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### Lecture examines role of science in the healing process

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Nov. 18, 2002

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history Professor Richard Drake, 243-2981.

### **LECTURE EXAMINES ROLE OF SCIENCE IN THE HEALING PROCESS**

#### **MISSOULA --**

Kathryn Montgomery, director of medical ethics and humanities and professor of medicine at Chicago's Northwestern University Medical School, will present the next installment of the President's Lecture Series at The University of Montana.

"Is Medicine a Science?" will begin at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, in the University Theatre. Earlier that day, from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., Montgomery will present a faculty seminar titled "Narrative Ethics in Medicine" in Gallagher Building Room 123. Both events are free and open to the public.

Recent advances in science and technology have greatly increased our ability to cure disease and alleviate suffering. Yet those very advances sometimes obscure the nature of medical work and create a barrier between the patient and the physician. In the midst of powerful diagnostic tools, sophisticated surgical techniques and powerful new drugs, it is sometimes easy to lose sight of the nature of healing and of the uncertainties that will always be a part of medical decisions. Montgomery will explore the interface between the science of medicine and the human nature of the healing process.

Montgomery has done seminal research on the importance of narrative in medicine. She is president of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities and has received a

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Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Health and Human Values, as well as a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship. Her book, "Doctors' Stories: The Narrative Structure of Medical Knowledge," addresses the nature and patterns of communication between physician and patient, as well as among physicians.

Montgomery's lecture is co-sponsored by the Institute of Medicine and Humanities, a cooperative venture of UM and St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center that encourages and supports learning and study in the humanities.

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