

OTC
Honors
Program

{ThePinnacle:}

Destination Known

Spring
2019

Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.

Volume 19



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 learning environments and opportunities.

Inside this issue:

Table of Contents	2
Recruitment.....	2
Astronomy.....	3
Literary Corner.....	4
Book Recommendations	5
Local Business	6
Events + Upcoming	7-9
Officers.....	10-11
Instructor Interview.....	12
Current Student Interview...	13
Student Writings.....	14-15
Mental Break.....	Back

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 office duties 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

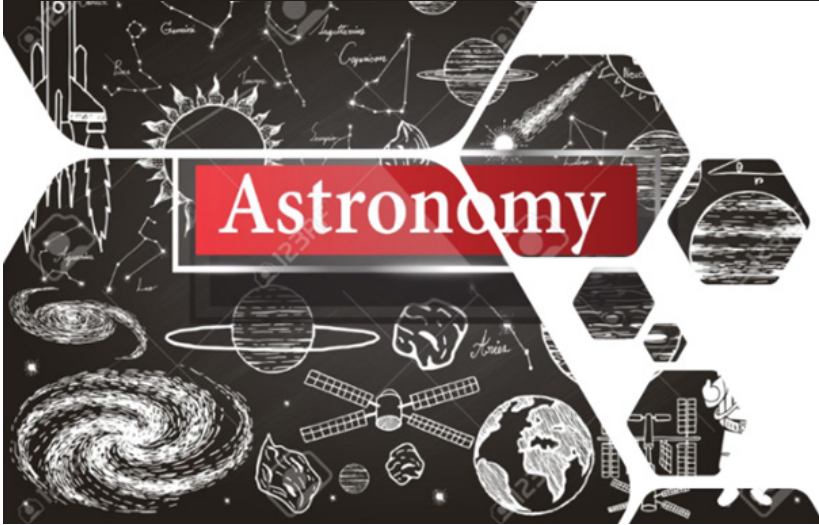
Come hang out!

Contact us:

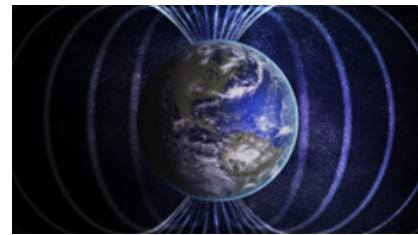
If you are an Honors Program student interested in having your work published in the newsletter, or if you are interested in applying to the Honors Program, you may email **honors@otc.edu** for more information or search 'honors program' on the OTC website. **Office Phone: 417-447-7500 ext. 8905.**

Astronomy

By Katharine Vine



Did you know that the direction your compass points changes almost constantly? So much so that there is an agency that must update the World Magnetic Model every 5 years to keep up with this. This year however, the update had to come early as the Earth kicked up the speed of this drifting North Pole and was about to cause issues to magnetic navigation systems.



As strange as this sounds, it's not the weirdest thing the pole has done throughout history. Rock based evidence shows that the pole has completely flipped throughout Earth's lifetime. Imagine north being south and your compass pointing the complete opposite way! Those poor animals that rely on the magnetic field for navigation and migration!



In other news, Mars rover, Opportunity (lovingly known as Oppy) finally gave out its last message and fell silent. It's final words, "my battery is low and it's getting dark".

It has been on the planet since January 2004 and was only expected to last around 90 Martian days (a Martian day is 24 hours and 37 minutes) with it losing energy due to dust covering its solar panels. However, Mars has some strong winds and this dust regularly got blown away and so the rover could continue to recharge itself.

NASA had not heard from Opportunity since June 2018 when the largest dust storm we have witnessed overtook the Martian sky and prevented the rover from recharging. With the changing seasons, the team had hoped the dust would be blown away and Opportunity would make contact again. However, January 25th a last attempt at sending commands was met with silence and all hope was lost that the rover had survived. February 13th marked the day Oppy was declared officially dead.

Opportunity has given scientists a huge amount of data including evidence that Mars once held liquid water! Thank you for the last 15 years Oppy, you will be missed.

