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NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2009

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BILLINGS STUDENTS RECEIVE UM JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS

MISSOULA—

Thirteen students from **Billings** received scholarships and awards from The University of Montana School of Journalism.

- Alaina Abbott, a UM junior in print journalism, received a \$2,500 Great Falls Tribune Minority Scholarship and a \$500 Warren Brier Scholarship. She is a 2006 graduate of Billings Senior High School and the daughter of Bruce and Mary Abbott of Billings. The Great Falls Tribune scholarship was established in 1990 by then-publisher Chris E. Jensen to provide support for American Indian students in their pursuit of careers in the journalism field. The Warren Brier Scholarship was established by UM alumna Pam Newbern in memory of Brier, who was dean of the School of Journalism from 1968 to 1982.
- Brenna Braaten, a UM junior in print journalism, creative writing and English literature, received a \$500 Warren Brier Scholarship. She is a 2006 graduate of Billings West High School and the daughter of Thomas Braaten and Stacey Wagner of Billings.
- Katrina Hesper, a UM junior in broadcast journalism, received an \$800 Melvin and Myrtle Lord Scholarship. She is a 2007 graduate of Billings West High School and the daughter of Jeff and Jeanni Hesper of Billings. The scholarship was established in 1975 by the Lords. Myrtle was a native of Butte and graduated from UM's School of Journalism in the early 1920s.

- Stefanie Kilts, a UM senior in photojournalism, received a \$1,000 Al Price Award. She is a 2005 graduate of Billings Senior High School and the daughter of Jerry and Patti Kilts of Billings. The Albert Price Opportunity Fund was established by Price in April 2005. Price received a bachelor's degree in sociology at UM in 1964 and a UM master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1968.

- Megan McLean, a UM senior in print journalism, received a \$1,000 Butte Press Club Scholarship. She is a 2005 graduate of Billings Senior High School and the daughter of Patty and John McLean of Billings. The scholarship is awarded to a student who has demonstrated desire to work as a newspaper or broadcast reporter.

- Steve Miller, a UM junior in journalism and English literature, received a \$1,200 William D. and Loretto Charlotte James Scholarship. Miller is a 2006 graduate of Billings Central High School and the son of Thomas and Kaliope Miller of Great Falls. The scholarships, established by the Jameses in 1994, go to promising students in print journalism.

- Eric Oravsky, a UM junior in photojournalism, received a \$500 Edward B. Dugan Memorial Scholarship. He is a 2006 graduate of Billings Senior High School and the son of Ken and Claire Oravsky of Billings. The scholarship honors Edward Barnett Dugan, who taught journalism at UM from 1937 to 1974 and recognizes a member of the Montana Kaimin staff who has exhibited unusual leadership.

- Lauren Russell, a UM senior in print journalism, received a \$150 Dean's Award and a \$100 Outstanding Senior Award. She is a 2005 graduate of Billings West High School and the daughter of John Russell and Dan and Jean MacDonald of Billings. Dean's Awards go to promising students who demonstrate academic excellence. The Outstanding Senior Award goes to the senior with the highest grade-point average.

- Lindsey Scheetz, a UM junior in broadcast journalism, received a \$1,300 Don Weston and Ron Richards Scholarship. She is a 2006 graduate of Billings West High School and the daughter of Terry and Billie Scheetz of Billings. The scholarship was established in 1994 by Donald Kinney to honor the memory of his friends and mentors.

- Alyssa Small, a UM freshman in journalism and creative writing, received a \$500 Melvin and Myrtle Lord Scholarship. She is a 2008 graduate of Billings West High School and the daughter of Donell and Leslie Small of Billings.
- Rose Stepanek, a UM junior in broadcast journalism, received a \$2,250 D.J. Shults Scholarship. She is a 2006 graduate of Billings Central High School and the daughter of Jon and Madonna Stepanek of Billings. Dosia J. Shults, a 1933 graduate of UM, established the scholarship in 1985.
- Drew Trafton, a UM junior in broadcast journalism, received a \$1,000 Norman A. Johnson Memorial Award. He is a 2006 graduate of Billings Central High School and the son of Wayne and Michelle Trafton of Billings. The award was established by Rob Dean, managing editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican, to honor the spirit of his classmate, who died of cancer at age 27.
- Megan Walsh, a UM senior in photojournalism, received a \$200 Ronald E. Miller Award. She is a graduate of Billings West High School and the daughter of Dick and Kathy Walsh of **Missoula**. The awards were established in 1971 in memory of Miller, a 1929 graduate of UM's School of Journalism. They recognize students who have distinguished themselves in and out of the classroom.

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Hometown (Billings Gazette and Missoulian)

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