

OTC  
Honors  
Program

# {ThePinnacle: Destination Known}

Fall  
2018

*Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.*

## Volume 18

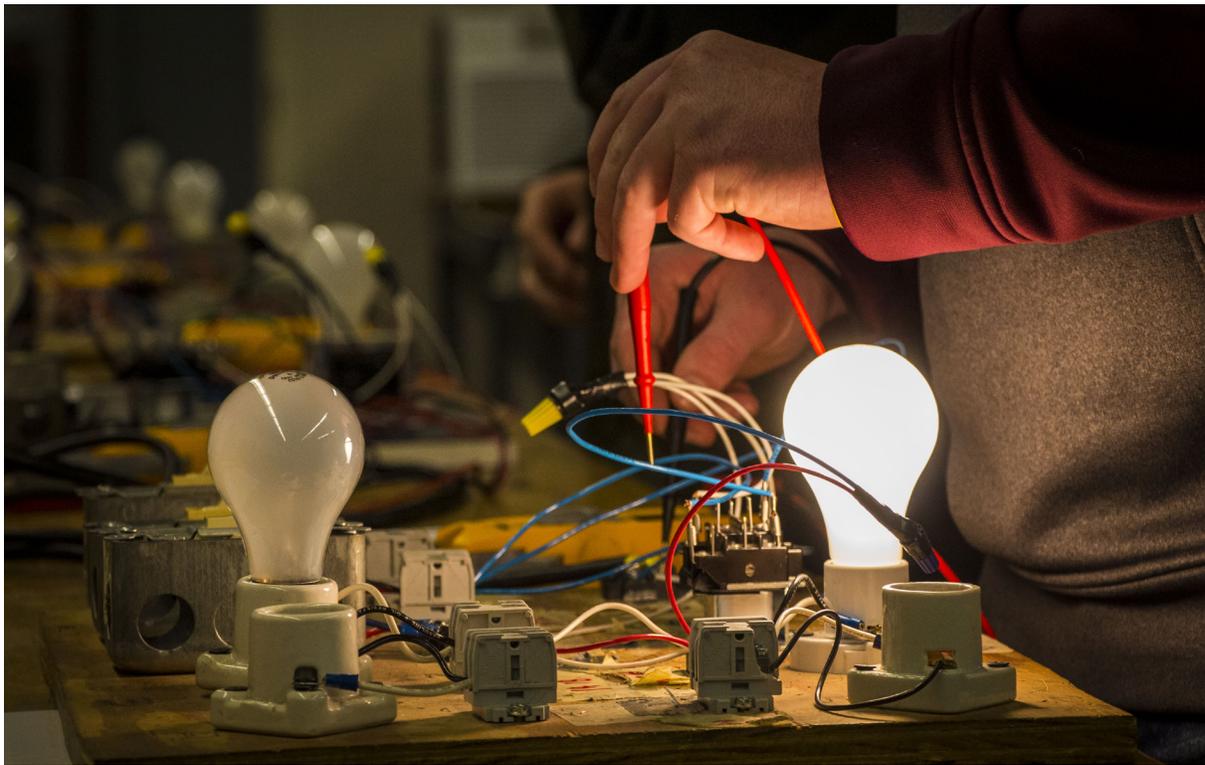


Photo by Victoria Altic

The OTC Honors Program provides academically motivated high achieving students who conduct themselves in a responsible manner the opportunity to develop their full potential through collaboration with a designated community of scholars and enhanced/additional learning environments and opportunities.

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# OFFICERS WANTED!

Want to be an Honors Officer next year? Contact us now!

## Work Study Openings

These positions are available to honors students and non-honors students. We need more people to help out with the office and program in general. If you qualify for work-study and want to get involved contact us or come by. Our phone number is **417-447-7500 ext. 8905.** Our email is **honors@otc.edu.**

## HONORS OFFICE:

# ICE #352

*Come hang  
out!*

## Contact us:

If you are an Honors Program student interested in having your work published in the newsletter, or if you are interested in applying to the Honors Program, you may email **honors@otc.edu** for more information or search 'honors program' on the OTC website. **Office Phone: 417-447-7500 ext. 8905.**

# Visual Art

## Guess Where This Is



Art by: Shayna Marose

{The Pinnacle: Destination Known} {3}

# Astronomy

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ASTRO HIGHLIGHTS

By: Katharine Vine

### Leonids Meteor Shower

This meteor shower is known to be one of the most intense but also the ficklest in regards to viewing. There have been times that it has had meteors fall at over 500,000 an hour and other times where it's difficult to view any. November 17th is the peak of this shower, however it is viewable on the days surrounding this. The Leonids get their name from the constellation Leo as they appear to originate there but can be seen across most of the night sky. It is viewable every November when the Earth's orbit crosses the tail of the Tempel-Tuttle comet. This shower is visible with the naked eye.



