Daniela Vidal
Student Spotlight | Pursuing a passion for learning
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Honors College Ambassadors Tri-Chair Aaron Braverman and Honors College Director Dr. Nancy West present raffle prizes during the Induction Ceremony on August 18 at the Missouri Theatre. *Photo by Dr. Gregory Triplett.*

The Honors College Newsletter

Editor | Rachel Koehn
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Cover photo by Dr. Gregory Triplett.
Announcements

MU Office of Service-Learning Programs

MU Office of Service-Learning is currently seeking individuals interested in the following programs. **Honors sections** are available for each of these Service Learning courses. Please use our online scheduler to Sign up for a workshop today!

**CLIP Government:**
Would you like to experience the excitement of helping a state legislator during the 2014 legislative session? If so, you may want to hear what MU students are saying about our CLIP Program! The Civic Leaders Internship Program awards academic credit to sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a 2.8 or Higher GPA who serve the State of Missouri through internships in publicly funded offices. Students from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply. Further, we provide $2,000 stipends for program participants who commit to a limited number of competitive full-time internships. You must attend a workshop before you can apply! Hear what students are saying!

**TaLK:**
Earn a full scholarship and MU academic credit to serve in Korea! Each year, over 300 students from across the U.S. are funded to teach conversational English in rural Korean after school programs with TaLK (Teach and Learn in Korea). The program awards students scholarships that fund round-trip airfare, living expenses, health insurance, and organized trips in Korea, Japan and China. Students from degree programs across campus can apply for an MU Credited experience or simply apply as an intern.

**Global Service Programs:**
The MU Office of Service-Learning offers programs that combine academic studies, community service, and cultural immersion through programs that benefit local communities and fulfill critical human and environmental needs. During the 2013-2014 academic year, students can serve in locations such as: Costa Rica (Winter Break), Costa Rica (Spring Break), Ghana (Summer), Ecuador (Summer), Ireland (Summer), Thailand (Summer). These interdisciplinary programs allow students from a variety of academic backgrounds to participate. Service may involve teaching, health education and outreach, community development, environmental projects, tourism, construction, or a variety of other activities that contribute to the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and nations where the students serve.

Upcoming Passport Events

**How to Arrange Physician Shadowing and Volunteering Experiences**

**Friday, Sept. 20, 11am - 12pm and 2pm - 3pm**
Jesse Wrench Auditorium, Memorial Union South

How do you really know you want to be a physician? How do you convince the admissions folks that you truly know what it is like to be a physician and involved in patient care? This presentation will cover the basics of physician shadowing and instructions for arranging clinical volunteer and shadowing experiences.

**Saturday Morning Science: How Old is a Rock?**

**Saturday, Sept. 21, 10:30am - 12pm**
Monsanto Auditorium, Bond Life Sciences Center
**SPEAKER:** Alan Whittington, Geological Sciences

To a geologist, this can be a surprisingly complicated question. Learn about the rock cycle, the history of attempts to determine the age of the Earth, and how scientists finally measured the age of the Earth at 4.55 billion years.

**MU Campus Gallery and Museum Crawl**

**Thursday, Sept. 26, 4:00pm - 8:00pm**
MU Campus

Enjoy a free evening of food, music, and prizes while visiting the rich variety of resources on the MU campus. In addition to galleries, museums, and the observatory, the Residence on Francis Quadrangle, the oldest building on the oldest public university campus west of the Mississippi River, will be open until 7 p.m. Stroll through the campus’ botanic gardens while listening to MU School of Music students along the route. With unique experiences at all locations, there is something for everyone. Get your Crawl map at artifact.missouri.edu, or pick one up at any of the Crawl stations. The Crawl has expanded this year to include the Gaines-Oldham Black Culture Center and the Reynolds Journalism Institute.
Bouncing Back from a Bad 1st Exam Workshop

Thursday (September 19th) from 5pm-6pm in Lefevre 112.

The purpose of this workshop is to help calm those anxious nerves and to prepare students for future exams. We will have two special guests (Dr. Keller from the Chemistry Department/Honors College and Dr. Maruniak from the Biology Department) that will provide helpful test strategies that are applicable for all classes. Also, there will be two senior Biology students to share their “bouncing back stories” and provide a peer perspective. Announcement sponsored by the Biology Department.

