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Honors Contracts

Have you thought about an Honors contract in a modern language course? Have you done anything about it? This is a great way to earn Honors credit, particularly if you are on a tight schedule and find it hard to enroll in Honors courses. If you are interested in contracting a course for Honors credit, please see Dr. McCombs soon.

Write a Student

The Honors Program is looking for a few good men (and women) who would be willing to write a note or email a prospective Honors student. If you are willing to help out, please email Dr. McCombs at vmccombs@okcu.edu

I've Been to Sin City

By Christopher J. Cost

I've been a fan of Star Trek for as long as I can remember. I have every Hallmark ornament except the first (which is now worth over \$500 and difficult to find), and most of the Mattel figure dolls. I've seen every episode of Classic, The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, and Voyager and each of the movies many times, and I've been to the first public showing of each Next Generation movie at the theatres.

I remember when I saw the first advertisement for Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton. I immediately knew that I would one day visit "the Experience." Well, that time came this past summer. I had been on the newsletter email list for some time, and received a special announcement about a summer special they were offering. So, I looked at the costs and the dates, and decided "Why not!?"

While my family and a lot of my friends were spending their 4th of July in the comparatively boring state of Oklahoma, I was in Las Vegas having the time of my life. I have this strange idea that one



should leave their home as early as possible, and return as late as possible from their trip, so I hopped on the 6:45am flight out of Oklahoma City on July 3 and headed to Sin City. We started flying over the mountains about an hour and fifteen minutes later (my first glimpse of real mountains), then about forty-five minutes later we landed in Vegas.

I was quite shocked that when I stepped off the plane, I was confronted by hundreds of slot machines and Kino screens. I knew Vegas was all about gambling, but before breakfast? I passed by all those temptations, picked up my luggage, hopped on the city bus and went to the hotel. The travel package included two nights in the Las Vegas Hilton, and I was amazed at the service, but even more so at the gambling halls. I'm not sure what I was thinking, after all this is Vegas, but I didn't plan on walking through a casino every time I wanted to do something.

After about thirty minutes of the ch-ching of the slot machines, one gets accustomed to them being around, even forgets they exist if they're not there to gamble, which I wasn't.

After I checked in, I spent the afternoon walking to, visiting, and walking back from the Stratosphere, a very tall towered casino-hotel that stands 106 stories high, plus a really scary and loud catapult roller coaster ride I wouldn't even look up at, but I did go on the outdoor observation deck and looked

(Continued on page 2)

Portz Scholar

OCU may nominate one student paper (not exceeding 30 pages) for the 2003 Portz Scholar competition. The postmark deadline is June 2003. However, papers should be submitted to me by May 1, 2003, to be considered. The three 2003 Portz Scholars will receive a \$250 stipend each and present their papers at the Chicago conference. See Dr. McCombs for information.

I've Been to Sin City

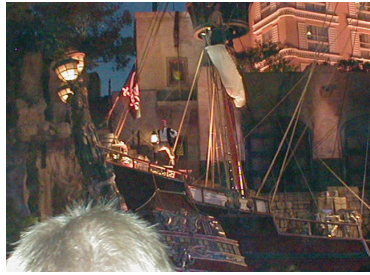
Continued

By Christopher J. Cost

(Continued from page 1)

down. This was my first glimpse at the beauty of "sin city."

I would soon realize just how beautiful Vegas is. Since the ticket to Star Trek: The Experience was an all day pass, I decided to use it on the 4th and spend this evening doing other things. So, I went to "the Strip" to



watch the pirate show at Treasure Island, another Vegas casino-hotel. It was n't

quite dark when I got to Treasure Island, but it soon got darker, and darker, then suddenly, a brilliantly bright light filled the entire area. The show had begun. It seemed that in that flash of light, the pirates had fired on the English, and the battle was on.

The show lasted twenty minutes, and ended with the destruction of the pirate ship, and an



audience scrambling to get to the next casino-hotel for its show. Right across the street and connected by a trolley

bridge is The Mirage, Treasure Islands sister casino-hotel. The Mirage is the home of the Siegfried & Roy dinner show as well as a volcano fountain that erupts every



fifteen minutes, an artificial jungle, and a dolphin aquarium. I was unable to go to the Siegfried & Roy show this visit, but I will definitely buy tickets next time I'm in the area.

