Derek Hamm
Student Spotlight | Kickstarting his music career
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Honors College Ambassadors Tri-Chairs Claire Spradling, Adam Peterson and Aaron Braverman joined in the fun at the Honors College Ball. Photo courtesy of the University of Missouri Honors College.
Teach For America is growing the movement of leaders who work to ensure that kids growing up in poverty receive an excellent education. We recruit a diverse group of leaders with a record of achievement who work to expand educational opportunity, starting by teaching for two years in a low-income community. We provide intensive training, support and career development that helps these leaders increase their impact and deepen their understanding of what it takes to close the achievement gap. We are a growing movement of leaders, now 33,000 strong, working at every level of education, policy and other professions, to ensure that all children can receive an excellent education.

Teach For America is your opportunity to have a direct impact on the lives of hundreds of students and families within our country. Application requirements are simple:
- Resume
- 500 word Letter of Intent
- No letters of recommendation required

Final application deadline is Friday, February 15th
- Click here to view the application: www.teachforamerica.org/application
- See the impact you can have here: http://www.youtube.com/user/teachforamerica
- Like us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/teachforamerica

The Basics of Teach For America:
- Teach For America Corps Members are full-time teachers in a classroom
- All academic majors and backgrounds accepted (background in education/teacher certification is not required)
- Salary ranging from $25,500-$51,000 a year with health insurance and retirement benefits
- Americorps Education award of $11,100
- Loan forbearance and paid interest for two years
- Regional placement is not random; applicants preference location in our 46 regions
- All grade levels (preK-12) and subjects including ELL, Special Education, and the arts
- Option to receive your certification and/or Masters in Teaching
- Graduate school and employer partnerships for alum to continue their societal impact

If you’re interested in gaining more information about TFA, visit www.teachforamerica.org or contact Candace Potter (candace.potter@teachforamerica.org)

Global Citizenship

Check out our new web pages on Global Citizenship: http://honors.missouri.edu/global/

Find tips on how to be a global citizen through global and local engagement.
You will also find information on international study tours for honors credit, internship and service learning as well as scholarship information.
Honors College Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded only to currently-enrolled MU students. Students may apply for any or all of these scholarships by completing the Honors Scholarship Application. Applications for each year will be accepted from the start of Spring Semester. Applications and all supporting materials for the 2013 Honors Scholarships must be submitted to 211 Lowry Hall no later than 4 pm, Friday, March 1st 2013.

The application for the Honors College Scholarships can be found here: http://honors.missouri.edu/students/scholarships.php

Honors College Work Study Position

Job Title: Student Assistant
Positions Available: 1
Deadline to Apply: February 18th

Job Description: To provide clerical support to Honors College staff. Position will provide opportunity to develop a variety of office skills including familiarity with various office-related computer applications used in the Honors College, interpersonal communication skills (verbal and written), typing correspondence, and records creation and maintenance. Hours would be set and consistent through the semester according to the student’s schedule between 8:00am-5:00pm.

Skills: Excellent organizational skills, pays attention to details of work responsibilities, and has solid working knowledge of MS Office programs.

Prerequisites: Must be dependable, have good typing, filing and organizational skills. Enjoys working in a public service–oriented setting with students, prospective students, faculty and administrators. This is a great opportunity for someone interested in learning basic office skills and developing their resume!

Duties may include but are not limited to:
- Typing documents and correspondence
- Checking and entering data
- Updating and maintaining databases
- Independent projects
- Internet research
- Filing
- Assistance with mailings
- General Office duties as directed

To Apply: Please complete the attached application and return it to the Honors College (214 Lowry Hall) or email Kristina Wright (wrightkr@missouri.edu) by February 18th.

Please Note: You must be eligible for the Federal Work Study Program to apply for this position! http://career.missouri.edu/workstudy/
On December 6th, Honors College students gathered to celebrate the conclusion of the fall semester with an evening of frivolity. The lights in Stotler Lounge in Memorial Union were dimmed, and hundreds of students in semi-formal dress soon filled the dance floor.

The event began at 7 p.m. and lasted until 10 p.m. The guests were predominantly freshman and sophomore students, though several upperclassmen attended as well. A number of Honors College faculty members, including Dr. Nancy West, director of the Honors College, also made appearances.

Based on the success of the event, the Honors College faculty, staff and ambassadors hope to make the Honors College Ball an annual celebration.

*Photos courtesy of University of Missouri Honors College.*
"The Honors College Ball was a great time to get down with friends, food and fun."

Jackson Farley
Freshman

"The Honors College Ball was the best time of my life."

Abbey Tingle
Sophomore

Photo courtesy of Jackson Farley.

Photo courtesy of Abbey Tingle.
In November 2012, Honors College student Derek Hamm launched a campaign on the fundraising website Kickstarter to fund his dream to record his original music. Thanks to the contributions of 17 supporters, Hamm reached his goal in January 2013, and he is currently in the process of recording his first album. Hamm is a magazine journalism major from Belleville, Ill.