Literary Corner

Untitled Poem

By Siena Kragel

Bare and footing rough the dark of myself,
The softened moss welcomes
Your warm, liquid embrace
With the falling leaves
Upon your neck will the sun caress
Down to the bow of the ship
to the parting seas which give way to all that I love

Wish me goodnight with the falling leaves
That roll atop the softest moss
At night, the moon will give way to seasons
Yet come
Will the birds comes out to play?
I know surely the wolves will indulge.

Untitled Poem

By Siena Kragel

I have touched the distant Past
She told me, I see with the eyes of God,
She reached out her hands
The touch of mine lays deep
with the new grass of those whom once loved.
-- "may I be invited inside your home?"
She whispered so softly, an everlasting tomb.
-- I held fast the door and in flew the night
and the days of unbridled past
Of love,
Of blood,
Of flesh
and of man's eternal grasp on the stars above.

She sat at my table,
Drank my lasting wine,
Which dripped from hungry lips of hers
-- "may I sleep in your bed?"
She whispered so softly, an everlasting tomb.
Now gracing her presence
Upon my pillow,
Awake lay she and the thoughts above
Never once did dreams touch her heavenly crown.

The sun came from the earth,
Reaching its limbs across the icy floors
From this grasp, she fled, into my head.

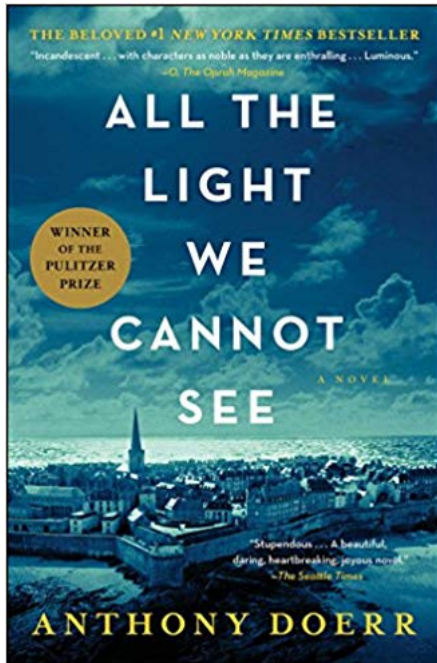
No more is this distant companion.
Forever she lives, on in my home.

**Siena Kragel is an OTC Honors Program Student and a tutor at the
Carol Jones Writing Center.**

Learn about the author of these great poems on pg. 13

Books: Student Recommendations

For Pleasure:



All the Light We Cannot See

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

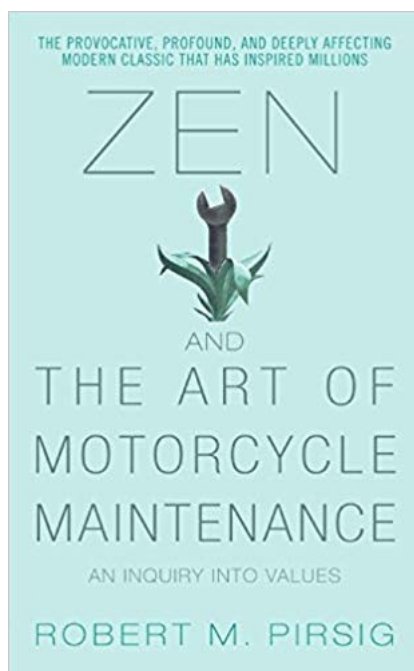
Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

Picture and Summary by: Amazon

Recommended by: Rhiannon Harp

For Learning:



Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

One of the most important and influential books written in the past half-century, Robert M. Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* is a powerful, moving, and penetrating examination of how we live . . . and a breathtaking meditation on how to live better. Here is the book that transformed a generation: an unforgettable narration of a summer motorcycle trip across America's Northwest, undertaken by a father and his young son. A story of love and fear -- of growth, discovery, and acceptance -- that becomes a profound personal and philosophical odyssey into life's fundamental questions, this uniquely exhilarating modern classic is both touching and transcendent, resonant with the myriad confusions of existence . . . and the small, essential triumphs that propel us forward.

