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NEWS RELEASE

June 1, 2000

Contact: Carol Brewer, UM associate professor of biological sciences, (406) 243-6016.

KODIAK UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RECEIVES MONEY FOR RESEARCH

MISSOULA, Mont. —

A **Kodiak** undergraduate student in the Division of Biological Sciences at The University of Montana has received funding for his summer research project.

Senior Jeremy Botz earned funding through the Integrated Biological Science Courses Organized Around Research project (Project IBS-CORE), which is intended to involve more undergraduate students in biological research.

Botz is one of 18 UM students who will receive a monthly stipend of \$750 for three months, plus a budget of up to \$1,000 for research materials and travel. A committee of biology faculty members reviewed and ranked all student research proposals when deciding which students would be named 2000 IBS-CORE Undergraduate Research Fellows.

Botz's project is titled "Afforestation Rates of Sitka Spruce (*Picea Sitchensis*) on Kodiak Island." He will test the hypothesis that the rate of afforestation is a sensitive and robust measure of climatic change at a regional and global scale. Using aerial photographs of Kodiak taken since the 1930s, he will trace the rate of afforestation over time with a current ground survey. He also will core trees to obtain growth information from tree rings, as well as examine soils and plant community patterns to examine their relationship to afforestation. His study could be an important test of biological responses to recent climate change and shed light on whether global warming is taking place.

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Project IBS-CORE is funded by a \$1.4 million grant awarded to UM by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a nonprofit medical research organization. This is the second year the project has funded undergraduate research fellows.

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CBS
Kodiak Daily Mirror
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