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NEWS RELEASE

May 22, 2004

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BILLINGS SKYVIEW TEAM WINS STATEWIDE ACADEMIC CONTEST

MISSOULA –

A team of **Billings** Skyview High School students today won the first-ever state championship title for Brain Busters, an academic quiz bowl sponsored by The University of Montana and televised on NBC stations statewide.

Skyview students defeated a team from **Bozeman** High School 240-160 during a Saturday morning contest in Missoula. The show can be seen on KULR-8 in Billings at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, May 23. It aired elsewhere in Montana on Saturday afternoon.

As Brain Busters champions, each member of the Billings Skyview High School team receives a \$5,000 scholarship that can be used at any of the four UM campuses located in **Missoula, Helena, Butte** and **Dillon**. As the second-place winners, Bozeman students each receive a \$4,000 UM scholarship.

Sixty-four teams from across Montana began round-one competition last fall in Saturday contests held at KULR in Billings and KECI in Missoula. Team members answered questions on a range of topics, including science, math, geography and current events.

In April Billings Skyview defeated a team from **Cody** (Wyo.) High School to claim the Eastern Division championship title and advance to the state finals. In early May, Bozeman beat **Frenchtown** High School to become the Western Division champions. As division finalists, team members from Cody and Frenchtown high schools each receive \$1,000 UM scholarships.

Billings Skyview's state championship team comprises sophomore Katherine Kilzer; junior Benjamin Anderson; and seniors Ryan N. Young, Jason Kephart, Cade Bloomenrader and Erwin Dunbar. The team is led by teacher Rich McFate.

Bozeman team members are seniors Peter Beland, Steve Searles, Robert Blake, Trevor Layman, Arthur Modlinski and Lincoln Pac. They were coached by teacher Tricia Thompson.

Delate UM President George Dennison praised the nearly 400 students who competed in Brain Busters during the 2003-04 academic year.

"We sponsor Brain Busters with the hope of attracting the best and brightest students to the University of Montana campuses," Dennison said. "These champions from Billings Skyview have measured up to the challenge. In fact, we look forward to welcoming Ryan Young to UM next fall."

Brain Busters began in Missoula in fall 2002 with 32 teams from western Montana. The academic bowl went statewide last fall.

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Dailies, Billings and Bozeman media
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