Picture and Summary by: Amazon

Recommended by: Trystan Burris

Local Business: Student Recommendations

European Cafe

Recommended by: Rhiannon Harp



Here in the 417, we have a variety of great American foods, from burger joints to coffee shops, and of course, Springfield cashew chicken. However, every now and then, even I start to feel like Springfield is too small, like we don't have enough worldly flavors. Sometimes the same old same old just gets boring, you know? If you're like me, and you ever want to step outside of our town without having to drive more than 20 minutes, look no further than our bustling downtown! On the square you will find a lovely little taste of elsewhere called the European Cafe. They feature fresh pastries (made from scratch), breakfast options, macarons, and a variety of beverages to satisfy any coffee shop aficionado. While I was there, I tried their pastry called "Birds Milk" which was truly a unique experience. On their Facebook page, European Cafe describes it, "...like a vanilla ice cream crossed with marshmallows and covered in chocolate Mirror Glaze... It's made with Agar Agar so it's vegetarian friendly." I enjoyed eating it just as much as I enjoyed looking at it, I mean how cute is that? I think when I go next time I'll try their cherry chocolate mousse, nicknamed The Apple by their customers.

While they use fine exotic ingredients like Belgian chocolate, they also source locally for other ingredients, so you know that the money you're spending there is helping our community thrive. You can feel good about the sweet treats you buy there, and your taste buds will thank you, too!

If you want to learn more about European Cafe, visit their website, 417europeancafe.com, or go try them for yourself at **207 Park Central East!** Their operating hours are **Monday through Thursday 7:30 AM - 9:00 PM, Friday 7:30 AM - 11:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM, and Sunday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM.**

Honors Events

Orientation

By: Kori Little

Spring 2019 Orientation was a success. How can an event with pizza, games and fun OTC Honors Program students not be a success? There was a mixture of familiar and many new faces plus office staff in attendance. Orientation is an optimal time for everyone to mingle and get acquainted.

It started with Mr. Yerby explaining the responsibilities and requirements of the Honors Program. He let the students know the high standard expected of an Honors Program student.

He highlighted the benefits of being in the program with greater opportunities for scholarships, employment, and graduating with honors distinction. This distinction is only held by a few students each academic year.

Then, the Honors Council officers then took the floor. Each officer introduced themselves and described their duties and events that are on the calendar or being worked on for the Spring 2019 semester. Cindy got the students interested in the bake sales and several had great ideas for different items (like vegan). Lauren also let everyone know there would be officer openings in the fall and spring. Kori talked about off campus community service at Ozarks Food Harvest and Harmony House. Nina discussed Wonders of Wildlife and Wilson's Creek Battlefield for educational field trips. Katharine gave the dates for blood drives. Ian asked for Pinnacle articles and Rhiannon explained all the social media platforms.

Finally, the fun began. A "find the officer scavenger hunt" where teams were given clues to go to and learn different parts of the campus and get to meet an officer. Each officer was in a different area on campus to stamp the passport booklet for each team. The team that returned to the orientation room with the best time won. The winner for this game was "The Best Team". A very fitting team name!

Pizza was the highlight of the event. Students hung out, ate pizza and got to know each other. We are excited for the new semester and all the new students in the Honors Program.



Honors Events



Blood Drive

By: Katharine Vine

Spring semester kicked off with our CBCO blood drive on February 6th. We had a little bit of a disappointing turn out with the weather being gloomy, but still managed to pump out 31 pints! Here's to helping save lives! We'll have another drive later in the semester for red cross, so be ready for either working or donating.



Bake Sale

By: Ian Williamson

Our very first bake sale of the semester was very successful and featured a variety of goods for almost all students. The bake sale earned \$481.42. That is a really great number from a result of everyone's hard work and help. I hope that we can do just as well if not better in our future bake sales.



Upcoming Events

Pinnacle Updates + Get Featured

By: Ian Williamson

Next issue will feature some changes to the Pinnacle namely including a financial page so that more people can see and understand where all the money earned really goes and see a quick visual to how earnings have been over recent semesters. There will also be details surrounding scholarships, deals for students, as well as the potential for other things.

As we did in the past, we will have an alumni interview. This next alumni interview will feature an alumni that has graduated and moved on to pursue great things. Be sure to check out the next issue and see where one of our great alumni has gone from here.

In addition to all that, I am very open to suggestions regarding the Pinnacle. If there is something you want to see in the Pinnacle then be sure to let me know. Also, if you are a current honors student or alumni and you have some great accomplishments or just something you are proud of, let me know. I would be more than happy to find a way to showcase that in the Pinnacle.

