UM OFFERS CHINA TOWN HALL EVENT

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana will participate in a unique 50-city event, “CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections,” on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, will discuss U.S.-China relations during a live webcast. The event will be held on campus at 5 p.m. in Todd Building Room 210. It is free and open to the public.

Brzezinski will respond to questions from audience members nationwide, including Missoula. He served President Carter during the normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China and the severing of ties with the Republic of China.

“China’s role in the world and the U.S.-China relationship are in the news and at the center of foreign policy discussions around the U.S.,” said Terry Weider, director of UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center. “This event is just one component of the Mansfield Center’s programming to promote increased understanding between the United States and China, which will better serve vital U.S. and Montana interests.”

The webcast will be followed by an on-site discussion with Ambassador Darryl N. Johnson, an expert on People's Republic of China-Taiwan relations that remain a serious source
of contention in U.S.-China ties as the world marks the 100th anniversary of the Republic of China.

Extremely familiar with China, Taiwan and the Sino-American-Taiwan triangle, the ambassador has had a long and distinguished career as a foreign service officer, culminating in his service as U.S. Ambassador to Thailand.

“Everyone who has worked in the diplomatic field on either China or Thailand knows and respects Ambassador Johnson,” Weidner said. “We were thrilled that we could get him to campus for this program.”

UM’s CHINA Town Hall event is co-sponsored by the Mansfield Center, the UM School of Extended & Lifelong Learning, the Montana World Affairs Council and the National Committee on United States-China Relations.

For more information, visit http://www.umt.edu/mansfield or call 406-243-2988.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Ambassador Johnson will speak at 2:10 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, in the Mansfield Center, located on the fourth floor of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. While the session is closed to all but students of a select China course, members of the media are welcome to attend.

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