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UNIVERSITY STUDENT TO RESEARCH WESTERN MONTANA SQUIRRELS

MISSOULA--

The effects of invading Fox squirrels on western Montana's native Pine squirrels will be studied by a University of Montana zoology student, Christine Hass, through a \$1,000 UM Watkins Scholarship.

According to Hass, a senior from Carson City, Nev., the Fox squirrels were illegally introduced to Hamilton 10 to 20 years ago and have since spread to other western Montana urban areas, occupying mostly city park-type habitat.

Hass said she will try to determine whether the invading Fox squirrels are displacing the native Pine squirrels or are only occupying areas which the Pine squirrels do not inhabit.

In her research Hass will observe the two squirrel species to discover whether the Fox squirrels will force the Pine squirrels away from food set out as bait, and whether transplanted Fox squirrels will survive and adapt to non-urban areas where Pine squirrels are more abundant.

Hass, daughter of Harold Hass, is a 1978 graduate of Carson City High School.

Hass will be one of 35 students to participate in the UM College of Arts and Sciences senior honors program which awards the Watkins Scholarships. The faculty adviser for her project will be Dr. Richard L. Hutto, assistant professor of zoology.

Since the program began in 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.

(over)

UNIVERSITY STUDENT TO RESEARCH SQUIRRELS--add one

Gordon Watkins was a 1914 UM alumnus who was 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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