

THE PINNACLE

DESTINATION KNOWN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editor's Note.....	1
Meet Our Team.....	2
Director's Note and Upcoming Events.....	5
New Honors Lounge.....	6
Aviation Program.....	7
Community Service Spotlight.....	8
Phi Theta Kappa College Project Recap.....	9
Student Updates.....	10
Filming "Reveille".....	11
New Honors Course Offerings and Contract Information.....	12

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

A new year brings us new possibilities for self-betterment. Regardless of where these opportunities come from– be it New Year's resolutions or new academic and professional challenges– a fresh start allows us to strive to be the best versions of ourselves.

Likewise, 2022 has brought about many changes that allowed us to continue improving and building upon the legacy of academic excellence and vibrant social life in the Honors Program.

Uniting the Honors Program with the Phi Theta chapter at OTC will allow for much more active student life and greater resources for Honors Students! With many new additions, we have tried to utilize this volume of The Pinnacle as an introduction to what's to come and what to expect. As a reader, you'll learn about the new honors lounge and community service, which has been an integral part of the Honors Program. You'll also learn about Phi Theta Kappa activities– College Project, Hallmark Awards, and regional PTK events.

My hope for this volume is to inspire the students to get involved with both organizations– the Honors Program, where you'll get a unique chance to challenge yourself academically and get involved with the community around you through service, and Phi Theta Kappa, an international organization offering scholarships and opportunities for scholarly research.

Yours truly,

NIKOLINA LEE

MEET OUR TEAM HONORS COUNCIL



PAUL YOUNG
Vice President of Campus
Service



NIKOLINA LEE
Editor-In-Chief of The
Pinnacle



MICAH SCHAEFER
Vice President of
Community Service



MATTHEW GORDON
Honors Council Secretary



TAYLOR WISE
Vice President of Social
and Educational Activity



ZACHARY LEAVITT
Treasurer

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM



MEET OUR TEAM

PHI THETA KAPPA



BILLY DUDLEY
Phi Theta Kappa Chapter
President



**NIKHOL
WATSON-LOWE**
Co-Vice President of
College Project



NIKOLINA LEE
Co-Vice President of
College Project



NICK CRIDER
Vice President of Honors
In Action



STevi BERRY
Vice President of
Promotions



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY



MEET OUR TEAM
HONORS OFFICE STAFF



TODD YERBY
Director of OTC Honors



**CASSIDY
BRIGHT-TURNER**
Honors Coordinator



**APRIL
BOLLINGER**
Honors Office Specialist



PAUL YOUNG
Honors Office Staff



MICAH SCHAEFER
Honors Office Staff



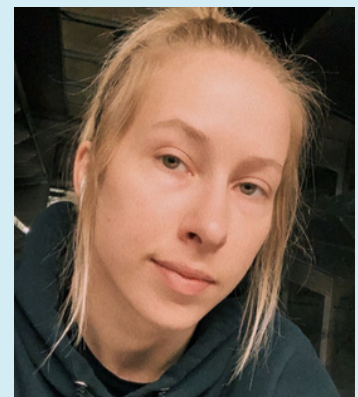
JOSIAH SCHAEFER
Honors Office Staff



DARLA WILSON
Honors Office Staff



KAY LOWERY
Honors Office Staff



JULIAN PENNER
Honors Office Staff

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What is an honors student? There are varying definitions, but most center around an honors student being an individual who is academically high-achieving and wants more out of their educational experience. OTC has many honors students. We have students involved in honors courses through the selective admission academic Honors Program at OTC, and those involved in the OTC chapter of the international honors society, Phi Theta Kappa. In an exciting development in December 2021, the OTC Honors Program and the OTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa are now housed in a unified area simply known as OTC Honors. The purpose of OTC Honors is to serve honors students at the college and provide exceptional academic experiences.

By combining support services, staffing, and leadership for both the OTC Honors Program and the OTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, OTC Honors is a singular hub for our honors students. The OTC Honors Program will continue to operate as the academic program for honors students at OTC and the Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Alpha Psi Tau, will continue to operate as the student organization for honors students, and both will be housed within OTC Honors. This collaboration has provided additional space for honors students on the OTC campus, with the opening of the Honors Student Lounge (ICE 354, Springfield Campus) for Honors Program and PTK students, as well as additional staffing and resources dedicated to the goal of creating exceptional experiences for honors students through OTC Honors.