### Geminids Meteor Shower

December 13th marks the peak of the annual show of the Geminids! However they are actually visible from December 4th to 16th. You'll be able to see an average of a meteor a minute and all night! Look up towards the Gemini constellation for the best view. The Geminids are caused by Earth's orbit through the tail of the asteroid 3200 Phaeton – this is highly unusual as generally it is only comets that have tails!



### Ursids Meteor Shower

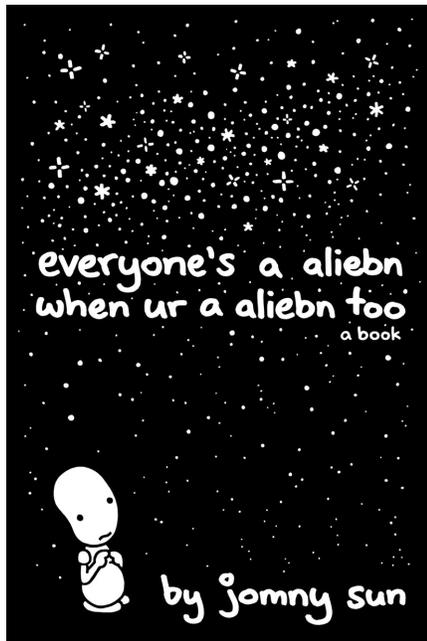
Look up towards Ursa Minor on December 22nd and 23rd for the Ursid meteors. There is an average of around 10 per hour and is caused when Earth crosses the tail of the comet 8P Tuttle.



Also look out for Mercury just before dawn on December 15th as this is the best day of the year to view!

# Books: Student Recommendations

## For Pleasure:



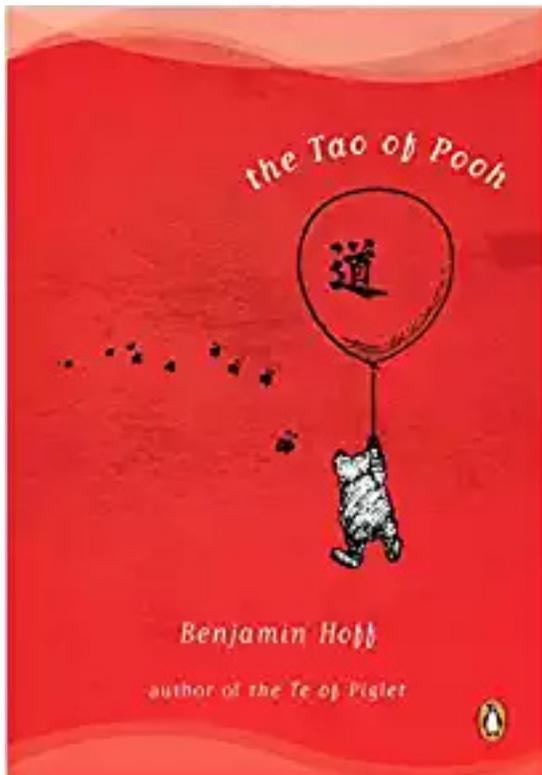
## everyone's a aliebn when ur a aliebn too

everyone's a aliebn when ur a aliebn too is the illustrated story of a lonely alien sent to observe Earth, only to meet all sorts of creatures with all sorts of perspectives on life, love, and happiness, all while learning to feel a little better about being an alien—based on the enormously popular Twitter account, @jonnysun.

Picture and Summary by: Amazon

Recommended by: Alyssa Everett

## For Learning:



## The Tao of Pooh

The how of Pooh? The Tao of who? The Tao of Pooh!?! In which it is revealed that one of the world's great Taoist masters isn't Chinese--or a venerable philosopher--but is in fact none other than that effortlessly calm, still, reflective bear. A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh! While Eeyore frets, and Piglet hesitates, and Rabbit calculates, and Owl pontificates, Pooh just is.

And that's a clue to the secret wisdom of the Taoists.

