

TCC Honors Program Newsletter

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Staying connected despite Covid

During a pandemic, feeling connected with other people is certainly more challenging than usual—and maybe more important than ever. In a recent survey of Honors Scholars, you expressed a desire for more frequent virtual Honors gatherings, and we are planning to announce monthly events in the spring. Stay tuned!

If you're an Honors Scholar, you received instructions for joining

our Blackboard site when you were admitted to the program. Don't forget to check that regularly; it's the easiest place to find all the program's news and opportunities—including announcements about our new social media accounts on Slack and Discord. Through these platforms you can meet with your fellow Honors Scholars to chat or even participate in game nights with one another.

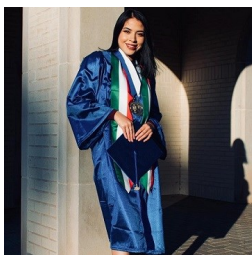
This semester, we've held virtual versions of most fall Honors Program events; thank you for being so flexible in adapting to these changes. We welcome your suggestions for improving our virtual events. You can send feedback directly to the Honors staff or to your student representative on the Honors Advisory Panel, Elijah Brown, who has already organized several social gatherings online this fall. Thanks, Elijah!

Graduating Honors Scholars

We wish we could have a ceremony honoring our fall graduates and awarding their medallions, but this is another thing that has been altered by the pandemic.

Ordinarily, in our awards reception we ask our graduating Scholars where they expect to be in six months and in six years. This fall, that conversation takes place in these pages.

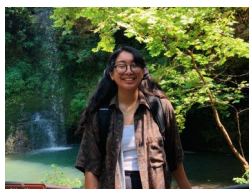
Congratulations to our Honors Scholars graduating in December 2020! They (and their responses) are below.



Ahylin Paola Arce-Ramos: I will continue my education at Oklahoma State University to complete my bachelor's in Psychology. In six months, I expect to be getting prepared for my second semester at OSU, and in 6 years, I expect to be a children's counselor.

Bethany G. Donegan

Cecilia Nguyen: Within the next 6 months, I plan to transfer to the University of Tulsa to pursue my bachelor's degree in Psychology and minor in Education. Within the next 6 years, I hope to obtain my PhD in Developmental or Child Psychology, begin my teaching career in higher ed institutions, and begin working as a clinical child/adolescent psychologist.



Mindy Robertson: In six months, I will have finished my first semester at TU as an accounting major and hope to be starting a summer internship. I will also have welcomed two more nephews into this beautiful world! In six years, I plan to have finished my bachelor's degree, master's degree, and CPA certification and have an accounting job in the Tulsa area. Education and career aside, I'm

looking forward to an end to the pandemic so that I can travel and check another destination off my bucket list. Somewhere tropical would be nice!

and

Brianna Wilson

Best wishes to all of you! Please stay in touch with the Honors Program. We will miss you.



News from our transfer partners

This fall brought some big news from two of our transfer partners in the area:

Northeastern State University's Honors Program director, Dr. Karen Carey, met with several TCC employees (Honors Coordinator Dr. Allen Culpepper, Chair of Undergraduate Research Dr. Robert Katz, Honors Specialist Lynn Richmond, and Dean of Science Dr. Julie Porterfield) to describe the new process and deadlines for transferring into NSU's Honors Program. This can be done at either NSU campus. To pursue an NSU bachelor's degree with Honors, students need to transfer

with at least 60 earned hours from TCC and an overall GPA of at least 3.5 (with no D's or F's on the transcript), and they must contact Dr. Carey before spring break (for fall admission) or in early October for January admission. At NSU, they must complete six hours of research courses spread out over four semesters, along with mandatory presentation of that research. For more information, contact Dr. Carey at careyka@nsuok.edu.

