

**OTC
Honors
Program**



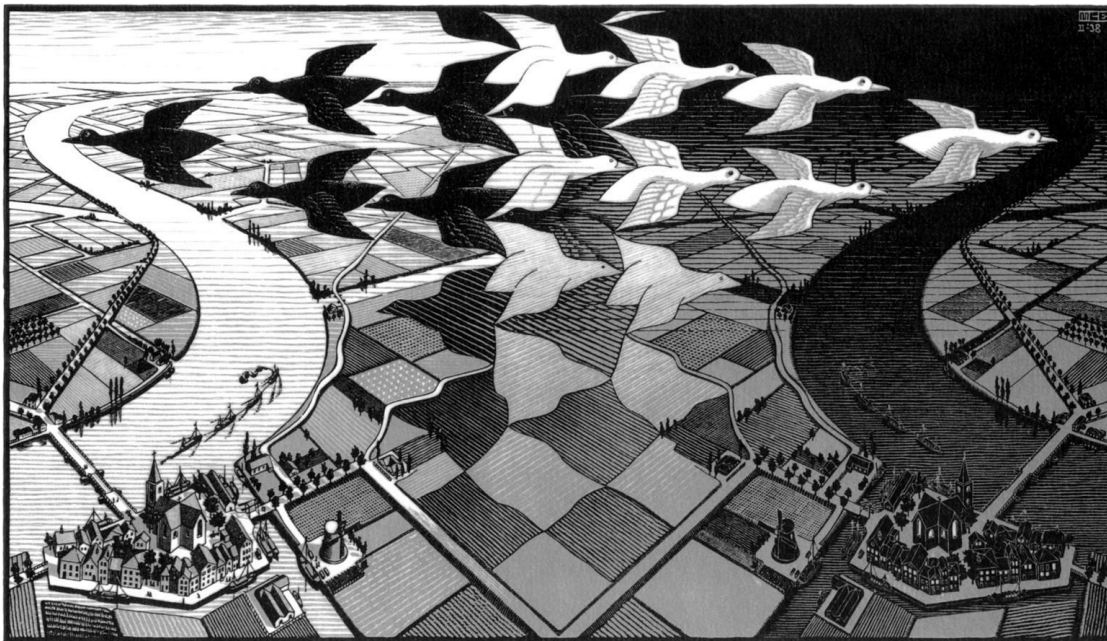
The Pinnacle: Destination Known



**Fall
2016**

Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.

VOL. 12



The honors program provides academically exceptional students an opportunity to develop their full potential through the enhanced learning environment of a designated community of scholars



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Editor’s Notes:

Hello, OTC! My name is Cally Chisholm and I’m the editor of the Pinnacle. I’m so excited to take on this role. Let me tell you a little about myself: This is my first semester here, and I’m loving it so far. I’m 18 years old, and when I’m not at school, I’m working at Andy’s Frozen Custard. I’m also the media intern at my church.

I want to express my gratitude to the students who entered in their artwork, and stories for us to publish. We have such talented students! I also want to thank Kat Sheldah, Abbie Cool, and Andrea Savage for their contributions and help.

I hope you enjoy!

Contact us:

If you are an honors student interested in having your work published in the newsletter, please email

sheldahk@otc.edu,
jc0872981@otc.edu,
cc0855640@otc.edu, or
as0165765@otc.edu.

Also, if you are interested in the honors program, you can email
yerbyj@otc.edu.

