advising:** One of our priorities for this year is improving advising for UHP students. Working together the Advising Center and faculty advisors, we want Honors advising to assist the whole person, not just to involve course selection. I introduced this idea in the orientation sessions, and more information will come.
- **Alumni Mentors:** We didn't have experienced students for all the programs in which we have new students, and so we asked recent alumni if they were interested in serving as mentors. They all responded with enthusiastic yesses, which has given us the idea of finding more alumni mentors, since alumni can offer advice based upon their experience after graduation. Shelby Martinell and Bonnie Beth Luhman will be our first alum mentors, in Bonnie Beth's case volunteering to drive 2 hours from Rosebud to meet with art students.

To return to Bob Dylan's song about changing times, it's really a call for change song, and here are some lines from the last verse: "Please heed the call/Don't stand in the doorway/Don't block up the hall." These lines are directed at congress—and I add editorially that they could still be usefully applied today—but I think they apply to us as well. To become a great honors program, we will need to continue to evolve and change. It takes effort, just as securing our space did.

With all good wishes for another successful fall, for you individually and for us as a program.

DC



# Honors Student Mentors

MAJOR	MENTOR
Accounting	Amy Sexton
Art	Bonny Beth Lehman
Biology, Chemistry, Science Education	Jehremy Felig
Business Administration	Kaitlyn Moodie
Communication	Shelby Martinell
Criminal Justice, Sociology	Michelle Williams
Elementary Education, Math Education, Math	Miranda McNeil
Secondary Education, English Education	Shiloh Robinson
Environmental Studies	Amanda Felton
General Studies, Undeclared	Lacey Mogan
Health & Human Perf, Pre-Prof Physical Therapy	Ryan Reddick
History, History Ed, Native American Studies	Bailey Nedens
Music Education	Danielle Branson
Nursing	Ranielle Santos
Political Science	Clay Sluggett
Psychiatric Rehabilitation	Miglana Ivanova
Psychology, Human Services	Kristen Wederski
Spanish	Gabriella Russell
Special Education	Chasmin Haggerty



## Writing assignment & Orientations

⇒ Writing Assignment **DUE** September 23rd

If you missed orientation and haven't contacted us, it would be wise to contact us asap so as to get your *Honors Handbook* and copy of the annual writing assignment. Obviously, missing a mandatory event without explanation is problematic.