

T H A N K S G I V I N G 2 0 1 0

the

Conscientia

Oklahoma City University Honors Program

Plimoth Plantation: The Living History Museum of 17th Century Plymouth, for this info. The website if www.plimoth.org/Library/Thanksgiving/firstT.htm



The event we now know as “the First Thanksgiving” was in fact neither the first occurrence of our modern American holiday, nor was it even a ‘Thanksgiving’ in the eyes of the Pilgrims who celebrated it. It was instead a traditional English harvest celebration to which the colonists invited Massasoit, the most important sachem among the Wamapanoag. It was only in the 19th century that this event became identified with the American Thanksgiving holiday.

Although the Pilgrim’s 1621 harvest celebration had been identified as the first American Thanksgiving as early as 1841, the common Thanksgiving symbolic associations in the 19th century centered on turkeys, Yankee dinners, and an annual family reunion, not Pilgrims. Moreover, whenever a Pilgrim, or more accurately a generic 17th century puritan image, appeared in popular art in connection with Thanksgiving during the 19th century, it was not the now familiar scene of English and Indians sitting down to an outdoor feast. On the contrary, the image almost always portrayed a violent confrontation between colonist and Native American. It was only after the turn of the century, when the western Indian wars were over and the “vanishing red man” was indeed vanishing, that the romantic (and historically correct) idyllic image of the two cultures sitting down to an autumn feast became popular. By the First World War, popular art, schoolbooks, and literature had linked the Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving indivisibly together.

The Pilgrims were cast in their Forefathers role to provide an example of the close-knit, religiously inspired American community that people who worried about the decline of basic values during the First World War wished to instill in their descendants. While retaining their Victorian symbolic virtues, the Pilgrims became usable history for generations of school children, and played an important part in the Americanization of the Northern and Eastern immigrants entering the country. In addition to the issue of declining values, the country was seriously concerned over immigration and the problems surrounding the integration of the new citizens into American culture. The Thanksgiving image of dissimilar ethnic communities co-existing amid peace and plenty was an irresistible symbol. By 1920, when the Pilgrims’ 300th anniversary celebration elevated them to the pinnacle of their fame, their role as Thanksgiving icons and the “spiritual ancestors” of all Americans became permanently fixed in the American psyche.

NCHC Conference



"This conference was great; there were schools from everywhere in the US discussing interesting topics, such as how to improve their respective Honors programs, and sharing confidence-building strategies to help students plan and achieve their goals (for example, creating a leadership development program that focuses on improving students' strongest qualities instead of their weakest points.) There were also several interesting speakers, one of which was Aron Ralston, the man who was trapped while hiking in the desert and amputated his own arm to escape. It was a very special and enlightening conference."
Marina Kravtsova

"I had a wonderful time at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Kansas City this semester!!

First of all, the conference hosted several plenary session, two of which were absolutely wonderful. Aron Ralston gave a talk about his experience being trapped and having to cut off his own arm to save his life. His story is truly amazing, and his speech made me think about life, the paths we are on in life, and about what is really important. On Sunday morning, there was another plenary session in which the documentary "The New Recruits" was shown. This documentary follows three fellows from the Acumen program as they embark to pursue social entrepreneurship in poverty-stricken areas around the globe. The revolutionary ideas in the video were some I had never considered, and the documentary did a good job of presenting them honestly, showing both the positive and the negative. In addition to the plenary sessions, on Friday I helped lead a discussion about the impact of social media in Honors, a session that turned out to be anything but boring. Apparently, Facebook is quite the hot topic these days!

Apart from the formal presentations of the conference, Melody, Marina and I had a chance to socialize with Honors students from other universities. On Thursday night at the student party we played Apples to Apples with a large and very diverse group of Honors students. We also connected with an Honors student from Texas A&M University and had a good time hanging out with him throughout the weekend and will probably keep in touch with him. As you can see, the National Collegiate Honors Council conferences are great opportunities for students; they offer so much to learn and experience, as well as the chance to meet and socialize with Honors students from other universities. I highly recommend that Honors students attend the NCHC conferences!" Erica



Here's the DISH from the Student Honors Program Director By Erica Olavarria

Where are you going for Thanksgiving and what are you thankful for?

"China Spring, TX - I am thankful for the opportunity to ponder what I'm thankful for on facebook." Anthony England, junior

"Wilmington, DE - I am thankful for my class of 2nd graders at church!" Meghan Clark, freshman

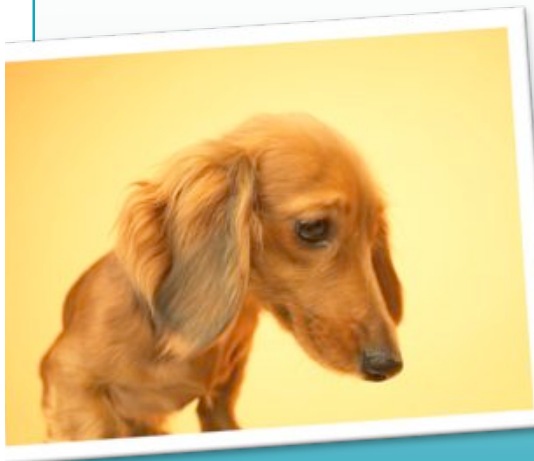
"I'm staying on campus BUT I'm thankful that my mom is driving down to OKC so we can still have a family dinner!" Courtney Harms, sophomore

