

**OTC
Honors
Program**



The Pinnacle: Destination Known



**Spring
2018**

Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.

Volume 16



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!



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: 417-447-8229**

Art by Honors

Reality is a Cloud

By Alyssa Everett

Your face seems disconnected,
the fog of a window pane in summer humidity,
clouded, soft, relaxed.

The sky above opens up,
and tears fill the distance from the sky to the ground,
your eyes to your cheek,
your exterior to your mind,
consciousness a flood of illusion.

Where are you?
Where am I?
Where is reality?
Better yet, what is reality?

The world is one giant brainstorm,
our huddled minds encompass what it means to be free, or secluded.
There is no limit to ourselves, yet all we feel is limited.

White Noise

By Alyssa Everett

Sometimes I think I hear
the phone ring
in the middle of the night,
but instead of answering
and hearing your voice,
there is
static
on the other end.

On Human Interaction

By Alyssa Everett

Social media platforms are just surface personas we apply to our real lives. You can look at thousands of pictures of an individual, but those photos won't tell you their parents are fighting at home, or what they ate for lunch yesterday unless you care to meet them for it.

I'm smiling in my Facebook profile picture because I was happy when it was taken. But people change so rapidly, and the happiness that's dated January 19, 2018 doesn't exist anymore.

Even talking through text messages leaves a residual barrier between two people. I could text you my whole life story and you'd think that you knew me then. You may know my story, but you won't be able to see the way my chin creases when I smile, or the way I run my fingers through my hair when I'm nervous to tell you something important. You'd know my words, but not me.

You won't ever know me fully based off of Facebook pictures and indirect conversation. The world needs more direct conversation.

You see, we are the sum of the experiences we share with other people. I don't know about you, but I want to add up to something... beautiful.

Success in Honors

Below is an article written by Lacy Hardesty that was published by the Springfield Newsleader. It was originally a piece she wrote for an honors course. I would like to congratulate her on her success.

Who do you want your child to be when they grow up? This is a question that we all need to consider when determining if behaviorism is working in the classroom. Currently, in almost every classroom you walk into, you will see reward/punishment systems in place. In an elementary classroom it may be a star chart, in a high school classroom it may be a ticket cash-out board where the student, by earning tickets, can get free time, bonus points, computer time or can pass on a homework assignment.

So far this sounds great, right? Well, it's not. By giving these rewards and using the behaviorist theory in teaching, we are teaching our students to get a reward and please the teacher, instead of teaching them how to learn and how to be self-disciplined learners who see the act of learning something new or achieving a task as the reward instead of a star on the wall.

The reward/punishment system currently in place is teacher-centered. A person-centered system creates a balance between the wants of the teacher and the needs of the student. A comprehensive review of 119 person/student-centered learning studies that spanned 56 years showed a positive change in cognitive learning, better creativity, critical thinking, math skills, participation and self-esteem. It also showed a decrease in dropouts, less misbehavior and better attendance. With this system, both the students and teachers benefited. The students were learning more, gaining self-esteem, and they were less distracted and better behaved, taking a load off the teacher.

When asked why they liked school, students who were exposed to this new system said that they felt like they were part of a kind of family, that their teachers were listening to their opinions and ideas, that they had freedoms and choices, but also had structure and, most importantly, that they were respected. There isn't a single thing on this list of responses that I wouldn't want for my child or for any child. School is supposed to be a place that fosters learning, the thrill of achievement (not the reward they get for achieving something), self-reliance and a positive self-image. A classroom that follows the rewards/punishment system just doesn't supply these outcomes.

Creating a more balanced, person-centered classroom will not happen overnight. If we have been offering tangible rewards for good behavior and good grades, and we just, cold-turkey, take these things away, students will decline quickly because they don't have any other motivational skills to fall back on. So, we need to slowly transition over to this model. If we don't, we are doing a disservice to our youth. Our children must have a self-reliant, self-motivating skill set in place to make it in the "real world." Without these things, they are going to be lost and doomed to fail. It is our responsibility to make a change and to make it fast. The fate of the next generation is at risk if we don't.

Crystal's Opportunity in London

By Crystal Shaffer

I first learned of Missouri Southern State University through the Honors Program class College Seminar. It was recommended that I consider MSSU since I was interested in studying at Oxford University in London. When I considered the school, I learned that they have a strong pre-law program and a great study abroad program. I enrolled my first semester with them, for the Spring of 18. One of the classes that is mandatory for all MSSU students is University Experience and part of the information covered in this class is the process of applying for a study abroad opportunity. I was excited to learn that as a transfer student with over 60 hours, will having one semester complete, and having a 3.5 GPA that I qualified to apply for a semester in Fall 18.

