



UNIVERSITY OF  
**MONTANA**  
DAVIDSON HONORS COLLEGE



# LETTER FROM *Dean Nichols*

**Welcome to the University of Montana's Davidson Honors College!** As dean, the question I'm most often asked is "what is an honors college?" For starters, our mission statement reads:

Set in the awesome natural beauty of **western Montana**, we are a **vibrant, inclusive intellectual community** providing **transformative educational opportunities** and are dedicated to **strengthening our positive impacts** on the world.

These words have real meaning and resonance to us. But I'll be the first to admit that wrapping words around the meaning of a DHC experience can be challenging because the DHC means something different to all of us. As you'll hear our students say, "there is no cookie-cutter experience" in the DHC. So, how can you discover what the DHC may mean for you?

Some of you will find honors with Griz Health on the frontlines of COVID-19, for others it'll be in the cello section of the Missoula Symphony. Some might find it in a class on Einstein's relativity, or maybe biostatistics, the art of leadership, health and climate, business and sustainability, or love. Still others will find honors on an early morning hike with the Honors Student Association, or in sharing a huckleberry ice cream cone with your classmates after a mind-blowing conversation about inequality and justice in Ways of Knowing. Some students might find honors on internship or study abroad experiences in New York, China, France, Uganda or Latin America, or while on the National Student Exchange to the University of Hawaii; maybe while working for Blackstone LaunchPad, UM's start-up incubator, reporting for UM's student newspaper the Kaimin, writing a screenplay for a new comedy, researching alongside a Nobel-Prize winning scientist, or rafting and backpacking with UM's Wilderness and Civilization program.

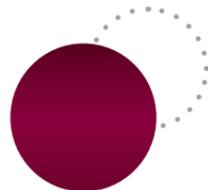
Ultimately, while honors is something you'll have to figure out for yourself, it's not something you'll have to figure out by yourself. At the DHC, you'll be warmly welcomed into our community of scholars, challenged and supported as you pursue your goals, and well positioned to bring your personal, academic and professional aspirations to life.

Some of the special people and opportunities that will be part of your DHC experience are featured in this publication. But the information contained here just scratches the surface of the magic that is honors at UM. Come visit us in one of the prettiest places on the planet, meet our team, get your questions answered and begin to picture yourself here, making your dreams come true.

**Apply today. We can't wait for you to join us as a member of the DHC family. Go Griz!**

Sincerely,

**Tim Nichols**  
Dean, Davidson Honors College





## THE DHC *Difference*

**World-Class Education:** At the DHC, we are deeply invested in you as a whole person. You'll experience the quality and intimacy of a classic well-rounded education in the context of a major research university. The energy of our honors classes will push you outside your intellectual comfort zone and challenge and inspire you to dig deep, learn and grow.

**Renowned and Beloved Teachers, Mentors, Scholars:** UM honors faculty are the best. DHC students work in their laboratories, join them for discussions on great literature and philosophy, share early morning hikes and are featured in their music and theater productions. Our instructors are experts in their academic fields and master teachers who become lifelong mentors and difference makers in the lives of our students.

**Unrivaled Personal and Professional Development Opportunities:** The dynamic DHC classroom is only the beginning. We'll help you build your collegiate experience and achieve your full potential through internships and study abroad experiences, the National Student Exchange program, service learning, and a host of student organizations and leadership development opportunities.

**Community of Learners:** Located at the heart of campus in a warm and welcoming facility, the DHC is a vibrant hub and home for classes, offices, conference and study rooms, a cozy lounge and an outdoor learning space. As part of the DHC family, you will be surrounded by other talented motivated people – students, faculty, staff and friends – who will lift you up and help make UM your home. Our Living and Learning Community provides enhanced opportunities for students living on campus to further engage with the DHC.

**Holistic Student Support:** As a student in the DHC, you'll have a dedicated honors advisor and support from a broader team of academic and student-support professionals who will help you discover, explore and embrace opportunities that will maximize your DHC experience.

**Springboard to Success:** DHC graduates are placed into competitive graduate and professional schools, land impressive jobs upon completing their undergraduate degrees and go on to careers and lives of impact in business, science, industry, government and public service, to name a few. They are leaders locally and globally.



# GRIZZLIES UP CLOSE

## *Meet Devin*

**Devin Hunt was a 4.0 GPA biology and microbiology major and biochemistry minor from Colville, Washington.** He aspires to attend medical school, and eventually work at the interface of clinical research and patient care, solving problems relating to the evolution and spread of infectious diseases.