It was getting late and the free shows were coming to an end, but my last stop was Caesar's Palace. This is by far my favorite Vegas casino-hotel. When you walk in the front entrance, you're entering into the Roman aqueducts, but the ceiling is recessed and arched with a beautiful bright blue and white sky and cloud design illuminated with lights, and the air is circulated and cooled by fans that you feel as though you are outside, in ancient Rome.

I found a Cheesecake Factory, and with my love for cheesecake, I stopped and had a

piece of pecan cheesecake. Needing to find a place to sit down and eat my piece of heaven, I turned around and found a huge semi-circular aquarium designed to resemble the mythic island of Atlantis. I had to sit and watch it, as I am a huge aquarium fan. Just as I was about to take the last bite of my cheesecake, the most untimely BANG came from nowhere, yet everywhere.

As I finished the last bite, I saw everyone was running to the other side of the aquarium, the side I had entered this part of the hotel from, so I followed. The statues and columns that had previously been there were replaced by animatronics. Another show! This time, the Fall of Atlantis.

This evening had been extraordinary! A short time later while eating in a Mexican restaurant at Caesar's Palace, several laser light shows demanded complete attention, dancing effortlessly and beautifully in the open sky of the Roman aqueducts. This was truly all I could take for this evening. I had never seen so many lights and shows in one place before, and I was happily overwhelmed.

Walking back to my hotel, I admired the wonderful lights of the Strip, the clear night sky, and the gold walls of my own hotel. It seemed such a short distance to the hotel by glimpse, but the longer I walked, the farther away the hotel seemed, but I didn't really care. This was a night I would recall later, perhaps for this article, that would rejuvenate those feelings of beauty and remind me my next trip to Vegas will not be so far away.

The next day, I decided to do a little "ch-ching" of my own. I decided to investigate and see what everyone likes about these money taking pieces of technology. I found a nickel slot machine and sat down and played a little. The game? Blackjack! I'm actually quite a poker player, when playing biological machines, but these technological machines had one up on me. They had the advantage, they were designed to beat me. Well, actually, they're designed, I will soon discover to lure me into the game, to give it more money. I suddenly discovered that with my "winnings" so far, I had earned \$125, and that's a lot of nickels. In fact, it's 2500 nickels or machine credits. Of course, I had only inserted a total of \$15.00 at this point. So, that gave me a \$110 profit. Like so many gamblers before me (even professional ones, I'm sure), the criticalness of the next move was never truly

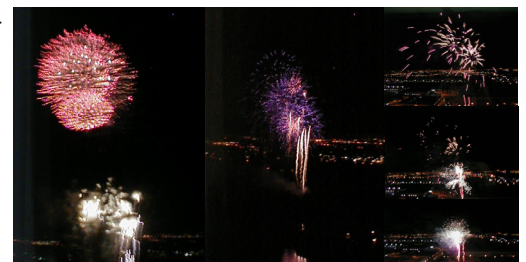
realized. In one move, I discovered I was on a high-stakes machine, and pushed the wrong button. I said "Bet All" and I "lost it all." I wasn't discouraged; I figured I was able to do once, I can do it again, but \$20.00 later, I discover no I'm not. I sinned away \$35.00, but enjoyed every minute of it. This still was the cheapest truly entertaining vacation I have ever been on. I just decided to stay away from the slot machines for the rest of my trip.

Well, by now "the Experience" had opened up and it was time to go on a mission. I found my way through the upper-level of the promenade and to the ticket counter. After exchanging my free passes, I walked through the Star Trek Museum, which is set up like a time-line accounting for ever relevant piece of information pertaining to Star Trek. It lists the birthplace and date of every main character and the discover of alien life forms, dates technologies were developed, when important missions occurred, and it kept going. The museum featured Starfleet and alien uniforms, technologies, and starships, as well as statues of some of the major aliens.

At the end of the museum, we line up to go on "the Experience" simulation ride which will last us about twenty minutes. I don't want to spoil the ride for any of you that might one day decide to visit the ride, but just let me say, I rode it four times and enjoyed it each time.

