

## 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. Of course, that also meant that fans of the 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 amongst the wizarding world's greats. As well as his name appearing on the Marauder'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 better understanding of them in this movie. *Fantastic Beasts* is a great addition to the wizarding world and leaves audiences wanting more.

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



Courtesy Photo  
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 been looped on television in an almost never-ending marathon. It seems that almost every month there is a day designated 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 schools and colleges offering team play. King's Cross Station installed a Platform Nine-and-Three-Quarters sign, and of course there are small towns that turn into Hogsmeade for Christmas.

## 'Write It Up'

By Chloe M Brown



"I had an idea that my students and some of my colleagues have been very upset," said Yvette Benevides, OLLU English professor. "In talking to Ezequiel Peña [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. Ezequiel Peña decide to create an informal club called "Write It Up" at OLLU.

The group is centered on fellowship; listening to one another and processing 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.

The group is mostly about creating a community that provokes students to 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

mediation to help students figure out how to process their emotions. This is not a partisan kind of thing. It's not about Republicans and Democrats. It's not about Clinton and Trump. We want people to be treated well. We want people to be treated with respect."

The group holds a strong belief that writing can heavily influence social justice; however, the club is open for everyone.

"You don't have to fancy yourself a writer," said Benavidez, "We are all busy with deadlines and assignments. Just writing what we want to write and what we want to say is very helpful."

People can work on projects that they want to publish or they can just work on processing their feelings through writing. It's a cathartic therapeutic process for the individual with their peers. Their first meeting drew eight potential members and they are looking to expand. Their next meeting will be held on Dec. 13. Writing does not have to be centered around politics, yet, it is a welcomed subject.

**"Our social justice is through writing."**

## Dreaming Of A Colorful Holiday

By Pedro Becerra

Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Professor Antoinette Winstead will be collecting donations for the 2016 Margil Elementary Coloring Book and Crayon Drive. The drive is part of a 17-year charitable relationship with the school, which has included Halloween haunted houses, 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 Margil students.

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 Antoinette Winstead will be collecting donated crayons and coloring books in her- Main 227 E.