I am excited for the future of OTC Honors and our honors students at OTC. Our college has many great students, who choose to attend here for a variety of reasons, and many of them are academically high-achieving and want more out of their educational experience; OTC Honors is the conduit to provide those students with the best educational experience possible.

TODD YERBY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April

- **4/7-4/9** PTK Catalyst International Convention Watch Party in Honors Lounge ICE 354
- **4/19** PTK Night at Hammons Field Springfield Cardinals vs. Tulsa Drillers. 6:35 pm
- **4/22** OTC Springfield Campus Spring Picnic
- **4/27** PTK Induction Ceremony at Gillioz Theatre. 6:00 pm

May

- **5/19** Commencement Ceremony at JHQ Arena

**BY: MICAH
SCHAEFER**

NEW HONORS LOUNGE

The recent integration of the Honors Program and Alpha Phi Tau, OTC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, has encouraged growth and development for both entities, as well as created many new exciting opportunities and resources for all honors students. A prime example of a newly available and valuable resource was the creation of the new Honors Lounge, located in room 354 of the Information Commons East (ICE 354) building on the Springfield Campus.

The primary purpose of the Honors Lounge is to create a dedicated space for honors students to socialize with one another, ask questions about either the Alpha Phi Tau chapter of PTK or the Honors Program, or simply study at their leisure. As a repurposed classroom, the Honors Lounge has many appealing features, such as the large window that stretches across the entire upper half of the North wall, providing not only an amazing view but also significant natural lighting that positively boosts the room's engaging atmosphere. Another useful classroom resource adapted to the new lounge setting is the projector, which provides the location and opportunity for movie screenings and other broadcasted events.

Since its transformation into the Honors Lounge, the room has been furnished with many other student-friendly resources and appliances, such as computers, meeting tables, a refrigerator, a microwave oven, and a coffee machine. In addition to coffee, the Honors Lounge also offers a small selection of teas, hot cocoa, and a variety of snacks, free of charge to all Honors and PTK students! The Honors Lounge is an amazing new amenity to honors student life on the Springfield campus, so from all of us in the Honors Staff, allow me to invite you to visit and enjoy the Honors Lounge! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

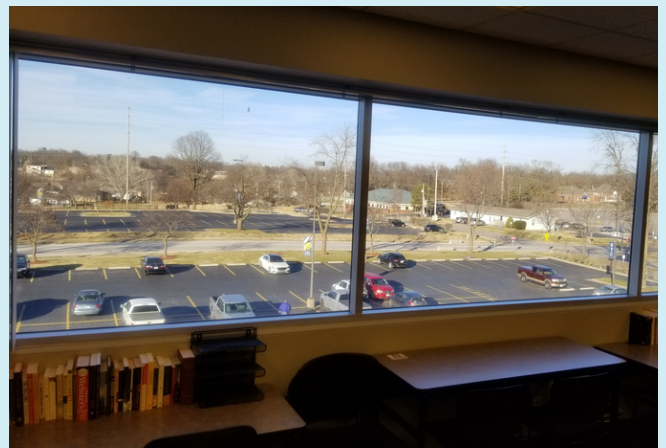


Photo by The Honors Office and Nikolina Lee

AVIATION PROGRAM

**BY: PAUL
YOUNG**

There is an incredible program at OTC that most potential students don't realize exists; that program is the OTC Aviation Program. This program offers an invaluable opportunity to begin a career in aviation as a pilot. In the two years it takes to complete the program, you will earn your Private Pilot License, Instrument Rating, and the Commercial Pilots License. After completing the program, you will be in a great position to get a job flying aircraft and begin your professional flying career with 250+ hours of flight time in a real aircraft. A lot of the classes, including those on campus, are taught by professional pilots with years of experience in the field, the staff in the program is top-notch, and you'll make a lot of good friends and connections along the way. Aviation isn't the easiest field to get into with having to study 4 hours for every 1 hour of flight time, but it is well worth the effort and time if you stick with it. I think it's the best job in the world and there is nothing else I'd rather be doing. If you have any questions about the program, where to get started, and just my experiences at the airfield, feel free to come and ask me about it in the OTC honors lounge.



