

The Pinnacle

Destination Known

Vol. 29 | December 2022

When I set out to create a student-focused edition of *The Pinnacle*, my chapter advisors told me it wasn't possible. Historically, students aren't eager to write what essentially amounts to yet another paper. Even though *The Pinnacle* has always been open to art and creative writing submissions, they're rarely sent in, and the content ultimately consists largely of contributions by the officer team (or, previously, the Honors Student Council). Yet with help from all of you, it was entirely possible to create an edition almost entirely composed of submissions from our students who don't carry the title of officer or representative. While it's true that we do have some submissions from our team, I'm so proud to say that it was not because we were low on numbers, but instead because they were eager to share their work with the readers of this student newsletter, which is exactly what I hoped to achieve.

I know it's a cliché to say "I couldn't have done it without you," but in this case, it's entirely true. Thank you to everyone who contacted me about this edition of *The Pinnacle*. Those who want to contribute to future editions can contact me via email at wilsonda@otc.edu, contact the Honors Office at ptk@otc.edu, or visit the Honors Office in person in ICE 354 on Springfield Campus.

Thank you,
Darla A. Wilson

**OZARKS TECHNICAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

HONORS PROGRAM

PHI THETA KAPPA



ALPHA PSI TAU

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Sudoku

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Memorializing Bree Pierfelice

Josephine and Steve Fritts

A few weeks ago, we lost not only a close friend but also a special alumnus of Alpha Psi Tau.

A week after Bree Pierfelice walked across the stage at the Gillioz and became a full member of PTK, she was in a van heading to a PTK Regional event where she would become a stalwart and ever-present member of her Phi Theta Kappa chapter, region, and the international community.

During her time as an OTC student, Bree was our most devoted volunteer. Within a year of becoming a member, she became a Chapter Officer. As an officer, she helped guide the chapter through their Honors in Action and College Projects, and that year, the chapter placed within the top 10 at the International Convention.

Even after she graduated from OTC, Bree was the one alumnus who volunteered to continue to help the chapter with events, including being our right hand at induction ceremonies, working the PTK table during the annual picnic, and supporting membership drives. She assisted the officers with their Honors in Action and College Projects, as well as joining in on member activities, such as bowling and putt-putt, both of which she was good at.

Bree was an important member for the Missouri Region as well. Even though she never ran for a Regional Officer position, that did not stop her from helping out with regional events. As an alumnus, she helped at the registration tables during regional conferences, shared her experiences of being transgender as a keynote speaker, and was welcomed with openness and acceptance by PTK advisors and members. She would always say that she felt at home with PTK and that everyone around her was truly her family.

Bree's impact on the chapter, the region, and the society as a whole cannot be denied. She was one of the first openly transgender members that attended conferences and participated fully in all aspects of the society. Members have contacted us since her passing to tell their stories of how Bree made it safe for them to be themselves in Phi Theta Kappa. Other members have told us that meeting Bree was their first experience with the LGBTQ+ community and her warmth and welcoming attitude helped them grow and embrace everyone with love and acceptance.

Beyond a doubt, Bree has changed the experiences of others in Phi Theta Kappa and made the college, the society, and the world a better place.

Regional Institute Trip

Autumn Seely

The Heartland region officer team hit Mississippi this year for the Phi Theta Kappa Regional Institute trip! Officers from our very own chapter here at OTC met with fellow officers from all over the world. The trip held a plethora of fun and educational activities, such as a tour of PTK headquarters in Jackson, MS. The officers were also able to hear educational forums and seminars from key speakers such as the PTK president, Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner. Our Missouri region had the honor of joining forces with Kansas and Nebraska regions this year, too, becoming the Heartland region. As the year progresses, we look forward to the extra manpower of our new team and the amazing things we'll be able to do with them!



