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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 23, 2009

Contact: John Twiggs, faculty adviser, UM Radio-TV Department, 406-243-4565.

UM STUDENTS PRODUCE PROGRAM ON PRICE OF MONTANA HIGHER EDUCATION

MISSOULA –

Uncertain economy and rising tuition costs make the dream of attending college difficult to achieve for some Montana families. The University of Montana student-produced television program “Montana Journal: Unaffordable Education?” examines how people are coping with costs and if they are being pushed too far.

The program features a **Helena** family working hard to put five children through college, a **Billings** student making the trade-off of military service to pay for his education, a **Flathead Valley** student who found a local community college as a cost-saving alternative, a former Montana State University-**Bozeman** student who realizes he may never return to school because of the expense; and a **Corvallis** High School senior trying to plan her college financial future. They all speak to the issue of whether higher education is slipping out of reach for Montanans. “Montana Journal” will be broadcast on MontanaPBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula and KUSM-TV in Bozeman) at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29. The program will repeat at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 1.

The “Montana Journal” series is now in the 12th year of production and is produced by senior-level students in UM’s Department of Radio-Television and School of Journalism. John Twiggs,

radio-television adjunct instructor and MontanaPBS producer, teaches the class and oversees the student production.

MontanaPBS is a service of UM and MSU.

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