

## Harry Potter and the World's Obsession

By Destiny Camacho

The Harry Potter fandom just got a new gift for Christmas, the opportunity to see the wizarding world on the silver screen once again. When J.K. Rowling announced on Sept. 12, 2013 that Warner's Bros. would be producing a film based on her novel, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, fans went haywire. On Oct. 1, 2014, the first of the new Harry Potter universe would have to wait three years for its release.

The time for waiting has come to an end as *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* released November 18. Fantastic Beasts follows Newt Scamander's adventures in New York's community of witches and wizards. Who is this Newt fellow you ask? Well, Newt is an author and if you recall Harry Potter's supply list from the first movie, you'll notice Scamander's name. He is the wizard who created the world's magical creatures. As well as his name appearing on the Mander's Map in the *Prisoner of Azkaban*. Why he was at Hogwarts is a mystery, but some things are just better left to the imagination.

Why should you go spend money on this movie? First and foremost, the reason to go see this movie if you liked the other Harry Potter movies even a little bit, is the vast expansion on the magical creatures. We get a look at the magical world of this world's *Fantastic Beasts* and add a new dimension to the wizarding world and leaves audiences wanting more.

When did the Harry Potter universe become an obsession, was it the release of



Courtesy Warner Bros.

the first book? Or did the hype get started when Daniel Radcliffe and friends brought the world to life before our very eyes? Before the movies were created the Harry Potter series amassed quite a following. By December 2010, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* accrued a total of 3,844,316 volumes in circulation. Over the years, since its release and subsequent end, the Harry Potter series has become a never-ending marathon. It seems that almost every month there is a day designing the world of Harry Potter day.

There are places around the world that turn into places from the Hogwarts universe. The Great Hall, which is actually Christ Church at Oxford University, is better known as from Harry Potter than from its own history. People have made Quidditch an actual sport with high jumps and dives called a Piffle. King's Cross Station is called a Platform Nine-and-Three-Quarters, sign, and of course there are small towns that turn into Hogsmeade for Christmas.

## Dreaming Of A Colorful Holiday

By Pedro Becerra

Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Professor Anoinette Winstead will be collecting donations for the 2016 Magill Elementary Coloring Book and Crayon Drive. The drive is part of a 17-year charitable relationship with the school, which has included Halloween haunted house, reading programs and Thanksgiving food drives. A goal of 100 coloring books and 100 eight-count packs of crayons are needed from OLLU students, staff, and faculty, who are able to donate to needy children in the community.

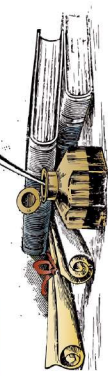
This drive is an effort to create a sense of community with the children and Our Lady of the Lake University. Through the coloring book drive, these students may feel a greater connection to higher education and one day consider pursuing a college degree. Donations can be left at Professor Winstead's office in Main 227 E.



Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Professor Anoinette Winstead will be collecting donated crayons and coloring books in her Main 227 E.

## 'Write It Up'

By Chloe M Brown



"I had an idea that my students and some of my colleagues have been very busy," said Yvette Benavides, OLLU Professor of Psychology and English. Patricia Peñal Associate Professor of Psychology, we realized we wanted to do something to help. Since the English graduate program emphasizes social justice, we feel strongly that our activism is through writing. Our social justice is through writing."

After the 2016 Presidential election, Professor Yvette Benavides and Dr. Elizabeth Peña decide to create an informal club called "Write It Up" at OLLU.

The group is centered on following up their pain, questions or confusion in the chaos. Benavides feels that almost every day there is something new in the media that students are trying to process. The group will stand as a space where writers can step back from work and finals and give each other compassion; give each other a reason to write; about creating a community that involves students, "I write, even if it is just for themselves. I don't even know how to feel about something until I write about it," said Benavides. The group is meant to stand as a

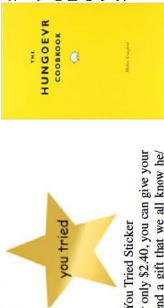
"Our social justice is through writing."

## Inexpensive Christmas Gifts

By Chloe M. Brown

College is expensive, but shopping for Christmas doesn't have to be. The first thing that students need to do when online shopping is add Honey into their browser. Honey is a plug-in that shows discounts on the site that users can use. It's like clipping coupons without all the cutting effort.

Below are the top seven inexpensive Christmas gifts this year, and the best part, they're all under \$30 bucks!