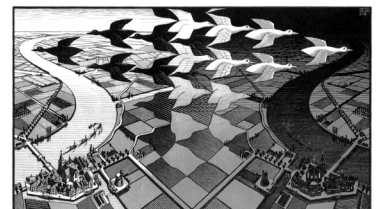
Student Reflection:

Submitted by Wade Southwell

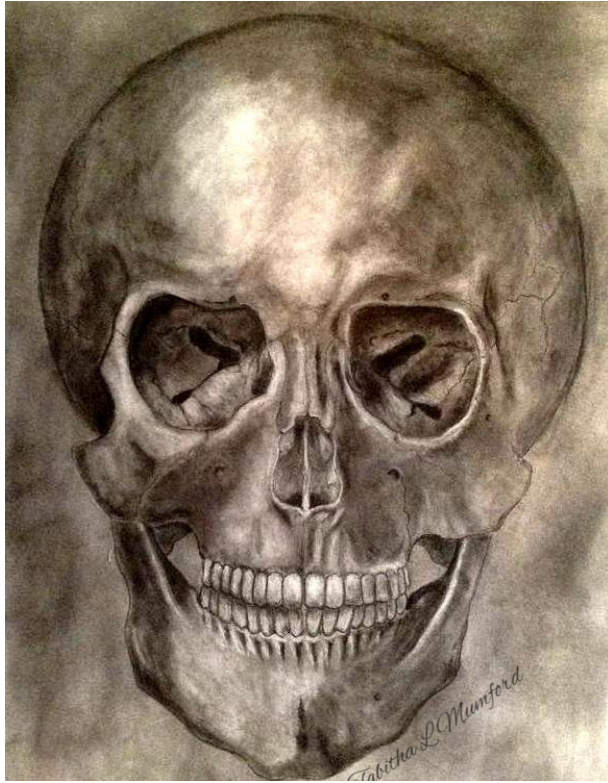
When I reflect back on my time at OTC, many of my fondest memories were my involvement with the Honors Program. To me, it was so refreshing sharing a classroom with students who did not shy away from a challenge, who could be counted on to keep up with the material and engage in thoughtful, informed discussions. I felt at home around students who were excited by ideas and willing to put in the work to explore them effectively. Over time I developed confidence in the idea that if I worked hard, and – more importantly—followed my own muse, allowing my interests and passions to dictate the classes I took, then it would take me in a satisfying direction. This approach led to a lot of credits that didn’t get me any closer to a degree, but I ultimately applied to a university that spoke to my true self, where I was accepted and began studying last year.

On the Cover:

Cover art by:
MC Escher



Art by Honors Students



Sketches by Tabby Mumford



Photo by Janis Halls

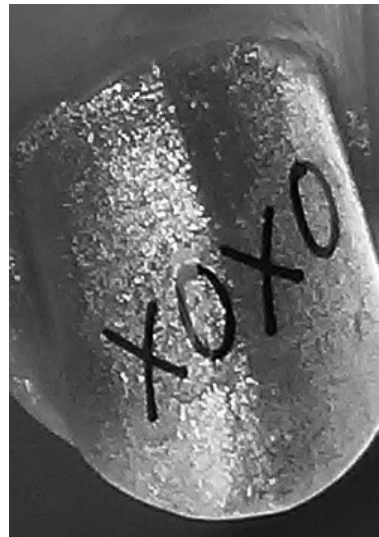


Photo by Kat Sheldahl



House Spiders: Friend or Foe?

These two spiders may look scary,
but are actually harmless.

Living in the Ozarks gives us a chance to enjoy some of the most vibrant flora and fauna our country has to offer. We get to enjoy the songs of cardinals, blue jays, and robins, catch lightning bugs and butterflies, and even spot deer, turkey, and foxes. However, when some of the fauna begin to move into our homes, they can be a little less enjoyable.

We're looking at you, spiders.

If you are in the ranks of spider-haters, don't worry, you are not alone. It can be hard to tell if that little spider in the laundry basket is poisonous or not, so we tend to fear all spiders. However, like with any fear of the unknown, "Knowledge is Power!"

So what to do when you see one of those little arachnids scurrying around inside?

Depends on what kind of spider it is!

Let's take a look at a two of the most common spiders found inside Missouri's indoors, the Brown Recluse and the White-Spotted Jumping Spider. Here you will be able to learn how to identify both species of spiders, and know what to do when you see them.

