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NEWS RELEASE

June 30, 2009

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UM ANNOUNCES 2009 FIRST-YEAR READING EXPERIENCE BOOK

MISSOULA –

“The Confessions of Max Tivoli” by Andrew Sean Greer, a University of Montana alumnus, has been selected as UM’s 2009 First-Year Reading Experience book.

The novel has garnered international critical acclaim for the beauty of its language, the richness of its historical detail and the heartbreaking nature of its storytelling. It encompasses themes related to aging, the body, memory, identity, love and the commingling of joy and sorrow in human life.

“The Confessions of Max Tivoli” immediately became a best-seller when it was published in 2004 by Picador, the literary paperback publisher for the MacMillan Group in America. John Updike called the novel “enchanting,” The New York Times described it as “dazzling” and The London Times reviewed it as “a mythic, Proustian romance ... a brilliant story.”

Greer studied writing at Brown University, where he was Commencement speaker at his own graduation ceremonies. After years in New York working as a chauffeur, television extra and unsuccessful writer, he moved to Missoula, where he received a master’s degree in fine arts from UM. He soon moved to San Francisco and began to publish in magazines before releasing his debut collection of short stories, “How It Was for Me,” in 2000.

UM's First-Year Reading Experience program brings students new to the University together to read a selected book and discuss it at events that include a campus visit by the author. Part of the program is a writing contest open only to entering freshmen.

"'The Confessions of Max Tivoli' offers a variety of contexts that provide the potential for the campus community to engage first-year students in far-reaching discussions," said UM Associate Provost Arlene Walker-Andrews.

Greer will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, in the University Theatre.

More information about UM's First-Year Reading Experience program is online at <http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading>.

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