Photos by Paul Young

PHI THETA KAPPA

COLLEGE PROJECT RECAP

BY: NIKOLINA
LEE

The College Project is one of two main projects Phi Theta Kappa Officers are involved with during their first semester of service. It is a unique opportunity for an officer to create a tighter bond between their college's student body and administration through coordinating a project with both. This academic year's College Project was entitled "**Meet and Greet with Student Resource Representatives.**" We envisioned this project as a fair where different student resources would each have their own table where they could present their mission and the ways they can assist our attendees with their individual needs. This event took place on December 7th, 2021, and was a great success both in terms of the number of departments participating and the student outreach— during the two-hour duration of the event, we had over 50 students come and chat with the representatives of 22 different departments. Some of the departments that participated in our College Project were: Tutoring and Learning Center, Disability Support Services, Dental and Hearing clinics, Counseling services, and many more. We were incredibly happy that we got a chance to highlight the hard work the OTC administrators have been putting in throughout the years and their dedication to setting the students up for success.

Our officer team successfully submitted the College Project Hallmark Award entry, and we are eagerly awaiting to see how we rank compared to hundreds of other PTK chapters nationally and internationally. You will be able to follow our journey at the **Catalyst Convention** in Denver, thanks to the **live stream** event organized by the Honors Office staff. Make sure to stop by the Honors Lounge between **April the 7th and 9th** to watch the live stream.

As a Co-Vice President of the College Project, I gained an invaluable opportunity to organize an event that benefited my peers and fostered a relationship with OTC's administration. Moreover, I personally gained so much from it— I made new friends with both fellow officers and PTK members, and I gained skills that will follow me through my life. Mainly, I learned how to communicate effectively and professionally, and obtained a firsthand look into the inner workings of community colleges. Finally, seeing months' worth of hard work materialize into an event that helped students discover the resources dedicated to making their lives easier, both inside and outside the college, was incredibly gratifying. Being an officer with Phi Theta Kappa is an amazing way to make the most out of your community college experience, and I hope that my experience will inspire you to get involved in the 2022/2023 academic year.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS



Photo by The Community Partnership of the Ozarks

**BY: ZACH
LEAVITT**



The Community Partnership of the Ozarks has been serving the Springfield area for over 27 years. This organization provides many invaluable resources to people in need, such as affordable housing and homelessness prevention, community and Neighborhood Development, Early Childhood and Family Development, and Prevention and Youth Support. They have been pivotal in the lives of many, helping tens of thousands of people from all walks of life here in the Ozarks. Just last year, sixty-eight thousand three hundred and thirteen (68,313) people were helped through many Community Partnership campaigns and programs. According to their website, over 9596 volunteers contributed 35,895 hours during that same amount of time.

One Door is one of the Community Partnership programs that aids the ones facing or experiencing homelessness. The program describes itself as a “central point of entry for entry for coordinated intake, assessment and referrals for housing and shelter services.” A Shelter Diversion program is also growing under the umbrella of One Door. If you're facing homelessness, One Door agents will meet with you if you call them at **417-225-7499** or show up at the **O'Reilly Center for Hope at 1518 East Dale Street**. The agents can help you identify resources, options, and opportunities that could help your situation.

This is true for many other Community Partnership programs, as they are a hub of community resources and information for the common good. If you want to get involved in their cause, there are many opportunities for internships and permanent positions within the CPO. You can find additional information at the Community Partnership of the Ozarks website <https://cpozarks.org/>

STUDENT UPDATES

FOUR OTC STUDENTS WERE NAMED TO THE MISSOURI COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION'S 2022 PTK ALL-MISSOURI ACADEMIC TEAM

Stevi Berry, Crystal Brinell, Devon Dembinski, and Brandy Koke-Boomgaarn have all been named to the MCCA 2022 PTK All-Missouri Academic Team. They have been invited to the 2022 PTK Awards Luncheon on 4/28 at Stephens College in Columbia, MO. As shown on the Missouri Community College Association's website, "Missouri was the first state in the nation to honor outstanding Phi Theta Kappa scholar-leaders with a state academic team program. The tradition began in 1994, and today 36 other states have adopted the idea and made it their own. Students are selected to be on the All-Missouri Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa."