After the first ride, I stopped by the promenade and ate at Quarks. I had "Bowl of Kahless" (which in the teryn tongue is Caesar Salad) with a Rita Collada. Quarks Bar looked just like it does on the show. Morn was sitting in his seat, the Ferengi were "cheating" their customers, and of course the dabo-girls. Well, there weren't really any dabo girls, but everything else was just right. There were several shops outside Quarks, all over priced, but it was still fun. Now, I don't want to make you feel that "Star Trek: The Experience" was not as fun as everything else out in Sin City, because I enjoyed everything, I'm just running out of room, and no one wants to read three pages about someone else's vacation, and like I said, I don't want to spoil your trip to "the Experience."

Well, I'll conclude this long-winded article with "The 4th of July was great, take a look:"



McCombs Speaks

Welcome Back to OCU! We have a busy semester ahead of us, so read on.

Have you attended **Pizza with the Professor?** This semester the Honors Program has already scheduled three sessions. First up on January 30 is the fabulous Dr. Donna Dykes from the School of Religion. We will meet from noon until 1:00 pm in Walker Center 151. On February 7, Dr. Terry Conley will help prepare students to design prize-winning posters for Undergraduate Research Day. That session will be from 12:30 to 1:20 in Walker Center 165. On March 2 we will have another Pizza with the Director, this time with Dr.

David Pasto, director of *Friendship Betrayed*. We will meet at 1:00 pm in Fine Arts 12 before adjourning to the play at 2:00 pm.

OCU will once again host **History Day** on **March 27 and 28**. If you would like to judge, please let me know. Several Honors students have judged in the past two years and had a terrific time. Ask Aaron Wines, Lazo Raftovski, Cristi Bewley or Rebecca Fenton if you would like to know about this experience. I will need judges for exhibits, performances, and documentaries in both the middle school and high school divisions.

Don't forget **Undergraduate Research Day** on **April 1**. This poster competition is open to all undergraduates, and there are cash prizes! If you are unsure how to design a research poster, Dr. Terry Conley will once

again give his how-to presentation in the Honors Colloquium/Pizza with the Professor session on February 7, at 12:30 pm in WC 165. Pizza is included, so please let me know if you plan to come so that I can order enough food.

The annual **Easter Egg Hunt for SPARK children** is scheduled for **April 17** at 3:30pm, but we will need volunteers to help stuff and hide eggs before that time. The Egg Hunt is always a big hit for the SPARKs. You all are great with the children! Please come out to support this event again. Last, but not least, the **Honors Brunch** celebrating our graduating seniors and their families tentatively is scheduled for **May 10**, the day of Commencement.

Fall 2003 Courses

The Honors Committee has approved the following courses for the Fall 2003 Semester:

CHEM-1113H Nail
Evolution of Science and
Technology

ENGL-1113H Hessler
Honors Composition I
ENGL-2004H Bennett/Werneke
Classics of Western Culture II:
Neo-Classical through Modern
HIST-1103H Musselman
American Mind Since 1876
POLS-1003H Johnson
Governance in America

COMS-1103H R. Meyers
Oral Communications
PSYC-1113H Cataldi
Introduction to Psychology
INDP-1061H McCombs
Honors Colloquium
INDP-3163H Jowaisas/McCombs
Honors Jr.-Sr. Seminar:
Gender Studies

Conference FAQs

Great Plains Honors Council Annual Conference
Ft. Smith, Arkansas
April 4-6, 2003

1. Who can attend?

Any member of the OCU Honors Program who is making a presentation at the conference.

2. Who pays? Is it expensive?

OCU will pay for your conference registration and your hotel. Some meals are included in the cost of the conference. Your expense will be a few meals and spending money. We will travel to Fort Smith in an OCU van, so you will not have transportation costs.

3. Do I have any research that I could present?

Probably so. The research presented at this conference can be from papers or projects from any of your coursework. If the research came from an Honors course, all the better. Students can also participate in sessions about Honors program activities.

4. If I make a presentation, how large

will the group be?

Probably no more than 15 to 20 people in a classroom. Your paper will be matched with papers of a similar topic, so that the session will consist of 3 students presenting their work followed by questions.

5. Will the audience tear apart my paper?

Absolutely not. The atmosphere is very informal and supportive.

