

TCC Honors Program Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 2

Spring/Summer 2017

Honors Scholars recognized at annual awards reception

Points of Interest:

- **Do you expect to graduate next year?** Let the Honors Office know. The exit essay deadline for Honors Scholars graduating in the fall is October 15. It's March 1 for those graduating in spring or summer.
- **The Honors Program anticipates hiring work-study employees in the coming year, and we will be giving priority to Honors Scholars who qualify. If you are interested in working for the Honors Program, call 918-595-7378.**

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The Honors Program gathers each year to celebrate the achievements of its students. At a reception held the afternoon of April 19, it recognized 2016-17 graduates of the Honors Scholar program, 2017 presenters at the Great Plains Honors Council conference, and the winners of the year's TCC Foundation Honors Awards, Kontogianes Award, and Comby Prize.

Jared Poulter, a pre-physical therapy major, was chosen as the winner of the Henry B. Comby III Prize, named for the late Dr. Henry Comby, who taught TCC's first honors class. **Joshua Navarro**, a history major, received the Kontogianes Award, given in honor of the late Dr. John Kontogianes, former Chief Academic Officer of the college. Plaques honoring the winners of the Comby Prize and the Kontogianes Award hang permanently in the Henry Comby Scholars Suite on Metro Campus. Both prizes also carry significant cash awards for the recipients: \$1000 and \$750, respectively.

Nineteen Honors Scholars received

TCC Foundation Honors Awards. Funding for these \$250 awards is generously provided by the Tulsa Community College Foundation. The Foundation Honors Award is an acknowledgment of a student's outstanding academic performance and contribution in the classroom. The award affirms excellence and rewards the student who has accepted the challenge to become an exceptional TCC Honors Scholar. Recipients of all Honors Program awards are chosen each year based on the recommendations of the honors faculty on all four campuses.

The winners of the 2016-2017 TCC Foundation Honors Award were Cameryn Bliss, Madison Bremer, Ethan Brunner, Brynna Burnett, Natalie Heiliger, Allie Hollon, Rose May, Cheryl McGuire-Howard, Matthew Moran, Brandi Olsen, David Ordorica, Amairani Perez Chamu, Anna Platt, Brayden Shields, Jerica Sivadon, Rebecka Snyder, Madeline Soukup, Amanda Thompson, and Macy Turnbo.

Scholars Amairani Perez Chamu

and Brandi Olsen were recognized as presenters at the regional Great Plains Honors Council conference (see related story on page 3).

Also recognized at the reception were the year's graduating Honors Scholars, who were presented with engraved pewter medallions to wear at Commencement. (See their names on page 4.) TCC's Honors Scholar program has very specific requirements, including an application process. Scholars take at least 24 honors credit hours and complete an associate degree with an overall TCC GPA of at least 3.5.

The Honors Program also made three TCC faculty members "Honorary Honors Scholars" this year: former campus Honors Coordinators Jennifer Kneafsey (Northeast), Dr. Jane Varmecky (Southeast), and Anne Phillips (West). These three professors served the Honors Program for many years on their respective campuses, and they were awarded medallions to wear in Commencement.

The reception, refreshments, and awards were made possible by the TCC Foundation.

Alumni news: Honors Scholar in England on Gilman Scholarship

By Destiny Hrnrcir

When folks used to ask me whether I had plans to study abroad, I would give what I hoped was a polite smile, shake my head, and move to another topic of conversation. So for these same folks to hear that I've recently returned from eight months of studying and traveling in Europe is significant, indeed. For years I had believed my family's financial situation made something like studying abroad an impossibility. I had learned to forego frivolous ends in favor the reasonable path, and I thought then—as I still do—that such a measured approach had ever served me well.

After all, such practicality meant that I began my studies at TCC, where I was fortunate enough to join the Honors Program, and to then transfer to TU, where I completed my B.A. in English Literature. But study abroad was never part of my sensible plan. Even so, last December I finished up my final semester of undergraduate work in York, England, after four glorious months of meandering about the ancient walled city, traipsing throughout the glorious Yorkshire Moors and Dales, and of course, relishing in the rigorous academic life of York. My courses were marvelous, my professors inspiring, and

I felt glad, indeed, to participate.

