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### Conference on middle east challenges open to all

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Sept. 14, 2009

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**CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST CHALLENGES OPEN TO ALL**

**MISSOULA —**

“Durability of Authoritarian Regimes and the Challenges of Islamist Movements in the Middle East,” a conference to be held at The University of Montana Sept. 30-Oct. 1, offers several events that are free and open to the public.

The conference, which will take place in the University Center Theater, begins with opening remarks by UM President George M. Dennison and Associate Provost for International Programs Mehrdad Kia from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Panel discussions begin at 10 a.m. each day of the conference. Following is the conference schedule. Information about panel moderators and speakers is online at <http://www.umt.edu/cap>.

**Wednesday, Sept. 30:**

- **10 a.m.-noon:** “Dilemmas of Reform in Authoritarian Milieu.”
- **1:30-3:30 p.m.:** “Contesting and Questioning Authoritarianism from Within: Islamic Republic of Iran at the Crossroads.”

**Thursday, Oct. 1:**

- **10 a.m.-noon:** “Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood: An Uncertain Future in a Shadow of a Robust Authoritarian Rule.”
- **1:30-4 p.m.:** “The Arab World Between a Search for Democracy and an Old Authoritarianism Played Anew.”

For more information, call Brian Lofink of UM International Programs at 406-243-2299 or e-mail

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