

Montana Trooper

MLEA Basic 139

September 13, 2009 – December 11, 2009

MHP 50th Advanced Traffic Law Enforcement Academy

December 14, 2009 – January 22, 2010

Editor's note: This article had originally been slated to be published in the fall of 2010, but it was delayed due to a lack of space. It was again slated to be published in the spring of 2011, but it was delayed again in honor of Trooper David DeLaittre. Since their graduation in January of 2010, some of these troopers may have either moved to other duty assignments within the Patrol or may have moved on to other employment altogether.

The pinning of the troopers' badges is a special part of the graduation ceremony, which was held on January 22, 2010, at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena. The Montana Highway Patrol badge signifies many things. Among those are the seven points of the badge, representing the seven core values adhered to by all troopers within the ranks: Character, Loyalty, Knowledge, Honor, Integrity, Courtesy, and Judgment.

The badges awarded were polished by sworn troopers to ensure the badges given to these new members of the ranks of the Montana Highway Patrol are un-tarnished.

It is now their responsibility to ensure the badge and the organization remains polished and un-tarnished.

Each trooper selected a special person to pin on his badge.



Graduates, first row (left to right): Brandon J. Uhl, Joshua D. Clark, Michael B. Howell, Dagan S. Lynch, Cody J. Ruane, Zechariah D. Browning, Steven T. Herman, Andrew G. Horton, and Donald S. Lee. Staff, second row (left to right): Trooper Alex Betz, Trooper John A. Spencer, Lt. Col. Butch Huseby, Colonel Michael T. Tooley, Major Tom Butler, Lt. Gregory K. Watson, and Trooper Lawrence Adorni (Camp Commander).

ZECHARIAH D. BROWNING



Zechariah D. Browning

Zechariah chose his wife, Brianne, to pin on his badge. He reported the amount of sacrifice and love that she put into this process was immeasurable. During the Academy, week after week, she would send him on his way with a smile and some wonderful homemade goodies to take and share with his classmates, while he left her at home to battle life with two young boys.

Livingston is his hometown, and prior to joining the Patrol, he raised cattle and did carpentry work. Zechariah chose a career with the Patrol because the Patrol is a well-trained, highly-motivated group of professionals devoted to the safety and well being of the people of this great state, and he wanted to be a part of that.

He stated the classes in the Patrol academy were great. Every instructor was very patient in sharing their immense amount of knowledge. He also indicated he would never forget Training Officer Jeff Douglass' enthusiastic morning workouts.

Zechariah thanked the following:

- The Lord for always providing.

Zechariah thanked the following:

- Brianne, his wife, for all her love and strength.
- His boys, Oatus and Owen, for always brightening his life.
- His family for taking care of his wife and kids while he was attending the academy.
- Jeff Mount for being a great role model and believing in him.
- His friends for all their help.
- His classmates for their friendship and help.
- Last, but definitely not least, he thanks the Patrol for investing so much time and resources into hiring him.

Zechariah is MHP 350, and his initial station assignment is Miles City.

JOSHUA D. CLARK

Rebecca Clark had the honor of pinning on her husband's badge. Joshua said she has stuck with him and encouraged him throughout the hiring process and both academies.

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Joshua D. Clark

Cloverdale, Indiana, is Joshua's hometown. He reported he chose the Patrol because he was leaving the military and looking for a job. When he saw that the Patrol was hiring, he became interested in the career.

He didn't apply right away because he didn't know what his wife would think, since neither of them had any family in Montana. When he asked her what she thought about moving to Montana for a highway patrol job, she said, "Go ahead and apply for the job."

Prior to joining the Patrol, Joshua worked at Ogallala Feed and Seed after serving with the United States Army.

Joshua indicated he gathered a lot of information from all of the classes, especially the classes on DUI and crash investigation.

He thanked:

- Rebecca, his wife, for dealing with all of the traveling, as well as supporting him and taking care of their son, Roland.
- His parents, Gary and Maggie Clark, for supporting him and cheering him on throughout the whole process.
- The instructors from the Basic Academy and the Advanced Academy for sharing their knowledge.
- Most importantly, he thanked God for giving him the ability and opportunity to be here.

