Lucas Hitt (2001)

Lucas Hitt is the Chief of Congressional and Public Relations for the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He serves as the principal advisor to the Director on matters related to congressional affairs, legislative strategy, intergovernmental affairs and public relations.

**Education/Work History**
Lucas Hitt began working for Senator Fritz Hollings as an intern, and then staff assistant in his Charleston office while a POLS major at the College of Charleston. He later moved to the D.C. office and served as Special Assistant to the Senator. Hitt moved on to become the Legislative Director of the Air Force Association, where he served as an advocate for military personnel, family and veterans. Two years later, he joined The Rhoads Group, a mid-sized lobbying firm, where he specialized in military basing issues, appropriations and federal contracting issues and eventually was named the firm’s Director of Business Development where he focused on building the firm’s clientele, pitching new clients and launching new practice areas.

In July 2008, Hitt joined the staff of the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the U.S. Department of Commerce as the Chief of Congressional and Public Relations. In this capacity he serves as the principal advisor to the Director on matters related to congressional affairs, legislative strategy, intergovernmental affairs and public relations. Hitt spends his time devising ways to increase the agency’s budget, build relationships to help gain leverage in intra-departmental politics and coordinate outreach to the public, academic and business communities, and foreign governments. Along the way he has worked on numerous campaigns for everything from school board to state legislature to U.S. House and Senate.

**How the political science degree helped get him to where he is today.**
"In a couple of very specific ways: First, I learned how to write. There is no other single skill that is as important as writing and its mind boggling how many people don’t do it well. If you are good at stringing together sentences, you will be successful in Washington, I assure you. Second, I learned how to develop confidence in my ideas and positions and hold my ground, yet none the less recognize when I was wrong and admit it (tip of the hat to Dr. Mann for that one). Next, I learned that politics is a boiling stew of process, procedures, rules, motivations, good will, maliciousness, art, science and BS. There are a lot of ideas out there, and the good ones don’t necessarily rise to the top on merit, politics is the process of figuring out which ideas win and the realization that no variable is controlled or off the table. I also learned at the College that numbers do matter, even if I don’t like them. Elections are all about numbers and demographics and legislative strategy is about counting votes. It’s all about numbers."

**Advice to current political science students**
"Do any and every internship you can get your hands on, because nothing you’ll learn in school will prepare you for the most fierce politics of them all – office politics. Second, don’t ever hesitate to ask for advice or help, especially when it comes to getting a job, particularly in DC where your friendships will help you far more than a stellar resume. Third, take chances, particularly when you are starting your career, there really aren’t many mistakes to make – everything is a learning experience! Fourth, work on campaigns whenever you can. Finally, stay at the College as long as you can, you’ll miss it when you’re gone, and whatever you do, don’t leave until you take Dr. Moore’s Extremism class!"