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9-14-1979

### Outstanding students choose UM

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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# UM news

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IMMEDIATELY

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS CHOOSE UM

9/14/79  
state + weeklies

MISSOULA---

While declining enrollments, decreases in funding and the ravages of inflation have put many colleges and universities across the nation in a pessimistic mood, R.A. Solberg, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Montana in Missoula, is pleased by one recent trend he has noticed.

"For some time faculty have been telling me that while our enrollment was down somewhat the quality of students in their classes was higher than in the years when we were bursting at the seams," Solberg said. "Admissions data strongly support faculty experience in this, and the freshman class for this fall appears to be the best yet."

"There appear to be many more truly outstanding high school students coming to UM this fall than in previous years," the dean said. "For example, the number of students ranking in the top one percent on the national standardized examinations is several times what it has been in the past two or three years. The number of those graduating at the top of their high school classes also appears to be up."

(over)



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS---2

"Applications to the new Experimental Honors Program, which requires an essay as part of the admissions material, indicate that these students have a firm grasp on their lives, their reasons for continuing their educations, and their educational goals," he continued. "They are generally concerned about professional careers, but they are equally concerned about obtaining a broad and general education which will prepare them for responsible and effective participation in American society.

"It is gratifying to see just how many of these very bright and able people tell us that what they want to do in life is help others and make the world a better place for all," Solberg commented.

"UM is attracting a great many students whom the most prestigious institutions would be glad to have," the dean said. "These young people give us all reason to be optimistic about the future," he said.

"There is one other thing I have noticed," the dean added. "These applications exhibit a high degree of writing skill. This tells me that Montana high schools, from which most of these students come, are doing an outstanding job."

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