

A message from Jana Marcette, the new UHP Director

As the rising Honors Director, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself and discuss some highlights of my vision for Honors at MSU Billings. First, I would like to say that I graduated from an Honors Program along with my Biology degree and Japan Studies minor, and for me Honors was my home within the university setting. After my undergraduate studies, I took on graduate work in biochemistry and molecular biology earning a Ph.D. for my studies of the proteins that support and allow flexibility in brain cell connections called synapses. I followed this work with post-doctoral studies of the genetic pathways that allow for remodeling of synapses and that are linked to epilepsy. When I became a biology professor, what was most needed at my university was a grant to jump-start on-campus research. Like many of you, I have multiple interests and, in my case, found that I was pretty good at grant-writing. That has taken me down a different career path, one that looks at the human side of doing research and how research and education can be more welcoming to college students.

I bring all of these perspectives with me into Honors at MSU Billings, and my vision is to lead the Honors program within our existing goals to continue to develop curriculum, enhance experiences, attend to membership and graduation, and promote all of the amazing accomplishments of our MSUB Honors students. Within each of these categories I want to bring in voices and perspectives that will allow us to maximize being a place where students feel welcome, involved, able to make decisions, and empowered to start initiatives. For me there is a lot of overlap between what it means to be an honors class and what it means to be welcoming. For example, if we want students to become better speakers, creators, and to use their knowledge and skills in a broader social context, there is a wealth of information about how to manage class participation, cultivate divergent thinking, and develop into scholars within and across disciplines. I can't wait to dig into this data along with our own institutional data, and have conversations with faculty, staff, and student stakeholders.

I mentioned that I found Honors to be a home for me as an undergraduate, and that is what I hope to work on with you. We are making a start on this with Honors residence options, but I know that, as we move beyond Covid, there are going to be changes in what makes our campus and our program feel like home. That is the kind of challenge that I look forward to overcoming together, so please be thinking about the kinds of activities, programming, and advising you would like to see as part of Honors.

I know that I have very big shoes to fill with Dr. Craig's retirement. I will do everything I can to ensure that both collectively and individually our MSUB Honors students have the kindness and support that is needed to thrive and set the foundations for future endeavors.



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[Scholarship opportunities](#)

Please follow the link listed below to the scholarship portal for the University. There are seven pages listing possible scholarship possibilities. https://msubillings.academicworks.com/users/sign_in

UHP Satisfaction Survey

Please help us to continue to move forward by taking a few minutes to fill out our survey:

http://msubillings.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_50TPD7gkGYQOVim

Congratulations

2021 Leadership Award Winners

<i>Bossan Abdyyeva,</i>	<i>International Student Leader</i>
<i>Brie Barron</i>	<i>Outstanding Student Volunteer</i>
<i>Naomi Norris</i>	<i>Outstanding Member of an Organization</i>
<i>Mason Powell</i>	<i>Athletic Leadership</i>

2021 Department Award Winners

<i>Christian Bautista</i>	<i>College of Business Outstanding Achievement Award in Finance</i>
<i>Claire Bagnell</i>	<i>English—Pauline H. Rich Scholarship</i>
<i>Alexandra Bloyder</i>	<i>Chi Alpha sigma—Women's Soccer</i>
<i>Samuel Curtis</i>	<i>MT Society of CPAs Outstanding Accounting Senior</i>
	<i>College of Business Outstanding Senior</i>
<i>Emily Gaines</i>	<i>Chi Alpha Sigma—Women's Soccer</i>
<i>Ashley Hanser</i>	<i>English—Nan & Ben Friesen Scholarship</i>
	<i>English—Bruce Meyers Scholarship</i>
<i>Daniel Lurie</i>	<i>English—Creative Writing Scholarship in memory of Ben Gloege</i>
	<i>Communication Leadership Achievement</i>
	<i>Communication Academic Achievement</i>
<i>Rachel Lythgoe</i>	<i>Chi Alpha sigma—women's Soccer</i>
<i>DJ McGree</i>	<i>Biological & Physical Sciences Impact Award</i>
<i>Shannon Reny</i>	<i>Chi Alpha Sigma—Women's Basketball</i>

Congratulations

2021 Golden Merit Award Winner

The Associated Students of MSUB honors the graduating senior who has excelled in campus and community involvement and academics.