MSSU has contracts with several different schools. While Oxford is no longer one of those schools, they do have a contract with a school that will give me an experience much like one from Oxford. Once I settled on the University of Roehampton, the application process was simple. A 500-word essay on why I represent diversity and what I hope to take away from the experience and having one member of MSSU faculty writing me a letter of recommendation. Waiting to hear back from Roehampton was nerve-wacking. It took them about two and a half weeks for me to get their decision.

I read my acceptance letter three times before my mind grasped that I was excepted to Roehampton for the semester. It has been exciting going through the process, so far, even though most of what can be done is simply waiting. I will be leaving the States on 12 Sept 2018 and arriving in London on the 13th mid-morning. I am hoping to take some of their criminal justice courses while I am in attendance. The best part about this is that the semester end in early December but they allow their study abroad students to keep their dorm rooms till the beginning of Jan to give them opportunity to truly enjoy the many different opportunities that are offered in the United Kingdom.



Honors Conference

Notes from Officers that Attended

Rachel Stobbe - President

The Ozarks Technical Community College's Honors conference happened on April 14th this year and it was such an amazing day. I, personally, had never been to a conference before, so this was my first time getting to see all the presenters in action. I also had the amazing opportunity to be a presenter. I presented alongside Dayton Kingore and we gave a presentation about how the last three generations interact/influence each other. We went into the presentation thinking we would have just enough content to fill the time we needed, but we ended up having so much audience participation that we eventually had to cut off questions because we ran out of time. It was such a phenomenal experience getting to academically interact with students from students all over the state. We got to end the evening by laughing with the Skinny Improve, and I can honestly say that was the most fun part of the event. Getting to just celebrate the culmination of a lot of hard work from everyone with pure, unadulterated fun and joy is a memory I will never forget. As far as I am concerned, the weekend was a phenomenal success. A huge thank you to any and all Honors Students who joined us for the weekend.

Lauren Mansker - Secretary

I participated in OTC's 6th annual Honors Conference this year for the first time since I joined the honors program and it was such a wonderful experience. Being able to convey your passion through a 50 minute presentation was a very positive and enriching experience. Also being able to professionally communicate with other students from different colleges and making passionate connections with them and their subjects was a very enjoyable experience. I recommend this experience to ANYONE who is passionate about ANYTHING!



Honors Conference

Notes from Officers that Attended

Alyssa Everett - VP of Fundraising

Throughout my time as an honors student, I have traveled from being a member to an officer, which has made all the difference in my life. I've helped put together events, built a family, and among other things, had the honor of attending the annual OTC Honors Conference twice. Both of these experiences were drastically different, however, both were significant. The first year I had the privilege of attending and hearing the different speakers give their presentations, while the second year I was honored to be the speaker. Both of these times have helped improve the way I think and view certain topics. The first time I was able to learn about topics I had no knowledge of, and the second time I was able to learn from others individual thoughts and perspectives in response to my own topic. Being able to talk about something I'm passionate about to the people I hold in my heart was an experience I won't forget or ever stop valuing. I am "honored" to be an honors student.

Ian Williamson - Editor in Chief

I attended the Honors Conference with almost no experience in giving a college level presentation. My partner Lane gave me some tips and together we managed to put something together rather easily. It was an amazing and worthwhile experience for me to be able to present on something I really had a passion for. It was incredible the amount of questions people had and how they had a real interest in what we were talking about after we were done presenting. In addition, the other presenters were equally passionate about their topics. I learned a lot about topics I had never even heard about or thought about. All the discussions during the question and answer sections were enlightening and sometimes didn't even involve the presenter. I can't wait to attend the Honors Conference next year.

Honors Conference

Pictures



Honors Events and Updates

Springfield Express Hockey Game

I, along with some others from the Honors Program, went to a hockey game played by our Springfield Express team. Express played very well that day scoring double digits over the visiting team. I expected some fighting during this game but I never expected both teams to have a brawl in the middle of the ice. Though it was exciting, I must say I was glad for the game to resume.

My experience watching the Express hockey game was very enjoyable. I had a great time sitting with my friends outside of an academic setting. The game was fun and exciting, the food was fried and tasty, and the people were happy and cheerful. Seeing people within the Honors Program sing the National Anthem and drop the puck made me happy to be a part of it.