5) *Hangover Cookbook*  
What says "I love you" more than a book that can help overcome a hangover? At \$9.99 this book will be a "win" with all of your boozy friends.

1) *You Tried Sticker*  
For only \$2.40, you can give your friend a gift that we all know he/she deserved all semester long, but were too lazy or preoccupied to sell them. Besides, who doesn't just love stickers!



6) *Sriracha Hot Sauce*  
Everyone has that one person who puts sriracha on everything. For only \$17 you can get a pack of three keychains for the hot sauce lover in your life.

2) *Mini Monsters Scented Neon Markers*  
Everyone needs highlighters from time to time, and no one can have enough. And what's better than a pack of highlighters? A pack of scented highlighters with faces. Starting at just \$4.99 this gift is a bargain!



7) *Mini Waffle Maker*  
The second (to pizza) favorite of America. You can get your friends one of these bad boys for only \$18. Syrup anyone?



3) *Creature Cups*  
Want to shock your friends and probably make them spit out their coffee? Me too. This mug ranges from \$14.99 to \$19.99. You may have to pay \$15, but the look on their faces will be priceless.



4) *Mobile Lens Kit*  
For all of those friends who are self-proclaimed photographers trying to reach Instagram fame, this is the perfect gift. Currently, it's \$25 dollars, which isn't bad for all of our wannabe photographers. The kit offers a variety of lenses for cellphones, amping the quality of photos taken.



## 20 Fun Christmas Facts

- 1) Norwegian scientists hypothesized that Rudolph's nose is probably the result of a genetic infection of his respiratory system.
- 2) The Germans made the first artificial Christmas trees out of fayed goose feathers.
- 3) Most of Santa's reindeer have male-sounding names, such as Blitzen, Comet, and Cupid. However, male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh are likely not male, but female or castrated.
- 4) According to the Guinness World Records, the tallest Christmas tree ever cut was a 221-foot Douglas fir that was displayed in 1950 at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle, Washington.
- 5) Each year there are approximately 20,000 "rent-a-Santas" across the United States. "Rent-a-Santas" usually undergo seasonal training on how to maintain a jolly attitude under pressure from the public. They also receive practical advice, such as not accepting money from parents while children are looking and avoiding garlic, onions, or beans for lunch.
- 6) The British wear paper crowns while they eat Christmas dinner. The crowns are stored in a tube called a "Christmas cracker."
- 7) In Poland, spiders or spider webs are common Christmas decorations because, according to legend, a spider wove a blanket for Baby Jesus. In fact, Polish people consider spiders to be symbols of goodness and prosperity at Christmas.
- 8) Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.
- 9) The poinsettia is native to Mexico and was cultivated by the Aztecs, who called the plant Cuetzacoctli (flower which kills). For the Aztecs, the plant's brilliant red color symbolized purity, and they often used it medicinally to reduce fever. Contrary to popular belief, the poinsettia is not poisonous, but holy berries are.
- 10) Santa Claus is based on a real person, St. Nikolaos of Myra (also known as Nikolaos of Bari), who lived during the fourth century. Born in Patara (in modern-day Turkey), he is the world's most popular non-Biblical saint, and artists have portrayed him more often than any other saint except Mary. He is the patron saint of banking, pawnbroking, pirating, butchery, sailing, thieves, orphans, royalty, and New York City.
- 11) The first person to decorate a Christmas tree was reportedly the Protestant reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546). According to legend, he was so moved by the beauty of the stars shining between the branches of a fir tree, he brought home an evergreen tree and decorated it with candles to share the image with his children.
- 12) The first printed reference to a Christmas tree was in 1531 in Germany.
- 13) In order for Santa to visit all the homes on Christmas Eve he would have to visit 822 homes each second.
- 14) The world's biggest snowman was 113-feet tall and was built in Maine.
- 15) All letters addressed to Santa in the United States go to Santa Claus, Indiana.
- 16) Some zoos accept donated Christmas trees as food for their animals.
- 17) An artificial Christmas tree would have to be reused for more than 20 years to be "greener" than buying a fresh-cut tree annually.
- 18) Rudolph was actually conceived by a department store as a marketing gimmick to get kids to buy holiday coloring books.
- 19) Rudolph was almost named Rollo or Reginald.
- 20) Mistletoe springs up from bird droppings that have seeds that passed through the digestive tract. The word mistletoe literally means "dung twig."