Law School Information Session

On Tuesday, September 17 from 5:30-6:30pm, we will be hosting an informational session about the law school application process, the LSAT, financial aid, and/or any other law school related questions. We will have a short presentation and then answer general questions you may have about Mizzou Law or the application process in general. The information session will be held in Hulston Hall, Room 7. No RSVP is required, but if you have questions, contact:

Michelle Heck, M.Ed.
Director of Law School Admissions
573-882-6643
www.law.missouri.edu

Volunteer Fair

The Volunteer Fair is an opportunity for students to receive information about various volunteer opportunities around Columbia. Non-profit organizations will set up booths to talk with students and pass out information on how to get involved with their organization. Come learn about all the different ways you can serve directly in the local Columbia community! This is a rain or shine event on Tuesday, September 17, 9am-2pm on Lowry Mall. For more information, please visit leadership.missouri.edu. Announcement sponsored by Center for Leadership & Service, Department of Student Life and University YMCA.

Grand Museum Crawl

Thursday, Sept. 26, 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Enjoy a free evening of food, music, and prizes while visiting the rich variety of resources on the MU campus. In addition to galleries, museums, and the observatory, the Residence on Francis Quadrangle, the oldest building on the oldest public university campus west of the Mississippi River, will be open until 7 p.m. Stroll through the campus’ botanic gardens and School of Music students along the route. With unique experiences at each stop, there is something for everyone. Get your Crawl map at artifact.missouri.edu, or pick one up at any of the Crawl stations. The Crawl has expanded this year to include the Culture Center and the Reynolds Journalism Institute.

Saturday Morning Science: Microbial Methylation of Mercury: A Solution to the Mystery of Neurotoxin Production!

Saturday, Sept. 28, 10:30am - 12pm
Monsanto Auditorium, Bond Life Sciences Center
SPEAKER: Judy Wall, Biochemistry

Mercury in nature can become the dangerous neurotoxin methylmercury. The source of this toxin was recently discovered. Learn how this discovery will help make us all safer.
On August 18, freshman inductees to the MU Honors College made their way to the Missouri Theatre for the Honors College Induction Ceremony. The freshman class heard from Director Dr. Nancy West, the four Associate Directors, the Honors College Ambassadors, and HC senior Azheem Khan. They signed up for Food with Faculty, Tea with the Director, and Honors College Book Clubs, and each student committed to upholding the Honors Pledge.
(Left) Freshman Honors College students enter the historic Missouri Theatre, located in downtown Columbia. | (Above) Associate Director Dr. Steven Keller and Director Dr. Nancy West await the beginning of the ceremony. *Photos by Dr. Gregory Triplett.*

**HC Students’ Top 15 Home States**  
1. Missouri  
2. Illinois  
3. Texas  
4. Kansas  
5. Minnesota  
6. California  
7. Iowa  
8. Colorado  
9. Nebraska  
10. Tennessee  
11. Ohio  
12. Wisconsin  
13. Georgia  
14. Arkansas  
15. Oklahoma

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8. Colorado  
9. Tennessee  
10. Nebraska  
11. Ohio  
12. Wisconsin  
13. Georgia  
14. Arkansas  
15. Virginia
Daniela Vidal is a freshman Honors College student from Peoria, Illinois. She is pursing majors in Journalism and English and a minor in Spanish.
at the moment; I don’t know if any other ones will come up.

RK: What are you most excited about for your future at Mizzou?

DV: Opportunities to, it’s kind of cliché, but get involved with the things I’m really passionate about. And to take advantage of the opportunities that are available and look for those opportunities, because it’s not like people are just going to present them on a silver platter, like “here, you should take this.” Basically, that through the opportunities and classes and engaging with professors and classmates on different ideas that I can be more sure about myself and what I do and choose to do with my life will have an impact on not necessarily the whole world, but like pieces and parts of different countries maybe or different people. At least having that and knowing that I learned something and was able to give back and give that knowledge to someone else is what I hope I’ll get from Mizzou.

“College is such a treasure trove of opportunities, and we won’t have that chance again, so I think college is the perfect place to continue a passion for learning.”

RK: What was the biggest surprise about college for you?

DV: That the transition hasn’t been as hard as I thought it was going to be. One of the nicest things, I don’t know if it’s a surprise, is just how the classes seem to overlap. Now that I’ve been here, it’s kind of like my creative engine is going and there’s just more stimulation; I guess because you’re more intensely focused on class and you don’t have the structure of high school, like in school for eight hours in the same building. You can go on and kind of look at things on your own. And I really love office hours, so talking to professors, that’s been nice.

RK: What’s been the hardest part of adjusting to being in college?

DV: I think not having my family here has actually been pretty challenging and not having my little dogs to see every day… I miss the family dynamic of sitting around the dinner table and talking about everyone’s day. That’s kind of what I miss the most, that’s one of the hardest parts for me. Even though families can get kind of crazy sometimes, they’re part of who you are.