6. Can I make a group presentation?

Yes. OCU has become known for its excellent collaborative presentations. Several collaborative presentations originating from Prof. Marsha Keller's courses have gone to conferences.

7. I'm uncomfortable in front of a group. Are there other ways to participate other than an individual or group presentation?

Yes. As a rule the GPHC conference includes poster sessions where students design posters displaying their projects and are available to answer questions.

8. How do I submit a proposal?

The deadline for submission for proposals is February 14. However, I will need to

approve your proposal, so you should turn in your completed proposal form to me by February 11. Your proposal will consist of a 100-150 word description of your paper/project/panel along with a request for any audio-visual equipment you might need. Your paper need not be completed at the time you submit the proposal. This can be work that will be completed in April.

9. I'd like to go to the national conference in Chicago. How important is it that I participate at the regional conference?

Very important. The regional conference should be a dress rehearsal for the national conference.

10. I'm very busy. Is this worth my time?

Without question this is worth the time and effort. You will have the opportunity to travel, meet new people, make a presentation at a professional conference, and add a very important line to your resume. But don't take my word for it. Ask any of the many students who have attended conferences, including Gonzo Berger, Julie Conrady, Christopher Cost, Shauna George, Lazo Raftovski.

Special Workshops

NEW Leadership Oklahoma May 16-20, 2003 University of Oklahoma

NEW Leadership Oklahoma is a five-day residential summer institute for undergraduate women designed to inform and empower participants to pursue careers in politics and public service. Oklahoma women office holders, public administrators, advocates and activists will be keynote speakers and panelists. Participants will also spend a half-day at the Oklahoma State Capitol and attend a reception honoring women in government.

NEW Leadership Oklahoma is open to all undergraduate women in Oklahoma. Students who are interested in politics and leadership are encouraged to apply. Approximately 30 undergraduate women representing a variety of majors, class years, and economic and personal backgrounds will be selected to participate.

THERE IS NO COST TO STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM!

Students interested in participating in NEW Leadership Oklahoma can download a copy of the application form at:

www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/NLO/

You can also obtain additional information from the N.E.W. Leadership coordinator at 325-6372.

Application deadline is March 14, 2003.

Want to Intern in Washington, D.C. next summer?

“Live, Learn, and Intern” is an academic and internship experience. Over 250 students come to the nation’s capital for seven weeks between June and July at Georgetown University. Check out the web sit and apply online at www.dcinternships.org

- A scholarship is available for Honors students!!!!
- Intern on Capitol Hill with federal agencies, foreign embassies, trade associations, political organizations, policy groups, corporate lobbying offices, and top media outlets.
- Participate in weekly lectures and take

classes (for a total of 6 transferable credits) at Georgetown University

- Attend site briefings at the White House, House of Representatives, and State Department

This is a great package program in that it finds your internship, registers you for classes and sets up housing for the summer.

2003 New York Honors Semester September 2 – December 15 2003

Each year the National Collegiate Honors Council sponsors an Honors semester at a location in the United States or abroad. The 2003 Honors Semester, “Building and Rebuilding the City,” will focus on the transitions found in New York as it redevelops and redefines itself in the wake of Sept 11. Courses for the semester include Planning and Building the City, Art and Politics, Greenwich Village: Symbol and Place, Documenting Community and Public Space, The Culture and Ecology of Cities, City as Text, and Directed Research.

Early admission applications are due on January 31 with regular admission applications due on March 3. See Dr. McCombs if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

If you have questions about any of these programs, see Dr. McCombs.

National Security Education Program

David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarships for Study Abroad

The National Security Education Program is a unique scholarship opportunity for U.S. undergraduates to study abroad. Created in 1991, the NSEP awards scholarships to American students for study of world regions critical to U.S. interests (including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, the NIS, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East). The NSEP Boren Scholarships are available to U.S. undergraduates who are:

- A U.S. citizen at the time of application
- Matriculated as a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior.
- Applying to engage in a study abroad experience that meets home institution standards, and ends before the student

graduates.

Length—Academic year, Semester, or Summer

For more information, see Dr. McCombs. You may apply online at www.iie.org/nsep. The national deadline for the 2003-2004 academic year is February 14, 2003.

