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UM SOCIOLOGISTS WIN GRANT TO STUDY WORK AND SEX ROLES

MISSOULA--

William McBroom, University of Montana sociology professor, and Fred Reed, UM associate professor of sociology, have received a MONTS (Montanans on a New Trac for Science) Program grant for a study on work roles, sex roles and fertility. The study will be done on former UM students and was awarded under the National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

McBroom and Reed will use three different samples of people who were attending UM in 1954, 1964 and 1974. The two professors did the first part of the study five years ago, but McBroom says that this second part of the study is what makes the project come together. In their proposal for the study, McBroom and Reed state that sex role orientations, work attitudes and fertility expectations will be compared to actual work, role and fertility experiences five years later.

The two sociologists will also be looking at whether roles change to adapt to circumstances, how attitudes change over life span and how family patterns change. All the data from the second part of the study should be collected by late spring or early summer and will then be gone over and coded for about a year. The study is designed to have long term research and publication possibilities even after this part is finished.

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