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NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 7, 1999

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**ANNUAL MANSFIELD CONFERENCE STUDIES
ASIAN, WESTERN PERSPECTIVES ON WATER**

MISSOULA —

The 15th annual Mansfield Conference will delve into Asian and Western perspectives on water issues and the roles this life-giving fluid plays in our lives Oct. 16-19 at The University of Montana.

Titled "Giving Life to the Ten Thousand Things: Water in Asia and the West," the conference will be held at UM and in surrounding venues. The "ten thousand things" mentioned in the title comes from the Chinese phrase "wan wu," which refers to the totality of the human world existing between heaven and earth. Taoist sages saw water as the origin and essence of all life on earth.

Featured speakers will include Kathleen Moore, an award-winning nature writer, philosophy department chair and professor from Oregon State University who has written numerous works about water; Donald Worster, a history professor from the University of Kansas and an author twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize; and Dai Qing, a free-lance writer and investigative journalist from Beijing who is an expert on the Three Gorges Project – the world's largest dam, which is now under construction in China.

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Moreover, the conference will feature "River Within," a massive performance celebrating rivers through song, dance, music, literature and poetry. This Oct. 16 event is a collaboration among Missoula's Children Theater, Missoula County Public Schools, UM's School of Fine Arts and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center.

All events are free and open to the public. The conference is organized annually by UM's Mansfield Center, which strives to create a clearer understanding of our interdependent world in which three out of every five people are Asian. Other major sponsors are the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation and ARCO.

For more information, contact the Mansfield Center at (406) 243-2988.

1999 MANSFIELD CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, Oct. 16

7:30 p.m. - "River Within," opening performance, University Theatre. One of the largest collaborative fine arts efforts in the history of Missoula. Music, dance, poetry and more examine how rivers bind our communities together, give rise to a sense of place and form an integral part of our cultural heritage.

Sunday, Oct. 17

3 p.m. - "The River Next Door," panel discussion, Boone and Crockett Club in the Milwaukee Station. Panelists discuss sharing interests on the Clark Fork River. Presenters: Bruce Farling, executive director of the Montana Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Jim Dinsmore, chair of the Granite Conservation District; Vicki Watson, UM environmental studies professor; and Sandy Stash, ARCO vice president of environmental site management. Facilitator will be Gerald Mueller, director of Missoula's Consensus Associates.

7:30 p.m. - "Thinking Like a River," opening keynote address by Kathleen Moore, UM's Montana Theatre. Should rivers be used simply to maximize human benefits or can we imagine new ways to nurture rivers and people at the same time?

Monday, Oct. 18

1 p.m. - "Watershed Democracies: John Wesley Powell Revisits the West," roundtable discussion, Boone and Crockett Club. A conversation about new, collaborative, watershed-based developments in the West, against the backdrop of Powell's life and work. Panelists: Donald Worster; Daniel Kemmis, director of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain

West; Pat Williams, Senior Fellow at the O'Connor Center and former U.S. Congressman; and Sarah Van de Wetering, managing editor of The Chronicle of Community.

3 p.m. – “Cultural Perceptions of Water in Asia and the West,” panel discussion, Boone and Crockett Club. Panelists examine the relationship between culture and our perceptions regarding water and its use. Panelists: Tony Incashola, director of the Salish Cultural Committee; Dai Qing; Kathleen Moore; The Rev. Jim Hogan, Missoula's Christ the King Catholic Church; and moderator Steven Levine, UM Mansfield Professor of Asia Pacific Studies.

7:30 p.m. – “Water and the Flow of Power in China and the United States,” keynote address by Donald Worster, UM's Urey (underground) Lecture Hall. Examines how water control helped unite the West with the rest of the nation and similar issues now taking place in China – especially with the massive Three Gorges Dam Project.

Tuesday, Oct. 19

10 a.m. – “Stakeholders and Water Rights in Western Montana,” panel discussion, UM law school's Castles Center. Discussion addresses how Montana water rights and key legal decisions have shaped Montana. Panelists: John Horwich, UM law school professor; Holly Franz, partner in a Helena law firm with extensive background in water issues; Jim Moore, lawyer, rancher and former U.S. senator with experience negotiating and representing ranching interests related to water; and Raymond Cross, UM law professor.

7:30 p.m. – “The River Dragon Has Come: Water Policy in China and the Three Gorges Project,” keynote address by Dai Qing, Urey Lecture Hall. Lecture will examine the implications of the world's largest, most expensive hydroelectric project.

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