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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 10, 2009

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PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER TO SPEAK AT UM

MISSOULA —

David Leeson, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer and independent filmmaker, will give a lecture at the The University of Montana on Monday, Sept. 21.

Leeson will present “Photos that Move and Speak: The Decisive Moment Extended” at 7 p.m. in the University Center Theater. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture is held in conjunction with the exhibition “Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs” at the Paxson and Meloy galleries of the Montana Museum of Art & Culture and the Gallery of Visual Arts at UM through Friday, Oct. 23.

Leeson has been a finalist for the Pulitzer three times prior to winning the award in 2004 with colleague Cheryl Diaz Meyer for photographs made in March and April 2003 while with the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq. He also has won two Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards and numerous regional, state and national awards.

Often called “Combat Dave” because of his approved access to ride at the head of vehicles at the front lines of battle, Leeson was born in Abilene, Texas, in 1957. He is known for covering major conflicts throughout the world and for advancing the use of video as a means of storytelling.

Leeson currently is executive producer of Protégé Films, in Dallas. He was a senior staff photographer with the Dallas Morning News from 1984 until 2008. Prior to that assignment, he was a photojournalist at The Times-Picayune in New Orleans and the Abilene Reporter-News in Abilene. His career as a photojournalist has taken him to more than 30 countries and to 11 war and conflict zones.

In addition to the evening presentation, Leeson will work with University students and faculty and lecture for an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute course at UM focused on the Pulitzer exhibition.

More information about the exhibition "Capture the Moment" is on MMAC's Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

Information about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute course at UM is online at <http://www.umt.edu/ce/plus50>.

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