Upcoming Events

Bake Sale

March 5th and 6th

Ozarks Food Harvest

March 30th

Honors Conference

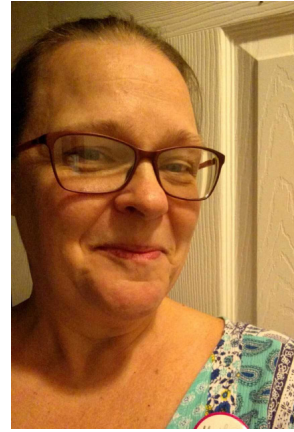
April 13th



Spring 2019 Officers



Lauren Mansker - President



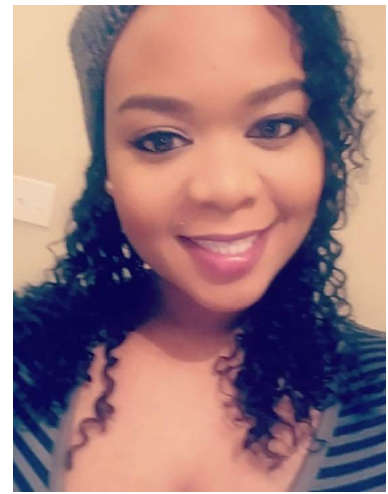
Kori Little - Off-Campus Service



Rebecca Shelton - Secretary



Ian Williamson - Pinnacle Editor



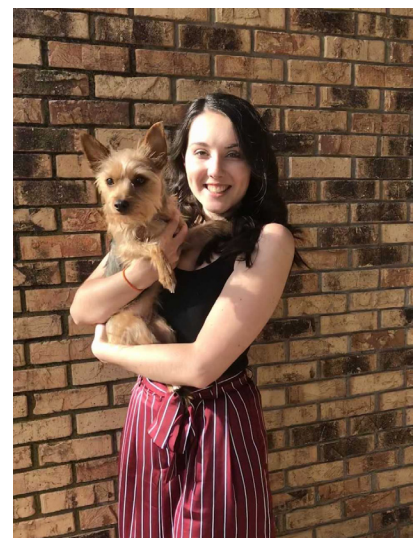
Nina Mack - Educational and Social Activities



Katharine Vine - On-Campus Service



Cindy Muse - Fundraising



Rhiannon Harp - Publicity

Get to Know the Officers

Lauren Mansker

President

What was the best book or series that you've ever read?

The best book I've ever read is the Time Travelers Wife. I enjoyed it because it was a fairly complex for a love story and it kept my attention for so long that I read it twice. I also loved that they turned it into a movie but I haven't seen the movie yet.

Rebecca Shelton

Secretary

What fad or trend do you hope comes back?

One fad that is still around (barely) that I would love to come back in full force would be drive-in movie theatres. They're great for a date or family night out.

Katharine Vine

Vp of On-Campus Service

Who's your go to band or artist when you can't decide on something to listen to?

This is such a hard question!! I don't have one. It entirely depends on my mood. Generally, I go to pop music – anything from 90's Christina Millian to Demi Lovato or Selena Gomez! However, I also love Halsey and tend to lean towards music that has meaning, things I can relate to. I like most genres though so please don't make me pick!!

Kori Little

VP of Off-Campus Service

What fictional place would you most like to go?

The magical forest kingdom of Terabithia is where I can rule the way I like. Terabithia is a refuge, a sanctuary, to the crazy and sometimes cruel world. Terabithia is not known by many, only a special few. In Terabithia I can be the Queen. In Terabithia you know who your friends and enemies are. In Terabithia, the magical forest kingdom, you can make all your troubles go away.

Ian Williamson

Editor in Chief of the Pinnacle

What game or movie universe would you most like to live in?

Probably the universe of Accel World. It is an anime/light novel that takes place about in the near future where virtual and augmented reality are commonplace. I would absolutely love to live in a high-tech society like that.

Nina Mack

VP of Educational and Social Activities

If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?

If I didn't have to sleep, I'd spend my time gaining every bit of knowledge my brain could handle. Also, I'd travel the world to meet new and exciting people, study their culture, and eat their food like the late Anthony Bourdain.

