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**NEWS RELEASE**

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April 29, 2009

**Contact:** Royce Engstrom, UM provost, 243-4689.

**KALM APPOINTED DEAN OF UM COLLEGE**

**MISSOULA –**

Stephen Kalm, an award-winning vocalist, opera singer and music professor, has been appointed dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at The University of Montana.

Kalm had served as interim dean since the retirement of Shirley Howell in May 2008.

“We are very delighted to have Dr. Kalm accept this leadership role,” said UM Provost Royce Engstrom. “He has been an exceptional faculty member and did excellent work while serving as interim dean. We are entering an especially exciting time for the arts, with the new status as the College of Visual and Performing Arts and new leadership in the dean’s office.”

UM President George Dennison agreed, saying, “With Dean Kalm providing the leadership, we have assurance that the college will continue the great tradition in the arts at The University of Montana.”

Kalm joined the UM faculty in 1994, serving as chair of the music department from 2002 to 2008. He is an active artist, performing in local, national and international venues.

“Stephen emerged as our top candidate in a highly competitive national search that brought three outstanding finalists to campus,” Engstrom said. “He will hit the ground running and continue to build upon the great work being done by faculty, staff and students of the college.”

Kalm holds three degrees in vocal performance: a Bachelor of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, a Master of Arts from Queens College and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the City University of New York.

Kalm said, "I am tremendously excited to work with our internationally renowned faculty and dedicated staff to deliver innovative professional training programs and exciting cultural offerings for the state of Montana and the nation."

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