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UM STUDENT TO RESEARCH FOR SMITHSONIAN

MISSOULA--

A University of Montana zoology student has received a Smithsonian Institution research traineeship to study at the National Zoo's Department of Conservation in Front Royal, Va. Christine Hass, a junior in zoology from Carson City, Nev., will begin researching some of the behaviors of the rare Père David deer for 12 weeks this fall.

According to Dr. Richard Hutto, a UM assistant professor of zoology at UM, only 16 traineeships are awarded by the Smithsonian each year and Hass was chosen out of more than 200 applicants.

He said that Hass was selected on the basis of her good academic background, research experience and interest in continuing in research as a professional. He added that Hass has participated in writing papers in field ecology research courses at UM and that she is independently researching the taxonomy, or classification, of martens.

Hass said the Père David deer are an endangered species from northern China and now exist mainly in zoos and small game preserves around the world. She added that she does not know her specific project yet, but that she will be working with two other researchers under the supervision of Dr. Christen Wemmer.

She said that she would like to specialize in mammalogy and plans to attend graduate school in ecology after graduating from UM.

(over)

SMITHSONIAN -- add one

Hass is the volunteer curator of the UM zoology museum, which contains large collections of local birds and animals like grizzly bear, badger, martens, deer, mice and raptors. Hass said the museum also has many exotic specimens, most of which were sent to the museum by its founder, Dr. Philip L. Wright, a UM professor of emeritus in zoology. She added that the museum is mainly used for classroom instruction.

Hass, the daughter of Harold W. Hass, Carson City, Nev., is a 1978 graduate of Carson High School, Carson City.

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