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Anaconda, University of Montana have unique business lab

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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A unique step has been taken in management education with the current cooperation between the Anaconda Company and the University of Montana School of Business Administration.

According to Jack H. Doty, UM associate professor of business administration, key Anaconda Forest Products Division officials completed Friday (May 13) a series of seminars and tours for a UM graduate class in advanced management problems.

The seminar program was centered on business policy and general management problems. In effect the AFPD was an applied laboratory for the students in the class, helping them to bridge the gap between management theory and practice.

"Actually it is more than a business laboratory," Doty said, "for real experience--so critical to the learning process--is also present, since the students' final report will be submitted to the AFPD officials for evaluation, as well as the instructor."

The program was conceived and effectuated by Robert E. Sheridan, AFPD general manager and Prof. Doty. Anaconda is interested in aiding education, which fits well with the business school's theory of industry participation in business education. Both men said this cooperation would result in more qualified business graduates.

Officials of the AFPD and the Anaconda Building Materials Company conducted the seminars in the Missoula headquarters of the company, besides the forest and Bonner plant tours.

The schedule included general orientation by Sheridan, land management by Ernie Corrick, Anaconda land manager; production management by George Neff, production manager; marketing and sales by Merrill Lash, sales manager; industrial relations by Leo Riley, personnel manager; and accounting and finance by Jack Leary, accounting manager. The forest tour was conducted by John Rounds, district forester, and the plant tour was directed by Neff, and John Cramer, products superintendent. Participating business graduate students were Merle Crockett, Dennis DesRosier, Alan Jontz, Ralph Lintz, Randy Urbanec and Susan Wallwork.