

# TCC Honors Program Newsletter

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## Points of Interest:

- **Do you expect to graduate next year?** Let the Honors Office know. The exit essay deadline for fall graduates is October 15. It's March 1 for those graduating in spring or summer.
- **Did you know the Honors Program expects to have openings for honors students to work as Honors Ambassadors?** These are work-study positions paying \$9.11 per hour. Call 918-595-7378 to inquire.

## Two Honors Scholars win major transfer scholarship



**Michelle Harris, left, and James Presley are congratulated by TCC's first Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, Linda Siegmann, who won the transfer scholarship in 2005 .**

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Two graduating Honors Scholars will finish their bachelor's degrees with help from the largest transfer scholarship available to community college students. Michelle Harris and James Presley have won the prestigious and highly competitive Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. They will receive up to \$30,000 per year for up to three years while they are pursuing bachelor's degrees.

Jim and Michelle are the fifth and sixth students to be awarded these scholarships while studying at TCC. At the Honors Program's awards reception in April, they were

congratulated and welcomed into the Jack Kent Cooke Scholars fold by TCC's first winner, Linda Siegmann. Linda won the scholarship in 2005, just before she became the first graduate of TCC's Native American Studies program. Like Linda, Michelle is the first graduate of her degree program. She will earn her associate degree in humanities with an emphasis on Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution when she graduates this summer. Jim earned associate degrees in physics and chemistry this spring.

The Jack Kent Cooke scholarship is designed to remove financial barriers for highly

talented community college students to attend their dream universities. The lengthy and competitive application process begins each year in the fall semester, and applicants must have at least 30 earned credit hours by the end of that semester. About 2% of applicants this year went on to receive scholarships.

The process will begin again in September. Honors Coordinator Susan O'Neal, the scholarship's faculty representative, will hold an informational meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5, in the East Lounge of the Metro Campus Student Union (MSU 214). In the meantime, to learn more about the scholarship visit [www.jkcf.org](http://www.jkcf.org).

## 2014 GPHC conference—and a look ahead to 2015

The 2014 conference of the Great Plains Honors Council was hosted by the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith during the weekend of March 28-30.

Four TCC honors students were selected as presenters: **Elizabeth Donegan** (“A Study of Healthy Whole-Grain Breads in Grocery Stores”), **Conner Flansburg** (“The Quantum Revolution”), **Cassandra Hewett**

(“Finders Keepers Success”), **Nicholas Johnson** (“The Norse: Fighters and Explorers”), and **Amy Tommey** (“Retaining a Moral Code in the Face of Extreme Crisis”).

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

**Next year’s conference will take place on South Padre Island** and will be hosted by the University of Texas-Pan American. We expect that many of you will vie for the chance to present. We will need to know **EARLY** if you are interested in applying, because airfares are best purchased not at the last minute! Start thinking now, Scholars, and talk to us in the fall about your ideas. Conference dates will be April 10-12.

## Comp II in California, May 2015: Cultural Connections Galore

By David Charlson

Imagine taking Comp II through TCC in California next May, touring key hotspots from the Hollywood Hills to San Francisco Bay, exploring cultural connections of interest to you, and actually seeing where much of the action happened or still happens! We will spend a full week in California, May 13 through May 20. Depending upon flight rates, we will either fly to Los Angeles, take a scenic Highway 1 bus drive to the Bay Area, and fly back or vice versa.

**TRIP LEADERS AND GUIDES:** Your two trip leaders will be me, David Charlson, an English professor who has been intrigued by California even before my Berkeley days of the 1980s, especially in how the state has influenced artists of all kinds, and Darek Jarmola of Go Global Ltd., an expert in logistics whose profession is to help students explore the world. Also assisting is my cousin, Jerry Charlson, who has managed theaters in LA for decades, and he will offer a tour of “old Hollywood,” showing us where stars such as Marilyn Monroe and Humphrey Bogart lived their daily lives.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS:** You will write three papers and a trip journal, and these will be explained in detail before the trip in at least two required meetings. One paper will be a source-based “before” paper on a California topic of interest to you; the second will be a paper based on what you will actually see and experience in California, augmented with outside sources; and the third will be a reflection paper on our entire experience. The second and third papers will be completed after the trip, assisted by at least two required meetings. Your trip journal should assist you in completing the third paper.

