

Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.

The Pinnacle Destination Known

GIVING THANKS

BY: BRITTANEY BRENT

The Honors Program's bake sales have been quite a success this semester. Not only do they provide funding for fun activities that we host, the money also goes to adopting families during the holiday season. I personally want to thank every single person that has helped contribute this year by acknowledging you all in this open forum. Through your generosity and good cheer, we can keep our traditions alive. We have fun making goodies and getting to know you all personally. However, I want to take this time to give credit where credit is due.

Kori is our president, and if you have made your way to the festive bake sale table, you probably have seen her conversing with the regulars and promoting the Honors Program. She is the fantastic lady that brings flare and festivity to our organization, and we are all better for it. When you come up to our table, you have seen the array of perfectly packed sweets that come in cute, professional assortments. She makes a special effort in perfecting the sugar-free cakes and fruit cups. Without her, we would be your regular bake-sale, so I am incredibly thankful having her serve along side us.

With that being said, we could not keep bringing you all these fabulous treats without you supporting us, so thank you again for contributing. We love what we do, and of course, we try to make what everyone loves. By the way, I must give a shout out to the pie man, Clint Weems. Those sell so fast, and they are most definitely a favorite. And to Becca who makes those lovely cupcakes that we cannot live without. We look forward to serving you again, so come by and have some good sweets and great conversation!

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



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CONTACT US

If you are interested in applying to the Honors Program or have already been accepted and wish to have your work published in the newsletter, you may email honors@otc.edu for more information or search 'honors program' on the OTC website.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November

11/27/19-12/1/19 Thanks-giving Break

December

On campus opportunities

12/3/19 General Council Meeting

Other opportunities

12/10/19-12/11/19 Finals Feast

As a way to wind down and reflect upon the semester, the honors program will hold a finals feast the week of finals. All students and instructors involved or interested in the honors program are welcome to our finals feast! The first day of the feast is a potluck featuring chili dogs. Anyone is welcome to sign up and bring food (check honors canvas announcement). Day two will feature a variety of Chinese food. We would love to see you there!

BLOOD DRIVE

BY: ISSY WEAD

Have you or anyone you love ever received blood in the hospitals here in Springfield Missouri? If you have, that blood was directly from the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks. CBCO is responsible for providing blood to 44 hospitals located in 40 countries, and they are the only primary source of blood donations in Green County. OTC was fortunate enough to host one of CBCO's blood drives Wednesday November 13th themed after the new movie coming out *Zombie Land 2*. The blood drive successfully raised 25 units of blood and had 33 participants volunteer to donate. But if you didn't get to donate blood at the OTC's blood drive, don't worry, you still can. By contacting CBCO at their headquarters in

Springfield Mo, you can schedule an appointment to donate today to give back to the community and save lives. Zombies don't need blood, but humans do.



TOYS FOR TOTS

BY: RHIANNON HARP

Every year, the OTC Honors Program works with the Springfield branch of Toys 4 Tots, organized by the local Marine Corps Reserve, to collect new, unwrapped toys to give to children in need for the holiday season. We've steadily collected more and more toys every year, so we're hoping for a great turnout this time around, too. Last year, the toys from all T4T drives in Springfield totaled 23,232 toys, with 7,549 children supported. OTC was just a small fraction of this number, but we're incredibly grateful for the turnout we received—giving anything helps, and even the smallest donation can make a big difference to a child. The drive wraps up the last week of November, so if you missed the chance to donate this year, come back and see us next time! The Honors Program thanks you for your help in making the holidays merry and bright.

MSU ICE HOCKEY GAME

BY: CLINT WEEMS



As VP of Education and Social activities, it is my job to find fun and educational things for us, as honors students to do each semester. While some of the stuff that we did was educational, a lot of it was just plain fun. The most recent outing was also our last until next semester. On Saturday, November 9th, we went to the MSU Ice Bears game. We had a great turnout and one of your fellow honors students got to drop the ceremonial puck! Kylie Gillen was awarded this honor, and it was great to see one of our own on the ice! We had students, as well as, some of their family members come out and enjoy the experience. I encourage anyone who did not do much with us this semester to come out and get involved next semester.

