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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 17, 2006

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### **GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION MATERIALS FOCUS OF NEW PROJECT AT UM**

#### **MISSOULA—**

University of Montana Associate Professor Sarah Halvorson has received a \$360,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a project to provide needed tools for geography educators.

Funding for the three-year project, "New Travels on Old Roads: Undergraduate Teaching Materials on the Geography of Central Asia and the Caucasus," was awarded to UM through the Education Department's International Research and Studies Materials Grant Program.

"New Travels on Old Roads" aims to enhance both teaching and learning about the regions by providing a curriculum package consisting of an undergraduate textbook, instructor's guide and CD-ROM of supplemental materials.

The project will be a collaborative effort of faculty members in the University's Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program. The program has a solid track record of achievement in providing effective, interdisciplinary instruction on geography, history and environments of central and southwest Asia.

"There currently is no integrative well-documented undergraduate geography textbook

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on Central Asia and the Caucasus," Halvorson said. "There are many trade books, but there are not textbooks singularly devoted to these vitally important world regions."

Halvorson said the project will strengthen UM's existing curriculum with the latest instructional materials and make the resulting package widely accessible to students at institutions of higher education across the nation.

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