**ITINERARY:** We can’t see everything, of course, but here’s the basic plan, with possibly some adjustments and definitely some free time to explore on your own:

**Los Angeles:** “HOLLYWOOD” sign, Walk of Fame, Grammy Museum, Sunset Boulevard, Rodeo Drive, Venice Beach, Hollywood Bowl, “Old Hollywood,” Charles Bukowski’s neighborhood, and possibly Universal Studios.

**Highway 1 Bus Trip Highlights:** Hearst Mansion in San Simeon, inspiration for the Xanadu mansion in the film *Citizen Kane*; Big Sur, home to Henry Miller, Hunter S. Thompson, and so many more; and John Steinbeck’s Salinas Valley.

**San Francisco Bay Area:** Golden Gate Bridge, Chinatown, Fisherman’s Wharf, Lombard Street, City Lights Bookstore, Alcatraz (via ferry), AND a side trip to Berkeley and Oakland.

**COST:** \$1550 plus TCC tuition and fees. Incidental expenses for extras do arise, so budget for that too. The sooner you sign up and offer your input, the better the trip will get!

For more information, contact David Charlson, david.charlson@tulsacc.edu.



## Important dates for your calendar

The 2014 **Honors Roundup**, which is the annual meeting and pizza dinner required of all Honors Scholars, will take place on a Tuesday, this year: **Sept. 16**, 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, **Sept. 19**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Reservations will be required; watch your TCC email for an announcement and registration instructions.

The informational meeting for **Jack Kent**

**Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship** applicants will be Friday, **Sept. 5**. The meeting will be held in the East Lounge of the Metro Campus Student Union (MSU 214) from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Scholarship applicants must have 30+ earned hours after the fall term.

# 2014 Honors Program Awards Reception

**Justin Stanley**, an English major, and **Cassandra Hewett**, a health and human performance major, are the 2014 recipients of the two highest awards given to TCC Honors Scholars. At the Honors Program's annual awards reception, Stanley was named the fifth recipient of the Henry B. Comby III Prize for the outstanding graduating Honors Scholar, and Hewett became the seventh Scholar to receive the Kontogianes Award for her outstanding contributions to the Honors Program. Their names will be inscribed on plaques hanging in the Henry Comby Scholars Suite on Metro Campus (MC523A).

The awards reception was held on April 16 at Metro Campus and hosted by donors to the TCC Foundation. TCC Foundation Honors Award winners, graduating Honors Scholars, and TCC's student presenters at the 2014 Great Plains Honors Council conference were also recognized.



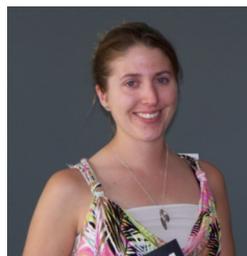
**Justin Stanley**

The Comby Prize of \$1,000 is given each year in memory TCC's first honors professor, Dr. Hank Comby, who died unexpectedly in 2007. He was an exceptional professor and scholar, and he was devoted to Honors Scholars and the Honors Program.

The \$500 Kontogianes Award is presented annually to the student chosen as the year's outstanding Scholar. It is named for the late Dr. John Kontogianes, who as TCC's Chief Academic Officer was a great supporter of the Honors Program.

The Comby Prize is endowed thanks to contributions from faculty and friends of TCC, given in memory of Dr. Comby. The Kontogianes Award is funded by a grant from the TCC Foundation, as are the annual TCC Foundation Honors Awards, worth \$250 apiece.

The Comby and Kontogianes winners are decided by the four honors coordinators during the TCC Foundation Honors Awards selection process. Students cannot apply for the Comby Prize, Kontogianes Award, or any of the TCC Foundation Honors



**Cassandra Hewett**

Awards but are chosen based on nominations submitted by members of the honors faculty.

