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MEDIA RELEASE

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BELT STUDENT AT UM TO STUDY SHAKESPEAREAN WOMEN

MISSOULA--

The condition of Renaissance English women as portrayed in William Shakespeare's plays will be the topic of a senior honors research paper by Eileen Koontz of Belt, who has received a \$1,000 Watkins Scholarship at the University of Montana.

Koontz, a senior in English literature at UM, said that her study should determine whether Shakespeare portrayed women in his comedies, tragedies and historical plays as they really lived in Renaissance England or whether he wrote about new concepts of women.

Her study will include selected Shakespearean plays and other literature from the English Renaissance period to find the status and any changes of women in the Elizabethan era.

Koontz also wants to determine whether Shakespeare grouped different types of women for different kinds of plays.

Faculty adviser for Koontz's project is Dr. Walter King, professor of English at UM.

Koontz, daughter of Marilyn S. Koontz, is a 1978 graduate of Belt Valley High School. She also will be studying in Burgundy, France, during the fall on a UM study abroad program.

Since the program began in 1978, a total of 114 UM students have been

(over)

WATKINS SCHOLARSHIPS -- add one

awarded the competitive Watkins Scholarships based on their prior academic achievements and the quality of their research proposals. The scholarship funds come from the Gordon and Anna Watkins Endowment at UM.

Gordon Watkins was a 1914 UM alumnus who was a Welsh coal miner before he immigrated to the United States in 1906. He received the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1918 and an honorary doctor of laws degree from UM in 1940.

Watkins taught in Illinois and California universities and was provost of the University of California at Riverside until 1956. He also authored several books and articles on economics and labor relations and acted as a federal arbitrator and international consultant in economics. While at UM, Anna Davis Watkins was secretary to the UM president and graduated in English in 1915. Both died in 1970.

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