- Dayton Kingore, Treasurer Extraordinaire

Habitat for Humanity

We volunteered at Habitat for Humanity, and we had a blast. We tore boards and nails off the walls, painted the roof and walls, while dodging all the spiders. We threw sinks and cabinets off balconies, all while connecting with new people, and making new friendships. Even though it was cold, we still played in the water, rinsing all the utensils we used to transform what was a gutted house, into a freshly painted residence. There was a lot of work to do, however we all worked together to get it done neatly, and in a timely manner. It was such a neat experience to see how a group of strangers, in the same community can work together within minutes of meeting each other to turn an unattractive, damaged house, into a pleasing, humble abode. The Habitat workers were super appreciative that we were able to volunteer and lend some hands to finish what needed to be done.

[Right is Habitat for Humanity]

- Kylee Miles

[Below is the Express Game]



Honors Events and Updates

Mr. Yerby's Farm

On March 31st, myself and some fellow honors students visited Mr. Yerby's farm to talk and have a little bit of fun. It was a very nice experience. We went on a tour of the farm to see all of his animals and property. He had many bunnies, some goats, chickens, and other various animals. If you like cute animals, this is the place for you. Just make sure that you don't listen when he talks about eating them. After the tour we all sat down around the fire to eat. He had a nice spread of hotdogs, chips, and other sides. I especially liked the pasta salad that his wife made. Sitting around a fire and talking with friends was a very welcome change of pace for me. Though the drive was a little scary because of how far he lives out, it was definitely worth it. If I ever get the chance again I will gladly go back.

-Dayton Kingore - Treasurer

Making the Honors Program Website Great Again

When I first started looking into the Honors Program, the first place I went was the website. What I found when I got there was quite outdated, with information from many years ago that was un-reliable in regards to the current Honors Program. Besides that, there were many things that the website did not address and other issues that became very apparent to me. So when I started working in the Honors Program office, very quickly my affinity for computers became apparent, and I was set upon the task of renovating the website. Since then I have created new pages and updated old ones, specifically the OTC Honors Conference webpage and subsequent pages were put upon me, however I have also been trying to update as much of the information as I can. Some projects I'm currently working on include, a recommend a student button and form, as well as an Honors Alumni page. There is still a lot of work to be done on the website to get it where I would like, but I have done my best to greatly improve upon it so far, and I plan to continue that into the future.

Cody Friend - Honors Program Computer Specialist

Alumni Dinner

The Honors Alumni Dinner was a great chance for me to get to meet some of the people who came before us. It was pretty surprising for me how many had stayed in town and were actually involved in the college. The food was great and I even got a third helping and a to-go box, as per Mr. Yerby's requests. My mom actually ended up eating the chicken and brisket but I had ended up going back for the mashed potatoes that night. It was also a great debut for our up and coming Foundation Fund that 1500 dollars of the Honors Program budget was recently allocated for. At 2500 it will become an official account and if it keeps growing the Honors Program may finally see some scholarships.

Thank you all who came to the dinner and I hope to see more of you next year,

Ian Williamson - Editor in Chief of the Pinnacle Newsletter

Honors Events and Updates

Honors Handbook

The Honors Program wanted to simplify information for current and prospective students. The easiest way to do this was to create a handbook outlying all aspects of the program. John Cook spent a good portion of the spring semester collecting and creating documents to cover the many different components that make up the Honors Program. Once this was done, he then spent time with Mr. Yerby organizing the book so that the information would flow smoothly. The way the book is currently laid out, is that it tells who we are as a program, what we do, what an Honors Program student is required to do, behavior, scholarships, transfer, Honors council and more. As part of recruitment we can now give the handbook out to students who are interested in the program and it will answer many question they may have. Although it is currently in a stage of completion it is also an ever changing document and we will add and subtract things from it as we continue to move forward and grow the program. Starting this fall, we will require all students in the Honors Program to sign for a handbook. This will allow everyone within the Honors Program to be on the same page, no pun intended.

John Cook - Honors Program Recruitment Specialist

Wonders of Wildlife

Wonders of Wildlife is an immersive and educational experience about fishing, hunting, conservation, and the great outdoors. The museum seeks to educate people in a world that seems to be getting detached from the wild-life and make them realize the beauty and need to conserve those things. Personally, I was fascinated by the huge aquarium and I think I could have stayed there all day. Being able to touch the sting rays was like something from a dream. I think I stayed there for 20-30 minutes but it was so relaxing and fun that I would have stayed with them much longer. In conclusion, I believe that the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium meets its goal. I feel more in touch with nature and wildlife and I got to experience parts of it that will probably never get the chance to. I plan on returning there the first chance I get to see the rays again and maybe buy a souvenir.