Picture and Summary by: Amazon

Recommended by: Ian Williamson

# Honors Events



## Harmony House

Kori Little

On November 17th three Honors Council officers volunteered at Harmony House in Springfield, Mo. Lauren, Nina, and Kori cleaned playrooms, lounge areas, offices, and intake rooms for new victims. They also sorting donation items that would eventually be made available to the residents of the shelter. The staff was very welcoming and appreciative of our time at harmony House. We have been invited back to help whenever we can. The Harmony House is a great resource in the community for victims of domestic violence and we would like to continue to show our support of their work.

Harmony House is the largest domestic violence shelter in Missouri and provides a temporary safe place for victims of domestic violence. They offer shelter, outreach support, advocacy and prevention education services, and case management for over 800 men, women, and children every year. –information from the Harmony House webpage.

## Halloween Bake Sale

Katharine Vine

October saw our Halloween bake sale! We got off to a spooky start with day one bringing in \$283.12 and day two scared us away with \$122.38, for a grand total of a ghoulish \$405.50. For those that missed the treats; we had oozing eyeball cupcakes, spider and candy corn cookies, Frankenstein fruit and even some graveyard gore dirt cups! What a frightening feast we brewed up! Thank you for your cauldron magic! We still have one bake sale left and that will be Christmas themed so put your elves on their shelves and let's end the semester with some snowflake magic.



# Honors Events

## Habitat for Humanity

Kori Little

The OTC Honors Program volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore on November 3rd. We worked two different shifts (a morning and an afternoon shift). It was a busy Saturday and we were able to see the amount of work that is done through the store and the need they have for volunteers. The students unloaded trucks, stocked shelves, and organized donated goods. They also assisted ReStore customers with loading purchased items. We all went home tired and dirty, but with a sense of fulfillment in helping a worthy and important service in our community.

The Habitat Restore is an important resource for Habitat for Humanity. The Habitat for Humanity Restore is a non-profit home improvement store that takes donations, furniture, building materials, appliances, and household decorations. The proceeds from the sale of these items help build and provide shelter in the local community.

The Habitat for Humanity Restore is always looking for donations, volunteers, and shoppers at the ReStore. For more information about helping the ReStore

Phone: 417.829.4001 Fax: 417.829.4003

Email: [infor@habitatspringfieldmo.org](mailto:infor@habitatspringfieldmo.org)

Mailing Address 2410 S. Scenic Ave. Springfield, MO 65807

<https://habitatspringfieldmo.org/restore>

Information from Habitat for Humanity webpage.



## Bake Sale

Lauren Mansker

We had a bake sale, yet again! Even though this was one of our lower volume sales we definitely had the biggest variety of baked goods that I've seen in a while. If you're reading this and feeling like you need a baked good no need to fear, our last bake sale of the semester will be in December which will be Christmas cookie themed! Remember we always need volunteers to work the table and bring in goodies and the December sale will be the last chance to get your seven hours in.



# Honors Events and Upcoming



## **ARC Blood Drive**

Katharine Vine

November's blood drive for American Red Cross saw us collect 20 pints. Red Cross is an international organization who remain neutral through all situations and serve anyone in need without discrimination. Started in 1881, they serve in any way they can, adapting to new disasters constantly. From house fires to hurricane relief and even wildfires such as those currently affecting California; Red Cross are more than just a blood collection agency. 95% of their disaster relief workers are volunteers and are ready to get to work within hours of a disaster striking. As they are traditionally known for their images of nurses with the military in the World Wars, Red Cross still send workers to deploy with the Military! They also started the first nationwide civilian blood program in the 1940s and still provide roughly 40% of the country's needed blood today!

## **Upcoming Events**

**Christmas Cookie Bake Sale**

**Dec. 6**

**Finals Feast**

**During Finals Week In The  
Honors Office**

**We are almost done! Good luck on finals!**

# Instructor Interview

Interview conducted by John Cook



Greg French  
Instructor - History

## **In which other instructor's class would you like to enroll, even for a day, and why?**

"Mr. Crocker's Political Science class, because he is my office mate and I get to hear him talking about it in the office. I think it would be interesting to sit in on and he has a lot of great observations about the current political climate."

## **What current trends are baffling to you and why?**

"Being a history guy, I am kind of old school. So I would say, definitely the social media sort of environment we are in where it sort of runs everything. All the new apps, and those sorts of things. I use it on a very limited basis, for like news and to catch up with friends. Maybe I was that last generation that did not grow up on that."

## **What Hogwarts house would you be sorted in and why?**

"I don't know if this will make me popular, or less popular but I have never really read any of the books and I have never seen the movies. So, I couldn't really tell you where I fit in. Now if you asked me what Game of Thrones kingdom I would be in. . . I like the North. I like the Starks. Because they are the underdogs."