Libby is Joshua's new home, and he is MHP 351.

STEVE T. HERMAN



Steve T. Herman

Pinning on Steve's badge was his wife, Margie. Steve reported he and Margie have been partners in everything for nearly 29 years, and without her support and understanding, Steve said he could not have done this.

Kalispell is his hometown, and he chose the Patrol because he has the utmost regard for the people of the organization and the service they provide.

Steve was a captain with the Kalispell Fire Department and retired after nearly 23 years of service to the department only after learning he had been successful in the selection process and offered a position with the Patrol.

He indicated he enjoyed the curriculum a great deal; the instructors, Camp Commanders, and the entire Patrol staff were top notch. Steve indicated he would never forget the recruits of the Patrol's 50th Academy, and he knows many of the friendships will last a lifetime.

One thing is certain: Steve said he couldn't wait to get on the road!

Steve thanked the following:

- His family and his wife, Margie, in particular for being so supportive of this endeavor.
- Everyone with the Patrol who has been involved in the entire process; they have been very helpful. Steve said he was truly impressed with the people and the organization.

His initial station assignment is Kalispell, and Steve is MHP 352.

ANDREW GLENN HORTON



Andrew Glenn Horton

Andrew said it was an honor to have his wonderful wife, Priscilla, pin on his badge because she is the most important thing he has in this world! There is a saying that there is always a great woman behind every good man, and Andrew reported this is very true in his life.

Andrew chose the Patrol because the Patrol really stood out compared to other agencies and because of the quality of troopers he had encountered. He also stated the Patrol is more of a family than a work environment. Andrew always wanted to make a difference in people's lives and knew that the Patrol was the perfect career for him to pursue.

Columbia Falls is his hometown, and before joining the Patrol, Andrew had his own business for the past five years. Although it was a great accomplishment, he still knew he had a much better calling and purpose. After looking and examining tons of different occupations, there was no doubt that the Patrol was the place for him.

As much as Andrew didn't want to go back to school, he stated the Academy has been beneficial to gain the knowledge and training. He also indicated that through the training he received, he felt he improved as an individual and gained more confidence in his abilities and skills. The learning process was made enjoyable due to the amazing instructors who dedicated their time and knowledge and are dedicated to the Patrol.

Andrew reported he will never forget the Academy experience. Everything from early morning PT to late night studying and polishing had its fun, excitement, stress. These are experiences that will be with him for the rest of his life. He will never forget his new fellow brothers and all the help they have given him.

Andrew thanked:

- The instructors who did such an excellent job.
- The camp commanders, with whom it was a great experience learning and interacting with them throughout the weeks.
- His fellow recruits who all turned out to be not only good friends, but brothers who are very special to him.
- Two people for whom he was very thankful are his parents, who he wishes could have been here today. He was so thankful and blessed to have had such caring and loving parents. They did everything they could to raise and teach him well, and they had a huge influence on who he is today.
- Most of all he wants to thank his wife, Priscilla. She is an amazing woman who has supported and given him strength and confidence throughout this whole process. She deserves more than he could ever give her.

Andrew is MHP 353, and his new home is Polson.





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MIKE B. HOWELL



Mike B. Howell

Jean Howell had the privilege in pinning on her husband's badge. Mike reported that without her support and encouragement, this "dream come true" wouldn't have been possible.

Willmar, Minnesota, is his hometown, and he chose the Patrol because he wanted to be a part of the premier law enforcement agency in the great state of Montana.

Before joining the Patrol, Mike spent 17 years in the commercial scale business with sales, service, and preventative maintenance as the focus of his responsibilities.

Mike reported he learned an incredible amount of new information, but still considers himself to be a novice in the context of how much more there is to assimilate.

He thanked:

- The gracious, gregarious, and gorgeous Jean Howell, his wife, just because he loves her!
- The instructors, camp commanders, and his fellow classmates who made a lengthy, often trying experience, much more productive and enjoyable.

