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MEDIA RELEASE

UM STUDENT TO STUDY MEXICAN ECONOMICS

MISSOULA--

In recent years, Mexico has assumed leadership roles in the international political, economic and social policies of developing nations, according to University of Montana senior Thomas Lance. As the winner of a \$1,000 UM Watkins Scholarship, Lance, from Mission, Tex., will study Mexico's roles in the New International Economic Order (NIEO), a United Nations organization.

During the 1981-82 academic year, Lance will be one of 35 UM seniors to research topics in the social sciences, humanities and sciences through the Watkins senior honors program in the UM College of Arts and Sciences.

Lance, who has a combined political science and economics major, said he will research the factors which in 1974 led Mexico to help form the NIEO, an organization of 77 developing nations created to establish each nation's full sovereignty over its resources and economic activities.

His study also will include an examination of the industrial exploitation of Mexico by developed nations since World War II, recent Mexican land reforms and nationalization of important industries. Lance said that a major part of his paper will emphasize the NIEO activities and policies of former Mexican President Luis Echevarria to stabilize the country's economy.

Faculty adviser for Lance's project is Dr. Thomas Payne, professor of political science.

Lance, son of Dempsey and Janiss Culberson of Mission, Tex., is a 1977 graduate of Sharyland High School in Mission. During summer 1980 he studied in West Germany through a West German government exchange program scholarship.

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UM STUDENT TO STUDY MEXICAN ECONOMICS--add one

Since the program began 1978, a total of 114 UM students have been awarded the competitive Watkins Scholarships based on their prior academic achievements and the quality of their research proposals. The scholarship funds come from the \$353,000 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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