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UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • MISSOULA, MT 59812 • 406-243-2522 • FAX: 406-243-4520

NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 12, 2007

Contact: Anjalie Graham, 406-243-5776, ucmulticultural@mso.umt.edu; Sam Stier, 406-243-5754, sam.stier@mso.umt.edu.

2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TOPIC OF TOWN HALL MEETING

MISSOULA—

A Town Hall Meeting -- "Election 2008: A Major Victory for a Minority?" -- will take place at The University of Montana Monday, Feb. 26.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in University Center Rooms 326-327.

The Town Hall Meeting series, which started at UM in 2005, aims to foster community dialogue about issues of social justice. The meeting format is a unique combination of expert panelists and community member dialogue.

The subject of this meeting is the presence of political and ethnic minorities in the 2008 presidential race.

Panelists with backgrounds in politics and minority issues will speak about whether the United States is ready for such a step.

Panel members for the evening's discussion are:

- Christopher Muste, assistant professor, UM Department of Political Science. A former senior polling analyst and staff writer for The Washington Post, Muste teaches Media and Public Opinion and Multicultural Politics in America, as well as other UM courses.

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•Judy Smith, interim director of homeWORD. Smith has been instrumental in the founding of several women's groups in Missoula, including Women's Opportunity and Resource Development, homeWORD and UM's Women's Resource Center.

•Gregory Koger, assistant professor, UM Department of Political Science. Koger has worked as a legislative assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives. Among the courses he teaches at UM are American Presidency and Political Parties and Elections.

•Sergio Romero, assistant professor, UM Department of Sociology. Romero teaches Political Sociology and Race, Gender and Class.

The event is sponsored by UM's MultiCultural Alliance and the University's Center for Leadership Development.

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