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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
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Nov. 10, 1992

ESKIMO HISTORIAN TO SPEAK AT UM ABOUT PRESERVING NATIVE VALUE SYSTEMS

MISSOULA --

Rachel Craig, historian for the Inupiaq people of northern Alaska, will speak at The University of Montana Thursday, Nov. 19, as part of the Centennial President's Lecture Series.

Craig's speech, "Preserving Tradition: Northern Eskimo Value Systems," will begin at 8 p.m. in the Montana Theatre of UM's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

Craig is a spokesperson for the movement toward preserving native cultures, UM history Professor Richard Drake said. She is coordinator of the Inupiat Iitqusiat, Northwest Arctic Borough, in Kotzebue, Alaska, and operates her own business, the Inuk Institute. In both positions, she works to preserve Inupiaq language, arts and history.

Her UM speech will address an essential question facing native peoples, Drake said: How do native cultures protect and retain their traditions and identity amid the technology and consumer pressures of modern Western society? She will use the story of the Inupiaqs to illustrate that dilemma and ways to address it, he said.

On Thursday afternoon, Craig will discuss "Culture Change is Not for the Timid -- Large Questions in Small Places," at 3 p.m. in University Hall 210. Her afternoon talk is sponsored by UM's Center for the Rocky Mountain West as part of its seminar series on works in progress.

Before establishing the Inuk Institute, Craig directed the Inupiaq Materials Development Center for the Northwest Arctic School District in Kotzebue and chaired Inupiaq Studies for Inupiat

-more-

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University of the Arctic in Barrow, Alaska.

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Note to reporters, editors: Rachel Craig will arrive in Missoula Wednesday, Nov. 18, and is expected to stay in town through Friday, Nov. 20. To arrange an interview or for more information, call Richard Drake, 243-2981.

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Specialized western, local pics

Craig.rl