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST

BY: KORI LITTLE

“Because of you, someone will eat today.” A powerful and moving statement about volunteering at Ozarks Food Harvest (OFH) in Springfield. Have you considered volunteering at a food bank or distribution center like OFH?

One of the many ways to help at OFH is packing bags for the Weekend Backpack Program, which has been providing nutritious food for children to take home from school since 2003. The backpack program serves 16 counties, 59 schools, over 1,600 kids, and annually provides 58,000 backpack bags.

OFH also packs boxes with nutritious convenient food for seniors and provides food to local food banks. OFH runs completely on donations. Monetary donations, of course, are important; however, they rely heavily on donations from community partners like Wal Mart and Price Cutter for food and other staples. Approximately 35% of the donations are from these community partners. OFH partners with farms for fresh produce and even has a working farm of their own.

On October 19th, the Honors Program volunteered at OFH with other local volunteers. It is always a fun time. Jeremy, the volunteer coach, plays lots of 80s music and makes sure everyone is enjoying the day. With the other volunteers, we packed 1,824 backpack bags for the children. It is a small number compared to the need, but when you hear the numbers connected to your hard work, you are proud to be a small part of the slogan, “Because of you, someone eats today.” Our time at OFH fed 1,824 kids for a weekend.

Jeremy gave the Honors Program student a tour of the facilities and we were in awe of the magnitude of the program. The walk-in freezer was impressive and very cold to the excitement of several volunteers who were hot from working so hard. The original building was built and outgrown in a very short time. A new warehouse was added to allow them to serve the community better.



If you want to be one of the volunteers to help give hope to the hungry, if you want to say, “because of me, someone eats today”, contact Jo Thompson at 417-865-3411, ext. 114 or go to the OFH webpage, www.ozarksfoodharvest.org

THE CORE 42 AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

BY: BRITTANEY BRENT

We have all seen the posters of the CORE in our classrooms, but what do they mean to us as students? In the remaining few weeks of this semester, it is easy to get burned out. We push ourselves all throughout these sixteen weeks, for good reason. In the remaining time we have left in our selected classes, take this time to reflect more deeply on what was learned. More so than the information we have collected, think about the more abstract lessons that were accumulated. The CORE experience really is that of higher order thinking, critically analyzing information, and developing an understanding of the diverse world we live in. All of this is brought to us through the art of communication. There is so much more to the college experience than academics-- even though that plays a huge role-- but it is more on developing as a human and being a good citizen of the world.

What the CORE 42 does is emphasize our essential skills. We can learn how to communicate more effectively, manage information, and learn values as we integrate higher order thinking. Think about your general education classes. All these skills are essential for the job force and for whatever endeavor you might choose. Looking at the larger picture can be incredibly beneficial because it allows us to absorb, comprehend the smaller details or the seemingly hectic, at times mundane, last few weeks of a fast-paced semester. So, with this short essay, sit and reflect on your condensed learning experience.

I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Vivian Elder who sat down with me and discussed in detail what this means to the students. Being an educator herself, she knows how important the development of soft skills is to a student. There is much that goes on behind the scenes that we do not see, but there are many people that work on our behalf to make sure we have a great college experience, getting the most out of OTC we can. We all make sacrifices to be here and thrive, so take the time to congratulate yourselves and reflect on all that has been gained.