Not only this, but after the semester concluded I was able to spend an additional four months in other parts of Europe. I was traveling alone for the first time in my life, moving at an intentionally unhurried pace, and lingering in such places as a charming sheep farm in northern Germany, a lovely village in Switzerland, and a small town in the breathtaking French Alps. I had fascinating conversations along the way, learned how to navigate the European rail system, and spent ample time wandering, allowing myself to become just slightly lost.

It was a marvelous journey, and I was able to have these experiences without great financial burden due to the assistance of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. Other scholarships I'd been awarded were immensely helpful, but primarily intended for tuition and housing. The Gilman, however, may also be used for expenses, so receiving the scholarship happily meant that much of the funds I had been working to save for living expenses were suddenly freed up for utilization elsewhere. I was thus able to extend my trip and travel, meeting people and hearing their stories as I

went along.

All of this to say, if you have considered and dismissed the possibility of studying abroad due to financial constraints, I strongly recommend looking into scholarships such as the Gilman. When an advisor heard my reasoning for foregoing any thoughts of travel during my studies, this is the advice she gave to me. While I yet wavered, she also asked me to consider who I hope to become, and what I may, in twenty years, look back upon and wish I had allowed myself now. I determined to apply.

I had never left the States prior to this endeavor, so I'm sure you can imagine that meeting and listening to those with vastly different backgrounds from mine was at least—if not more so—as valuable to my growth as time spent studying in glorious England. A priest in the Netherlands told me that a similar trip at my age (28) had been one of the best things he had ever done. He then wished me well on my journey—that I would be challenged, and come to better know myself. I believe that I have, and so I hope to now encourage others that, with the aid of scholarships like the Benjamin Gilman, such ventures are within the realm of possibility for them, too.

Important dates for your calendar

The 2017 **Honors Roundup**, the annual meeting and pizza dinner required of all Honors Scholars, will take place on Wednesday, **Sept. 27**, in the late afternoon. All Honors Scholars will receive an email about the exact place and time.

The Honors Program will again sponsor an **all-day "research retreat"** open to all interested students. This year's will take place on Friday, **October 20**. Reservations will be required; watch your TCC email for an announcement and registration instructions.

The Honors Program's **annual awards reception** will be held on April 25, 2018, in late afternoon. All Honors Scholars are encouraged to attend and help us applaud the achievements of our graduating Scholars, award winners, and conference presenters for the 2017-18 academic year.

2017 Great Plains Honors Council conference



Amairani Perez Chamu (left) and Brandi Olsen in Gladys City, site of Beaumont's Spindletop gusher.

The 2017 gathering of the Great Plains Honors Council was held in Beaumont, Tex., during the weekend of March 31-

April 2. Lamar University's Reaud Honors Program hosted the conference.

Two students represented TCC. Brandi Olsen spoke about "Bringing Our Second Brain to the Table" and Amairani Perez Chamu presented "Gender Wars: The Women's Fight for Equality in the Film Industry." Travel and conference registration expenses for both students were provided by the Scholars-in-Motion grant from the TCC Foundation.

The Scholars were accompanied by Honors Program Coordinator Susan O'Neal and Honors Specialist Lynn Richmond, who attended the organization's annual business meeting and a roundtable session on topics ranging from faculty development to strategies for stretching lean budgets. As a member

of the GPHC development committee, Richmond also participated in a meeting of the GPHC executive committee.

In addition to stimulating academic presentations, conference-goers enjoyed an excursion to Gladys City, the site of Beaumont's 1901 oil gusher known as Spindletop, and opportunities to sample several of the dominant food cultures in Beaumont: Louisiana-influenced seafood/Cajun cuisine, southern fried catfish, Tex-Mex, and barbeque.

The students' registrations and travel expenses were paid by a grant from the Tulsa Community College Foundation.

Next year's conference will take place in Stillwater, and will be hosted by Oklahoma State University.

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship informational meetings on all four campuses

On August 24, the application for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship—the nation's largest and most prestigious transfer scholarship—will open, with submissions due Oct. 24. Applicants must have 30+ earned hours after the fall term, with cumulative GPAs of 3.5 or higher.

They should plan to transfer to a four-year institution in fall 2018 (no earlier or later), and they must demonstrate unmet financial need. To learn more about the application process and decide whether you're a good candidate, come to any of four informational meetings with the scholarship's TCC representative, Honors Coordinator Susan O'Neal.

