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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 18, 2007

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KBGA REPORTERS WIN MONTANA ASSOCIATED PRESS AWARDS

MISSOULA –

Student reporters at KBGA, The University of Montana's college radio station, won accolades from the Montana Associated Press Broadcasters Association at its annual meeting Oct. 13.

The association recognizes outstanding radio and television work annually with the Joe Durso awards, which honor the late UM broadcast journalism professor.

Five awards were presented to KBGA in writing, use of sound and enterprise reporting categories. The students' entries went head to head with those submitted from Montana professionals, making the wins especially significant.

First place in enterprise reporting went to Melanie Overcast of **Chinook** for her report titled "Fallen Soldier." Overcast reported on the death of a young Montana soldier in Iraq.

The KBGA staff, under news director K'Lynn Sloan of **Havre**, won an honorable mention in the enterprise reporting category for coverage of the Rolling Stones in Missoula.

KBGA reporters Jackie Bartz of **Helena** and Amanda Harris of **Anaconda** won honorable mentions in the use of sound category. Bartz's story focused on the tragedy at Virginia Tech and how UM students responded. Harris profiled the Open Air Ministry, which travels to college campuses to preach.

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Bartz also earned an honorable mention in the radio writing category for her feature story titled "Gym Jitters," which looked at barriers to exercise and how some worked to overcome them.

All those honored are radio-television students in the University's School of Journalism.

The conference was held at UM's Don Anderson Hall, the new home of the journalism school.

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