

OTC Honors Program

Fall 2019
Volume 20

Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.

The Pinnacle Destination Known

10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

BY: BRITANNEY BRENT

This year we are celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Honors Program! The program began in the spring of 2009, and we have since opened the doors of opportunity for many students. We have learned better citizenship through community outreach, become better leaders, and we have pushed ourselves to become more engaged students.

Just this semester, four of the Honors council members sought an opportunity to meet with all 12 Missouri community colleges at the state capital in Jefferson City. Here we met with representatives and got to ask questions that pertain to us as students, which was a great experience to see how the legislatures work, and who they work for. The trip also included insightful seminars about how to be mindful, empathetic, inclusive leaders.

Through the Honors Program, opportunities such as these can be life-changing. It's not all about academics, though; we're active participants in our community as well. In a given year, we may volunteer at Harmony House here in Springfield, host a Toys for Tots fundraiser, run two different blood-drives, and more!

The classes that have been developed for the Program push us harder in terms of our engagement and time-management skills, encouraging more input from us as students, and leaving us with skills that will make a distinction in the work place-- after all, isn't that why we are all here?

The Honors Program, with the hard work from Mr. Yerby, has also made it easier to transfer to Universities with scholarships for Honors students. Leadership, citizenship, and academic achievement are the values that the Honors Program strides for, and in ten years, so much has been accomplished.

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.

Office Phone: 417-447-7500 — Ext. 8905

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

On campus opportunities

10/30/19—10/31/19
Halloween Bake Sale

Off campus opportunities

10/19/19 Ozarks Food
Harvest 9am-12 and 1-
4pm

Fun opportunities

10/26/19 Rocky Horror
Picture Show @ Gillioz 7-
10pm

November

On campus opportunities

11/5/19 General Council
Meeting 8:30-10am

11/13/19 CBCO Blood
Drive 9am-2pm

11/19/19-11/20/19 Holi-
day Bake Sale 10am-2pm

Off campus

11/2/19 Habitat for Hu-
manity Rock the Block
8:30am-1pm

Fun

TBA Missouri State
Hockey Game

HONORS ORIENTATION

BY: PAIGE MCFARLAN

Each year the Honors Program holds an Orientation on the soonest available Saturday of the semester to mingle with the new students and get a glance at the upcoming semester. This is the only event that requires all honors student to attend.

As always, Mr. Yerby began the meeting with an explanation of the program and the opportunities available to us as Honors students. After a swift introduction of the new officers, we moved onto a team building activity that we named marshetti. With 20 pieces of uncooked spaghetti noodles, a yard of string and tape, and a marshmallow that must remain intact and up top, the students began to build the tallest tower. The teamwork that followed this activity was incredible. The activity ended with an array of buildings, and one true winner.

After the team building activity, a presentation featured by our on-campus Project Heal gave students an insight on other campus organizations.

By the time lunch time came around, we were all drooling from the smell of pizza. The rest of the orientation was spent eating and interacting with students and staff of the Honors Program.



Pictured: Nina Mack, Pablo Skaggs, and Hailey Layton.

BLOOD DRIVE

BY: ISSY WEAD

Since 2009, Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) has been hosting the American Red Cross (ARC) for blood drives and has successfully organized them for 10 years. The Honors College at OTC has acted as a mediator of communication for both organizations and helped run the twenty American Red Cross blood drives that



Pictured: Jennifer Fortner

have been hosted on campus. Since the first ARC blood drive, OTC has recruited 347 first time donors, and held a convenient place to donate for a total of 237 semi-annual donors. Collectively, 529 units of blood have been given, averaging about 26 units per drive. Approximately 3 people are saved per unit of blood donated. On Wednesday September 18th, the 21st ARC blood drive was held on campus. In just a couple hours, the Honors Program surpassed their goal of 19 units with a total of 31 units of blood donated by fellow students and staff. Our next blood drive will be held on November 13th by the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO).

ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BY: PAIGE MCFARLAN

The Honors Program functions well beyond who and what we see, the work we put in, and the connections we make. Our time in the Honors Program is time spent preparing for our future. The future of the Honors program relies heavily on past and present members and staff. Our Alumni serves as an inspiration and steppingstone for students to witness the importance of honors beyond the classroom. As past members of the Honors Program, our Alumni understand the importance of the Honors program for the future of student lives. As students of a community college, it is hard to receive the full college experience without becoming involved with those around you.

Kaitlyn Schumacher, one member of the Honors Program Alumni, expressed the importance of finding a place in college to dedicate yourself beyond academics. For her, that place was the Honors Program. As a former student of OTC, she spent her two years striving for a journalism degree with the passion to become a reporter. She joined the honors program with the hope of receiving the most out of her education instead of just coasting through. As an active member of the Honors Program, she found that it helped her develop a stronger worth ethic by “giving 110% all the time.”

Upon graduating with honors distinction with the intent of transferring to Drury, Kaitlyn was offered a teaching position at OTC right out the door of obtaining her associates degree. To say that her time spent in the honors program helped develop this opportunity is an understatement.

To students that are indecisive about joining the program, Kaitlyn says “it’s definitely worth it in the long run....and it could also help you get your foot in the door in places you might not have expected to be able to get into.” You can now find Kaitlyn over at Drury pursuing her master’s degree or here at OTC as a part time instructor in Electronic Media Production.



“To current and future honors students, one thing that is important to remember is not to undervalue yourself... don’t be under ambitious either. Don’t think that you can’t do something for any reason. Go ahead and give it a try and see what happens and you might get a little further than you think.”
—Kaitlyn Schumacher

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

BY: KORI LITTLE

Several OTC Honors Council officers had the opportunity to attend the Missouri Community College Association Student Leadership Institute in Jefferson City on September 11th. We were joined by members of the OTC Green Council and OCT Politically Active organizations.

The morning began at the Missouri State Capitol building where we learned about how our leadership roles in community college could be expanded to opportunities on the government level. We were able to observe a special veto session and meet our local representatives.

In the afternoon, we went to the Missouri Council of School Administrators for lunch and seminars. We were all inspired by the three speakers who all had community college leadership backgrounds. We learned about the levels of emotional intelligence and how it drives what we do and how we react. We learned how networking is important in our success. The last speaker spoke to us about conflict and how we should learn positive conflict resolution strategies to achieve positive outcomes.

We wrapped up the day at a local ice cream shop and great discussions on the drive home. We discussed how we could take what we had just learned and apply it to our roles as OTC Honors Council officers.



Pictured from left to right: Kori Little, Brittaney Brent, Rhianon Harp, Maddie Price, Maria Carlson, and Hannah Smith

MEET THE OFFICERS

Fall 2019



Back row from left to right: Brittaney Brent, Rhiannon Harp, Clint Weems, Wayne Williams, Paige McFarlan, Kori Little, Rebecca Shelton, and Isabelle Wead.

President– Kori Little

VP of Fundraising– Brittaney Brent

VP of Community Service– Rhiannon Harp

VP of Publicity– Kylie Gillen and Wayne Williams

Treasurer– Maria Carlson

Editor in Chief of the Pinnacle– Paige McFarlan

Secretary– Rebecca Shelton

VP of Social and Educational Activities– Clint Weems

VP of Campus Service– Isabelle Wead

INSTRUCTOR INTERVIEW WITH DR. GERARD

BY: BRITTANEY BRENT

As I have come to love OTC, it is hard to not recognize teachers that have put forth their hearts and fostered a love for learning. No one does this more than Dr. Jessica Gerard. She is a fantastic history teacher, and teaches with zest and gusto to make her classes challenging yet rewarding. She worked so hard to earn her PH. D from London, and with teaching experience at Drury and Missouri State, it's an honor that she decided to bring her expertise here.

One may argue it was fate that brought her to OTC. Back in 2001, while she was an adjunct teacher at Drury, a student had brought up the fact that OTC was looking for a full-time history teacher; having only a couple days left to apply, she handed in her hand-written application with her toddler in-tow, and the rest, as they say, is history.