An Interview with Sabrina Edralin

Darla Wilson

Sabrina Edralin is an alumnus of the OTC Honors Program who now holds a master's degree in Curriculum & Instruction as well as a TEFL certificate. She has lived and studied abroad in Spain, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree. I interviewed her over email in May, some of which is transcribed below:

DW: What brought you to OTC?

SE: I was not planning on attending college because I didn't think I was cut out for it. At the time, I wanted to become an animator and go to art school. However, my parents expected me to go to college, so I picked another interest of mine: Japanese. I knew that I wanted to go to Japan someday and I would need to know the language, which is why I made Japanese language & culture my sole driving force to attend college. I took Japanese courses through the joint program between OTC and Missouri State University.

DW: What motivated you to join the Honors Program?

SE: I was motivated to join the Honors Program because I wanted to make the most out of my college experience. I wanted to make sure that I was productive and everything I did was meaningful. Since Japanese language classes were only offered in-person, I had to commute to Springfield every week. At the time, Honors classes were only in-person too. The scheduling worked out and I was granted the opportunity to have a different experience compared to my homeschooling background.

DW: What was your experience in the Honors Program like?

SE: My experience in the Honors Program was full of hard work and rewarding experiences. Mr. Turner's Honors English class was challenging, but he made me look at my writing on another level that makes me a stronger and better writer. In my last semester at OTC, I made an Honors contract with Mr. Elkins for American History that was an important experience for me as well. The way he told stories in history class was very memorable and it was my first time writing a 10+ page research paper.

DW: How did you stay motivated in pursuing your career?

SE: I knew that I wanted to go to Japan someday and I would need to know the language, which is why I made Japanese language & culture my sole driving force to attend college.

DW: You recently earned your Master's in Curriculum & Instruction and acquired your TEFL Certificate. What's next from here?

SE: After graduating from OTC and studying abroad, I was accepted at UW-Madison and studied intensive Japanese and Chinese language, literature, and culture. I am currently learning animation and planning to pursue a doctoral degree.

DW: You mentioned going overseas. Where did you go and what was your experience like?

SE: After graduating from OTC, I studied abroad over the summer at the Universidad de Salamanca. It was my first time abroad and my classes were conducted in Spanish. I was truly immersed in both the language and the culture. I chose to study in Salamanca based on its history, beautiful sandstone architecture, and because the University was celebrating its 800th anniversary. I knew that I did not want to live in a large, modernized city and preferred a smaller, historical town to reside in. Aside from my coursework, I also taught English, surfed in the Bay of Biscay, and took weekend trips to Santander, Toledo, and Madrid.

DW: How did OTC and the Honors Program impact you (personally, education, work, etc.)?

SE: I believe in OTC's motto, "Start here, go anywhere." A lot of people did not believe in me or what I could achieve. They simply did not believe it was possible. However, with the right mindset and consistent effort, it is possible to achieve your dreams. The Honors Program and Japanese classes gave me a reason to make the 3-hour two-way commute from where I live to Springfield several times a week to attend my classes in-person. While in Springfield, I also volunteered and taught English, which helped me discover my passion for teaching and deepen my love for culture.

DW: What advice would you give to current Honors Program students?

SE: My advice for current and future Honors Program students is to make the most of your experience. Study hard and pursue your interests. Volunteer. Write down your goals and believe in yourself. The only limitation in life is your own belief and perspective. It can also be the greatest inhibitor of your life to really move past expectations and preconceptions and become the you that you are meant to be.

Sabrina's story is one of many that shows how much of a difference OTC and the Honors Program can make in students' lives. Thank you to her for sharing that story with us.

An Unexpected Win

Giovanni Sanchez

I am a first-generation college student. I graduated from OTC in Fall 2021 and decided to transfer to Missouri State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Computer Science.

