MODEL UN PARTICIPANTS TO DEBATE WORLD ISSUES AT UM

MISSOULA –

More than 350 high school students from 18 Montana and Idaho schools will attend the Montana Model United Nations Conference Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 21-22, at The University of Montana.

At the conference, the high school students will represent 92 of the United Nations’ 192 member states, debating and writing resolutions addressing important international issues.

Students will participate on one of five UN committees: the Security Council, General Assembly Plenary, General Assembly First Committee (security issues), General Assembly Second Committee (economic and financial) and General Assembly Third Committee (social, cultural and humanitarian).

Each committee is staffed by a team of students in Associate Professor Karen Adams’ Model United Nations class, a service-learning course offered by the Department of Political Science. Last March, a 12-member team from UM attended the weeklong National Model United Nations collegiate conference in New York.

Events begin at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 21, with opening ceremonies in the University Theatre. The keynote address will be delivered by Katie Kane, UM professor of cultural studies, English literature and colonial studies. All events are free and open to the public.

Students then will move to the third floor of the University Center, where they will meet in their
committees from late Monday morning through Tuesday afternoon. A list of topics each committee will consider is posted online at


On Monday afternoon, each committee will hear from a faculty guest speaker. From 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday evening, country teams will meet with other high school groups from their regions to find out about politics, economics, history and culture of the region during Region Night. There will be trivia questions, presentations by UM international students from the region and discussion with MMUN staff who have studied and traveled in the region. An ice cream social will follow.

At closing ceremonies, held in the University Theatre from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Secretaries General Stephen Carnes and Robert Cahill will announce awards for delegates, schools and conference staff. Ten high school seniors will be awarded scholarships to attend UM.

The Montana Model United Nations Conference is funded by school and delegate fees, as well as contributions from UM’s Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Division of Student Affairs, College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Political Science.

For more information visit MMUN online at http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun or call 406-214-5451.

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