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NEWS RELEASE

May 4, 1998

Contact: James Gannon, associate professor of microbiology, (406) 243-2471.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT AWARD

MISSOULA--

James Gannon, associate professor of microbiology at The University of Montana-Missoula, recently was honored with a Fulbright Senior Researcher/Lecturer Award.

Gannon will use the award to travel to South Africa, where he will teach and conduct research at the University of Botswana. His stay in Botswana will begin in July 1998 and end in June 1999.

Gannon's research and teaching expertise will be put to use in the University of Botswana's recently established graduate microbiology program. Microbiology is the study of how microorganisms can be used to assist humankind, such as in antibiotics, agriculture and mining.

"Botswana is trying to develop their own expertise to use microorganisms in the development of their economy and to help the Botswana people," Gannon said. "They're trying to get the graduate program well-established."

He is particularly excited that his wife and three children -- ages 8, 11 and 15 -- will travel with him to South Africa on what he describes as "an adventure."

"One of the big lessons in life that we all need to learn ... is that you can't judge people by what they look like," he said. "One of the ways you learn that lesson when you're young is to go and live in different cultures. This is an opportunity for the kids to go and do that."

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