During my last semester at OTC, I was awarded the Purdy Emerging Leaders Scholarship, which is granted by the Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation. This scholarship is named after Allan Walker Purdy, who was born in 1914 near Macon, Missouri. Mr. Purdy was the first member in his family to attend a four-year college, and he was known to have been a natural leader. He was the founder of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and assisted in developing the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority. He recognized the need for financial aid, and he wanted to support other students that were seeking to obtain a higher education who also proved leadership, had a good work ethic, and had the same commitment as him to help make a change to the world.

Being granted this scholarship was very unanticipated and extremely life-changing. I remember that I was visiting my parents in Mexico when I was notified about this award. I couldn't believe it, and it took me a while to process it because I was never expecting to be awarded a prestigious scholarship like this one in my life. Other than that, it made me realize that there's someone out there who believes in me and wants to help me to succeed. Which has been motivating me to do the best I can in everything that I do.

Today, having this scholarship has been such a surreal and heartwarming experience because many of my school and financial expenses have been covered thanks to it. Moreover, it has allowed me to work fewer hours so that I can give my full focus and attention to my college courses. All of this has helped ease my mind off all these stressors and made my college experience a lot more delightful.

There was a time in my life where I felt sad and unmotivated about not getting any type of scholarships or obtaining any type of fulfillment for myself. But now, I feel so enlightened, grounded, and encouraged to keep trying no matter how many times I fail. I have learned that consistency, optimism, and dedication can bring you to anywhere you want to be in life. Additionally, from personal experience, I can say that achievements like these can occur so suddenly, and at the times you least expect them to happen. Moreover, I am beyond grateful that I have been given this award when I needed it the most.

A piece of advice that I can give to someone that has felt a similar way to me in the past is that staying committed to what you want to achieve in life will help that goal slowly fall into place and come to you when you least expect it. I know it's hard to be optimistic and hopeful sometimes, but pushing yourself to the fullest will take you to places you can't even imagine! I always try to be optimistic and focus on all the good things in my life, regardless of all the challenges I have faced, because they have only made me stronger and grateful to be alive.

Thank you so much for reading and being a part of this wonderful experience with me!



The Impact of Honors On A Non-Honors Student

Jake Welch

The Honors Lounge at OTC has been a valuable resource for me as a student. I have been able to take advantage of several things that have improved my college experience, my grades, and the quality of my education.

The Lounge has a great atmosphere to study, do homework, have a spirited debate (within reason), and interact with other people interested in furthering their academic career. This is the place where the tutors go after they are off the clock, and all of them have been willing to offer assistance and advice for any subject. Sometimes you don't even need to ask, they are so eager to help. The same goes for the staff that keep the Lounge running.

There are snacks and drinks, and often there's even things more substantial to eat if you're there on the right day. The atmosphere is also very encouraging of doing the things that need to be done. You want to get your homework done, you want to study, you want to make sure that your assignments are done.

I personally have experienced the benefits of hanging out in the Honors Lounge. I've seen an increase in my grades and I've been more interested in school since using the resources that they provide.

I know personally that just being in the Honors Lounge has motivated me to be a bigger participant in the college experience and a more active participant in getting an education. I've used the TLC because the people in the Honors Lounge encouraged me to go when I needed help. The Honors Lounge also, just by being a place of academics, made doing my homework and doing a good job at it easier.

I know that if I were just to go home after classes in the time before work I would not have gotten any homework done before the very last possible second, and not nearly as well as I could have if I had spent the time it deserves.

Being able to take advantage of the resources and energy that OTC has provided has made being an OTC student how I imagined college would be when I was young.

Navigating College with Kids

Heidi Schwartz

Crazy schedules, late nights studying, working a full- or part-time job: college is not for the faint of heart. It's hard work and takes a lot of time and dedication. In many cases, a student will choose to attend college later in life, like I did. It's not that I really wanted to start so late, but sometimes life happens and gets in the way.

