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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 31, 2009

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UM HOSTS DIALOGUE BY TOP US, KOREAN DIPLOMATS

MISSOULA —

U.S. Ambassador to Korea Kathleen Stephens and Korea's Ambassador to the U.S. Duk-Soo Han will speak at The University of Montana on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

In a rare morning time slot, the event will take place from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in James E. Todd Building Rooms 203 and 204. It is free and open to the public.

At a time when the North Korean nuclear threat lingers and a potential succession crisis adds new uncertainty for both the U.S. and South Korea, the countries' top diplomats will present a wide-ranging public discussion on these and other issues.

The diplomats also will address key bilateral interests such as the broad security and economic situation on the Korean peninsula; the U.S.-Korea alliance in the 21st century; how the U.S. and Korea are coping with the world financial and economic turmoil; the significance of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement; and Korea's role in the new global economic and financial architecture.

Made possible by the Korea Economic Institute and co-sponsored by UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, the Mansfield Foundation, the University's Continuing Education program and the World Affairs Council of Montana, this dialogue is part of a nationwide tour, but one largely focused on larger cities.

"I think KEI and the Korean Embassy have come to see Missoula as a place that has an unusually large population that is politically sophisticated and deeply interested in world affairs," said Mansfield

Center Director Terry Weidner. "We are challenged by the fact this is a morning event, but we hope to show them their faith in us is justified."

For more information, call Weidner at 406-243-2988 or e-mail terry.weidner@umontana.edu.

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