"I'm going back to my hometown [Hooker, Oklahoma], and I'd say I'm most thankful for my family, especially around this time of year." Luke North, sophomore

"I'm going home to Broken Arrow, OK, and I'm thankful that I have a wonderful family that I can go home to." Alex Paul, freshman

"I'm going [home] to Phoenix, AZ, and I'm thankful for being given good opportunities." Jake Lamb, junior

"I'm going to my house in Moore! And I'm thankful that my family is coming to see us." Madi Alexander, freshman



Cleo's Chocolate Cornflake Clusters

2 cups cornflakes, crushed 3/4 cups raisins (dried cranberries) 3/4 cups flaked almonds 3/4 cup shredded coconut 3/4 cup sweetened, condensed milk 2 cups melted milk chocolate chips, white chocolate, or peanut butter chips

Preheat oven to 325F degrees. Mix together all ingredients except chocolate chips. Line a cookie sheet with foil and grease. Spoon onto cookie sheet about 1 tablespoon per cluster.

Bake for 15 minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool for 5 minutes. Then spread the bottom of the clusters with the melted chocolate. Let the chocolate harden, then turn clusters over and drizzle more chocolate over the top.

Director's Column

Happy November!

With Thanksgiving just ahead of us, we are officially on the roller coaster ride to final exams. Enjoy! And study hard!

I hope that most of you have pre-enrolled for Spring classes by now. If you haven't done so, you need to do so quickly. Several Honors courses have only a few spaces left. Remember that you can take either Perspectives on the Middle East, Digital Textuality or Science on the Stage for your Honors Junior/Senior Seminar requirement.

The OCU delegation to the Kansas City NCHC conference had a marvelous experience. You should begin to think now about submitting a proposal for the regional Honors conference in Arlington, TX., in early April, particularly if you want to attend the national conference next fall in Phoenix. Proposal submission deadlines for both conferences are quite early in 2011. Be sure to read ahead for more information.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Dec. 15! That is the date for the annual Honors Christmas dinner at my house. I know that this is finals week, but I hope you can take an hour away from your studying to come by for some holiday cheer and delicious food.

And speaking of finals, don't miss the last Pizza with the Professor of the semester. On December 6 at 4:00 PM in the Banning Lobby OCU counselor Brandi Gibson will give tips for avoiding stress during finals. And there will be ice cream!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Congratulations to the new Honors Students!

Samer Abdelkader
Alexandria Agee
Anna Combs-Francis
Jared Elliott
Tónico Figueroa
Sheray Franklin
Jason Herrera
Rachel Johnson
Jacilyn Kennedy
Hannah Killian
Bianca Marin
Alexandra McCurdy
Alexendra Roy
Angelina Stancampiano
Kristin Stang
Susannah Waite
Farris Willingham
Courtney Worsham
Jiaqun Zhang



NEWS FLASH!!!!

Graduating Senior Alert!

Are you a graduating senior? Are you planning to walk in December? Or May? Please check to see if your name is on the list below. Students listed below have either completed their Honors requirements or have a shot of doing so with courses and contracts this academic year. If you don't find your name on the list and think you should be there, contact Dr. McCombs. **And please notify her if you are graduating in December.**

Joseph Belle
Lauren Byrd
Stefanie Clark
Molly Colvard
DeEtta Cravens
Courtney Davison
Margaret Dietrich
Brianna Fleming
Taylor Forester
Ashton Glover
Josh Grube
Erin Hassett
Jared Hooley
Brianna Hurley
Sasha Hutchings
Elise Jenkins
P.J. Kennedy
Rose Lane
Katherine MacDougall
Zoe Miles
Jessica Nicolls
Sarah Plunkett
John Riesenber
Jonathan Roman
Michael Roselle
Erin Sanzo
Bridget Shuck
Kelsey Walker



