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NEWS RELEASE

July 8, 2003

Contact: UM Professor Jeffrey Gritzner, Department of Geography, (406) 243-5626. MONTANA TEACHERS WILL TRAVEL TO KYRGYZSTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA MISSOULA-

The geography department and the Central Asia and Caspian Basin Program at The University of Montana were awarded a grant for their project titled "Teaching About Central Asia: Mountains and Society in Kyrgyzstan."

The \$73,000 U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant will be used to support the project, which entails sending 16 Montana students and teachers on a curriculum development/study abroad experience. Naryn State University, a UM partner institution, will host the group while they are in Kyrgyzstan July 15 through Aug. 10.

The program was developed by UM geography professors Sarah Halvorson and Jeffrey Gritzner and Otto Koester of the Central Asia and Caspian Basin Program. Their intention is to promote professional development and integrate content regarding Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan into curriculum and community outreach efforts.

Three UM students and 12 teachers affiliated with the Montana Geographic Alliance will make the trip. Upon their return, project participants will develop instructional materials and update classroom presentations. They also will participate in a Central Asia Resource Network that will disseminate information and coordinate statewide presentations and consultancies.

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