At UM, working alongside evolutionary biologists and microbiologists, Devin was a respected member of two productive research teams, and his work was accepted for presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Devin's work on a scientific literature review resulted in multiple first author publications. He served as a peer assistant in chemistry and anatomy and physiology courses, and as a peer advisor in the Division of Biological Sciences. Devin served as an ambassador for UM's College of Humanities & Sciences, and was involved in numerous outreach efforts to encourage young people across the region to pursue science careers. He's also been a judge at the Montana Science Fair.

An accomplished musician, competitive swimmer and third-generation Grizzly, Devin describes himself as "a scientist at heart" but one of his favorite courses was a literature course with DHC icon Dr. Bruce Hardy. Devin says science has taught him about the mechanisms of life but exploring the human condition through literature helped him understand "what it means to be alive."

Devin is proudest of his growth as a critical thinker and how he has developed the tools to solve complex problems and to address emergent questions – moving from learning as knowing facts to being able to understand and appreciate interconnected systems and ideas. He was awarded a National Institutes of Health Intramural Research Training Award and after graduating in spring 2021, he joined the clinical genomics program at the nation's largest research hospital in Bethesda, Maryland.

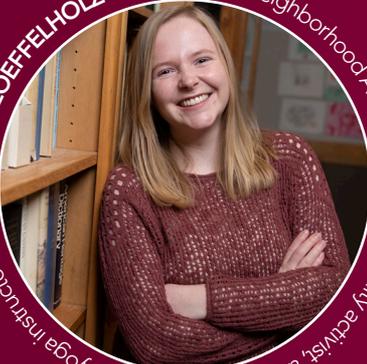


**"Dig deep and reflect on what you want from college.**

If you're looking for **world-class academics, a supportive, engaged community** and the **opportunity to explore your passions**, you'll find what you're looking for at the University of Montana."

**– DEVIN HUNT**

**CHLOE LOEFFELHOLZ** ASUM Neighborhood Ambassador, community activist, accomplished violinist, yoga instructor



**OWEN LEE** From South Korea by way of California, accomplished gardener and chef, exploring aquaculture, aquaponics and aquatic biology



**GABRIELE NORCOM** Fraternal triplet, nutrition major, intern with Mississippi Food Bank



**MADISON BAROCH** Aspiring multilingual educator, four-year Cheer Squad member



**RYAN GARNSEY** Rhodes finalist, public lands advocate, jazz pianist. Conducted research in Germany



**GUS KAUFFMAN** Enthusiastic outdoorsman, lover of life and earth, eager to lead change on issues relating to climate, conservation and social justice



**TAYLOR GREGORY** Student Body President, Gillman Scholar, studied at the European Union, leads model United Nations, Fulbright Scholar



**AUGUSTA REINHART** Perpetual explorer, ski instructor, passionate about refugees, multiculturalism and social justice



# A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Like our mascot, we exhibit **boldness and bravery** in our lives and in our studies, always moving forward, secure in our strengths and limitless in our courage.

*Like the Grizzly, we are unstoppable.*

**HUNTER GRIMES** Devoted laboratory researcher, plays five instruments with the Grizzly band, named the DHC's Renaissance Woman



**ANDY JOSTEN** Translated Rubik's Cube algorithm for piano, wrote an original music composition with used bike parts, seeking to address climate change through music



**SHIENA MEDRANO** Gritty, creative, compassionate, aspirational business leader



**ARWEN BAXTER** Citizen ecologist, writer, singer, actress, using the arts to communicate locally and engage globally, reads classic literature under shade trees on campus



**FAITH SULLIVAN** Leader in UJM Greek Life, rallied team for river clean-up, future educator



**BRETT KAPLAN** Exploring intersections of tea production, sustainable business and climate change



**SANDEE SEPULVEDA** Interested in women-driven entrepreneurship, dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of children



**JOHNATHAN KARLEN** Wildlife Society President, ski coach and Udall Scholar, native New Yorker shaping future natural resource policy



# PROGRAMS OF *Distinction*

## WAYS OF KNOWING

A foundational academic experience for DHC students, organized around the theme of justice, Ways of Knowing grounds students in examination of the world's great literature, big ideas and questions about what it means to be human.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The DHC boasts one of the only honors-specific career development programs in the country, providing support for students' professional development, including job and internship searches, goal setting, resume writing, practice interviews and workplace communications.

## QUEST

Another model program, this powerful partnership between the DHC and the City of Missoula assembles teams of students who work collaboratively to research complex, real-world challenges. Recent topics have included affordable housing, zero-waste, addiction and systemic racism. Winning teams earn scholarships and internships.