I have spent the last several years wondering, "What do I want to be when I grow up?" The years flew by, and by the time I finally decided, I had a kid of my own! As if it's not hard enough to study without a tiny person running around constantly calling, "Mommy! Mommy!" What would have been a full load of classes became two, then one. I found that the only time I could do homework or study was late at night, when my daughter was asleep. I can only imagine how others make it work having multiple kids and a job! They are the true superheroes.

My brain is tired by the end of the night after dealing with my toddler all day. As much as I would like to sit down and just relax, my classes are important to me, so I force myself to study. My short two-year program has turned into four years for the simple fact that I struggle to take on extra classes with only a few hours to myself at night. Each day is full of taking care of my daughter, running errands, cleaning the house, and all the things that come with being a stay-at-home-mom, and each night I'm studying or doing homework. While I wish I would have decided on a career path sooner so I didn't have to do this juggling act, I wouldn't trade my time with my daughter for anything. I'm grateful I'm able to be home with her while still doing my classes.

Can I take a moment to say how much I appreciate online courses? Well, I do! If it wasn't for the fact that most of my classes are available strictly online, I wouldn't be able to do this at all. I'm sure I'm not the only one, either. Of course, there are some that I have to go in for, but I'm able to plan that around a schedule that works for me and my daughter. Online courses for the win!

No matter what life a student has, whether they're a full-time student with a full-time job, full-time mom and a part-time student, or simply a part-time student because that's what's comfortable to them, it's wonderful to see a desire for education. To all the moms and dads who are in college, I commend you! It's hard work, but the fact that you're here and trying shows that you have the drive to accomplish your goals. Never give up on your dreams or desires, even if it might take several more years than you anticipated. You'll be able to hold your head up high knowing that you made it.

Fall Induction 2022

Sam Walker

Joining the Alpha Psi Tau chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society (PTK) is one of the highest honors an Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) student can have. Once students join online, they can be inducted into the chapter through the PTK induction ceremony.

The ceremony happens twice a calendar year, once in the spring semester and once in the fall semester. It takes less than an hour. There's a guest speaker, as well as several chapter officers who induct the new members. Overall, attending the PTK induction ceremony is honorable for members, and is an esteemed tradition of the Alpha Psi Tau chapter.

The Fall 2022 induction ceremony took place on Wednesday, November 9th. The ceremony started at 6pm. However, the volunteers who signed up to help had to arrive by 3:30pm. Volunteers were given free pizza and drinks in exchange for their service. They had jobs that included reserving parking spots, handing out pamphlets to guests, and directing the inductees. Doors opened at 5pm for guests to arrive, grab pamphlets, and find a spot to sit. At 6pm the inductees walked down the aisle to their reserved seats. Once everyone was told to be seated by Dr. Tracy McGrady, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at OTC, the ceremony began.

Following the speech by the guest speaker, Dr. Dennis Lancaster, chancellor of Missouri State University of West Plains, new members were inducted. They walked single file to the stage; their names were called out as they walked across. Shaking hands with the guests and chapter officers, then they received a white rose in congratulations. Once all of the new inductees walked across, Dr. McGrady closed the ceremony and thanked everyone for coming.

After the ceremony was closed, the inductees could get their pictures taken with their families and/or officers. While the inductees were getting their pictures taken, the volunteers put things away. They picked up the leftover pamphlets, roses, pizza, and everything else that needed to be taken. Subsequently, everyone was free to go home.

With over thirty-five students getting inducted, it was a noteworthy ceremony for what has been an eventful semester for PTK.



Crocheting Did All That?

Kaitlin Dornak

The biggest lesson I learned in 2022 is to not let insecurity stop you from trying new things.

On a random Monday in December, I picked up crochet on a whim. My younger sister Liliana and I walked into the Hobby Lobby and saw that yarn and crochet hooks were 30% off. If you've been to Hobby Lobby, you know that's not a great sale, but we bought a variety of different textured and colored yarn and crochet hooks on impulse. As soon as we got back to the car, I whipped out Pinterest and started looking up "crochet inspiration". Liliana and I decided that we would attempt to make a crochet tote. The bag took a week and a half to finish and an estimated 12 hours total– and it looked terrible.