What is so impressive about Dr. Gerard is how her love of teaching shines through with everything she does. I had asked her what her favorite thing about working at OTC was, and her whole face lit up. "I get paid to talk about what I love," was her response, and I could tell she meant it whole-heartedly. Not only that, but she truly loves educating people. "Being educated is being a good citizen," is something she said that stuck with me.

She remarked that she truly enjoys "broadening student's horizons" and imploring them to use critical thinking skills. She implements these ideals directly into her curriculum. Every year, she plans a study abroad trip, and this year, it will be to Peru. This invaluable allows students to see other parts of the world in a close-up, personal way.

There are stipulations to this, though. Dr. Gerard will be hosting an online class for the Spring 2020 on Peru, and it is mandatory to attend the online class to go on this trip. This is will be an open source where the students are encouraged to find their own pieces of literature to contribute to the class.

I asked how these trips benefit students, and she responded by saying, "Culture shock is good for us. It is valuable encountering a totally different culture than you, and to learn from other countries. It is also important to evaluate a stranger in a world where everyone else is the same, and this can lead to self-discovery; it can be life-changing."

Dr. Gerard absolutely loves traveling, and when I asked her why, her response was, "What I love most is thinking about how people live. I love observing and empathizing with how they live and imagine their daily routines. I love people watching."

She is completely inspirational with her love of history and her broad knowledge of the humanities. If you have not yet taken a class with Dr. Gerard, I implore you to give it a shot. It will be difficult, but it will be the most rewarding after it is all said and done.





Art by Honors



Paintings by: Kori Little



Photo by: Paige McFarlan



Painting by: Cheyanne Griffin

The 0.5 Second Short Story

“... life lessons. What about when death comes knocking on your door, or the door of a loved one? The life lessons we are teaching our children need to be preparing them. God is the only thing that matters on an eternal perspective, because everything on earth will slowly fade away. They say sweet memories expand with time, but even those cannot sooth the deepest pain. As we experience this pain today, all we can do is rely on our Father. May...” The man’s deep voice on the radio drones on, but I am no longer paying attention as I pull into the drive way.

I roll down my windows. “Mom, Mom look!” A 5-year-old Anne says, as she waves a new bubble wand. Her blonde waves catch the sunlight as she jumps about. Freckles cover her flushed cheeks. Green eyes meet mine with anticipated excitement. Sunlight streams through the trees as Anne races barefoot through the green grass, jumping, running, laughing. I quietly get out of the car while her back is turned. With arms wide, I sneak up come from behind, a surprise attack! She giggles as I lift her up and blow a raspberry on her exposed tummy.

“Guess what? I bought your favorite snack today, Vienna sausages!”

“Mom did you hear what James did today?” She crosses her arms and takes on the all too usual tattle-tale-tone.

I sit her down on the porch steps, “Oh no, what did your big brother do this time?”

“He threw Jennifer from the top bunk!”

“How dare he! Is Jennifer ok?”

“No mom, she can’t walk now!”

I shake my head, “Anne, she’s just a doll! Better the doll than you! How wonderful *you* can still walk! Let’s have some perspective. Do you know what that means?” The word falls on deaf ears, she’s back to blowing bubbles.

“Come on munchkin, help me carry the groceries in.”

Suddenly 10-year-old Anne runs in. “Mom, I need help with homework. I’ve spent hours trying to solve this math problem and give up!” She drops the pencil on her paper as she hangs her head. “Today is the worst day ever.”

“Let’s deal with 5th grade math later, I wanna hear about your day.” I lean across the counter and pick up her pencil. “Did you see Megan?”

“Ya. We played house at recess.”

“Ah, look at that! So, it wasn’t the worst day ever.” I slip around the counter and place my hands over her eyes. “How’s life going now?”

“Well I can’t see my math problem. So that’s good. Maybe it would be better if I couldn’t see at all.” I dramatically remove my hands and place one over my heart.

I gasp, “Well now I guess you can’t see while playing house with Megan. How does that sound?”

She rolls her eyes, “fineeeee.”

