

THE PINNACLE

Destination Known



FALL ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Halloween Special
Scholarship Winner's
Reflection



Photo by Cheyanne Griffin

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Editor's Note

By: **Nikolina Lee**

Taking on a role as this semester's editor of The Pinnacle was, perhaps, one of the more challenging decisions I made since I started studying at OTC. I was worried about managing a team of people, combining many different ideas into one cohesive body. "Am I fit for this role?" was one of the recurring questions running through my mind. However, this somewhat scary process turned into something incredibly enriching. Compiling ideas and making people's voices heard taught me about leadership and my personal strength. It also reminded me of the great community built around the Honors Program. Carrying on the previous officers' torch, the 25th volume of The Pinnacle is our twist on the tradition created by the incredible students that came before us. I hope that, as you read this newsletter, you get to know the new set of council members and get inspired to become involved with the community around you.

HONORS PROGRAM

MEET OUR TEAM



Nikolina Lee
Editor-In-Chief of
The Pinnacle



**Izzy
Franckewitz**
President/Honors
Office Manager



**Matthew
Gordon**
Secretary



Jim Shaffer
Vice President of
Fundraising



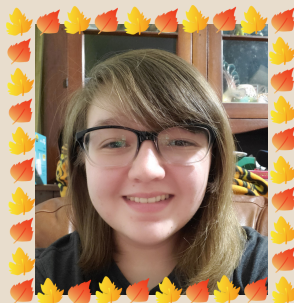
Todd Yerby
Honors Program
Director



Annice Cotter
Vice President of
Community
Service



**Cheyenne
Griffin**
Recruitment
Specialist



**April
Bollinger**
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Assistant



**Micah
Schaefer**
Honors Office
Assistant

HONORS PROGRAM

FUNDRAISING SPOTLIGHT

By: Kori Little

The fall of 2020 brought many challenges for all programs at OTC. The Honors Program relies on fundraising to help with community service projects, education opportunities, and a scholarship fund. With COVID restrictions, how were we going to continue fundraisers? The Honors Program decided to play on our strengths and provide a necessary product. Face masks were our answer!

We knew if we were going to sell facemasks, we had to provide an exceptional product. We found a design we thought was comfortable, provided the best protection, and looked nice. We had holiday prints, solids, and prints that would appeal to a variety of people. We also had a limited selection of youth masks. We also had accessories available; lanyards and hair scrunchies.

The masks were very popular, and we even had difficulty keeping up. We would like to thank everyone who made our fundraiser a success. It was a lot of work, and the payoff was great. The Honors program sold over 700 masks and accessories for a total of \$4,936. Yes, that's right. This allowed the Honors Program to add to a scholarship fund to assist future students.

All masks were made, sterilized, and packaged by the Honors Program. We had many people and even a fabric store (my favorite) help us with materials.



Photos by Honors Office

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Taylor Wise is one of our Honors Program members, and they have a fascinating hobby we'd love to highlight—gnome making! Taylor started making gnomes about two years ago as thoughtful and personal gifts to give to loved ones. Besides the gnomes' uniqueness, they're also environmentally friendly as they are made from recycled materials such as various types of fabrics, yarn scraps, and spare buttons.

So, how are they made? Taylor collects different types of fabric that are later hand-sewn with dental floss. The reason Taylor uses dental floss instead of traditional thread is because of its sturdiness and unique look. Sturdiness is a necessary feature because the gnomes are filled with beans and are heavier compared to more commonly found stuffing materials. Each gnome takes between 8 and 14 hours to make, depending on its size and the intricacy of design.

Taylor takes inspiration from their Norwegian heritage and pays homage to his roots through his craft.



Taylor Wise (he/they) joined Honors Program in the spring 2021 semester. After graduating, they plan on transferring to a 4-year college and majoring in neuroscience.



OFFICE WEDDING!

As many of you know Cheyanne has worked for the Honors Program office for a while now and this semester there has been a huge change for them, they got married! It is happily ever after for Mx. Cheyanne Rosewood and Mrs. Abigail Rosewood! Once upon a time, on October 11th, 2021, they said "I do." in front of the people who love them most. Abigail looked like a fairytale Princess wearing a tea-length white gown. Cheyanne showed off their inner Queen Charming wearing a bright red gown with a caplet. Pythian Castle, here in Springfield, served as the setting where they sealed their love and their fate with a magical kiss. Their Officiant, Binx, did a quick ceremony before the cake cutting in the ballroom of the spookily decorated haunted castle. Their friends and family came to celebrate and congratulate them.