In receiving the award, Daniel Laurie said: "Thinking back to who I was when I first set foot on this campus is mind-blowing. I am a completely different person now, and I am proud of what I have achieved here. If I could offer a single piece of advice, it would be to not limit yourself. Jump in with both feet, say yes, try new things. This is the time and place to do it, and time flies, regardless of what you decide to do, so you might as well make the best of it."

Christian Bautista and David McGee were also nominated for the award by the College of Business and the College Health Professions and Science, respectively.

2021 RCCJC Award Winners

Shaylyn Dilley

Eriska Fajriyati

Alexandra Bloyder

Daniel Lurie

Alexis Stahl

Lauryn Tecca

Liberal Arts/Social Science Award Winner

Natural Science Session Award Winner

Asynchronous Honorable Mention

Creative Writing Session Honorable Mention

Asynchronous Honorable Mention

*Liberal Arts/Social Science Honorable
Mention*



Service Hours at the Moss Mansion

Ashley Kuykendall, the Volunteer Coordinator for the Moss Mansion, has offered UHP members the opportunity to earn service hours. She can be contacted at: ashley@mossmansion.com. For the coming year, we are in the process of reaching out to other community organizations who are seeking volunteers.

You did it!

Congratulations

Graduates



Jacob Bash

Management BSBA

Working for a start-up company in the Flathead Valley



Eriska Fajriyati

Biology BS

Moving to Washington state and preparing for her MCAT's



Hissaki Lee

Psychology BS

Headed to the University of Montana for Masters of
Public Health Degree



Daniel Lee

Organizational Communication BA

Headed to the University of Idaho for Creative Writing



Alexis Stahl

Mathematics BS

Working in the banking industry in Glasgow, MT



Fellow Honors Programmers,

Wrap-ups and graduations always have some bittersweetness to them. There is the celebratory element to them as all the congratulations in this newsletter demonstrate, but there is also the what-will-be-missed in the moving on and leaving behind. This year's UHP graduates have contributed their talents to us while they were here and now take them to a world which badly needs them:

Eriska Fajriyati – who worked as a CNA in a senior living facility during Covid, caught Covid herself, and wants to become a gerontologist who helps to solve the problems that she has observed.

Daniel Lurie – who wants to become a poet who makes a difference with poetry that helps us to value our environment as fully as we do our income or possessions.

Alexis Stahl – whose capstone project on graph theory expressed her love of math and knowledge and foretells how these qualities will infuse her career.

Jacob Bash – who caught the eye of his Project Management professor last October as the kind of student our program needed and as the potential entrepreneur Montana needs.

Hissaki Lee – whose ethical core and caring heart once got him fired as a fisherman in Alaska, have benefitted the many students he tutored, and will make a difference to the many people he will serve in public health.

For me as well, this newsletter marks a moving on. I have a few next steps in mind, finishing a long-unfinished essay on the role a traumatic dream plays in Joseph Heller's fiction, a family reunion in July in Colorado, perhaps a trip to France in the fall, and pretty-regular continued playdates with our 3-year-old granddaughter and before too long her baby brother. After that more a horizon of things to come.

In closing, thanks to you all and to this program for giving me something to care about—to have that feeling each day that there are things to be done that are worth doing. It's always a good day when there is something to work on and to enjoy.

Good luck and Godspeed to all of us, DC

P.S. I will continue to have my MSUB email address and would be glad to do many of the things that I have always done—write letters of recommendation, help with applications, etc.

