

UHP NEWS

December 16, 2019

Holiday Greetings Fellow Honors Programmers,

I liked the song “Let There Be Peace on Earth” long before it became associated with Christmas, especially the line that follows the opening—“Let it begin with me.” But I also like it as a holiday song, especially this year when our home will host my daughters’ families, including four rambunctious teenagers. The peace of our holiday will not be of the peace and quiet type, for our family ritual of games, games, and more games will be accompanied by lots moans and groans, much laughter, and a little trash talk. The peace will be of family rituals and connections—of the spirit, not of the action.

However, in the office, we are also looking forward to the semester ahead:

Honors Capstone – In keeping with UHP’s focus on problems and problem-solving, the Hunger and Food Insecurity capstone has an unusual opportunity this year, thanks to a rancher who has become aware of the problem of hunger among college students. Among other problem-investigating and -solving aspects of the course, students will work on his idea for donating beef to help alleviate this problem.

Under-enrolled UHP Classes – Both Artificial Intelligence and Perspectives are under-enrolled, and we will make decisions about whether to cancel them or not. For the A.I. class, we are advertising to the Billings community and hoping that community auditors will push the enrollment up to an acceptable level and for Perspectives, we changed the time to TBD, meaning that it will be scheduled for whatever would work out best for the students who want to take it.

Spring 2020 Kickoff Meeting – With a busy spring ahead, we will hold our UHP kickoff meeting on Tuesday, January 14 in the Dining Room A & B from 5:30-7:00. More to come as we get closer to the new semester, the first of the decade!

Possibilities – A new year always allows us to think about the possible and among the possibilities that we will be trying to actualize include: partnering with TRIO and Grad Studies on a program to help students with graduate and professional school applications and statement, our delayed alumni panel from last year, the biggest and best Research, Creativity, and Community Involvement Conference ever, and launching our UHP Instagram account. Much more too, which is what our kickoff meeting is about.

Back to “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” it was composed in 1955 by Jill Jackson-Miller after a dark period in her life. I first heard it in college at Notre Dame, during a time of students burning their draft cards and of others becoming newly commissioned officers who would soon serve in Vietnam. That’s why I like the second line of the song. There aren’t easy answers to how peace begins with any one of us, only difficult and important choices.

Wishing wonderfully festive and relaxing holidays and all the best for 2020, DC

Scholarship opportunities

Please follow the link listed below to the scholarship portal for the University.

There are seven pages listing possible scholarship possibilities. Click on the yellow sign-in button in the upper right hand corner to get started and see which ones would be a fit for you!

<https://msubillings.academicworks.com/?page=2>

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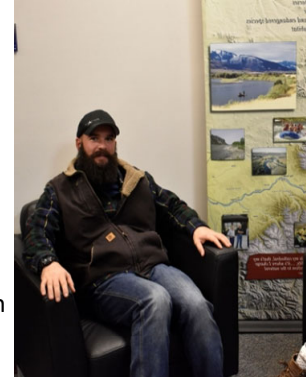
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UHP Achievers

Rusty Butler has assisted MSUB Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies Dr. Susan Gilbertz with the extensive interview process she has been conducting and has been helping her in organizing extraordinary research regarding the Yellowstone River.

"In October, I traveled to Lawrence, Kansas with Dr. Gilbertz to the annual meeting of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the American Association of Geographers," said Butler, "to present a paper that I had been working on with Dr. Gilbertz." Butler presented his findings to members of the organization, garnering much praise and even being mistaken for a graduate student presenting his master's thesis.



"Listening to the participants tell their stories was great," he said, "but the real fascinating part is taking a step back once all the interviews are complete and looking at the commonalities and differences to see the bigger picture of the river, how it is managed, and used to shape lives.

Butler will also graduate in December with his bachelor's in Environmental Studies, and two minors in Geography and Honors. He plans to attend graduate school at the University of Montana in their Forestry and Natural Resource Conservation program and use this degree to work with a governmental land use agency to explore our natural world and improve the human-earth relationship.

For the complete story, please click on the link below:

<https://www.msubillings.edu/news/article.asp?id=19398#msu-billings-students-conduct-environmental-research>



Cody is an exceptional MSUB student. He's hard working, motivated, enthusiastic, and selfless.

Growing up, Cody experienced challenges and hardships. His father is a disabled military veteran. Cody recognized early on the importance of giving back to others and that acts of service can make a difference. Currently in his junior year dual majoring in psychology and biology, Cody has held numerous work-study positions in MSUB's SSS TRIO and the Academic Support Center, to name a few. He volunteers his time tutoring students in chemistry, as well as tutors students at the Military & Veteran's Success Center while also assisting with projects there.

Cody is known for being humble, kind, and a natural leader. He provides support for struggling students, and gives of his time generously to others on campus. Cody has been recognized with the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Over winter break, Cody will shadow three different physicians in sports medicine, upper extremity, and trauma, to help narrow his interest in medicine. Upon graduation, Cody aspires to obtain an M.D. or Ph.D. in neuroscience. These degrees will allow him to continue his research on neurological diseases and work to discover therapeutic solutions to improve patient treatment.

Taylor Kurkoski is an intern in the Marketing and Communications department of St. Vincent Hospital and has been nothing short of a standout since her start with them in January 2019.

Taylor is currently a senior at Montana State University Billings majoring in Health Administration with a minor in Marketing. She recently finished up a busy semester with a 4.0 GPA and reflects that her college experience thus far has been good, bad, stressful, and everything in between. "Every college student goes through rough patches while in school, but I have had a really great time getting to know people throughout the university system," Kurkoski said.

Her advice to upcoming seniors and people who are trying to find a balance between life's complexities and busy days is to find what is important in life and stick to it. "Not everyone wants to be a 4.0 student and work full time," Kurkoski said. "Finding out what your priorities are is so important."

For the full story, please go to: <http://www.msubillings.edu/news/article.asp?id=19414#msu-billings-student-shines-as-intern-at-st-vincent-healthcare>



Thanks to Abria Boze, our in-house volunteer on International Volunteering Day. Abria is also our record holder, having put inserts in over 400 of our brochures in an hour. Abria is first-year student from Scobey who is majoring in business.

Upcoming Spring events

Tuesday, January 14th from 5:30pm-7pm

Kickoff meeting in Dining Rooms A & B Honors students only

Thursday, February 6th from 6:30—9:00pm

Rec event open to all students

Glow-in-the-dark volleyball, indoor soccer or badminton

Thursday, March 26th from 7:00—9:00pm in Petro Hall Lobby

Video and Board Game Night open to all students

Let's Strengthen Our UHP Community

In order to strengthen our community, we are recruiting to get 4 subgroups to help in the effort. If you are willing to help with these efforts, please let us know what group or groups you can help with:

Service – helps to arrange UHP activities such as Service Saturdays, the Research, Creativity, and Community Involvement Conference, etc.

Ambassadors –helps with prospective students and associated events such as Preview Days

Events – helps with events and event planning

Social media & outreach – assists efforts to give the UHP a presences in the social media world

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