Abigail and Cheyanne Rosewood



THE VICTIM CENTER

By: Matthew Gordon

A student at OTC was struggling to cope with their past experiences. Poor mental health days caused them to miss classes, which in turn hurt their grades. Because the student was also ashamed of the issues they were facing, they became hesitant to seek help after they had been let down so many times before. However, during their time at OTC, they grew to trust a faculty member— enough to feel free to confide in them. The student privately shared about how the difficulties they were facing disrupted their life at home and school. The faculty member listened carefully, and after addressing the student's concerns, shared a resource that they believed could help this student— they gave the contact information for The Victim Center. They encouraged the student to reach out when they felt ready to do so. The student followed through with that advice, seeking out and receiving help from TVC. Today the student reports that access to services from TVC was a turning point toward healing in their story.

That student is not alone, and unfortunately, not all victims of abuse have access to the resources that can help them thrive. In fact, there are thousands of families in the Ozarks affected by domestic violence every year. The Victim Center is a keystone community support— it is a local non-profit with an ambitious goal to serve survivors of violent and sexual crimes. At their core, TVC is committed to helping limit the impact of abuse through therapy and assistance in navigating many kinds of barriers that victims of crime may face.

What is TVC's latest ambitious accomplishment? They work hard to maintain a 24/7 crisis line, and volunteers have contributed over 400 hours a week (the equivalent of 10 full-time employees). These numbers demonstrate the need for such services in our community. The Victim Center has ample room for volunteers and is one of the only local organizations that recruit almost exclusively for work-from-home volunteer positions. This means volunteers have more freedom when selecting volunteer hours beyond standard working times of 9-to-5.

These volunteers are victim advocates – they give of their time and energy to serve those in crisis. Volunteer Victim Advocates (VVAs) are compassionate listeners, nonjudgmental, and are determined to serve victims of crimes, like abuse, when and where they need it. Volunteers are not expected to be prepared to handle crisis-level calls at first. Instead, TVC gradually trains committed volunteers, increasing skill difficulty as time progresses.

If becoming a volunteer victim advocate is something that speaks to you, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible and mark your calendar with the training dates found below. TVC offers training after your application is processed and approved. A criminal background check is also necessary to ensure safety.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING:

DATES:

NOVEMBER 16TH, 23RD, 30TH
DECEMBER 7TH

TIME:

5:00 AM- 7:00 PM

LOCATION:

ZOOM

- **VISIT:**
 - [HTTPS://WWW.THEVICTIMCENTER.ORG/VOLUNTEER/VOLUNTEER-VICTIM-ADVOCATES/](https://www.thevictimcenter.org/volunteer/volunteer-victim-advocates/)
 - HERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS LIKE AGE REQUIREMENTS, ETC.
- **EMAIL:**
 - TVC'S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR **ALISA GARBISCH** AT VOLUNTEERPROGRAM@THEVICTIMCENTER.ORG
 - SHE CAN ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING OR PROCESS YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION.
- OR **CALL 417-863-7273** AND MENTION YOUR INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING!

EDEN VILLAGE OF THE GATHERING TREE

**By: Annice
Cotter**



Photo by Eden Village

Dear Pinnacle Readers,

Have you been wanting to help out more in your community, but you don't know where to start? Boy, do I have an opportunity for you!

Eden Village is a "tiny home community to serve Springfield's chronically homeless." Their mission is to build a city where no one sleeps outside. Eden Village is building tiny homes and placing disabled chronically homeless individuals into them as a long-term solution to homelessness. The residents pay a small portion of their monthly earnings to stay in the village. Residents are provided with their home in the village, as well as with a community center, a library, computer lab, laundry room, food bank, kitchen, and a clubhouse. They also have a community garden, a woodworking shop, and a neighborhood store.

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of help from the community to keep Eden Village running- that is where you come in! They have a range of volunteer opportunities that you can assist with through either a home team or 3rd Saturday workdays.

Home Teams are a long-term volunteer opportunity that pairs a group of people up with an Eden Village resident. Each resident receives a home team when they move into the village that meets with them once a month during their first year to help ease the transition from life on the streets to life in a home with support and encouragement.

3rd Saturday Workdays are an opportunity to help with landscaping and clean-up from 9 am-noon every 3rd Saturday of the month. They provide tools, equipment, and lunch to volunteers! To volunteer with Eden Village, you can go to this website: edenvillageusa.org/springfield-mo/volunteer/ and hit the "Get started": button. They will then reach out to you with more information and dates for volunteering.