Ian Williamson - Editor in Chief of the Pinnacle Newsletter

The Honors Advisory Committee

The first ever Honors Advisory Committee meeting was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018. We had 40 members of our Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students in attendance all with a single goal in mind, that being to make the Honors Program at Ozarks Technical Community College the best that it can be.

During the meeting, introductions of the office staff and officers were conducted with a brief explanation of the program as it stands was presented. Mr. Yerby then drove into his purpose for the meeting, and that being, to make the Honors Program all that it can be and to offer the students an excellent yet challenging opportunity as honors students and what that could mean for their future. He would love to see the program grow and be able to pass it off to the next advisor as a fully functioning well-oiled machine that functions for the benefits of the students that we serve everyday.

The meeting lasted approximately an hour and those in attendance were given a t-shirt and an opportunity to meet new people and form new working relationships with people that they may have not had the chance to work with in the past.

Jayme Handley - Honors Office Manager

Graduation Farewell from the President

Dear Honors Students,

I first want to thank all of you for supporting this program. Nothing that we do could be done without your help, service, and, at times, sacrifice to help us. I have been shown through all of your dedication just how much a student organization can get done in a year. I was talking to John a couple weeks ago, and it blew my mind that I stepped into this position in September/October. It feels like five years have gone by in that time frame. Not in the sense that time has been dragging on, but in the sense that we have grown and accomplished so much in one semester that it feels like 5 years flew by.

This year has been such a whirlwind for me, and it seems as though it has felt like that collectively through the program. Just to give an overview, we have four people working in the office and a full Honors Council officer team, and that has let us be so productive. That let us try new things, revamp some old habits, start new councils and committees, and so many things to come. We also basically doubled the amount of people that travel through our office space, and that makes my heart so happy. I have made some of my best friends ever through meeting the people in that office. People that, if I had never joined this family, I would have never met. Now I can't imagine life without them. The fact that there are so many people in and out of that room, signifies that so many best friends could be made.

There is something so special about being a part of something. This leads to having people who genuinely understand what is going on in life. We have each other to lean on through tough teachers, academic overload, unfortunate life circumstances, plus other honors responsibilities. We all get it. We all understand each other, and that is something some students never get to say. Especially community college students. So, never forget that. The people that surround you in that office, those are your people. Love them and support them.

I am going to leave you with my favorite quote: "If I can give you a bit of advice that I'm giving myself this year and it's to go for it. Go for it! It's a simple answer to countless questions that you can ask yourself. This doesn't apply to self-destructive questions, it applies to self-discovery questions. You find out so much about yourself and it's scary to take that next step. It still terrifies me but once it becomes known you find that rush, Many years from now I want to be able to say through the hard times and through the good times, I had a wondrous time."

Thank you all so much for a wondrous time.

Sincerely the former President of the Honors Council,

Rachel Stobbe



List of Spring 2018 Honors Graduates

BAILEY ADAMIK
ASHLEY BOYLE
FARRAH CHAMBERS
CALLY CHISHOLM
JOHN COOK
SABRINA EDRALIN
ALYSSA EVERETT
VIKORIIA HRYSHCHENKO
DAYTON KINGORE
CATHLEEN LEVERETTE
BRADY MARSHALL
KYLEE MILES
SARAH POWELL
ELENA RODRIGUEZ
CRYSTAL SHAFFER
RACHEL STOBBE
JARED THOMAS
DAVID VERGEL DE DIOS
LANE WILLIAMSON

Graduation

May 17th

2018

6:00pm

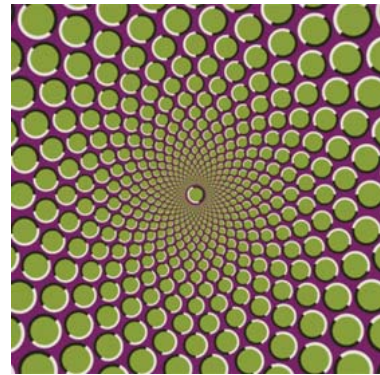
{13} {The Pinnacle: Destination Known}

MENTAL BREAK

Optical Illusion

Riddle me this:

*This thing all things devours;
Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;
Gnaws iron, bites steel;
Grinds hard stones to meal;
Slays king, ruins town,
And beats high mountain down.
- Gollum, from the Hobbit*



CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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**Quote By Winston Churchill if you
can solve it**



**Compiled and Edited
by Ian Williamson**