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### Author, educator receives Guggenheim fellowship

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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April 17, 2007

**Contact:** Associate Professor Debra Magpie Earling, UM Department of English, 406-243-4963, [debra.earling@mso.umt.edu](mailto:debra.earling@mso.umt.edu).

**AUTHOR, EDUCATOR RECEIVES GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP**

**MISSOULA—**

Montana writer and educator Debra Magpie Earling has been awarded a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship by the board of trustees of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Earling, who teaches creative writing and Native American studies at The University of Montana, is the author of the novel "Perma Red," which has been receiving critical acclaim and awards since its release in 2002.

She plans to use the fellowship award to write her second novel based on the life story of a medicine-warrior woman.

"The Guggenheim Fellowship will change my life," Earling said. "I will be able to pursue my writing without financial worries. I am humbled by the award and grateful for the opportunity."

Among Earling's many publications are stories in "The Last Best Place: A Montana Anthology," "Talking Leaves: Contemporary Native American Short Stories," "Circle of

-more-

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Women: Anthology of Western Women Writers” and “Wild Women: Anthology of Women Writers.”

Earling was born in **Spokane, Wash.** She is a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation. At 18, she came to Montana to serve as the first public defender for the reservation’s Tribal Justice System.

Earling received a bachelor’s degree in English at the University of Washington in Seattle. She studied as a Ford Pre-doctoral Fellow at Cornell University in New York, where she received a master’s degree in fine arts in 1992.

This year, Guggenheim Fellowship awards went to 189 artists, scholars and scientists who were selected from almost 2,800 applicants. Since 1925, the foundation has granted more than \$256 million in fellowships to more than 16,250 individuals.

A complete list of 2007 Guggenheim Fellows is online at <http://www.gf.org>.

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Local, state dailies, tribal, Spokesman-Review

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