Metro: 3:30-5:00 on Wednesday, Sept. 6, Student Union East Lounge (MSU 214)

Southeast: 1:00-2:30 on Thursday, Sept. 7, Student Union room 9103

West: 12:30-2:00 on Tuesday, Sept. 12, Student Union Gallery

Northeast: 2:30-4:00 on Tuesday Sept. 12, Student Union Private Dining Room (222).

NCHC Civil Rights workshop attended by Dewayne Dickens

TCC's Professor Dewayne Dickens used spring break to continue his own education, attending a National Collegiate Honors Council Faculty Development Institute in Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama. There, he took part in "The Civil Rights Movement Reimagined," studying several key historic events of the 1960s Civil Rights movement by visiting the sites where they took place and museums that commemorate and document them. Dr. Dickens

joined a group of 20 honors educators from across the United States in field explorations and discussions by day, and readings and reflective writings by night, throughout the intensive four-day institute.

Dr. Dickens plans to share the fruits of his spring break experience not only with his students, through the workshop's impact on his own expertise and teaching tech-

niques, but also with his fellow faculty in a series of faculty development workshops focused on place-based pedagogy, with its emphasis on field research and reflective writing. Dr. Dickens has long embraced this approach himself, in his freshman composition classes that explore Tulsa's historic Greenwood district and in his work as a tour guide and curriculum coordinator for the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation.

www.tulsacc.edu/honors

How to contact the TCC Honors Program

If you have questions about the Honors Program or suggestions for us, please let us know. Email us at honors@tulsacc.edu

The TCC Honors Office is on Metro Campus, although honors classes are on every campus.

Honors Office: 909 S. Boston Ave., MC 523C
Tulsa, OK 74119
918-595-7378



HONORS PROGRAM

Congratulations, 2016-17

Honors Scholar graduates!

Mohamed Abdelmonem

Richard Baxter

Harsh Bhakta

Brynna Burnett

Martha Anahi Chavez

William Hawkins

Danielle Curby Hegdale

Natalie Hmeluk

Nikki S. Hoge

Luis O Juarez

Rachel S. B. Keith

Steven Mead

Matthew Moran

Brandi Olsen

Thomas Virgil Patat, Jr.

Amairani Perez Chamu

Jared Poulter

Jennifer Rodriguez

Rebecka Snyder

Madeline Soukup

Tara L. Stephenson

Amanda Thompson

Macy Turnbo

Irenea Walls

All best wishes as you leave TCC and embark on your next adventure!

Please keep in touch.

Scholarship news

University of Tulsa Transfer Scholarship

If you are an Honors Scholar planning to transfer to The University of Tulsa, you will need to apply for admission to TU before applying for scholarships. When you apply for transfer admission, notify TU that you are a TCC Honors Scholar. TU's admissions office will then supply you with a verification form that must be completed by the TCC Honors Office.

The Honors Scholar Transfer Scholarship is worth \$22,000 per year and is renewable. The University of Tulsa will award this scholarship to any TCC student who graduates as an Honors Scholar with an all-college cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, provided he or she has never previously attended TU, does not yet have a bachelor's degree, and is not an international student. This scholarship may NOT be used in combination with Phi Theta Kappa scholarships.

TCC Honors Tuition Waiver

If you are an Honors Scholar in good standing and meet the waiver's eligibility requirements, be sure you have been to the Honors Scholar Blackboard site to complete and submit the online 2017-18 tuition waiver request form. Once you have requested the Honors Scholar Tuition Waiver, be sure you have enrolled in fall honors classes no later than July 28, in order to avoid revocation of your tuition waiver. The tuition waiver will not appear in your student account until after you have enrolled in classes. Finally, be sure to attend the Honors Roundup in order to maintain your eligibility for the scholarship!

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

On Aug. 24, the 2017-18 application process for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship will begin. The scholarship is designed to help students with exceptional promise

and demonstrated financial need reach their full potential through higher education. The award amount can be as high as \$40,000 per year for up to three years. Up to 55 students from around the country receive these scholarships, and TCC has had seven winners since 2002.

Honors Program Coordinator Susan O'Neal is TCC's faculty representative for this scholarship. She'll hold informational meetings on all four campuses this year. See page 3 for details.

Other Scholarships

Be sure to check the TCC Financial Aid website for scholarship opportunities at TCC. Many scholarships, from a variety of sources, are available!

If you are transferring, contact your transfer institution about financial aid and scholarships. Application deadlines are sometimes as early as January or February for the following fall.