A GLANCE AT SOME HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Fall 2019

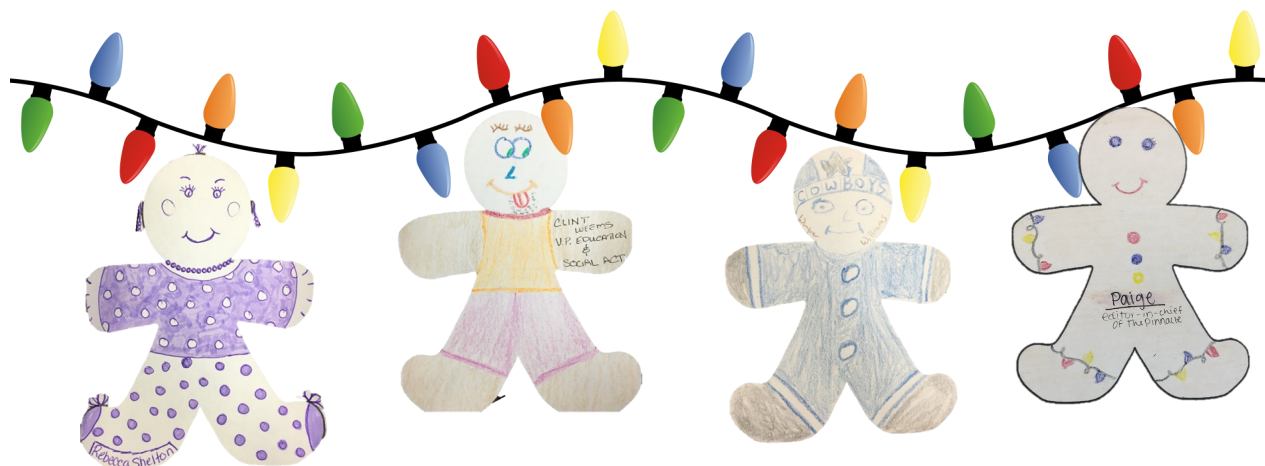


My favorite holiday tradition at our home is our annual ornament exchange! Every year my family and I draw each others names out of a hat and shop for an ornament for our person. On Christmas, we all sit around the fire place and present out ornaments to the person who's name we drew. We have done this since I was four years old and it comprises some of my fondest memories of Christmas.

On Christmas Eve our parents, children, and grandchildren come to our house. Our numbers keep growing, this year we have 23 in total. The house is full, it is loud, crazy, kids are running, laughing, crying, and always playing keep-away from the little one (this year the little one is 15 months old). We order Chinese food and renew our souls with the love and unity of family. Just the thought of this wonderful time fills my heart with joy.



Every year on Christmas Eve my family and I each open one Christmas present. I believe the present is supposed to be a surprise, but every year we unwrap matching pajamas. A little cliché for a large family of six, four of which are over the age of 18! After unwrapping our identical pj sets, we put them up, load up in the car, crank the Christmas music, sip hot cocoa, and drive around looking at Christmas lights



HOLIDAY RECIPES



Brittaney's Apple Pie

1 recipe pastry for a 9 inch double crust pie
1/2 cup unsalted butter
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/4 cup apple juice
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
8 Granny Smith apples - peeled, cored and sliced—
add cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice if desired.

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Melt the butter in a saucepan. Stir in flour to form a paste. Add water, white sugar and brown sugar, and bring to a boil. Reduce temperature and let simmer.
2. Place the bottom crust in your pan. Fill with apples, mounded slightly. Cover with a lattice work crust. Gently pour the sugar and butter liquid over the crust. Pour slowly so that it does not run off.
3. Bake 15 minutes in the preheated oven. Reduce the temperature to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Continue baking for 35 to 45 minutes, until apples are soft.