OTC HONORS PROGRAM & PTK MEMBER ACCEPTED TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

OTC Honors Program student Nikolina Lee has been accepted into a highly selective, Ivy League Institution—Columbia University in the City of New York—and will begin attending classes there in fall 2022. Nikolina will graduate OTC in May 2022 with Honors Program and PTK distinction. Nikolina currently serves as the Co-VP of College Project for OTC-PTK and Editor of the Pinnacle Newsletter for the Honors Council.

OTC STUDENT SERVING AS A FILM EXTRA AND ACCEPTED INTO MSU BFA ACTING PROGRAM

Noah Duwe, an OTC Honors Program student, has been accepted into the highly competitive Missouri State University BFA Acting program. Additionally, Noah will serve as an extra in the "Reveille" film.

5 OTC-PTK CHAPTER OFFICERS TO TRAVEL TO PTK INTERNATIONAL CATALYST CONVENTION IN DENVER, CO, APRIL 7-9

Stevi Berry, Nick Crider, Billy Dudley, Nikolina Lee, and Nikohl Watson-Lowe will travel to the PTK Catalyst Convention in April. As well as being chapter officers, Berry, Dudley, and Watson-Lowe also serve as Missouri Region Officers for PTK, and will assist OTC as the host institution for the MO-PTK Region virtual conference on Saturday, 3/5/22.

FILMING "REVEILLE"

On March 2nd, 2022, OTC Honors started a collaborative project with the Phi Theta Kappa Chapter from Ellsworth Community College in Iowa. The project in question was filming and producing a movie "Reveille." The movie plot is based on real-life events that took place in WWII Italy, and due to the topographical similarities, the Ellsworth Community College team chose Sparta, MO as a perfect filming spot. In total, OTC Honors provided roughly 15 volunteers—serving as extras, set assistants, set builders, and graphic designers—for the film. Below, you can see a few of the many photos taken during the filming process.



FUTURE HONORS COURSE OFFERINGS



SUMMER 2022

- HON 290-WHON1 Honors Service Learning, Todd Yerby. Online.
- HON 199-HHON1 PTK Officer Development, Todd Yerby. Wednesdays: 9-9:50 am.
 - For Phi Theta Kappa Officers. Officer Application closes March 16th - See PTK Canvas Page for further instructions.

FALL 2022

- HON 290-WHON1 Honors Service Learning, Staff. Online.
- HON 199-HHON1 PTK Officer Development, Todd Yerby. Mondays: 9:00-9:50 am.
 - For Phi Theta Kappa Officers. Officer Application closes March 16th - See PTK Canvas Page for further instructions.
- PLS 101-1HON1 American Government Politics, Andrew Crocker. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00-10:50 am.
- ENG 295-HHON1 Transcendental Poetry, Staff. Wednesdays 12:00-1:15 pm.
- BIO-135-WHON1 Nutrition for Living, Rachel Wemple. Online.
- COM-105-1HON1 Public Speaking, Todd Yerby. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00-11:50 am.

CONTRACT COURSE INFORMATION

Did you know that If you find yourself needing a course for your degree that is not currently offered as an Honors Course, you can contract it with the instructor? That way, you can have a greater degree of flexibility in completing the required fifteen credits for the Honors distinction and graduate with a degree of your choosing, without needing to take additional credit for either.

With the Summer and Fall Course registration opening this month, on March 28th, this is the prime time to think about your next steps for the upcoming semesters. You can visit the Honors Program Canvas page to find detailed instructions on how to contract a course. If you're in doubt about whether your instructor is willing to contract the course, or you're nervous about asking them, you can find a list of instructors who have previously contracted courses on our Canvas page.