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**Montana**

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

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 24, 2007

**Contact:** Emily Yaksitch or Tony Brockman, event coordinators, 243-5622,  
dayofdialogue@mso.umt.edu.

**COMMUNITY INVITED TO CELEBRATE 'DAY OF DIALOGUE' AT UM**

**MISSOULA—**

The University of Montana will celebrate diversity with events that are open to the public during "Day of Dialogue: Building Communities of Difference" on Thursday, Nov. 8.

The annual event offers free presentations, performances, workshops, exhibits and more. It symbolizes the University's commitment to diversity and aims to help achieve true communities of difference on campus and in Missoula.

The day's festivities begin with opening remarks by UM Provost Royce Engstrom from 9:30 to 10 a.m. in the University Center South Atrium.

Those who attend the daylong event can choose from 20 free educational sessions that begin at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at various locations on campus. A majority of the sessions will take place in the University Center.

Topics deal with subjects such as discrimination and prejudice, poverty and gender issues, communication skills, world peace, religion, student rights and more.

Exhibits will be on display all day in the University Center.

Two speakers will be featured during this year's "Day of Dialogue" events.

At 1 p.m. in the University Center Theater, Denise Juneau will present "Diversity in Our

-more-

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Own Backyard.” A UM law school graduate, Juneau is an administrator in the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

Nationally known consultant Frances Kendall will present “Creating a Place for All: Do We Want to Hear What Everyone Has to Say?” at 4 p.m. in the University Theatre.

Kendall specializes in issues of diversity and social justice and has focused for more than 30 years on organizational change and communication. She is the author of “Understanding White Privilege: Creating Pathways to Authentic Relationships Across Race.”

At 6 p.m. the Associated Students of UM will host a reception in the University Center Atrium. Refreshments will be provided.

The day concludes at 7 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom with a special performance by Step Afrika. Information about the first professional company in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping is online at <http://www.stepafrika.com>. Cost of the performance is \$8. UM students with Griz Cards pay \$5. Tickets are available at The Source in the University Center.

A complete schedule of “Day of Dialogue” events and details about educational sessions is online at <http://www.umt.edu/dayofdialogue>.

For more information, call Emily Yaksitch or Tony Brockman, event coordinators, at 243-5622 or e-mail [dayofdialogue@mso.umt.edu](mailto:dayofdialogue@mso.umt.edu).

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