NEW NEW NEW!! Third Section of Comp II
ENGL 1213 H31 Dr. Danita Berg Tue:
6-8:40



Come to the Honors
Christmas Dinner
December 15, 6:00



Here are some
of last year's
memories ☺



**“Experimenting in Honors”
GREAT PLAINS HONORS COUNCIL CONFERENCE
Arlington, TX
April 1-3, 2011**

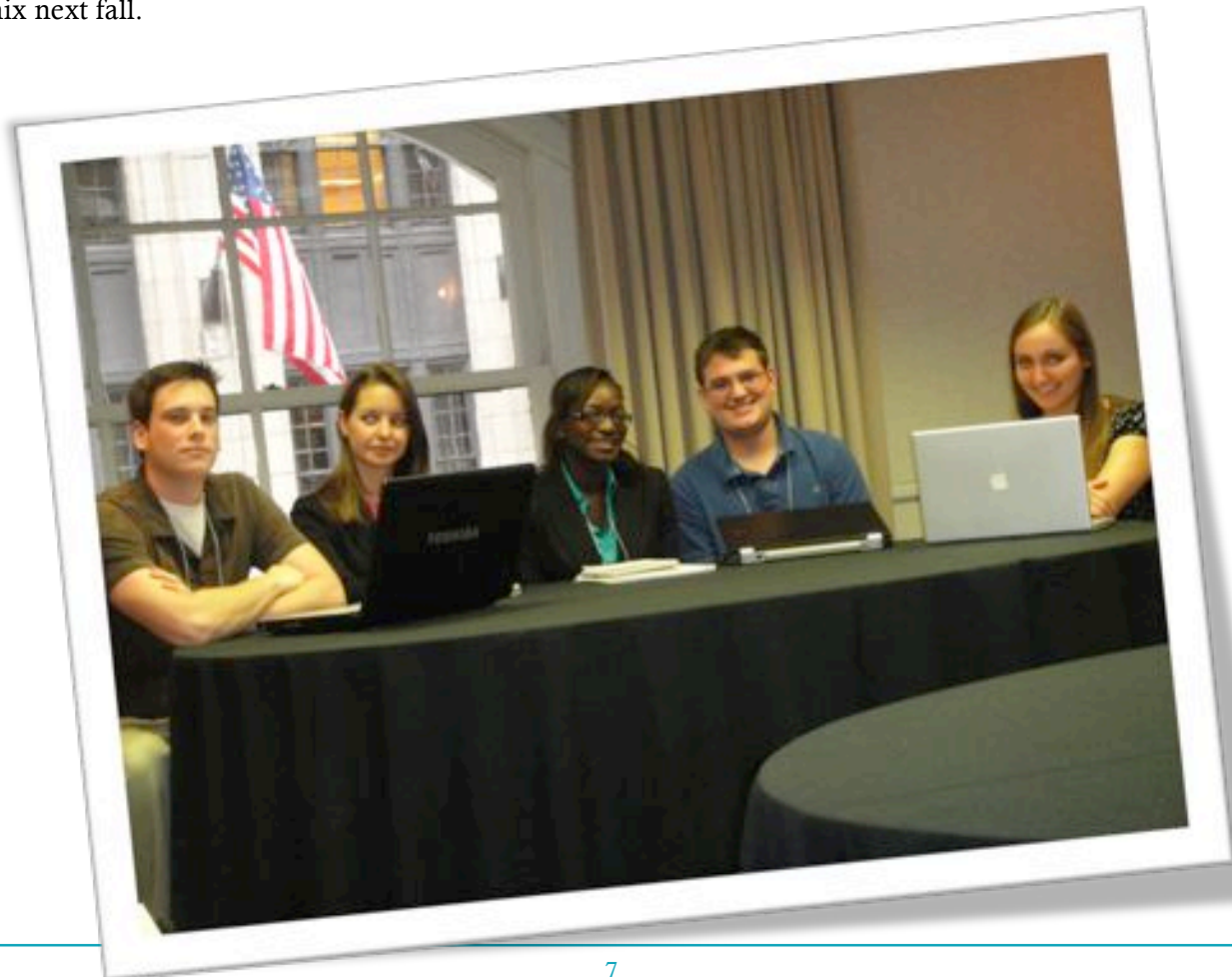
If you have been searching for an opportunity to attend an Honors conference, now is your time! The 2011 Great Plains conference will be held in Arlington, TX. My wish is for the OCU Honors students to take the conference by storm.

Conference session proposals are due to Dr. McCombs by February 2. You may present individually or as part of a group.

Boe Paper Competition—Papers due to Dr. McCombs by January 20—See Dr. McCombs for details if you want to submit a paper.

This should be a great conference. We’ll be staying at the beautiful Hilton Arlington, and plans include time to visit Ft. Worth’s wonderful art museums. Think about submitting a poster proposal. Or get together with several students and make a panel presentation on an Honors course or event. This conference is an important stepping stone to the national Honors conference.

If you present a paper or project at the conference, the OCU Honors Program (hopefully) will pick up most of the tab, depending on how many students go to the conference. However, I must tell you that University budget cuts may call for a new plan. Please give serious thought to this opportunity. This will give you the chance to present a paper at a regional conference which looks great on your resume and gives you the opportunity to meet Honors students from several states in our region. It is also a wonderful dress rehearsal for the national Honors conference in Phoenix next fall.



Don't toss those papers or posters you did for your fall classes. Consider using them as proposals for upcoming conferences. Due dates are in February for the regional Great Plains Honors Conference in Arlington, TX, April 1-3, 2001 or the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Phoenix, October 19-23, 2011. Email Dr. McCombs for details @ vmccombs@okcu.edu.

