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EQUIPMENT FROM SEATTLE-BASED FIRM
USED IN UM SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

MISSOULA, Mont.--

Faculty and students in the University of Montana Departments of Botany and Zoology and the UM Environmental Studies (EVST) program have conducted a number of scientific studies with equipment obtained from V.W.R. Scientific, a division of Univar, a firm based in Seattle, Wash.

Dr. Clancy Gordon, director of the EVST program, who is a UM botany professor, said the equipment has proven valuable in a number of projects, including analyzing treated sewage sludge; studying the biological effects of salting icy streets; determining the presence of chlorinated hydrocarbons in birds of prey, and checking the quality of water resources.

Gordon said the equipment received by the UM Department of Botany through VWR "has played a major role in helping us scientifically determine the quantity and distribution of elements and compounds which are polluting the environment and which, in turn, are causing serious effects upon the biological systems of Montana."

Equipment obtained by UM from VWR Scientific and used in various University experiments includes a Pye Series 104 Dual Column Gas Chromatograph; a Unicam Sp 90 A Series Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, and a Unicam Sp 200 G Grating Infrared Spectrophotometer.

Total value of the equipment is \$24,000. The Unicam Sp 200 G Grating Infrared Spectrophotometer, valued at \$8,000, was donated to the University of Montana by the VWR Scientific division of Univar on the recommendation of J. A. Sirockman, Missoula, area sales representative for VWR, and through the efforts of Rex Rathbun, Seattle, vice president of VWR Scientific.

Phillip C. Tourangeau, a research assistant in the EVST program at UM, said analyses of organic compounds, pesticides and herbicides, and toxic metals are conducted with the equipment.

Gordon said that he and his University associates have completed more than 40 studies on noncontroversial projects and 14 or more studies "on controversial environmental problems" since UM obtained the equipment from V.W.R. several years ago.

A partial listing of the studies completed by UM personnel with the equipment from VWR includes the following:

--"Bass Creek Water Quality Study."

--"A Preliminary Study of the St. Ignatius Lagoon Sewage System."

--"Factors Affecting Pesticide-Induced Mortality in Young Birds with Special Reference to the Golden Eagle."

--"Heavy Metal Accumulation in the Vegetation of Tacoma, Wash."

--"Effects of Heavy Metal and Sulfur Compounds on the Flora and Fauna of Helena Valley."

--"Chemical Analysis of DDT in Mothers' Milk at Request of Missoula, Mont., Physicians."

--"Chemical Analysis of Water Supplies on the Flathead Indian Reservation."

--"The Effects of Trace Metals on the Microflora in the Deer Lodge Valley."