

Student set to travel to LA
By: Megan Henderson

It is true what they say, Emory & Henry has roots everywhere. Christina Druen, a junior at E&H, is living up to that saying.

Druen's passion for music has always inspired her to work in the music industry. This summer, she will be traveling all the way to Los Angeles for a summer internship with The Academy of Country Music (ACM).

Druen found the connection to her dream internship during Founder's Day last spring. Erick Long, an alumnus of E&H, was speaking at an event, and Druen instantly made a connection. After speaking with Long when the event ended, she sets her sights on ACM.

"I just sent him [Long] my resume and was super persistent with my emails. He's probably tired of me emailing him so much! I cannot stress enough that having that Emory & Henry connection is so important," Druen said. "The part I struggled with was the communication part. Because he's like a rock star at what he does, he is super busy. I'm sure he gets tons of emails every day which is why I was so persistent because I really wanted this."

Druen will likely be working with the creative and content production department for the ACM. This means she will be crafting logos, designing print material and possibly working in video production.

The alumni base is what helped Druen nail her dream internship. Her advice for other students looking at internships is to consider connections within the E&H network.

"They [E&H alumni] are super helpful and extremely connected. If it wasn't for Erick, I wouldn't have this internship. Also, stay in constant contact with whoever you want a job from. It

may seem like you're being highly annoying, but it lets them know how bad you want it; they will most likely hire you," Druen said.

The challenge for Druen thus far is not obtaining the internship, but getting the money to go. The internship is unpaid, but she will need a way to pay for a place to stay as well as food and public transportation. Druen has created a Go Fund Me page in an effort to raise more money.

"I am most excited about working with such an incredible and well-known organization getting to do what I love doing. I am also excited about going to Los Angeles! It's terrifying because I don't know the area. It's going to be a huge culture shock, but I can't wait to dive in," Druen said.

Druen hopes she can hone her skills and gain real life experience by taking this internship across the country. She also feels it will help her decide what she wants to do after graduation. If you would like to support Druen as she travels across the country this summer, check out her Go Fund Me page at <http://www.gofundme.com/kkz3bo>.