Mike is MHP 354, and his initial station assignment is Havre.

DONALD S. LEE



Donald S. Lee

Donald gave the honor of pinning on his badge to his wife, Lona, because she has always been his biggest supporter. He reported that without her encouragement and support, he would not be here.

Great Falls is his hometown, and prior to joining the Patrol, he worked for Coca-Cola for over 18 years, driving

a semi throughout the state making deliveries.

He chose the Patrol because he thinks it is an elite agency. He is very proud to be a part of the Patrol and believes the leadership is outstanding.

He indicates the basic academy was interesting, but the advanced academy was better. The advanced academy focused on functions of the Patrol and went deeper into its functions. The 50th Advanced Academy cadets (now troopers) are a great group.

He stated you could tell the group was excited to become troopers by the way they absorbed the material, as all of them were glued to what was being instructed.

Donald thanked:

- The Patrol for giving him this opportunity. He is very proud to be a part of the Patrol.
- The instructors and camp commanders, without whom the graduates would not be ready.
- His classmates, who were a great group with whom to be associated.
- Jeff Douglass, the PT instructor, because the workouts in the early morning hours were great.
- His family for their encouragement and support while he was gone for over four months.

Havre is Donald's initial station assignment, and he is MHP 355.

DAGAN S. LYNCH



Dagan S. Lynch

Dagan gave the honor of pinning on his badge to Keslie, his wife, because she supported him through this entire endeavor, even though it must have been very hard on her.

He suspected she may have been extremely uncomfortable and lonely, yet she never uttered or showed any of it. She only smiled and would say, "I will see you soon," when he'd head back to the Academy at the end of a weekend.

Missoula is Dagan's hometown and prior to joining the Patrol, and he was a banker in Missoula.

He reports the crash investigation classes were very interesting and informative.

He chose the Patrol because he wanted to be proud of where he worked and whom he worked with.

Dagan thanked:

- His fellow eight classmates who went through the academy with him, as each one helped him out at one time or another.
- Sgt. Jason Hildenstab for tricking him into doing this.
- Keslie and the rest of his family for helping support him while he was away from home.
- Keslie for allowing him to be gone during her pregnancy.

Polson is his initial station assignment, and Dagan is MHP 356.

CODY J. RUANE



Cody J. Ruane

Nikita had the privilege of pinning on her husband's badge. Cody stated he would not be even close to where he is today without her. Her inspiration and motivation allow him to continuously improve his life.

Without her, he would not have been able to pursue his dreams, which ultimately enabled him to be a trooper. She sacrificed immensely for this adventure and for that he is thankful, and he owes everything to her.

Butte is Cody's hometown. He wanted to be involved in a career of which he could be proud of, truly affect people in a positive manner, and make our state safer. He is very happy about the decision he made to choose the Patrol and considerably more ecstatic the Patrol chose him!

He reported the MHP academy truly drove home some lingering concepts from the basic academy, as well as igniting his interest of crash investigation

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through the use of outstanding instructors and practical application.

Cody thanked the following:

- First and foremost, his wife, Nikita, and daughter, Alexa, for their love and support.
- The Highway Patrol staff for giving him the opportunity to embark on this adventure.
- His fellow classmates for putting up with him for 18 weeks.
- The instructors for devoting their time and energy to ensure the success of the Academy.
- His family for supporting him and understanding what it took to make it this far.

He is MHP 357, and Havre is Cody's initial station.

BRANDON J. UHL



Brandon J. Uhl

Prior to joining the Patrol, he had been a member of the United States Air

Mikaela Abrahamson, Brandon's fiancée, pinned on his badge. Brandon chose her because she has joined him to be a part of this journey. Brandon knows he would not have been able to make it through this long training

process without her support and encouragement. He also knows that he will need her love and support in the future when this career could get tough.

Prior to joining the Patrol, he had been a member of the United States Air

Force as a Security Forces Airman who did Nuclear Weapon Security.

Kersey, Pennsylvania, is his hometown, and he chose the Patrol because of the professionalism and pride that he saw the agency display.