RK: Tell me a little bit about your music.

DH: Well, I got a guitar in 6th grade for Christmas, and that same year my best friend got a drum set, so we started a band really soon after that. We had these cassette tapes that we bought, and we had this old cassette player from the 80s. We started out, and a few months in, we had recorded 20 tapes. After that, I got an acoustic guitar a couple years later. It was maybe two or three years later that I got a set of harmonicas, and then I got a mandolin. I got a ukulele; I brought a sax back out from junior high that I hadn’t played in years and started playing that again. I bought a piano because I wanted to learn how to play. Basically anything I can get my hands on, I’ll play.

RK: Have you ever recorded before, or is this your first experience with recording?

DH: First official recording, yeah. Actually, the first thing I did by myself was my mom’s Mother’s Day gift. I made a CD for her; I recorded like some of her favorite songs and did it all in two days. Before that, I was in a high school band. I quit that junior year, and since then I’ve just been playing on my own.

RK: Do you ever perform?

DH: Yeah, actually, all summer I was a street musician. One night I took my guitar downtown and played music and made $50. So, I just went out and played music every night that I could.

RK: Okay, tell me more about the Kickstarter campaign. What made you decide to start that?

DH: It started out as a project for my New Technologies and Communications class. I was just basically going to use the project as a vehicle for music, so I started all these pages. You know, I started a Facebook page and an Instagram page and a YouTube channel, and I wanted to use a Kickstarter ‘cause I knew some friends that had done it pretty successfully. Starting out I had really no idea how I was going to make an album, so I felt like I was making a promise and I had no idea where it was going to come from. It was about early January when I called up Loyd Warden, who owns a studio on Creasy Springs Road. We met and talked about it a little bit, and I went in. I think he was pretty impressed, so he took on the project, and he’s been really great.

The Kickstarter finished a couple weeks ago. Old teachers contributed and just friends that I knew, and even some people I didn’t really know still contributed. So, it was really awesome,
Happened. The first day I went downtown, it kind of clicked. You have to take initiative; you have to do something with it. You have to go to the next level, and no one is going to do that for you.

And I did not expect that at all. Every time I got a new donation I was just blown away, just not expecting it.

**RK:** What's your future look like in terms of music? Are you going to continue to pursue that?

**DH:** I'm going to finish the album and then, once the semester's over, hit the streets again, just play as much as possible. Last summer was the best summer of my life 'cause I got to play all the time. As soon as I graduate I'm going to go to Austin, Texas, and I'm just going to go down to the busy bar areas and start handing out CDs to bar owners and stuff. If you put yourself out there, good things will happen. It doesn't matter who you are, good things will happen. So, I'm just going to go out and just start playing, and that's all I can really do. And just hope for good things.

**RK:** How has being in the Honors College shaped this experience? Have you had professors who supported you?

**DH:** Megan Boyer actually, my adviser, she not only donated, but she's a musician herself, so anytime I go in that's what we talk about. Actually, on the album I have a blues song that I was thinking of because of one of her songs on the last album they made. One of my philosophy professors, Professor Foley – he did one of my honors classes – was walking downtown one night when I was playing at a restaurant, and so he came and stopped in, and we talked and that was awesome. Anybody who I've talked to about it has been really supportive.

**RK:** What's one piece of advice you would give to someone looking to pursue their passions or do something like this?

**DH:** You just have to do it. You can't wait, you can't expect things to happen, you can't just think that things are going to happen on their own. I mean, I played guitar by myself for nine years just sitting in my room, and nothing-
Some of you may be familiar with The Happiness Project, a best-selling book by Gretchen Rubin. A 38-year-old author, wife, and mother of two, Rubin decided one grey day in January to begin making the most of her life by focusing on a different element of happiness each month. Like many fans of the book, I’ve decided to try this approach (and why not?). In January, I focused on order; this February, I’m focusing on love. And I plan to devote the entire month of March, a time of growth and renewal, to creativity.

By creativity, I don't mean artistic talent but, rather, a willingness to adopt a fresh approach to the activities that make up my daily life. John Updike suggests “any activity becomes creative when the doer cares about doing it right, or better.” So this March I hope to approach all that I do regularly—teaching, running, parenting, even answering email—with a “plus” amount of care and energy.

Another way to make creativity an integral part of one's life, writes Jonah Lehrer, is to continually adopt an outsider’s perspective. In his new book, Imagine: How Creativity Works, Lehrer recounts the creation myths surrounding such inventions as the Barbie doll and Post-It Notes in order to explore the science of individual and group innovation. His central argument is that viewing things as an outsider, or from a slightly different angle, stimulates creativity. This is why travel seems to unleash the imagination (which means a trip of some sort—don't you think?—over spring break).

As someone used to researching the same subject for years at a time, it's all too easy to lose this outsider perspective. And so in March, as I continue to write my book on Masterpiece Theatre, I'll try to ask new questions and—even scarier—consider what the book might look like if it had an entirely different approach and structure. And I will rely extra heavily on the seven students enrolled in my honors tutorial on Downton Abbey. This is the gift of working with a group of incredibly talented, thoughtful students: each Monday afternoon, they arrive at my office brimming with insightful questions and observations, many of which I’ve never considered before.

