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**Montana**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **NEPALESE JOURNALISTS TO VISIT UM**

#### **MISSOULA –**

Two journalists from Nepal will visit The University of Montana School of Journalism Sept. 12-20 to explore a possible exchange agreement.

The visitors are Rajendra Dev Acharya, news director of Nepal Television, and Prabal Raj Pokhrel, head of the Central Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu.

Acharya graduated from UM in 2005 with a journalism master's degree. He and his wife also have hosted and mentored journalism students from UM who have interned at news outlets and nongovernmental organizations in Nepal.

“Nepal presents an extraordinary opportunity for other journalism students and faculty to hone their skills, exchange ideas and broaden their perspectives,” UM journalism Professor Clem Work said. “In Nepal’s fragile, new democracy [the age-old monarchy was abolished last year], news media are exploding but could use help with journalism skills and practice.”

Work said Nepalese students and faculty who come to Montana could experience our news media climate and engage with students, teachers and professionals. Montana students and

faculty could experience and report on Nepal's colorful and vibrant multicultural, multireligious society and see for themselves some of the country's social and environmental challenges.

“An added bonus: Many people in Nepal know English,” he said.

The Nepalese journalists will visit classes; meet with faculty members; tour the campus, community and Don Anderson Hall, home of UM's School of Journalism; and participate in two forums open to the public:

- A brown bag discussion at noon Wednesday, Sept. 16, in Old Journalism 303 titled “Nepal: Politics, Culture and Media in the World's Youngest Republic.”

- A panel discussion at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, in Don Anderson Hall Room 210 titled “Journalism and Human Rights in South Asia and China.” Other panelists will include Phil West, Mansfield Professor of Modern Asian Affairs, and Mehrdad Kia, associate provost for International Programs.

An exhibition of photos taken by photojournalism students who have been to Nepal in recent years, “Nepal: A Turn in History,” is on the third floor of Don Anderson Hall. It is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and until 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17.

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