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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 12, 2009

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AUTHOR OF 'THE CONFESSIONS OF MAX TIVOLI' TO SPEAK AT UM

MISSOULA —

Andrew Sean Greer, author of The University of Montana's 2009 First-Year Reading Experience book selection, "The Confessions of Max Tivoli," will present a seminar and lecture at UM on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Greer, a UM alumnus, will give a seminar and discussion designed for first-year students who have read the book at 2:10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, in the University Center Theater.

Later that day at 7:30 p.m., he will present a reading and lecture titled "How to Live Backwards" in the University Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

"The Confessions of Max Tivoli" 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 book immediately became a best-seller when it was published in 2004 by Picador. 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. After years in New York working as a chauffeur, television extra and

unsuccessful writer, he moved to Missoula, where he earned a master's of fine arts degree in creative writing 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.

More information about UM's First-Year Reading Experience program, the book selection and the author is online at <http://www.lib.umt.edu/firstyear/readingexperience.htm>.

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