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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM sign exchange agreement with Dubai University" (2009). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 21742.
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NEWS RELEASE

June 29, 2009

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UM SIGNS EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH DUBAI UNIVERSITY

MISSOULA —

The University of Montana has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Dubai-based American University in the Emirates, paving the way for future collaboration including student and faculty exchanges.

“[The United Arab Emirates] is a very important country in a very important region,” said UM Associate Provost for International Programs Mehrdad Kia. “We had always hoped to establish a strong relationship with a university in the Persian Gulf and now we have found one.”

Kia said AUE administrators contacted UM with the hopes of forging a partnership. He said AUE has particular interest in collaborating with UM’s College of Education and School of Business Administration. UM, for its part, would be able to strengthen its programs in Middle East studies and Arabic, fields of study that are seeing increased student interest, Kia said.

“This new relationship holds a great deal of promise for The University of Montana and its faculty and students,” said UM President George Dennison. “We have planned several initiatives in the past, but world events interfered with bringing them to fruition. The American University agreement has significant benefits for both institutions.”

The collaboration between the two universities could include joint research projects, conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops, according to the memorandum of understanding. Both universities are eager to begin working with each other, Kia said.

For more information about the exchange agreement, call Brian Lofink, liaison for UM International Programs, at 406-243-2299.

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