Twenty Honors Scholars received the Foundation Honors Award, which acknowledges a student's outstanding academic performance and contribution in the classroom. The 2013-2014 TCC Foundation Honors Awards were given to Brittany Alexander, Nina Bulling, Bridget Dixon, Elizabeth Donegan, Nathaniel Dow, Joy Farris, David Francis, Jennifer Glemboski, Michelle Harris, Graciella Herrera, Destiny Hrnrcir, Kelsey Light, Lindsey Martinez, Cheryl McGuire-Howard, Mason Powell, James Presley, April Robertson, Lily Smith, Jonah Townsley, and Hannah Weakley.

At the reception, graduating Honors Scholars received their medallions, signifying they have successfully completed all requirements of the Honors Scholar program. The Honors Scholar program has very specific requirements, including an application process. Once accepted, Scholars proceed through a curriculum of 24 credit hours in honors classes. Students who successfully complete this program with an overall TCC grade-point average of at least 3.5 earn the designation "Honors Scholar" on their transcripts following graduation. The list of 2013-2014 graduates is on page 4.

## Have you enrolled for fall? Enrollment is open!

If you like honors classes (and why wouldn't you?), be sure to help yourself to plenty of them when you're selecting your fall classes. They are not just a treat; they're good for you. And if you intend to complete the Honors Scholar program, you will need to take most of your general-education classes for honors credit.

There's no upper limit on the number of honors classes you may include in your

schedule. Many students take full semesters of nothing but honors classes, especially during the first semester or two. Honors classes are not designed to be graded "harder" or to require greater amounts of homework. They are designed to be different, engaging, hands-on, and (for many students) great fun!

As you look for gen-ed classes to take, be sure to consult the TCC Catalog. (It's on

the college's homepage.) There you'll find the full list of courses that meet those requirements. You may find surprises. For example, did you know British Literature—or Music Appreciation—can count as humanities credit? And be sure to take honors sections of the classes that are absolutely required: classes like American History and Freshman Composition are a great chance to pick up honors credits (and wonderful experiences at the same time).

### How to contact the TCC Honors Program

The Honors Program has a new e-mail address! If you have questions about the program or suggestions for us, please let us know. E-mail us at

**honors@tulsacc.edu**

The main TCC Honors Office is on Metro Campus, although honors classes and faculty honors coordinators are on every campus. See below:

**Metro Campus:** Susan O'Neal, MC 523C, 918-595-7378

**Northeast Campus:** Jennifer Kneafsey, 918-595-7490

**Southeast Campus:** Dr. Jane Varnecky, 918-595-7633

**West Campus:** Anne Phillips, 918-595-8086

**Honors Office:** 909 S. Boston Ave., MC 523C



HONORS PROGRAM

## Congratulations, 2013-14 graduates!

Derek Clinton  
Bethany C. Deramo  
Matthew Ferguson  
LaQuita Johnson  
Jacob Jones  
Etienne Nichols  
Katie L. Paine  
Lucy Smith  
Ben Black  
Nathaniel Brooks Dow  
Joy Farris  
Isaac Graves  
Cassandra Hewett  
Ashley McDaniel-Brown  
Goldie LaMae Morgan  
Ken Norton  
James T Presley, Jr.  
Sharon Ramos

Greg Richards  
April Robertson  
Logan Sefcik  
Zinar Darius Simsek  
Jonah Townsley  
Hannah Weakley  
Miles Bewley  
Besi Dees  
Miranda Inez Dykes  
Michelle Harris  
Armon Henderson  
Destiny Hrcncir  
Lindsey Martinez  
Jordan Mazariegos  
Justin Stanley

**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 \$16,000 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 have requested the Honors Scholar Tuition Waiver, be sure you have enrolled in fall honors classes no later than July 24, in order to avoid revocation of your 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 group site to print out, complete, and submit the 2014-15 tuition waiver request form. Remember, return the form to the Honors Office (MC 523C, Metro Campus).

If you are an Honors Scholar in good standing and you already completed the 2014-2015 Honors Tuition Waiver Request and returned it to the Honors Office, you should see the waiver on your student account in MyTCC after scholarships are disbursed by Financial Aid.

### Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

#### Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

Next fall, the 2014-15 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 \$30,000 per year for up to three years. In 2013-2014, two TCC students won this scholarship (see story on page 1).

Honors Program Coordinator Susan O'Neal is TCC's faculty representative for this scholarship. She'll hold an informational meeting in September.