## GRIZ READ

The Griz Read is a common intellectual experience that brings together students, faculty and community in conversation with authors about an important contemporary text. Recent selections include award-winners Cheryl Strayed's "Wild," Tommy Orange's "There There," and Montana author Bryce Andrews' "Down from the Mountain: The Life and Death of a Grizzly Bear."

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

DHC students embrace the excitement of discovery by developing and executing an original piece of scholarly or creative work that relates to their academic and professional goals. Students present their work on campus (and often at regional, national or international meetings); they publish on UM's ScholarWorks platform, and even in refereed journals. Projects span the breadth of students' interests ranging from neuroscience to nano-technology, from wildlife biology to women's and gender studies, from pharmacy to philosophy and from math to music.

## PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

With full-time professional staff support, DHC students continue UM's strong legacy of winners of national and international awards including Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, Goldwater, Udall scholarships and more.

## CLIMATE CHANGE STUDIES

The DHC is home to one of the country's first and only interdisciplinary academic programs aimed squarely at understanding and providing solutions to environmental, economic, social and political challenges related to climate change.

## KERMIT AND KATHLEEN SCHWANKE INSTITUTE

This two-week academic and experiential learning opportunity brings high school students from around the country to UM and the DHC. Participants choose from two environmentally themed courses and earn three honors college credits.

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR DISTINCTION

Students who complete the requirements for graduation from the Davidson Honors College are named University Scholars, UM's highest academic distinction. They are presented with the DHC medallion, inscribed with the University's motto, "lux et veritas" or "light and truth" at a special ceremony on the eve of Commencement.

# ALUMNI

## *Spotlight*

### **HILARY MARTENS**

**BS Physics, BA Music, 2008**

A rising faculty star in geophysics, and an accomplished violinist and music composer, Martens returned to UM and her native Missoula after earning master's degrees from St. John's College, University of Cambridge and from University College in London, and the California Institute of Technology (CIT), where she also earned her doctorate. Martens' achievements include receiving the Goldwater and Marshall scholarships, the National Science Foundation's graduate research fellowship, dozens of scientific research publications and millions of dollars in grant awards. Hilary loved her time in the DHC, where she was exposed to clever, passionate students from different disciplines, and where, she says, "we always lifted each other up."



### **BRANT CEBULLA**

**BS Environmental Studies, 2008**

Bay Area tech entrepreneur, most recently co-founder of Scalero, an enterprise platform making email creation workflows easy and scalable. Cebulla was drawn to the DHC for its challenge and flexibility. He enjoyed being in "classrooms of great thinkers" and "learning about the different ideas, values and perspectives of people from all over the world." One of the biggest lessons he learned in the DHC was the value of authentic leadership.



### **SEAN MORRISON**

**BA Economics and English, French minor, 2009**

Graduate of Harvard Law School and tax attorney in Helena, Montana, Morrison is an advocate for pro-bono representation. Morrison successfully pushed for the enactment of two laws: one providing tax relief to occupants of older mobile homes in Montana, and the other providing targeted tax relief to a homeless shelter for women with mental health diagnoses in Washington, D.C. Morrison, who has served on the DHC External Advisory Council and the UM Alumni Association, credits his honors capstone project with helping to launch his career in law.



# A LITTLE BIT MORE

## About Us



UM named the top university in Montana by U.S. News and World Report in 2019.



700 talented, motivated students from all over the state, nation and world.



Missoula is the arts and cultural capital of Montana.



Five mountain ranges converge at Missoula.



The famed Clark Fork River borders campus and flows through Missoula. A river really does run through it.



Local ski hill just 25 minutes from campus.



Monte, UM's mascot, was named the nation's best collegiate mascot.



More than 200 student clubs and organizations at UM.



DHC students earn some \$500,000 in scholarships and tuition waivers each year.



Over 100 honors student projects are presented at UM's annual Conference of Undergraduate Research.



Study abroad opportunities abound with partner universities; faculty-led opportunities take honors students around the world.



UM students have earned more than 110 Fulbright Scholarships, 40 Udall Scholarships and 25 Rhodes Scholarships.





# NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN HONORS EDUCATION

Davidson Honors College Dean Tim Nichols is the only Montanan to be named a Fellow of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Nominated and selected by their peers, NCHC Fellows are recognized for outstanding professional achievement and distinguished teaching, research and service to honors education at the local, state, regional and national levels.



STAY CONNECTED WITH US.   
(406) 243-6446 • [dhc@umontana.edu](mailto:dhc@umontana.edu) • [dhc.umt.edu](http://dhc.umt.edu)

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