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White-Spotted Jumping Spiders are rather easy to identify, one you know what to look for. In fact, if you spend any time looking at them closely, they will examine you right back, curiously. (Again, they will NOT sporadically jump on you, like in a movie.) Of the eight eyes all spiders have, Jumping Spiders have two large, forward-facing eyes to allow it to see in 3D. This lets them hunt Brown Recluse, jump with accuracy, perform elaborate mating dances, and look back at you with (near) interest. When you encounter a Jumping Spider, simply let it be. They are great to have in your home as Brown Recluse and pest control, as well as an interesting (and cute) little creature. As an old proverb says, "If you wish to live and thrive, let the spider walk alive".

You are now equipped with powerful knowledge, that will help you identify what kind of spider you may be looking at in that next basket of laundry. You now get to make the decisions on which spiders you send to meet their maker, and which can stay to earn their keep.

You can now feel a little less afraid, of those little house spiders that habitat the great Missouri indoors.

How to Spot the Spiders:

White-Spotted Jumping Spiders

1. Recognizable by their fuzzy, black bodies, distinctly large front legs, and several white, orange, or reddish spots and a central larger white spot
2. In size, with short, hairy legs.
3. White-Spotted Jumping Spiders like to live inside, in the open, such as on a wall or window. (Don't worry, they will NOT jump on you. Unless you are covered in flies.)
4. Most active where they can find Brown Recluse and other pests, like flies, to hunt and eat.
5. Non-aggressive, in rare cases may bite in defense.
6. Though all spiders use venom, a White-Spotted Jumping Spider's bite is similar to a bee sting, and is not fatal.
7. (Also, the most adorable in the arachnid family.)

Brown Recluse Spiders (aka Violin Spiders)

1. Recognizable by their brown bodies, distinct "violin" shape on their back (or carapace), and often a grey abdomen.
2. In size, with long, thin legs.
3. They like to live inside where they can find a dark undisturbed corner to call their own.
4. Most active in spring and fall or when nearby area is disturbed, such as cleaning the garage or moving.
5. Non-aggressive, but will bite in defense. (Shake out those old boots before putting them on.)
6. Brown Recluse venom can cause illness and result in a nasty bite, but is rarely fatal

"Reptile Eyes"

By: Colton Pettyjohn

Look into my eyes.

What do you see?

A cold blooded reptile with no soul?

A selfish individual who's narcissistic personality prevents him from feeling empathy?

Look deeper!

Do you see it?

The agonizing pain of memories from long ago?

The secrets my heart has held for ages?

How about the constant feeling you're a disappointment and anxiety of knowing that you're not good enough?

Now look even closer!

Can you see the amount of love I am capable of giving? The empathetic tendencies to put others before myself?

The amount of dedication and passion I put forward to not care for recognition?

If you see all of this I applaud you!

Not many can.

In society we are taught to judge and protect ourselves. Your life will be prosperous if you are inwardly focused. Where all we do is obtain monetary items to fulfill a long-ing we have for acceptance.

Our lives should be focused outwardly.

Stop focusing on you selfish, pitiful lifestyle and help change the world.

Give, Volunteer, Strive to make the people around you happy.

Shed the skin of your old life and let the new you shine like the sun.

If you don't your life will be unchanged.

Granted you may feel the emptiness that you deserve. You will constantly prejudice and not fully understand the characteristics of life.

You will only see the shell of people, not what their soul truly is.

All you will see is a man with reptile eyes.

FAIR WEATHER NINJAS

Get your copy of Dr. Howarth's new book
and get it signed!

Dr. Michael Howarth from Missouri Southern State University will visit us on Thursday October 27th from 2:30-3:30pm in the OTC Board Room for a book reading/signing for his new novel "Fair Weather Ninjas". The room will be open beginning at 2pm and seats will be on a first come/first served basis. Dr. Howarth will be more than happy to sign an books at the end of the session.

