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UM PROFESSOR JOINS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EFFORT

MISSOULA--

Johnnie Moore, an assistant professor in geology at the University of Montana, recently returned from a two-month deep sea drilling cruise off the northwest coast of Africa.

The cruise was part of an ongoing project funded by the National Science Foundation of the United States and equivalent organizations of other participating countries.

The deep sea drilling project began 12 years ago as an international effort to work out a theory of the evolution of the ocean basin. Essential data from the initial research was added to the theories of continental drift and sea floor spreading (formation of ocean basins by the spreading apart of continents and accumulation of new molten material which then crystallizes into rock). During the past two years the drilling has been moved from the deep ocean basins up onto the margins of continents where the oldest rocks are found. Drilling in these areas adds to existing knowledge about the very earliest stages of continental rifting.

The aim of the project is not to look for petroleum, according to Moore, but the structural information gained from the project can ultimately provide knowledge of where oil exists.

About 80 persons were on board the research ship, including 14 scientists from Germany, France, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Japan and the United States.

(over)

GEOLOGY RESEARCH -- add one

As one of four sedimentologists working on this leg of the project, Moore's work is concerned with the processes that change sediments into rocks. He will be working on a follow-up description and interpretation of one particular drill site and also studying the regional framework of the entire Moroccan shelf.

Moore's participation on the project is funded by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the University of California in San Diego.

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