Cindy Muse

VP of Fundraising

What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?

There is actually two things... On educational and 1 for pleasure. Everyone should work in the service industry either retail or restaurants because that way, everyone would understand how hard these people work and to treat them with kindness and respect. For pleasure, everyone should go to a Styx concert!!!! They are one of the best rock bands ever and their live show is amazing!! Go see them. You will not be disappointed. They have a huge fan base of all ages!! They are timeless!

Rhiannon Harp

VP of Publicity

What hobby would you get into if time and money weren't an issue?

I would love to learn how to dance on a professional level. If I had the free time for it and the funds to afford all the classes and equipment, I would be the person posting those cool choreography videos you see on YouTube to new songs that come out.

Instructor Interview

Interview conducted by Ian Williamson



Gary King
Math Instructor
Honors Statistics Instructor

So, you don't know why you like the Yankees?

"It was in that era that they were winning every year. I assume, I inherited it from my two older brothers that were also Yankees fans. Though they left the Yankees later in life to root for other teams. I think it has something to do with that. Mickey Mantle was the biggest sports star at that time, and he was on the Yankees."

What would you say was your greatest experience in college (as a student)?

"I came from a very small school. My graduating class was maybe a hundred people. So, I going to a University that at that time had about 8,000 students. I went to West Texas State. There was a bit of fear that I maybe wasn't prepared and these people talked a good game in every class I was in. So, it might well be that the first calculus test I took, and I made the highest grade. Though it seems like a trivial thing... from that moment on I knew I was as smart as these people that sound a lot smarter than me."

Where are you from?

"I was born in Texas. I taught for fifteen years in New Mexico and then came here in 94, I think."

Do you have any children?

"Two boys. One just got his doctorate in Literature. He's teaching at the University of Florida now. The other is studying religious studies in Northwestern. He's about halfway through his dissertation up there. Neither studied math or science...which hurt a little bit, but you know, they're doing good."

Why the interest in baseball?

"One of the very first memories I have is my father and uncles are outside talking about the World Series. I remember it...game seven, the Yankees were playing the Pirates and the Yankees lost. And one of my uncles was happy and I never liked him after that. I was 4 or 5 and I just knew that number one, I like baseball, and number two, I like the Yankees. There is no reason for that, growing up in West Texas. In my day, everyone played baseball as a kid. All the math nerds tended to be in sports...so we would play baseball and keep the statistics."

Why did you end up choosing mathematics?

"The baseball might have been part of it and part of it was that I was good at it. I was really good and quick when we first learned to add fractions. We used to have contests in school where you would go to the board and you would do little games. I was good at that and people told me, well you should study math. For most kids, good at that level doesn't lead anywhere, but the further I got taking math it still was interesting."

How do you spend a typical Friday night?

"If I don't have anything to grade, I am usually watching a movie. I love to watch mostly old movies. Now, during baseball season I am watching baseball games. I don't go out too much."

Is there a quote or saying you live by?

"Do unto others as you would have done to you."

Current Student Interview

Interview conducted by Ian Williamson



Siena Kragel
Honors Program Student

What inspires you to write poetry?

“Poetry for me, it comes from a core foundation of my personal human experience and poets that I have read before. It is really about capturing a feeling or a scene, but the scene itself is capturing this one essence of it. I think it is just human experience that inspires me.”

What thing have you done that you are most proud of?

“Personally, I feel like the most significant thing that I am most proud of would probably be that I have maintained a level of cool-headedness throughout school. Before I entered my first semester, I was so panicky. I was like, I’m not going to go to school and I’m going to drop out . . . but a part of me just told me I was going the right direction. In terms of school I am really proud of being part of the writing center.”

Where are you from?

“I’m from Kansas City.”

What are you going to school for?

“I am going to school for an associate of arts, but I really just started going to college right out of high school because I knew I wanted to pursue an education. Like, I didn’t want to sit idle.”

What’s your favorite part of the Honors Program so far?

“Technically I have two things that are my favorite parts. I love the honors office. I feel like every time I come in there everyone’s like, oh heyyyy come join the conversation. Also, this is my first semester contracting a class and so far, I am really enjoying it. I’m contracting Dr. Ball’s American Literature II. I’m doing extra reading and just a page analysis on each one and yeah, I am just really enjoying it so far.”