Important Dates

January

30 -- Pizza with the Professor,
Dr. Donna Dykes, 12-1 pm,
Walker Center 151

February

7 -- Pizza with the Professor,
Dr. Terry Conley, 12:30-1:20,
Walker Center 165, “Creating
Winning Posters for
Undergraduate Research Day”
12 -- Kurt Vonnegut! You don’t want to
miss this!
**Proposals due for GPHC Fort
Smith**
14 -- Come help out at the Presbyterian
Urban Mission, Lunch provided,
12-2:30 pm

March

1 -- Undergraduate Research Day proposal
forms available
2 -- Pizza with the Director, Dr. David
Pasto, Come have Pizza with
Director David Pasto before the
performance of “Friendship
Betrayed.” Fine Arts 12—1 pm
27-28 -- Honors Pre-enrollment, Stay
tuned for details
History Day at OCU—We need
volunteers!

April

1 -- Undergraduate Research Day
4-6 -- GPHC – Ft. Smith
17 -- SPARK Easter Egg Hunt

May

10 -- Honors Senior Brunch

20



03

April 4 - 6

Location: University of Arkansas Fort Smith
and the Holiday Inn
Fort Smith, AR

Please mark type of Presentation Form:

- Poster Presentations
- Music Presentations*
- Individual Papers/Presentations
- Workshop/Session
- Students in Honors
- Developing in Honors
- Beginning in Honors
- Visual Arts

If Workshop: # of Participants: _____ Workshop Length : 1 hour 2 hours

Title: _____

Presenters: _____

Are any of these presenters included on other proposals? If yes, please indicate.

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Director's Email Address: _____

Abstract/Description (150 word limit) *submit tape for music performance

Audio/Visual Requests: __ Necessary __ Desired

GPHC Program Registration
 Honors Program
 Tulsa Community College
 909 S. Boston
 Tulsa, OK 74119
 Phone: 918-595-7378 Fax: 918-595-8378
 Email: dlawless@tulsa.cc.ok.us

RECIPIENT ADDRESS

The Consentia, Honors Newsletter
University Honors Program
Oklahoma City University
Walker Center 230
2501 North Blackwelder Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106-1493
<http://www.okcu.edu/honors/>

Writing A Winning Abstract

from Abilene Christian University Honors Program

- 1) **Consider your audience.** Your abstract will need to have the style and jargon associated with the discipline your research relates to, but remember you're trying to sale your presentation to both specialists and non-specialists.
- 2) **Show the importance.** The specialist would love to know the specifics, but remember the non-specialist wants to know why they should consider looking at your presentation.
- 3) **Be concrete.** Factual details and abstract contexts are important for the research itself, but do little to get the proposal looked at. Remember that you need to give an example of what you're research or presentation is trying to get across. If you're researching paleontology, try stating

something similar to "We know dinosaurs walked the earth, but we have also discovered that our direct ancestors were smaller mammals sharing the same resources."

- 4) **Show conviction.** You must show interest in your topic when writing your proposal, especially. If you're not interested, it's unlikely the judges will be.
- 5) **Use direct phrasing.** Don't give statement such as "My intention is..." or "I will show that ...". Get right to the point, stating the heart of the research.
- 6) **Start early.** Don't wait until the last minute. You're abstract will go through many revisions before it's ready. Get the abstract right, first.

Summer Program

Summer Archaeology Program
Belgium, July 2003

Eastern Illinois University Honors Programs, in partnership with the University of Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium, invites Honors students to apply for the fourth season of its Summer Archaeology Program. The dates are July 5-August 2, and the program centers on the excavation of medieval Walhain Castle. Students may earn either four or eight semester hours of Honors credit, awarded in either History or Earth Sciences. No previous background in archaeology is required. The cost of the program, which includes tuition and fees, board and lodging --but not overseas airfare-- is \$3300 for the four-credit option. For more information please contact Professor Bailey Young at cfbky@eiu.edu. or write c/o Honors Programs, Booth House, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Ave, Charleston, IL 61920.

Oklahoma City University, in compliance with federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services.

The Vice President for Administration and Finance, located in Room 402 of the Administration Building, telephone (405) 521-5029, serves as the University's affirmative action officer and coordinates the University's compliance with Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504-Title II, the ADA and the ADEA.