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NEWS RELEASE

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

FORSYTH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RECEIVES MONEY FOR RESEARCH

MISSOULA —

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

Junior Cynthia Buckalew 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.

Buckalew 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.

Buckalew's project is titled "Native Plant Community Responses to Leafy Spurge Control." She will study what effects introduced flea beetles, mowing, grazing, reseeding and herbicides – alone and in combination – have on leafy spurge and native species on Mount Sentinel, located on the UM campus. This research should help people understand if intensive management practices are achieving restoration objectives in addition to controlling this invasive plant.

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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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