Creativity also involves a willingness to risk failure. Quite frankly, such willingness doesn’t come easily for me. And I imagine it doesn’t come easily for many of you, used as you are to superlative grades and performances. What’s more, we’re all feeling intense pressure to succeed, whether it’s because of admission requirements for medical school, or anxious parents, or nervous book publishers. There’s no question that we have to live with that pressure. It would be foolish to dismiss or ignore it. But we’re all destined to become much less interesting people if we don’t take some risks. So this March I’ll try a few—just a few—plunges and gambles, and hope that I neither drown nor lose the house.

Most important of all, I will spend the month of March thinking about how we can continue to build an honors college where creativity reigns supreme. This involves offering you an increasingly wider menu of innovative courses, courses that don’t emphasize set knowledge and reapplication but unanswered problems, collaborative learning, methods of inquiry, and experiment. “Creativity is not the finding of a thing, but the making something out of it after it is found,” writes James Russell Lowell. All of us who teach honors courses, recognizing you as potential contributors to the body of knowledge we explore, respect and strive to execute this sentiment.

This semester, I encourage all of you—whether you’re an artist or a pre-med student, a philosopher or an aspiring veterinarian—to think about making creativity an integral part of your lives for one month, or one week, or even one day. And if the argument that pursuing creativity is key to your happiness as human beings doesn’t persuade you, let me also point out that creativity has now become the most sought after characteristic in potential employees. Research shows, in fact, that the four characteristics most valued by employers at present are openness; flexibility; the ability to produce novelty; and a toleration of uncertainty. So go ahead and explore your creative side—and when you hit on an idea that you think we should know about in the Honors College, stop by and let us know.

Have a wonderful semester.
Dear Honors College Students, Faculty, and Alums:

Last week, the Chancellor and I had the distinct honor of joining MU’s Dr. Fred Hawthorne, world-renown chemist and nano-scientist, as he received the highest medal awarded in the United States to scientists, the National Medal of Science. The award was presented by President Obama at the White House and the entire ceremony brought great honor to the University of Missouri as well as to the distinguished honoree. I was struck by the President’s remarks and the video bios put together by the National Science Foundation, in that they both put the spotlight on the scientists when they were young -- their aspirations as students, their dedication as young academics or industry leaders. It was very clear to me that, early on, these achievers had had a keen sense of themselves -- they knew their capabilities and they accepted the responsibility to employ them. They had been excited about their studies, yet, at the same time, very eager to start exploring the world their chosen careers opened up to them. They were looking for the surprise and adventure of pressing the frontiers of knowledge -- knowledge that could make a difference for the good of people. They were inspiring people from the start. And that brings me to you and your academic endeavors in the Honors College.

The Chancellor and I are repeatedly blessed with the opportunity to meet open-minded, boldly creative, dedicated honor students who inspire us about the promise they bring to the future for themselves and society at large. In our discussions with you, we learn that you are already excited by the scientific method as a mechanism for stripping away biases and informing decisions that are based on objective, factual findings. You are already engaged in the humanities and the arts to find and express Truth -- truth that sets our human spirit free, afire, and strengthens our resolve to triumph against all odds. You are already innovators and entrepreneurs set to break through to new frontiers of discovery in business and technology. And you are “giving back” and “paying forward” in your communities and on this campus. These are your attributes even today and they create for us a kind of “back to the future” experience. For the Chancellor and me, in meeting some of our nation’s greatest achievers last week, we were seeing you in the future.

I close, on behalf of the Chancellor and myself, with best wishes for this semester. We are grateful that you chose to come to the University of Missouri, that we have a role to play in supporting your aspirations, in encouraging you, in expressing sincere pride in you. Take hold of the unique opportunities the Honors Program affords you in terms of class work, extracurricular activities, and the interface with your intellectual peers and highly gifted faculty. This is your time; every day you make of it what you will and, in so doing, you give distinct direction to your tomorrows even though they are hidden from sight. You need not receive a Presidential award to know success; you need only be true to your dreams.

All the best, Dr. Anne Deaton

[As an undergraduate, Dr. Deaton was in the Honors College of the University of Kentucky and graduated Phi Beta Kappa.]

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Are you thinking about going to graduate school?
Do you want to know what it’s like to be a graduate student in a specific field of study?

The Honors College is accepting applications for a program that will introduce honors students to life in graduate school. Students selected will shadow a graduate student for one or more days, watching them teach class or work in their labs as well as just chatting with them about the demands and rewards of graduate student life.

Interested students at all levels and from all majors should apply. Send a one-page letter of application that discusses your interest in graduate school, the kind of programs you have considered, and why you think you would benefit from this experience.

Please email letters to Erin Wilson at WilsonErin@missouri.edu. By February 24th.