Please feel free to invite any and all interested parties to this event. It is free and open to the general OTC population and will be promoted through the OTC Campus Calendar in the near future. Fair Weather Ninjas is available on Amazon for \$19.95 (Amazon Prime) for anyone who would like to purchase a copy in advance to read and/or have Dr. Howarth sign at the event.



Looking to stand out in a science field?



Stackable Certificate for A.S. Degrees!

The program incorporates the essential course work necessary to prepare students for entry level positions within a science lab.

For additional information please contact:

Mary Marquez

(417)447-2621

chemlabtech@otc.edu

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THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT

Honors student gets the chance of a lifetime.

Submitted by Daniel Padilla

It was 3 in the morning on a Friday night, and I was browsing Phi Theta Kappa's blackboard page. I had just become a member earlier that day, and I was perusing their blackboard to see what kind of perks were available to me. I saw what I considered to be "normal" links, such as scholarships, upcoming events, mission statements, and other such things that would be expected. It was late and I was sleepy, and I was about to log off until I saw a link titled "NASA." I've been a huge space nerd all of my life, so this was pretty exciting and I clicked the link immediately.

The link led to the National Community College Aerospace Scholars website, otherwise known as NCAS. NCAS is a program designed specifically for community college students that allows them to take a 5-week online summer course taught by NASA scientists, and if a student performs well in the class, they could get chosen for a 4 day, all-expenses paid trip to an actual NASA facility.

I thought that this was an awesome opportunity, so naturally I chugged some coffee and signed up for it right then and there. There were some pre-requisites, but they were surprisingly accommodating. In order to qualify I needed to have at least 9 credit hours of any STEM classes, be a current student at a community college, write a 500-word essay explaining why I wanted this opportunity, and I needed a letter of recommendation from any teacher, either current or past. I stayed up the rest of the night writing my essay, gathering my transcripts, and sending a very caffeinated email to my teacher of choice.

After a couple of weeks, I got an email saying that I had been accepted for the online class portion of NCAS. I didn't really know what to expect and whether I could even succeed in this class, because even though I love space and find it absolutely

fascinating, I've only taken one entry level astronomy class and I knew nothing to very little about robotics, aeronautics, and other things that NASA is known for. Thankfully, my fears were dissuaded when I actually started the class, because they taught me everything I needed to know to succeed.

The class itself covered a wide variety of subjects, including NASA's history, the technology that has made space travel possible, the effects of space travel on the human body, and many other things, all either presented as text files to read or taught by NASA scientists in a webinar format. There were several quizzes at the end of each section, but the bulk of the class was just absorbing information with very little homework. The 5-week course culminated in a final project, of which we had to choose one of three. The first choice was to draft a Mars mission proposal and outline how much it would cost, who would need to be employed, and figuring all of the logistics involved. The second choice was to program and build a Mars Rover on a computer program and write a report explaining and outlining all of its functions. The third, and the choice I decided to go with, was to write a 15-page research paper discussing which approach would be the best for a manned Mars mission in regards to fuel, technology used, and logistics.

After everything was done and graded, I came out of the class with a perfect grade, and was notified that I was chosen to go to a NASA facility, with my flights, hotel, and food all paid for by NASA. On October 16th, I will be going to the Armstrong Atmospheric Research Center in the Mojave Desert to study alongside NASA scientists and to compete with other scholars in a rover competition, and I will be writing a follow up piece when I get back to outline how it went.

The Show About Everything

A Review of Jerry Seinfeld: Live

Submitted by Cally Chisholm

On Friday, September 23rd, comedy legend Jerry Seinfeld came to Springfield to do stand-up at Juanita K. Hammons Hall. I was lucky enough to snag tickets the morning they were released. On that day, I stood at the door of the Juanita K. with my dad, waiting over an hour to get the best seats I could.

