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Expert calls for action to confront climate collapse

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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 10, 2009

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EXPERT CALLS FOR ACTION TO CONFRONT CLIMATE COLLAPSE

MISSOULA –

David Orr, an award-winning expert best known for his pioneering campaign to promote environmental literacy in higher education and his recent work on ecological building design, will give the next installment of the President's Lecture Series at The University of Montana.

Orr will present "Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, in the University Center North Ballroom. The event is UM's annual Brennan Guth Memorial Lecture in conjunction with the University's Environmental Studies Program.

Earlier that day from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., Orr will give a seminar titled "Designing Post-Carbon Cities: The Oberlin Project" in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. Both events are free and open to the public.

Orr is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics and special assistant to the president at Oberlin College and a James Marsh Professor at the University of Vermont. His career as a scholar, teacher, writer, speaker and entrepreneur spans fields such as the environment and politics, environmental education, campus greening, green building, ecological design and climate change.

He is the recipient of five honorary degrees and awards that include the Millennium Leadership Award from Global Green, the Bioneers Award, the National Wildlife Federation Leadership Award and a Lyndhurst Prize, which acknowledges “persons of exceptional moral character, vision and energy.”

Among the many books Orr has written are “Design on the Edge: The Making of a High-Performance Building,” “The Last Refuge: Patriotism, Politics, and the Environment in the Age of Terror,” “Earth in Mind” and “Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse.” The last book is an assessment of climate destabilization and an urgent call to action that was published this year by Oxford University Press.

Orr’s recent projects include a two-year, \$2.2 million collaborative project to define a 100-day climate action plan for the Obama administration.

More information about the President’s Lecture Series is online at <http://www.umt.edu/president/lectures>.

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