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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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SUMMER SESSION STUDENTS  
ARE EXAMPLES OF GOOD HEALTH  
AT U OF MONTANA

MISSOULA--

Summer session students at the University of Montana are showing signs of better health than students during the regular academic year, according to Dr. Robert B. Curry, director of the UM Student Health Service.

Said Dr. Curry, "The summer weather and the types of students enrolled at the UM summer session are the reasons for the fewer problems in health.

"It's obvious that illnesses such as the flu, pneumonia and bronchitis are less prevalent during the summer," he said. "In addition, the summer is conducive to relaxation and exercise."

Dr. Curry agreed that the UM summer session typically attracts "older" students, including practicing teachers, who are pursuing studies related to their fields.

"Our records show that people between the ages of 25-40 are the healthiest," Dr. Curry said. "It seems the summer student is more stable physically and emotionally because he is more mature.

"Also, the summer session student usually has full medical coverage when he comes to UM," Dr. Curry said. "This kind of student usually doesn't use the health service except in an emergency."

He said more youthful students usually come to the UM Student Health Center for minor reasons, "such as bellyaches resulting from bad eating habits, or fatigue" from insufficient sleep, he added.

"Also," Dr. Curry continued, "youthful students are more accident-prone. For them our service offers parental-type advice."

The 36-year-old Bloomington, Ind., native also commented on the attitudes of persons in different age groups toward their health.

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"The older person has been brought up to be self-sufficient," Dr. Curry said.

"Twenty years ago, persons avoided going to a doctor for ailments which they could treat themselves. The young people of today are more aware of medical treatment and are more likely to allow doctors to take steps toward early cures."

Dr. Curry said while it is true that running to the doctor for every minor ailment is unnecessary, a doctor should be consulted if an illness persists.

Summer session enrollment is about 2,900, slightly more than one-third the size of a typical enrollment figure for the regular academic year. "Only 50-60 persons a day come through the UM Student Health Service during the summer in contrast to about 200 persons who daily come through during the regular year," Dr. Curry said. "Of the 50-60 count, a good number are high school age students who are visiting UM for special summer camps and other programs."

The UM Student Health Center, 634 Eddy Ave., provides medical and infirmary care and limited hospitalization, when necessary, to every enrolled student covered by the program.

Dr. Curry said the full-time center staff numbers about 20 during the regular academic and about 13 full- and part-time persons are employed at the center during the summer.

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