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John Ross and Lee Simmons create business intern program

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two University of Montana seniors are setting a business intern plan in motion to help keep top UM graduates in the state and boost the Montana business community besides.

John Ross of Fromberg and Lee Simmons of Red Lodge, both UM political science majors, conceived their plan last fall and presented it then to the President's Council of 50.

Ross, who is also president of the Associated Students of UM, said the program would provide the ambitious student with practical training to supplement his college education.

Interested students would be available to the intern employer for two or three successive summers, providing an excellent training opportunity for the employer. The employer would select his summer interns, and if mutually agreeable, internships could lead to permanent employment with the host firm, thereby keeping top students in the state.

The program is intended for UM graduates who plan to continue their education in graduate or professional schools and who desire to use their summers in positions which will utilize their skills, broaden their experience, and contribute to the future of Montana.

The program is designed for students with general training in such fields as political science, economics, general business and liberal arts, Ross added. It is not for students with trade area training in such fields as accounting, law, engineering or journalism, in which there are already intern programs.

This week Ross and Simmons are mailing questionnaires to members of the Council of 50 and large employers across the state. The questionnaires are designed to

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determine the potential the program may have in Montana. A statement of the proposal accompanies the questionnaire.

University President Robert Johns has given the program his whole-hearted approval. He said the aim of the program was another way in which the University could be of service to Montana.