RK: What would you say you are most passionate about?

DV: Learning. I’m most passionate about learning, and I think that every opportunity you have to talk with someone, to read a different book, you can read carefully and pick up on ideas that the author has, and maybe that’ll light a fire in your head or something to go ask a question or search for something and then kind of build this bigger understanding of it. What I like about college so far is that you’re basically kind of forced to express your ideas as fully as possible, so you have to develop each argument, and that is something that kind of forces you to go out and investigate and look for it. So, very much like we’re all sort of journalists in that sense and we have to go out and search for something learning-wise. Basically, college is such a treasure trove of opportunities to do that, and we won’t have that chance again, so I think college is the perfect place to continue a passion for learning in any field – in music, in club running, in English and journalism and Spanish. We’re able to see how all these academic subjects come back to the heart rather than just the head, so that’s my passion.

RK: What would be your dream job or desired career path?

DV: Within journalism, probably working for a magazine like National Geographic doing international reporting. Another job that I really think I’d enjoy would be being an English professor or a comparative literature professor or something; that’d be pretty sweet. So, those are my two dream jobs at the moment; I don’t know if any other ones will come up.

RK: What are you most excited about for your future at Mizzou?

DV: Opportunities to, it’s kind of cliché, but get involved with the things I’m really passionate about. And to take advantage of the opportunities that are available and look for those opportunities, because it’s not like people are just going to present them on a silver platter, like “here, you should take this.” Basically, that through the opportunities and classes and engaging with professors and classmates on different ideas that I can be more sure about myself and what I do and choose to do with my life will have an impact on not necessarily the whole world, but like pieces and parts of different countries maybe or different people. At least having that and knowing that I learned something and was able to give back and give that knowledge to someone else is what I hope I’ll get from Mizzou.
It’s the start of a new academic year, and as you begin it, you’ll hear again and again how important it is to get involved in various clubs and activities, and to attend a variety of different events. Those of us in the Honors College are certainly part of that chorus, encouraging all our students—from freshmen to seniors—to become active members of our honors community. To this end, we’ve put together a lineup of wonderful events, workshops, and clubs for you to participate in this year. A book lover? Then consider joining one of our Honors book clubs, hosted by honors faculty. A science enthusiast? Then attend the weekly Saturday Morning Science lectures, held most Saturdays in the Life Sciences Center at 10:30 a.m. (coffee and bagels provided!). Interested in music, literature, and art? Then make sure to come to the beautiful Orr Street Studios, located downtown, where you’ll hear a monthly lecture on Sunday afternoons about a range of cultural topics. The amazing Michael Budds will be delivering a talk on Verdi next month, which marks the 200th anniversary of the composer’s birth. And my indomitable 84-year-old mother will provide the homemade cookies. . .

Attending events and clubs like these isn’t just about “getting involved.” It’s about pursuing what Samuel Johnson once called “the life of the mind.” Years ago, in the late 1920s, a man named Antonin Sertillanges wrote a wonderful book on the subject, arguing that every human being, if possible, should attend at least 3 cultural events a week! “As we acquire a breadth of knowledge in various subjects,” Sertillanges claimed, “our minds will grow more easily receptive and thus less easily burdened.” He also observed, “We only begin to know ourselves when we learn about what is not ourselves.”

All the events we’ve lined up this fall provide honors students with the chance to expand their breadth of education, and to learn more about themselves—their humanity, their shared interests—by learning about people and places and phenomena that are not themselves.
The prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship Program provides $32,000/year plus a tuition waiver for three years of graduate study. Competition is now open for high achieving college seniors and first year graduate students studying in science, social science, engineering, life sciences, mathematics, computer/information science or STEM education and learning. Must be a US citizen, US national or permanent US resident. Learn how to apply at an upcoming info session:

Monday, Sept 16, 4-5 PM in 2206 B Student Center
Tuesday, Sept 24, 3-4 PM in Ketcham Auditorium (Engineering).

Learn more on our GRFP page. GRFP applicant resources: grfpessayinsights.missouri.edu

NSF GRFP deadlines this year are November 4-8th; however, most successful applicants will begin preparing their application packet in LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER! A complete application requires personal statements, letters of recommendation, and transcripts. GRE scores are NOT required.

Join the Religious Studies Club!

Discuss and learn about the role that religion plays in American culture at the first Religious Studies Club meeting of the year.

Where: Arts & Science Room 102
When: September 24th at 6pm

Non-majors are completely welcome!