You see, I'm quite the Seinfeld fan. So, I walked into his show with high expectations. Unsurprisingly, it was a packed house. The hum of people talking nearly overshadowed the Frank Sinatra CD playing over the sound speaker, but as soon as the clock hit seven, the lights dimmed and the crowd settled down. Right before Seinfeld took the stage, he had one his fellow comedian friends open to warm up the crowd. To be honest, I was too excited about Seinfeld to pay attention to the opening act. His name escaped me and his comedy wasn't particularly memorable.

But then, Seinfeld pranced onto the stage that was decorated with a single mic, a wooden stool, and a glass of water. He started his bit by playfully joking about Springfield and how nice it was, but then said, "I can't wait to get the hell out of here." His subjects ranged from the creation of Pop-Tarts, our dependence on cell phones, annoying TV commercials, how parents are too into their kids' business, and much

more. He flawlessly transitioned from topic to topic without being awkward. As Jerry said in his 1990s sitcom Seinfeld, "the subject should resolve of its own volition."

I was especially impressed with his unrelenting energy. Despite his age of 62, he moved all over the stage and was able to raise his voice to add effect to his joke without any visible strain. I could tell he was more than comfortable, as he has done stand-up many years. The way he spoke made everything he said hilarious. The fluctuations in his sentences were perfectly timed. I think his voice is almost as iconic as his material.

The last segment of the night was a Q&A from the audience. One person asked him what his favorite episode of Seinfeld was, and the audience had fun reliving moments from the NBC show. But perhaps the highlight of the night was when a man in the back asked Jerry if he ever was coming to Branson, and after asking where that was, Seinfeld bluntly answered: "No," followed by roaring laughter.

If you ever have the chance to see Jerry Seinfeld live, I highly recommend it. Even today it's hard for me to believe I actually saw him. It'll be an experience I'll never forget.

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Aesop's Fable

The Dog and the Wolf



By J.M.Condé - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/38299630@N05/3677207516>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18282142>

A gaunt Wolf was almost dead with hunger when he happened to meet a House-dog who was passing by. “Ah, Cousin,” said the Dog. “I knew how it would be; your irregular life will soon be the ruin of you. Why do you not work steadily as I do, and get your food regularly given to you?”

“I would have no objection,” said the Wolf, “if I could only get a place.”

“I will easily arrange that for you,” said the Dog; “come with me to my master and you shall share my work.”

So the Wolf and the Dog went towards the town together. On the way there the Wolf noticed that the hair on a certain part of the Dog’s neck was very much worn away, so he asked him how that had come about.

“Oh, it is nothing,” said the Dog. “That is only the place where the collar is put on at night to keep me chained up; it chafes a bit, but one soon gets used to it.”

“Is that all?” said the Wolf. “Then good-bye to you, Master Dog.”

THE HONORS OFFICE STAFF AND HSC OFFICERS



Todd "Yerbinator" Yerby
Director of Honors



Kat Sheldahl
Recruitment Specialist

John Cook – President

I am half a century old, married 24 years to Leticia. We have 2 daughters, Ashley who is 23 and lives in Springfield and Zoe who is 14 and in 8th grade. We currently live in Republic. I am seeking my AA degree in Education with an emphasis in History. I am looking at transferring to Drury but have recently been thinking about MSSU as an option.

Jacqui Ratcliff – VP of Public Relations

I'm a mother of three with an eleven-year-old boy still at home. I love to take my Jet ski to the lake every chance I get, even in the winter with a wet suit. I am earning my Transfer AA degree then headed to MSU for my bachelor's in Social work.

Melanie Johnston - VP Community Outreach

I am full time student, working toward an eventual degree from MSU in Natural Resources Management. I currently am working part time as a tutor in the Carol Jones Writing Center, and I also work as a waitress in a truck stop. My world revolves around my two kids. My son, Dale, has his own house now, but I spend a lot of time with him. My daughter, Rachel, is an excellent student in her Sophomore year at Stafford High School.