However, I was proud of that tote. I had set a goal for myself and actually achieved it. The tote color was dusty lavender and had a strap and pouch for accessories. The bag had a lot of loose ends, holes, and uneven stitching, but other than that, it was a bag. As long as you didn't put anything in the tote smaller than a nickel, nothing fell out.

Fast forward 3 months and I was still crocheting. Except this time, I was making pouches, tops, skirts, AirPods cases, swimsuits, legwarmers, and hair scarves. I still made totes, only this time I crocheted flowers, hearts, fruits, and pockets on them. Crocheting became a great creative outlet for me. In any free time I had, I crocheted. It was a great way to give my mind a break.

In those three months, I thought about how cool it would be to own a crochet business. I mean, I was crocheting anyway, why not just take a chance and put my crochet creations out there? I spent two weeks coming up with a name and a logo for my crochet business and taking pictures of my creations. Come March 6th, I published the website and uploaded all the photos. I promoted it on all my socials immediately after making the web page live. I was so scared that the whole thing would be a flop. I put so much into the branding of my business, and spent so many hours crocheting and sketching designs. To my surprise, it succeeded. All of the crocheted goods sold out in a week. I had so many people send kind messages and support me, people I barely knew. About a month after that I got an offer from a local boutique to do a pop-up shop in her store.

It's been 8 months since I opened my crochet business. After the first pop-up, other local boutiques and markets started reaching out to me. Crocheting gave me confidence, not only in

my abilities, I suddenly felt more confident in school, my style, and my ability to appeal to people. It was also a plus that I was working for myself.

When I first opened my small business, I wasn't sure if anyone would be interested, so I set my prices low. However, when I saw how many people were interested, I raised them so that I could profit from my creations.

In my freshman year of college, I took personal finance. It teaches you good habits and how to manage your money, and I got to practice some of the principles the class taught me. I opened a second bank account and only took a percentage of the commissions, making sure that the money going into the company was the same money I used to purchase materials. I also designed a marketing plan. I had to figure out who my target audience was and how I could best appeal to that group of people.

Opening this small business helped me to get real-world experience. Getting a better understanding of finances made me feel more sure of myself and not feel as intimidated by the "real world."

I wasn't expecting much when I opened this small business, and I was expecting even less when I picked up crochet on a whim. I didn't think of the impact owning a small business would have on me. With that being said, I am so happy I did. I have learned so much in many areas. I made so many new friends and learned so much about myself. Don't let your fear of failure prevent you from taking a risk.



Assorted Poetry

Brianna Barrett

Climbing A Tree

I hold my life out to the tree,
As the branches bend into an arch.
The howling wind laughs at me,
As I dig my claws beneath the bark.

One wrong move could be the end,
That knowledge sends invigorating sparks.
I lean over so the branches bend,
Giggling with a stomach full of Monarchs.

I'm so close to flying,
But the people below shout and command.
My mind is already dying,
Words of wisdom as I scan the scenic land.

I trust the tree to hold my weight,
So climbing higher doesn't scare me.
I whisper to the wind, "checkmate"
As I hang by the tree with a single knee.

The icy wind helps my rationality go numb,
My loud heartbeat blocks out any sound.
My sanity breaks apart crumb by crumb.
Leaving a trail, we both plummet into the ground

Writer's Block

A blank page creases my eyebrows with
frustration
I erase my progress a thousand times over
Brain too stubborn to think of something clever
Tripping over tricky alliterations as the clock
continues to click
Seconds fly over my head as I try to think of a
clever metaphor
Struggling like a fish out of water with my failed
attempts to create a simile,
My groggy brain resists the idea of
personification.

