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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 23, 2009

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AWARD-WINNING ESQUIRE WRITER TO GIVE LECTURE AT UM

MISSOULA —

Esquire writer-at-large Chris Jones, a two-time winner of the National Magazine Award for feature writing, will deliver The University of Montana's T. Anthony Pollner Lecture on Monday, Oct. 12.

Jones, UM School of Journalism's T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professor for fall semester, will present "Accidents" at 7 p.m. in the University Center Theater. The event is free and open to the public.

He began writing for Esquire in 2002. His story "Home," about three astronauts stranded on the space station after the Columbia shuttle exploded, won a National Magazine Award in 2005. It also was expanded into a book, "Too Far From Home: A Story of Life and Death in Space." Another story Jones wrote, "The Things That Carried Him," about the return of a dead soldier from Iraq, won a National Magazine Award this year.

Jones' work appeared in the Best American Sports Writing anthology in 2005 and 2009, Best American Magazine Writing in 2005 and Best American Political Writing in 2007 and 2008. He also is a contributing writer to ESPN: The Magazine.

Jones currently teaches a course in long-form narrative nonfiction writing at UM's School of Journalism and advises the staff of the student newspaper, the Montana Kaimin.

The Pollner professorship was created in 2001 by the family and friends of T. Anthony Pollner, a 1999 journalism school graduate killed in an accident that year. Jones is UM's ninth Pollner professor.

For more information, call journalism Professor Carol Van Valkenburg at 406-243-4008 or e-mail carol.vanvalkenburg@umontana.edu.

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