“That’s. What. I. Thought!” I poke her stomach as I say each word.

She abruptly throws her head back with laughter, squirming around like a worm in her chair.

“Someday you’re gonna grow up and not be my little girl anymore,” I say through fake sobs. I force her into a smothering hug as she wipes her snotty nose across my scrubs. “Anne!” The room echoes with squealing as she runs off.

Anne walks in, her 19-year-old self is hanging her head. “I heard Meagan talking behind my back again today.” She sets her backpack down and plops unto the barstool, swiveling in the chair a few times. “Any chance you have dinner ready?” She says with a hesitant smile.

I turn around, “Anne Louisa Mays, I am doing my best!” I say as I set the oven mits down. “As for Megan, don’t let her nasty comments, a reflection of *her* insecurities, ruin *your* junior year. Who cares what Megan thinks.”

“I guess I care.”

“Well don’t. On the grand scheme of things this doesn’t really matter Anne. You have mobility, sight, and even your hearing.”

“Ya...”

“Bring it in.” She goes limp in the barstool. “Oh, come on, you’re not too cool to hug the old maid who raised you.” I say in a joking tone. She begrudgingly gets up from the barstool and wraps her arms around me. We sit in our yellow kitchen holding each other. She rests her head against mine and takes a deep breath. I give her a tight squeeze.

Fast forward 21 years. I shake my head. Come back to my senses. The warmth from the memories make the room feel especially cold. I sit holding her blue hand. The machine beeps unsteadily. Her chopped blonde hair is stuck to her forehead. The freckles are no longer visible. Her face is horribly pale. Her eyes empty. She lost the ability to walk days ago, her sight departed yesterday, and hearing eluded her a few hours ago. I look around, so many people stand by, ready for her last breath. I feel the warmth of tears on my cheek. The knots in my stomach. The iciness of Anne’s hand in mine. Cancer took away all of the earthly things I had taught her to appreciate. Now she lays in this bed with nothing on this earth to offer her.

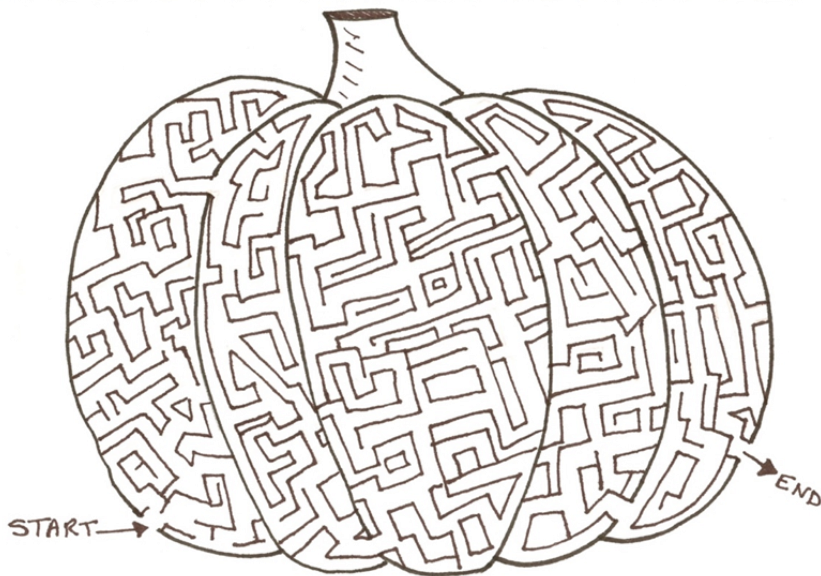
The pastor’s deep voice continues “... May Anne’s life be better in Heaven.”

Literary Corner



Mental Break

Personality Personality	STOOD mis	SOMEWHERE 	history history history	million
mini'llbetheute	chair	in vaders		ST AND
VISION	WALKING ICE	STORM	SPOT	ONCE 
PROMISE	VIOLETS	EAT PINEAPPLE CAKE	DOOR	GET A WORD IN
COUNTRY COUNTRY	 3.14159	GROUND 	RAKEN	BUSINES



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!