

# UHP NEWS



MSUB Honors Program

November 2018

Fellow Honors Programmers,

I hope that your Thanksgivings were bounteous, festive, and restorative, just what was needed as we race toward the semester's end and into the December holiday season. Much has happened since our last newsletter: our successful service Saturday, bowling night (the high spirits, if not the high scores!), and more fall scholarship applications and scholarships than ever before. And much lies ahead:

**Holiday Celebrations** – Last year we began what we hope will become a UHP tradition, celebrating the holidays with office decorating, frosting cookies, and a white elephant gift exchange. See inside for details about this year's plans.

**Honors Courses and Our Challenges** – Let's begin with the challenges, most notably building a curriculum that meets students' needs and enrolls sufficient number of students. As university enrollments have declined, these challenges have intensified. Here are the courses that represent particular challenges for the spring: the Capstone (3 students either registered or committed and we need 5 for the course to go), our new course HONR 194 (4 registered and 8 for the course to go), and the Valerie Hemingway guest writer course (2 registered and we need 10 students for the course to go).

**Courses and Challenges Part II** – In our *Handbook*, we describe the goals of our curriculum, such features as requiring active learning, inviting creativity, and focusing on problems rather than answers. We quote National Collegiate Honors Council guidelines: "[Honors education] is about developing the student's fullest intellectual potential." The last phrase is the most critical since it designates what lies within you and also explains the most important of our curricular challenges: building a curriculum that taps the potential of our many different members.

**Thinking Ahead about Scholarships** – Award announcements for our fall scholarships have gone out, and it's almost time to think about spring scholarship applications. The applications dates are February 1 for the university's deadline and March 15 for ours, (<http://www.msubillings.edu/honors/scholarships.htm>).

As you consider applying for scholarship support, it's to your advantage to think about a few couple things now, most notably, about your credentials and possible recommenders. Credentials is the "why you question?"—what about your achievements, potential, need, and contributions to MSUB make you a person in whom the university wants to invest. If you need help with your applications or personal statements, let us know. That is one of our responsibilities as a program.

Wishing you all the best in these busy late November early December days.

DC

UHP congratulations go to.....



## Joseph Walters

Together with research mentor Dr. Lynn George and fellow student Richard Ruksch, Joseph presented his research at the Society for Neuroscience' annual conference in November, located in Washington, D.C. For the past two years, Joseph has been working to help elucidate the cellular mechanisms that contribute to a rare genetic disease called Familial Dysautonomia (FD). Joseph's project includes taking brain tissue samples from mutant and control mice at various ages to compare protein expression and relating the differences to the phenotypic symptoms of FD.

### University Honors Foundation Scholarship Winners

**Sarah Bradley Daniel Lurie Rachel Lythgoe**

**Piper Skillen-Robison Miglena Ivanova**

## The Gulick Scholarship Recipient

**Michelle Williams**

Michelle will work with Professor Jennifer Scroggins to conduct research on how the deaths of transgender people are received and portrayed by the public. This problem needs to be studied further if we are to put a stop to this transphobic violence; by understanding how the public perceives these violent acts, we can begin to understand how to stop them.

There were 52 volunteers for the Service Saturday that the Honors Club Sponsored,  
including 10 UHP members:

Haylee Koon

Clay Slugget

Erska Fajriyati

Cody Earley

Casey Skinner

Danielle Brandon

Hayley Mooney

Christian Bautista

Miglana Ivanova

# Honors Courses Spring 2018

## **HONR 111-311 Perspectives and Understanding - Professor David Craig**

Explores classic and contemporary works of literature, art, and philosophy with an emphasis on cultural and historical contexts in order to develop critical and multi-disciplinary analytical skills. For spring 2018, the course will explore ideas about what it means to live ethically from the ancient to the present.

## **HONR 194 Communication and Research in the Digital Age - Professor Steven Funk**

introduces students to the communication and research skills necessary in the digital age with the goals of: improving communications competence in oral, social, and electronic contexts; covering research processes and methods; and enhancing the ability to interpret and evaluate data

## **HONR 294-494-01 Hemingway's World - Valerie Hemingway**

Explores the life, literature, and world of Ernest Hemingway

## **HONR 294/494-02 The Body in Contemporary Culture - Leanne Gilbertson**

Explores our evolving cultural values, understanding of the individual, and place in the universe through the visual representations of the body in art, film, popular media, and medical imaging since the 1990s.

## **BKMT 490 Undergraduate Research - Professor AJ Otjen**

Work with a client from the community to produce a branding and strategic marketing communications campaign. This course welcomes students with many talents including music, writing, graphic arts, or any major that can give input or reference to human condition and behavior. The work is almost always a service learning project and non-profit, giving the student and opportunity to affect social change.

## **HONR 499 Hunger and Food Security - Professor Virginia Mermel**

Builds on the food insecurity work completed by students who took this course in prior years. Students will explore and implement strategies to improve the emergency food distribution system, reduce food waste, and build a food safety-net that will increase food availability to low-income people in the short-term as well as build an emergency food reserve that will benefit all Billings area residents in the long term.



# UHP OPPORTUNITIES TO PRESENT RESEARCH

In the past, we have funded students who have had their research presented at **NCUR** and **Western Regional Honors Conference**. Also remember the **Research, Creativity, And Community Involvement Conference** (April 20, 2018).



APRIL 4-7, 2018

# NCUR 2018

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

NATIONAL  
CONFERENCES ON  
UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH

## Registration now open!

[https://www.cur.org/ncur\\_2018/account/](https://www.cur.org/ncur_2018/account/)

### Western Regional Honors Conference

Western Regional The 2018 Western Regional Honors Council Conference will be held at Chapman University in Orange, California from April 13-15. Honors students will present their research and projects at this annual conference attended by Honors programs from 14 Western states.

**HONORS CLUB PRESENTS:**



# **HOLIDAY PARTY**

- **COOKIE DECORATING**
- **WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE**
- **POTLUCK DINNER**

**DECEMBER 2ND 1:00PM  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
ROOM 106**

**WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT LIMIT \$5**



Office Decorating Party, Tuesday, November  
28th at 3:30 with refreshments