Mr. French is an Honors Program Instructor and will be teaching World History II as an online honors course in the Spring of 2019. This interview will hopefully help you get to know him a bit more.

## **What would the students be surprised to find out about you?**

"That I at least think of myself as a pretty good athlete. I am a distance runner. I do half-marathons and medals. I ran the Bass Pro half marathon on November 4th. I run five to ten races year. I am in the gym or running probably six days a week. I usually run about four to five miles, which I can do in about thirty minutes."

## **What is one of your hidden talents?**

"Sports trivia. I think I am pretty good on my sports trivia. In general I am pretty good. Baseball, I am pretty good. It is kind of my sport."

## **Do you have a morning routine to get "psyched" up and ready for class?**

"Before my classes everyday of the week, I have probably had at least 3 cups of coffee before class and I probably have 2 to 3 more after. So, I am like a 5 to 6 cups a day kind of person. That's the secret to my success right there."

## **If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world where would you take them?**

"Paris, because I went there for the first time a few years ago. I am a big fan of Napoleon and French history and Paris was the perfect combination of history on every corner, but also great food and the wine of course. Just the total environment was incredible. Of all the cities I have been to, that is probably my favorite."

## **Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?**

"I like a lot of various historical quotes. If I had to pick one, I think I would pick, 'Vini, Vidi, Vici.' The Julius Caesar quote, which translates to, 'I came, I saw, I conquered.' I think that's a good attitude to have. Show up. Do your best. That sort of thing."

# Current Student Interview

Interview conducted by Ian Williamson



Alexia Chavez  
Current Honors Student

## Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?

“It is from Ender's Game, and Ender basically says, “The moment you know how to defeat your enemy, is the moment you love them because then you understand them.”

## Where are you from?

“I am from a little bit of everywhere. I was born in Oklahoma, and then moved to England. I lived there for about four and a half years. Then moved to Washington and was there for awhile. Then I moved to Georgia and then I moved here. Most of that was due to my dad being in the military.

## Which place would you consider your hometown?

“I would actually consider here my home. Before I moved here I probably would have considered Washington my home. I would have wanted to move back there but since moving here I have really fallen in love with it.”

## What hobbies or special talents do you have?

“I would consider myself an artist. I play the piano. I was a percussionist in band and every honors band I could do, I did. I dance. Not professional dancing but I took some ballroom dancing classes and that is super fun for me. And I write . . . and sing. I do draw sometimes but I have to really think about it. I also like to drive around. I like night, right as the sun is about to set.”

## How far are you wanting to go with your education and towards what degree?

“I would like to at least get my bachelors. I can see myself getting a masters though. I am not sure what degree in yet, because there are so many options and I am interested in so much. I really enjoy getting my transfer degree because I get to try all these classes and see what I want to go deeper into. I would say I did go to college to learn.”

## What has been your favorite part of the Honors Program so far?

“Probably that it does provide a small community of fairly like-minded people on campus. I know my first semester I just went to class and went home and I didn't really talk to anyone cause I am more introverted anyway, but I like to be around people. You just enjoy things better if you have friends. I am surrounded by tons of smart people, so if I need help with something I can ask someone. I always like to hear different points of view, so I think it is a way to connect to people that have similarities and also learn from people that are different. When it comes back to classes, I do enjoy the smaller class sizes.”

# Alumni Interview

Interview conducted by Ian Williamson



Alyssa Everett  
Honors Program Alumni  
Current Student at Drury University

## Is there a quote or saying you live your life by?

"If you gave your life to love them, so will I."

## How were you involved in the Honors Program?

"I was an officer for two semesters. I was in charge of fundraising. I planned and promoted bake sales and other events, as well as collaborating with other officers."

## Did the Honors Program prepare you for Drury?

"Yeah. Before the Honors Program I didn't care about getting involved in school. Also, it provided me with a scholarship, which was a major factor in attending Drury. It prepared me with the skills and financial capability."

## What degree are you going for?

"I am dual-majoring in English and writing, while also participating in Drury's Honors College. My workload is heavier than it was at OTC, but its okay because it is classes and subjects that I enjoy."

## What are your future plans?

"Upon graduation, I would like to find a publishing company to edit for. My dream is Penguin, but that is in the U.K. so it is probably unrealistic."

## What Hogwarts house would you be sorted into and why?

"I always thought I was a Ravenclaw, but Pottermore sorted me as a Hufflepuff. Which makes sense, because I value friendships and loyalty."

# MENTAL BREAK

Optical Illusion

Can you spot the Robin and Sheep?