Brandon indicated this Academy had a great group of men! He feels so blessed for getting to know his fellow classmates.

He thanked Trooper Tom Taylor for introducing and encouraging him to join the Patrol. Brandon reported that Trooper Taylor was very helpful in maintaining his spirits while going through the hiring process.

Brandon is MHP 358, and he will be calling West Yellowstone home. □

Montana Highway Patrol Swearing-in Ceremony – January 22, 2010

Attended the 50th MHP Advanced
Traffic Law Enforcement Academy
Final Standing – with Initial Station Assignments

Badge	Trooper	Initial Station	Badge	Trooper	Initial Station
350	Zechariah D. Browning	Miles City	352	Steven T. Herman	Kalispell
353	Andrew G. Horton	Polson	356	Dagan S. Lynch	Polson
355	Donald S. Lee	Havre	354	Michael B. Howell	Havre
358	Brandon J. Uhl	West Yellowstone	351	Joshua D. Clark	Libby
357	Cody J. Ruane	Havre			





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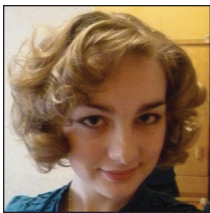
2011-2012 Association of Montana Troopers Member Child and Public Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Association of Montana Troopers grants secondary education scholarships to legal sons or daughters of active duty or retired members in good standing. The scholarships are for \$500 and can be renewed for up to a total of \$2,000 or four years of secondary education.

In addition, the Association of Montana Troopers recently instituted a public scholarship for persons seeking a criminal justice degree from a Montana secondary education institution. The scholarship is also for \$500 and is not renewable.

For more information about these scholarships, as well as the Dearborn Ranch Scholarship for Children of Montana Highway Patrol Officers, please visit our web site at: <http://montana.trooper.com/scholarships/>

AMT MEMBER CHILDREN



Alyssa Bosch

Alyssa Bosch, daughter of Sergeant Mark Bosch, is a sophomore at the University of Montana. She is pursuing a degree in Theater with a teaching endorsement, and intends to begin a Mathematics minor in the fall. She is extraordinarily grateful to the Association for the scholarship and would like to express her deepest thanks to all those who make it possible.



Andrew Cox

on going to college at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, to pursue my dream of one day working for the Green Bay Packers. My dad has always encouraged me to chase my dreams. With the support of my family and the Association's scholarship, I hope to one day achieve my dream. Without the support of the Association, I wouldn't get the opportunity to make my dream come true.

I'm Andrew Cox, currently a senior at Thompson Falls High School. My dad, Anthony Cox, worked as a Montana Highway Patrolman for 20 years. He retired honorably on March 6th, 2009. I plan



Carson Quinnell

my father's career, and I wanted to learn more about it. I'm very proud to tell people about my father's job.

When my dad became a member of the Montana Highway Patrol, most of my friends and peers asked me if I felt embarrassed or ashamed, and I said no. I was one of the proudest kids ever. I've always been interested in

However, I'm also largely interested and involved in music. When the day finally came in middle school for the students in band class to pick out their instruments, I knew instantly that percussion was for me. Unfortunately, my band instructor seemed to believe I was destined to play the saxophone. So I tried out the sax for a little while, but I still had that feeling deep down that I didn't belong there. Finally, my instructor let me try percussion. When I picked up those drum sticks, I knew that this was where I was meant to be. When it came time to make the jump to High School, you can bet that I had my eye on the DCHS Drumline. When tryouts for the line finally came, I was ecstatic, yet nervous. The next week, I screamed when I saw my name on the 2007-2008 DCHS Drumline Roster. It was one of the happiest moments of my life.

Being a member of the drumline really helped my entrance into high school. The two leaders of the drumline started it when they were only a junior and sophomore. I couldn't believe how motivated and driven these two young men were. They quickly became my role models throughout high school. They led the line with such unbelievable determination, that I felt honored to be part of the experience. I learned how to lead my peers with honor and how to earn their respect. Not only did I learn, I contributed to the line as well. I felt I added a very important part to the line's snare drum section, and my

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