HALLOWEEN

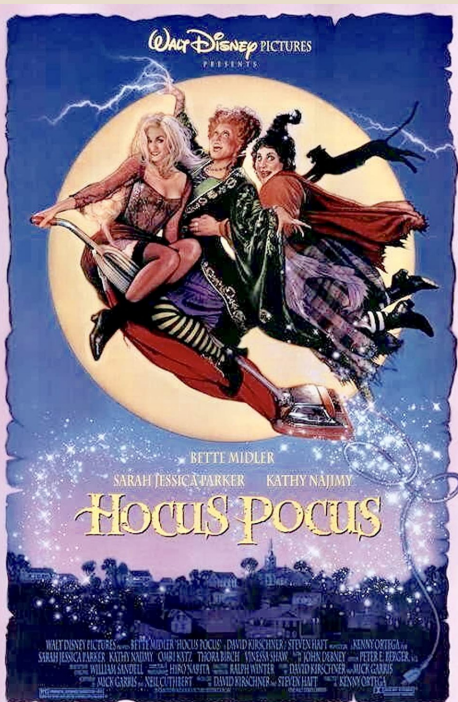
Halloween and Video Games

One of my favorite things about Halloween- that hasn't changed since the pandemic- is that game developers often put a considerable amount of effort into limited-time events in games. The gameplay of those limited-time events can be re-watched after the holiday, but the opportunity to engage in something unique and special with friends is gone- until it comes back again next year!

Can you recall a limited-time event in a game - one where you liked the special event better than the normal game? An extraordinary event so special that you would forfeit the standard part of the story just for an opportunity to could play it one more time? I can. However, upon further reflection, it wasn't just the developers' love that made the special events fun; in fact, what makes these events so incredible is that all gamers experience them for the first time. When events are live (even in games), the power of both presence (even a digital one) and uncertainty hang heavy in the air, just as they may in a theater performance.

I guess what I am saying is: be present. Notice each other, and notice yourself. Perhaps your idea of a special event is virtual, or, maybe, something in-person like a fair or classic trick-or-treating. No matter how you choose to spend your Halloween this year, perhaps, step back and ask yourself: "how did I get here, how did this night come to be?" Too often, we look back and focus on what we were doing on special nights; instead, perhaps, we ought to strive to notice (in the moment) which people came together and what all they put forward to make that special evening possible. As long as we appreciate the sincere efforts of those who contribute to the projects we care about- then, I would say that we have preserved the spirit of what makes for one "wicked" holiday.

By: Matthew Gordon



Poster by imdb.com

Hocus Pocus

When I think of Halloween, nay, when I think of my childhood, one essential movie encompassed it wholeheartedly, Hocus Pocus. The 1993 Disney film walks the line between a full-blown comedy while addressing a more serious and concerning plotline. When three Salem witches are resurrected, it is up to three teenagers and a cursed immortal cat to stop them from stealing the lives of children within Salem, a small New England town. While the reviews shared upon initial release were less than stellar, this movie has a cult following of its own, leaving many millennials to flock to it, again and again, year after year. If you have never had a chance to watch this incredible film, find the time, as I can guarantee it will become a staple of your Halloween for years to come.

By: Izzy Franckewitz

HALLOWEEN

Pumpkin Carving

As a child, I loved watching movies and tv shows that featured Halloween festivities. I always imagined what it would be like to participate in trick or treating, deciding what costume to wear and making it. Furthermore, one of the things that fascinated me the most were the intricate pumpkin carvings people would display in front of their homes. The fact that Halloween wasn't a popular holiday in Europe, where I grew up, deeply saddened me.

Fortunately, my dream came true last year! Knowing that it would be my first fall in the United States, I started planning festive activities months in advance. I would visit a pumpkin patch, choose a perfect pumpkin and decide on jack-o-lantern's expression. Finally, October came around, and I took all my meticulously planned pumpkin carving supplies into my hands. It was a messy, but exhilarating business—far more demanding than I expected. Nonetheless, my end product was far from the image I had in my mind, but I was incredibly proud of it. Although imperfect, my jack-o-lantern taught me something important – sometimes, "the ride" is the final destination.

By: Nikolina Lee



Photo by canva.com

Childhood Halloween Parties

My favorite part of Halloween would have to be participating in costume/Halloween parties. Generally speaking, Halloween is a time of year when trickery and mischief become wider spread compared to the other times of the year. Parties are one of the more entertaining solutions to the idleness that tends to bring out the mischievous side of people. It is generally a positive experience to gather together with friends, family, and even coworkers in a mutual spirit of celebration.

Traditionally, Halloween is the one time of the year where it is socially acceptable – and often expected – that we escape our reality by assuming a different identity as we decide on what our costume will be. The eats, the drinks, the costume contests, and many other aspects unique to the gathering together of many different personalities often lead to a fun-filled evening that features dancing, dining, singing, and other forms of clean, wholesome entertainment. This promotes unity within society while simultaneously discouraging the mischievous actions of celebration, which seem to be more dominant in the absence of structured celebrations.

