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NEWS RELEASE

May 15, 2002

Contact: Shirley Howell, fine arts dean, (406) 243-4970.

**ACCOMPLISHED OPERA SINGER TO RECEIVE UM HONORARY DOCTORATE
MISSOULA –**

Opera luminary Pamela South will be awarded an honorary doctorate of fine arts degree from The University of Montana during Commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 18.

A native of Salmon, Idaho, and a UM alumnus, South left the University for the stages of the world's great opera companies, beginning her career with the San Francisco Opera. She will return to her alma mater Saturday to pick up her honorary degree during the professional schools' ceremony, which begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Adams Center.

While in Montana in the late 1960s and early 1970s, South sang country-western music at local venues before being discovered and recruited as a student by UM voice Professor Esther England. A former rodeo queen, South performed in many musical theater and opera productions in Missoula.

The New York Times has described South as a "strong, sure and ... compelling actress with nothing short of vocal brilliance." London's Sunday Times called her "an absolutely secure soprano with spine-tingling top Cs."

In March 2001, South returned to UM to headline the inaugural production of *Odyssey of the Stars*, a School of Fine Arts gala event celebrating the artistic successes of past and present students. At that time she was inducted into the School of Fine Arts Hall of Honor.

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Since hitting the big time, South has performed with opera companies throughout the United States and Europe and has been featured in such places as New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center and Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

She has sung key roles in operas including "Carmen," "La Boheme," "Don Giovanni," "The Merry Widow," "Madama Butterfly" and "The Postman Always Rings Twice."

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Local, dailies, Salmon (Idaho) newspaper
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