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NEWS RELEASE

May 12, 2009

Contact: James McKusick, dean, UM Davidson Honors College, 406-243-2541,
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**2009 KIMMITT INTERNSHIP GOES TO UM STUDENT FROM MISSOULA
MISSOULA –**

Thecla Backhouse-Prentiss, a University of Montana sophomore majoring in political science with a minor in French, will travel to Washington, D.C., this summer as the recipient of the 2009 J. Stanley Kimmitt Public Service Internship.

Backhouse-Prentiss will leave Missoula on May 17 to serve as a summer intern for Sen. Jon Tester. At the same time, she will be enrolled in The Washington Center internship program. The Kimmitt internship includes a \$1,500 stipend.

Backhouse-Prentiss was born in Vancouver, B.C., and has lived in Wyoming, Missoula and Seattle, where she was home-schooled in high school while dancing eight hours a day with the Pacific Northwest Ballet School. She now lives with her family in Missoula.

The Kimmitt intern is selected each year through a competitive application process. The review and ranking of this year's internship applications was carried out by a UM faculty committee convened by Davidson Honors College Dean James McKusick. The finalists were then interviewed by staff in Tester's office to determine their suitability for an internship in the U.S. Senate.

The Kimmitt internship rotates among all three members of the Montana congressional delegation. The next Kimmitt internship will be awarded in summer 2010. A call for

applications for that award will be announced in autumn 2009 by the Davidson Honors College.

The Kimmitt internship is a public service opportunity for UM students that was established to honor J. Stanley Kimmitt, former secretary of the U.S. Senate and aide to Montana's late Sen. Mike Mansfield.

For more information, call the Davidson Honors College at 406-243-2541 or e-mail dhc@umontana.edu.

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