My English professors have lost their minds
Telling me to jot down ideas if I can't think of
anything to write,
I fail even to understand the concept of a paradox,
How am I supposed to include multiple figures of
speech within a single poem?
My cortex can't even decipher a synecdoche
Abandoning all hope of creating one single rhyme,
This assignment will overall be a complete waste
of time.

Midwest Missouri Nights

Lilly Banuelos

Basking in the moonlight, clouds hang sleepily below.
The ground is cool and moist, the air thickened with a hazy fog.
Cicadas chirp an organized interval of song around heads of dreams.
Those who rest their eyes lose this treasured secret.

Tiny silhouettes dance among the stars, swaying this way and that.
Their bellies filled by the snatching of dawn's greatest pests.
Of those seeking brightness, stumbling endlessly onward.
Spring peeping and proud croaking echo off of vast, unknown chambers.
Winding, tunneling, twisting, dangerous.
Travelers of haunting pasts.

Deep tangles of unforgiving thorns, lumbering beasts amuck.
Pangs of unsatisfied hunger ever driving primal substance.
Meadows thick with shady wisps,
whispering and cold.
A long worn ballad of a restless soul reaches out for an answer that cannot be returned.

Steady bubbling assisting sleep, far beyond the black.
Rhythmic rushes disrupted by the whistling of scattered ancient stone.
The pale lady of the eve reflects the way home, assisted by her neighbor above.

Pine Ridge Reservation

Dee Lancaster



These photos were taken July 3, 2019, at the Lakota-Sioux Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. I was an adult sponsor/worker as we made repairs to houses and built a bathroom and kitchen for a church that was being plumbed for the very first time. In the United States, the residents of Pine Ridge Reservation are the most poverty-stricken indigenous tribe.

Several of the children that we met had shoes that didn't match, but considered themselves very fortunate because their friends didn't have shoes at all. Most houses lacked running water. Most winters, the reservation could expect to receive 70 inches of snow, and without running water, families depend upon outhouses as part of their daily lives. Many children and adults had to walk outside in this snow without shoes in order to use an outhouse, with average daily winter temperatures of 17 degrees.

Located in the Black Hills region of South Dakota, Pine Ridge Reservation is just outside of the area of the country known as the Badlands. It is a stark environment, not only in living conditions but also in natural beauty. The night before we left, a substantial storm rolled in. I have never seen cloud formations like that before, nor a sky that beautiful just before a massive storm broke over the plains.

Untitled Painting

Ruby McClain



Of Love and Honor

Timothy Drake

Dearest Agatha:

I love you, like the night sky loves the stars. You always have been, and always will be, my love, my life, my friend, my wife.

I must share with you dark news of the gravest type. As you know, my father recently struck a deal with Fenrick of Charles Town, who has finished a massive new galley. He has long dealt in rum and gunpowder – at least on paper – but it’s a charlatan’s front.

Last month, father and I were invited to Robert of Clermont’s estate. I saw Fenrick there, visiting from Massachusetts, as drunk as I have ever seen him, in conversation with Lord Livingston and bragging about how he is smuggling slaves. Robert couldn’t get away from that slimy sod fast enough. I immediately told father about it, and was horrified when he replied that we have gone into business with Fenrick and a man known as Sly Jim, a smuggler in Charles Town. I told him he may have gone into business with them, but that I had not, and that I’d be damned before I took part in the devil’s work. I warned him that his crimes would not go unpunished. He laughed, Agatha. He scoffed. He said our “honorable” governor is in his pocket, as is Judge Wesley. He then sobered his tone and whispered that I should not be a fool – that these are dangerous men...men not to be trifled with, and that it is far too late to turn back now. He said that if I love you and Charity May, that I had best behave myself, for these men are blackhearts. His words haunt me and are the reason behind the actions I take, for the madness that is slavery has no place in the hearts of righteous men, and I cannot partake of such inhumanity.