By: Jim Shaffer

ANOTHER WIN FOR THE BOOKS

By: Giovanni Sanchez

My name is Giovanni Sanchez, and I am a first-generation college student. This is my last semester at OTC, and I am so excited to graduate from this prestigious institution and continue my education at Missouri State University to pursue a bachelor's in computer science. This semester, I was granted the "Turner Family" and "Provost's Honors" scholarships. The "Turner Family" scholarship is funded by Bill and Ann Turner, who are the founders of the "Turner Family Foundation," and they have aided OTC with several donations for students, faculty, and staff. The "Provost's Honors" scholarship is funded by the OTC honors program, and it is provided to students that are a part of the honors program.

That said, receiving both these scholarships has been such a huge blessing and honor to me. I remember feeling so astonished when I got notified about these rewards because I obtained two scholarships at the same time, which was such a surreal and heartwarming experience. Furthermore, having these scholarships have helped me pay off my school tuition and ease my mind off all the expenses that I have in my life. I currently work a part-time job, but with the support of these scholarships, I am now able to work fewer hours so that I can give my full focus and attention to my college courses. All of which has made my college experience much more exciting and delightful.

Now that I think back to my first semester at OTC, I remember feeling so unhappy and unmotivated about not receiving any scholarships or obtaining any type of fulfillment for myself. But today, I feel so blessed, joyful, and encouraged to keep trying no matter how many doors may shut in my path. I have learned that consistency, optimism, and hard work can grant you all the things that you want to achieve. Additionally, I noticed that these successes happen so suddenly, and in the times you least expect them to happen. I never imagined obtaining these types of scholarships in my life, and I am beyond grateful that I have been given these when I needed them the most.

If you have ever felt like I did before, just keep trying and stay consistent, and you'll see that everything you put your mind to will fall in place and come to you when you least expect it. I always try to be positive and see the best things in my life, regardless of all the challenges I have faced, because they have only made me stronger and thankful to be alive.

Thank you so much for reading and sharing this wonderful experience with me!

Yours truly,
Giovanni Sanchez

APPLY FOR HONORS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

Dean's Honors Scholarship

- Who can apply?
 - All Honors Program Students seeking degrees at OTC.
- Award
 - Up to \$250 per semester.
- Is it renewable?
 - Yes! You can renew it for the 3rd and 4th semesters if you maintain a GPA of 3.50 or higher.
- How can I apply?
 - You can apply for it through the General Scholarship Application available on OTC's website.
- What's the deadline for me to apply?
 - April 1st.

Provost's Honors Scholarship

- Who can apply?
 - All active Honors Program Students seeking degrees at OTC who have earned a cumulative 3.50 GPA.
- Award
 - Up to \$1250 per semester for a full course load of 12 or more credits, the award amount varies if you're taking less than 12 credits per semester.
- Is it renewable?
 - Yes! You can renew it up to four semesters if you maintain a GPA of 3.50 or higher.
- How can I apply?
 - You can apply for it through the General Scholarship Application available on OTC's website.
- What's the deadline for me to apply?
 - April 1st.

GET INVOLVED

How to Join the Honors Program

Eligibility Requirements

- If you are a **new OTC student**, meaning you haven't yet completed 12 or more credit hours, you can still join the Honors Program! You need to fulfill one of the following eligibility requirements: have scored 25 or above on ACT, have a high school GPA of 3.75 or above, have scored above 90 in reading and writing on the Compass exam, or passed GED/HISET exam with 77.5% or higher.
- If you are a **current OTC student** who has completed 12 or more credit hours, you are eligible to apply to join the Honors Program if your GPA is 3.50 or higher.

Application Steps

1. Fill out the Honors Program Application on OTC's website.
2. Write a 500- to 1,000-word essay describing why you want to join the Honors Program and what makes you a great candidate.
3. Send your essay to honors@otc.edu.

Early Application Deadlines


- Spring admission deadline: November 1st
- Summer admission deadline: April 1st
- Fall admission deadline: July 1st

Politically Minded? Join Politically Active!

Politically Active is a nonpartisan student-run organization dedicated to improving the political literacy of OTC students. We have found that young adults consistently rank the worst in political awareness and political literacy. Our goal is to change this perspective by hosting educational debates on current hard-hitting topics with a firm code of conduct that allows every viewpoint to be heard without judgment. We offer a safe place to explore our world today, allowing you to form your own opinions as you go. Additionally, we focus on voter registration drives and community service to impact our communities with lasting results. We have two meetings a semester where we discuss and debate the latest issues. We require club members to participate in one activity of their choice. However, all are encouraged to be as active as they would like to be!

Be a part of our movement. Email the sponsors Cara Griffin (griffinc@otc.edu) or Andrew Crocker (crockera@otc.edu) for more information or show up to any of our meetings!

By: Izzy Franckewitz



Visit us in the
Honors Office,
located in ICE 352!