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High School Students Gather at UM for Model UN Conference

MISSOULA – Students from 19 Montana and Idaho high schools will participate in the 49th annual Montana Model United Nations Conference on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 24-25, at the University of Montana.

At the conference, 380 students will represent 111 of the United Nations' 193 member states, debating and writing resolutions addressing important international issues.

Students will participate on one of five U.N. committees: the Security Council, General Assembly Plenary, General Assembly First Committee (disarmament and security), General Assembly Second Committee (economic and financial) and General Assembly Third Committee (social and humanitarian). Each committee is staffed by a team of UM students from Associate Professor Karen Adams' Model United Nations class, a service-learning course offered by the Department of Political Science.

Events begin at 8:30 a.m. Monday with opening ceremonies in the North Ballroom of the University Center. The keynote address titled "Ebola: Me, Them and The U.N.!" will be delivered by UM political science Professor Peter Koehn. He also is the founding director of UM's Office of International Programs and currently serves as director of UM's Global Public Health program. All events are free and open to the public.

Students will work on the third floor of the University Center. They will meet in committees from late Monday morning through Tuesday afternoon. At 7:30 p.m. Monday, country teams will meet with other high school groups from their regions to learn about the

politics, economics, history and culture of the region during Region Night. Students from the region will present, and MMUN staff who have studied and traveled in the region will lead discussions. An ice cream social will follow.

Closing ceremonies will be held from 2 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday in the UC North Ballroom. During the awards ceremony delegates, schools and conference staff will be honored. Five 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 the UM Office of the President, Division of Student Affairs, College of Humanities and Sciences and Department of Political Science.

For more information, including participating high schools, visit MMUN online at <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun> or call Adams at 406-214-5451.

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