Chocolate Crinkle Cookies

4 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups packed light brown sugar
3 large eggs
4 teaspoons instant coffee powder, optional to taste
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 teaspoon maple extract (other options: coconut, mint, or peppermint extract)
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

In a small saucepan, melt butter over low-medium heat. Pull saucepan off burner and stir in coarsely chopped unsweetened chocolate. Allow mixture to melt, stirring occasionally while preparing the cookie dough. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder,

baking soda, baking powder, and salt; set aside. In a large bowl, whisk eggs, brown sugar, vanilla extract, maple extract, and instant coffee powder just until mixed. Pour chocolate-butter mixture into egg mixture. Stir to combine. Slowly pour dry ingredients into chocolate and egg mixture, stirring after each addition. Carefully stir in 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour. Cover dough with plastic wrap. Chill dough in refrigerator; 2 hours. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar and 1 tablespoon granulated sugar into a small dish. Using a small cookie scoop, scoop dough and roll into balls. I used a cookie scoop that used about 1/2 tablespoon dough (small ball). If dough is sticky between scoops, dip it in a bowl of powdered sugar between scoops. Or try refrigerating it longer. Roll dough into sugar mixture then place cookies 1 inch apart on a cookie sheet. Bake for 11-13 minutes. I baked mine for 12 minutes.



Rice Pudding with Raspberry Coulis



8 cups milk
1 1/4 cups arborio rice
1/3 cup sugar, plus 2 tbsp.
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 cups fresh or frozen raspberries
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
Nutmeg

1. Place milk in a medium saucepan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Stir in rice and 1/3 cup of the sugar. Reduce heat to medium-low and sim-

mer, stirring frequently, until rice is tender and most of liquid has been absorbed, about 45 minutes. Remove pudding from heat and stir in vanilla extract. Set aside to cool.
2. Meanwhile, pick through raspberries. Place berries in a food processor, add remaining 2 tbsp. of sugar, and puree until smooth. Strain raspberry sauce through a fine sieve and set aside.
3. Just before serving, whip heavy cream. Fold cream into pudding and transfer into bowls. Spoon raspberry sauce around edge of pudding and sprinkle with nutmeg.



Art by Honors



Submitted by: Cheyanne Griffin



Submitted by: Jennifer Fortner

THE CAROL OF DICKENS' "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

BY: EBONY WILLIAMS

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an author in the Victorian Era (England) as well as the author of one of the most popular and well-known Christmas stories, A Christmas Carol.

Dickens was involved in charities and many social issues throughout his entire life. He had strong opinions and distraught of poverty, especially with impoverished children. At the time Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol, he was highly concerned about impoverished children and how they often turned to crime and juvenile offenses in order to survive. He was not only upset with the fact that children thought they had to be criminals in order to get necessities but also with the bigger picture: the financial issues and social statuses of England.

Charles Dickens began writing A Christmas Carol in October of 1843 and shortly published on December 19, 1843. In just 3 months! He paid the publishing costs himself, even though being published by Chapman & Hall. Despite hopes of the work gaining great attention from the public, in the beginning, A Christmas Carol was not in great favor and the publishing company even suggested that Dickens would just issue the work in an "inexpensive" collection of Dicken's other works, possibly a part of a new magazine. But Dickens didn't give up hope, in fact, he had great faith and respect for his work and believed that it deserved better than just being "a part of a magazine" but as a "high-quality, stand-alone book." And so it was.

Gradually, Dickens' A Christmas Carol would gain momentum and become the most successful book of the 1843 holiday season, selling more than six thousand copies by Christmas, continuing its fame into the new year. Just as it were 150 years ago, A Christmas Carol would reign as one of the Christmas stories that will forever warm our hearts.

"I have endeavored in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it.

Their faithful Friend and Servant,

C.D.

December, 1843"



Mental Break

Christmas Carol Challenge



How to Join the Honors Program

Do you have a 3.5 GPA or higher? Are you looking for more challenges in the classroom? Would you like to graduate in the top 1%? The OTC Honors Program is here to promote academic excellence in OTC students. Are you interested yet? We're interested in having you! Here are the steps to apply for the Honors Program:

Fill out an application

Go to otc.edu and type in "honors program." On the right there should be a column with a tab, "apply to join." Fill out the application accurately and thoroughly.

Disperse three reference sheets to professors/mentors/co workers (no parents)

Write a 500 to 1,000-word essay describing why you want to join the honors program and what makes you a good candidate then send it to honors@otc.edu

Wait for the email!