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NEWS RELEASE

April 2, 2008

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FRITZ TO BE HONORED AT LIBRARY BANQUET

MISSOULA -

Harry Fritz, a popular University of Montana history professor, will receive the H.G. Merriam Award for his contributions to Montana literature on Tuesday, April 15, during the 45th Annual Friends of the Mansfield Library Banquet.

The event kicks off at 6 p.m. with a social hour in the University Center Ballroom. A London broil buffet dinner will follow. Tickets cost \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door and \$275 for a table for 10. Visit Betsy Dalessio at the Mansfield Library for tickets. For more information call 406-243-6049 or e-mail elizabeth.dalessio@umontana.edu.

Fritz joined the UM history department in 1967, becoming an internationally renowned expert on the Corps of Discovery. He is the author of "The Lewis and Clark Expedition" (2004) and "Montana: Land of Contrast" (2001). He has co-edited several books, including "The Montana Heritage: An Anthology of Historical Essays" (1992).

In addition to winning numerous UM teaching awards, Fritz served in the Montana House of Representatives during 1985-87 and the Montana Senate during 1991-93. In 2004 he was named Montana Professor of the Year by two national organizations that promote excellence in teaching. He is known for his Abraham Lincoln impression, which he performs in schools, libraries and historical societies across the state. He now is semi-retired, teaching at

UM on a one-third contract.

Fritz will be joined at the banquet by the Lolo Travelers' Rest Brigade, which does historical re-enactments.

The H.G. Merriam Award is named for an English professor who worked on campus from 1914 to 1954, founding UM's creative writing program. The Friends of the Mansfield Library is a group that independently advocates for the library while working to ensure its holdings remain up-to-date.

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