What is one thing that you are able to do, that you wish you could do?

“Haha, fly. No, probably . . . I’d love to have the opportunity to be on Broadway or be in a movie. That would be so amazing. Since I was a little kid I have always dreamed about being on the big silver screen. I am not really working on that right now though. I am just focusing on school.”

Is there someone that inspires you

“Definitely in the school, Dr. Ball. I had him first semester and he is just really knowledgeable, and I respect people who use their knowledge in positive ways.”

“I just recently watched the new Sabrina and the lead character is the same age as me, we were born a month apart, and she is literally starring in this awesome TV show. It just looks it would be so much fun. It is almost inspirational because I am like, I can do that too.”

My Experience in the Honors Program

By: Michael Santiago

Being someone who was never eligible for the honors program in high school, this is a new experience for me. My first semester here at OTC was during the fall of 2018 last year. I was introduced into an environment that I wasn't used to, so I did something that would prove to be very crucial to my eventual success: I adapted. I was able to achieve things I could only dream of, and it eventually led me to the Honors Program. The first day I walked into the Honors Program office I was greeted by friendly faces. They immediately wanted to help me since I was needing to turn in the paperwork that was required for registration. That was when I met John Cook, the awesome Honors Program Recruitment Specialist. He helped me make sure I had all of the correct documents that needed to be turned in. He was also very funny and told me a little bit about the benefits that came with being a member of the Honors Program. I felt welcome and I felt like I could get used to this.

After I finished turning in all of the proper documents, all that was left was just waiting for that confirmation email. It didn't take too long for it to pop up into my inbox feed, but once I saw the email, I was ecstatic! The next day I went to school, I decided to go into the Honors Program office and just chill out in there. Once again, the environment was so welcoming and loving I felt like I was finally good enough for once. I got to joke around with the people that were in there, while I also studied for my classes. From then on, every time I went into the Honors Program office, it felt like I was becoming more and more welcome into their community. Overall, my experience with the OTC Honors Program has been a positive and welcoming one! I look forward to continuing on with this program and hopefully become a better version of myself.



Distance Learning

By: Hyo Kim

My experience in the Honors Program learning from a distance has been rather enriching. I think the HON 290 class should be a requirement to be taken immediately upon join the Honors Program. The whole process of putting yourself out there and making a difference in the community that you live in changes you as a person, for the better. You can't spend all those hours working selflessly for a cause that's bigger than you and not come out of the process as a better person.

When I first came back to school, I came back to get an easy degree related to my current job field. That would've been something like accounting or business management. After my experience at assisting at a food pantry and tutoring refugees working to earn their US citizenship, my focus shifted towards something in the lines of social work or non-profit. After my experience as a federal employee being furloughed for 35 days and having time to introspect on what I can learn to make a difference in the world, I've made a final decision to study law. In a nation that operates under the rule of law, it seems to me that mastery in understanding of the law is the most powerful non-lethal weapon I can wield.

It's time to power up.



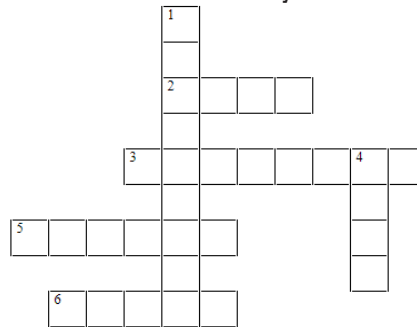
MENTAL BREAK

Get Some Spring in your Step!



Spring Flowers

By: Rhiannon Harp



ACROSS

- 2 The most popular flower given on Valentine's Day.
- 3 Also known as Narcissus, named after a Greek myth.
- 5 Also a famous unsolved case, "The Black _____."
- 6 Native to Asia and called the King of Flowers by the Chinese.

DOWN

- 1 Commonly referred to using its scientific name, Dianthus.
- 4 Named after the Greek goddess of the rainbow.

You are capable of more than you know. Choose a goal that seems right for you and strive to be the best, however hard the path. Aim high. Behave honorably. Prepare to be alone at times, and to endure failure. Persist! The world needs all you can give.

-E.O. Wilson

