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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 31, 2008

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ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAKS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

MISSOULA -

The Office for Civic Engagement at The University of Montana will host an information session on Thursday, Feb. 7, in the Davidson Honors College for students interested in participating in service opportunities in Moab, Utah or San Francisco.

At the session about the Alternative Breaks program, students will learn more about this year's trips and hear from past participants about their experiences in San Francisco and Hollywood. The session will be at 5 p.m. in DHC Room 120, and free pizza will be available.

The Alternative Breaks program encourages students to learn about different social, economic or environmental issues that communities around the nation face. Lauren Amato, an assistant in the program, said this year's trip to Moab will have an environmental focus, and students on the trip to San Francisco will work in local soup kitchens, shelters and possibly schools.

"(The program) gives student the opportunity to go beyond the Missoula community to see what's going on in the country," said Amato, the AmeriCorps Campus Corps team leader at UM.

Alternative Breaks' goal, she said, is for students to go out into communities and return

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to Missoula with a new outlook on how they can serve their own community.

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