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NEWS RELEASE

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ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICIST TO LECTURE IN UM SERIES

MISSOULA --

A professor widely considered the father of environmental ethics will visit the University of Montana campus next week to discuss preserving wilderness and value in nature during the next installment of the President's Lecture Series.

Holmes Rolston III, a professor of philosophy and University Distinguished Professor at Colorado State University, will give a talk titled "Gene, Genesis and God: Values in Natural and Cultural History" at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, in the University Theatre. He also will address "Challenges in Environmental Ethics" during a combined Faculty Seminar and Philosophy Forum from 3:40 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, in Room 123 of the Gallagher Building. Both talks are free and open to the public.

Rolston's work is credited with helping to inspire the Endangered Species Act and the Wilderness Act, among other landmark environmental laws.

An ordained Presbyterian minister and philosopher, Rolston blends his love for the natural world, theology and science into a philosophy that has been the hallmark of his career. More than 30 years ago, Rolston laid the foundation of environmental ethics, a school of thought

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that celebrates the intrinsic value of the natural world and holds humans ethically responsible for the consequences of their actions in that world. Rolston's work has been cited and discussed by scholars the world over.

His talks at UM will be based on ideas he shared while delivering the prestigious Gifford Lectures at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland during November 1997. He has written a new book, "Genes, Genesis and God," based on the Gifford Lectures, a 112-year-old lecture series that has featured some of the world's most creative and influential philosophers and scholars.

A prolific writer, Rolston's books include "Science and Religion: A Critical Survey," "Philosophy Gone Wild," "Environmental Ethics" and "Conserving Natural Value."

Besides being a popular professor with students at Colorado State, Rolston is a sought after speaker who has lectured at Yale, Georgetown, Vanderbilt, Ohio State, Harvard and Oxford universities, as well as the Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Philosophy in Beijing, China, and the World Congress of Philosophy in Moscow. He also was invited to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

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