Kendra Caruso – Secretary

I am a part-time student, working on earning my Associate of Science Degree in Biology. After four years of dating, I married Mr. William Robinson Caruso. We have two amazing kiddos; Kira is nine years old and loves to create and invent, Kitt is almost six years old, and reads everything in sight. We share our home with a small zoo that I have adopted; from cats and a dog, to turtles and a hedgehog, there's never a dull moment.

Rob Wood - Treasurer

I am 44 years old, been married for 24 years, have two children, and I'm a retired Greene County Sheriff, seeking my CPA (Certified Public Accountant). I'm also getting a transfer degree in Accounting here at OTC to go to Drury University.

Abbie Cool - VP of Activities

I'm just joining in with the Honors Program this semester, After raising five children in the homeschool realm, they are all grown now. I have taken on my first official Associates in Behavioral Science Degree with neuroscience/psychology as my interest base for the future. I'm a newbie to the Springfield, Missouri area making my home in Nixa, Missouri having lived most of my life near the Kansas City, Missouri area.

Alicia Johnston – VP of Activities

I am 32 and working on my BCS Associates degree and hope to transfer to MSU soon! I have a 15-year-old daughter named Piper and she is my entire world. I don't have any hobbies other than reading and school keeps me pretty busy. In the future I hope to become a Forensic Pathologist and living on the West Coast or Europe.

Honors Orientation 2016

Honors students participated in a group activity. The goal was to build the tallest structure with string, marshmallow, tape, and uncooked spaghetti.



Student Resources

Online
Resources:

www.quizlet.com –
flashcards & games

www.wolfram.com –
mathematics
assistance

www.studystack.com
– flashcards & games

Student to Student
Assistance and Tutoring:

Alex Lauver

lauvera@otc.edu

English - Simple Spanish

Kat Sheldahl:

sheldahlk@otc.edu

Financial Aid - Scholarships

Study Help:

Android Apps:

Mathway

CmScanner

Flashcards+

MindJet

Apple Apps:

Edmodo

HMH Fuse Algebra I

Springpad

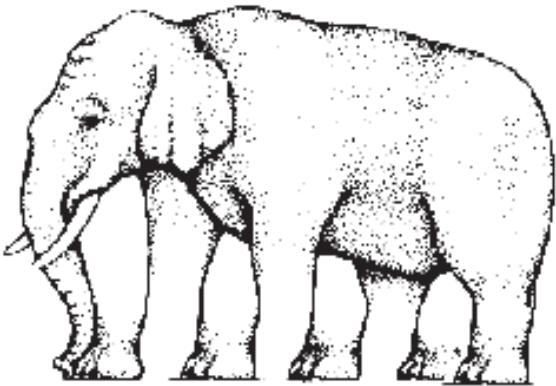
MENTAL BREAK

Intelligensia

Lexicography-
noun lek-se-'kă-gre-fē

1. the editing or making of a dictionary
2. the principals and practices of dictionary making

Optical Illusion



Cryptoquote

Personal Preferences

A WYOAYGY IDBI AI AX WYIIYL IZ IYOO IDY
ILKID IDBU B OAY. A WYOAYGY AI AX WYIIYL IZ
WY NLYY IDBU IZ WY B XOBGY. BUT A WYOAYGY
AI AX WYIIYL IZ QUZC IDBU WY AEUZLBUI.

-- D. O. FYUHQYU (1880-1956)

Clue: Y = E

Solutions to puzzles from Volume II

Pumpkin Maze:



Cryptoquote:

Sixth Sense

I don't really see the hurdles. I sense them like a memory.
Edwin Moses, American athlete (1955 -)

Pop Quiz:

1. 1953
2. 10%
3. Printing press letters were kept in a compartment where the capitol letters were in the upper case and the small letters in the lower case.
4. The elephant because they don't have knee caps.
5. It was originally part of LucasFilm (George Lucas' production company) and was sold to Steve Jobs in 1986.