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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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LOPACH NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR OF  
MANSFIELD CENTER AT UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MISSOULA--

University of Montana political scientist James Lopach has been named acting director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana. The 12-month appointment will be effective Sept. 1, subject to approval of the Montana Board of Regents.

The acting director will preside over the center's start-up year, reporting to UM Academic Vice President Donald Habbe. The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation has budgeted \$140,000 for this first year of operation. The foundation raises funds for both the Mansfield Center at UM and the planned Mansfield Center for Pacific Affairs at Flathead Lake. The centers are independent of each other but cooperate closely.

Planning for a center at the university to honor alumnus and former professor Mike Mansfield's public service began in 1978, two years after Mansfield, now U.S. ambassador to Japan, retired from the U.S. Senate. The regents approved the plans for the center in June 1983.

In keeping with Mansfield's commitment to high ethical standards and his contributions to the nation's Far Eastern policy, the center's principal programs will deal with Asian studies and ethics in public affairs. The center's inaugural event in April, a conference titled "The China Hands Legacy," dealt with both subjects.

Lopach will establish and chair a Mansfield Center Advisory Committee. In consultation with the committee and under the direction of the academic vice president,

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Lopach--add one

he will oversee conference planning, development of preliminary policy statements and preparation of the center's offices in the Mansfield Library.

He will also coordinate recruitment of a staff consisting of an executive director, who will also teach, a professor and a half-time secretary.

Lopach serves on the UM Mansfield Center Executive Committee and has been involved in all phases of the center to date. He will relinquish the chairmanship of the UM political science department during his tenure as acting director of the center but will continue to teach half time.

The Great Falls native joined the UM political science faculty in 1975 and has been department chairman since 1977. He taught for a year at the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a Ph.D. in American government and public law. He is an honor graduate of Carroll College in Helena, and he was valedictorian of the class of 1960 at Great Falls Central High School.

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