I have seen the horrors, dear Agatha. A year ago, N’dano learned that one of the slave ships was coming from the same shores he had been taken from. We went aboard to see if there might be someone he knew. While there, in horror, I watched a young negro woman, so thin and starved that her skin appeared stretched over her bones, give birth to a stillborn. She refused to believe that the babe had perished, and I still see her in my nightmares, clutching that fragile form, more purple than black, to her chest, petting his limp head and humming softly as though he were capable of comfort. That is the least of the monstrosities I beheld in the belly of that galley, but I will share no more. I tell you only of this so that you understand why I cannot permit this barbaric business to continue.

A fortnight ago I permitted father to 'convince' me to join them. Since then, Fenrick, Sly Jim, father and I have worked feverishly to get everything set up for the ship's maiden voyage to Africa. Laden with rum and gunpowder, we would have profited richly, but not nearly so much as if we were to return with its human cargo. There is no purer way for a man to sell his soul, for what causes are more wicked in the search for personal gain than carousing, war, and slavery? There is only one sure way to both stop the ship from ever gorging itself on the bodies of the wretched captives from Africa and protect you and our daughter from the wrath of father's comrades.

The belly of this ship is filled with a war's worth of gunpowder. When you hear of its mighty explosion, know that I perished in a flash. It is fitting that today is the Ides of March of 1744, for I believe father thinks himself a sort of Caesar, and me as his closest ally. Our deaths will be painless, which is better than this ship's company deserves. Her crew is above me, reveling in the promise of their share of the fortune our smuggling is going to bring. They would not be so smug if they knew their inclement fate.

Upon my and father's death, Jericho will become Lord Jericho and inherit the entire estate. While our common holdings along the Hudson are known, there is also much rum kept secret down at the wharf in Massachusetts. Please tell Jericho. It, at least, is legal, but father never told him about it, and I don't want those of Sly Jim's or Fenrick's men who are not aboard furthering the cause of slavery with the profit from its sale.

Jericho would die in my place if given the opportunity, so I have kept him in the dark. He also loves father dearly and thinks well of him. He would be devastated if he were to learn of our grim dealings, and so I beg you to keep this tale to yourself and burn this letter.

I have sent this to you in secret by the hand of my dear friend, N'dano. Make certain he is well cared for. New York may consider him a slave, but you and our daughter are to consider him as close as a brother. You have a heart of gold and I know you will honor my last request.

Your husband with the greatest of love,
Richard Allenbury

Untitled Photograph

Angela McDonald



My husband, my daughter, and I were standing in the parking lot of the Mexican Villa at 1408 S. National Avenue on the evening I took this photograph. We had just finished our meals and were walking to the car when I saw this tree across the street. It looked so magnificent, since the lights being used behind it to light up the nearby tennis court seemed to make it glow in the surrounding darkness. That tree is indeed splendid!

Sudoku Answers

5	2	3	9	4	1	6	8	7
1	4	8	7	5	6	3	9	2
9	6	7	3	8	2	5	4	1
4	3	6	1	7	8	9	2	5
8	1	5	2	3	9	7	6	4
2	7	9	5	6	4	8	1	3
3	9	1	8	2	5	4	7	6
6	5	2	4	9	7	1	3	8
7	8	4	6	1	3	2	5	9

Featured Review

Hi Dee:

I just finished reading through your Pinnacle article on mid-terms and wanted to let you know how great I thought it was. Sound advice delivered entertainingly made it easy to get the info in me without feeling like I had to drudge through it. And the advice was sound. I loved that you included staying hydrated. That is definitely one of my weak points, but you're not wrong about how important it is to a function brain! Hydration directly impacts the speed of thought as well as exhaustion rates.

I appreciated both the nature of the humor and the practicality of the advice. It was a great read, ma'am, and I thought you should know.

Sincerely,

Timothy Drake

If you would like to send a review of Volume 29 that may be featured in the next edition of the Pinnacle, check out the contact information on the front cover!