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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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May 28, 2008

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### **HAVRE STUDENT RECEIVES FIRST-EVER KIMMITT INTERNSHIP IN D.C.**

**MISSOULA, Mont. –**

Lucas Hamilton, a University of Montana junior majoring in political science and print journalism, recently was selected as the first J. Stanley Kimmitt Public Service Internship recipient.

Hamilton, who also is a member of UM's Davidson Honors College, will serve in Washington, D.C., this summer as an intern for Montana Sen. Max Baucus on the Senate Finance Committee. He also will be enrolled in the Washington Center internship program, an opportunity that will involve him in a once-a-week class and access to scholarly guest speakers.

The Kimmitt internship also carries a \$1,500 stipend, which Hamilton said he will use to help pay for tuition covering the credits he will earn this summer. The **Havre** native began his 10-week internship last week.

"Lucas has particularly strong credentials in the fields of political science and journalism -- he is an outstanding student and a double major in these two areas -- and the selection committee felt that an internship on the Senate Finance Committee would be a great opportunity for him to develop his knowledge and his real-world experience and credentials in both of these fields," said Jim McKusick, dean of UM's Davidson Honors College.



Hamilton, who said he heard about the internship through McKusick, as well as through his mom, Lynn Hamilton, who serves on the Montana Board of Regents, said "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I'm honored to start the program off as the first intern."

As someone who's not only interested in public service but also journalism, Hamilton said, "I want to work in a journalism-related field in the future. I think D.C. is the epicenter of the most important news that gets generated in the country. I would love to go and sit in the Senate Chambers and listen to them. Most of what they say is often delivered in sound bites, but being there in person you get to hear all of what the speaker is trying to say."

The Kimmitt internship was established to honor Stan Kimmitt, former secretary of the U.S. Senate and aide to Montana's late U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield. The internship was established by Kimmitt's five children -- Robert Kimmit, Mark Kimmitt, Jay Kimmitt, Mary Laxton and Judy Rainey -- last fall during a visit to UM.

As the first Kimmitt intern, Hamilton was chosen after applying through an open competitive application process. All UM students meeting application requirements were eligible to apply. This included a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better, suitability of the student's academic program for the internship as indicated by a transcript, a resume showing evidence of interest in practical politics or community involvement, an essay of 500 words addressing how the internship would advance the student's academic and career goals in the realm of public service and contact information for two UM faculty members who could provide references on behalf of the student.

The review and ranking of internship applications was carried out by a UM faculty committee convened by McKusick. Finalists for the internship were reviewed by the office of Baucus to determine suitability for an internship in the U.S. Senate.



In future semesters, the Kimmitt internship will rotate among all members of the Montana congressional delegation. The next Kimmitt internship will be awarded in spring 2009. A call for applications for that award will be announced in fall 2008 by the Davidson Honors College.

Hamilton is the son of Lynn and Miles Hamilton of **Havre**. He also is a member of UM's College Democrats, and serves on the MontPIRG Board of Directors as well as a peer adviser.

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