The University of Tulsa also shared exciting news: It is now possible for transfer students to apply for the prestigious Presi-

dential Scholarship, which covers full tuition. The Presidential Scholarship is highly competitive, and it can't be combined with TU's TCC Honors Award for transferring Honors Scholars, but any Honors Scholars transferring to TU should apply for that larger award as well as letting TU know they are Honors Scholars (automatically eligible for the \$25,000/year TCC Honors Award). The scholarship's application deadline of January 15 (for the following fall) is also the deadline for applying to the TU Honors Program. Visit the [TU website](https://utulsa.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/first-time-entering-transfer/) for information: <https://utulsa.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/first-time-entering-transfer/>

Religious State of the 918

Adapted from Dr. Allen Culpepper's blog:

One exciting one-time-only opportunity that we have going on in the Honors Program this academic year is the Religious State of the 918 Project, which is focused on religious diversity as an area of study. Hours and hours of work by the Honors faculty, the TCC Foundation staff, and numerous other people went into planning the project and applying for grant funds to support it. The result was securing grant funds from both Oklahoma Humanities and the TCC Foundation to support the project, which is intended not only to generate dialogue about religious diversity and the role of religion in Tulsa-area history, culture, and politics, but also to provide Honors Scholars and other TCC students with research opportunities (one of the things that respondents to the Honors programming survey said they wanted) and conference-presentation opportunities and to promote the Honors program to the community beyond TCC by facilitating interaction between Scholars and the public so that people out in the community can see the high-quality work that TCC students are doing. Community awareness of the Honors Program is an important part of making sure that the program continues to have the sup-

port that it needs to survive and thrive in challenging times.

Two of our Honors classes this fall, my Comp II and Prof. Heather Wilburn's Intro to Philosophy, are associated directly with the project, and we have had some great class sessions and a number of interesting guest speakers. We also had a virtual panel discussion with local clergy in September, which was extremely lively and informative. Another activity was an excellent tour of Holy Family Cathedral. We were hoping to tour several other places of worship (and still might—the project continues through spring semester), but the pandemic has limited our ability to do such in-person activities. We have, though, been able to produce a number of short videos highlighting places of worship in various Tulsa neighborhoods and set up a Facebook page to connect with the public. All the videos are available on YouTube; you can find them by searching for The Honors Channel. You can follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RS918) at [facebook.com/RS918](https://www.facebook.com/RS918). I recently had the opportunity to make a presentation about the project to the TCC Foundation board, and they were very enthusiastic about it.

The biggest event of the project is still to come, though—the **RS918 Virtual Research Symposium scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2021**. This is a really big deal for the Honors Program. We will have Dr. Eric Reitan from the Philosophy Department

at OSU-Stillwater as our keynote speaker, on the topic "Is Religious Diversity a Threat to Faith?" Dr. Lisa Barnett from Phillips Seminary has also agreed to speak, on "Peyote and the Native American Church in Oklahoma." Undergraduate students from TCC, as well as from nearby colleges and universities including TU, OSU, ORU, NSU, RSU, NCO, OU, etc., are being invited to present at the symposium. This means you are encouraged to submit a proposal! Presentation types include conference paper, poster presentation, and panel discussion. Presentations may be on any topic related to religion. Topics with a Tulsa or Oklahoma connection are especially encouraged, but not required. Although humanities and social science perspectives are the ones that first come to mind, we're also very much interested in presentations that have a more interdisciplinary approach, such as the intersection of science and religion, to name just one example.

The symposium is free and open to the public. To attend, you do need to register, so that we can keep track of numbers and can send attendees Zoom links for sessions and any updates on the program. Register [online](https://signupgenius.com/go/4090E4FACA822A0FD0-religious) at signupgenius.com/go/4090E4FACA822A0FD0-religious.

2020 Research Retreat and Honors Roundup

The annual **Research Retreat**, sponsored by the Honors Program, took place on Oct. 23 in a series of Zoom rooms, like so many things during this very different semester.

As always, the day was open to all interested students and filled with sessions designed to introduce them to types of research undertaken by a variety of disciplines—from the earliest planning stages through the presentation of final results. As always, TCC librarians Adam Brennan and Amy Lagers offered their engaging session on crafting research questions and conducting a literature review, and they used digital tools to keep their session highly interactive despite our distance from one another.

This year, two panels of researchers described their own research experiences. A panel devoted to humanities research included authors Rilla Askew and Randy

Krehbiel (who both researched the Tulsa Race Massacre for very different books, one fiction and the other nonfiction), education researcher Dr. Denise Blum, and University of Tulsa archivist Marc Carlson (who has also conducted research on the Tulsa Race Massacre). Dr. Robert Katz moderated the humanities panel. The other panel, focused on STEM research, was moderated by Dr. Allen Culpepper and featured TCC biology faculty Dr. Valerie O'Brien and Mona Easterling, Dr. Randall Davis (director of OSU Health Science Center's Biomedical Sciences graduate program), and Justice Robinson, who graduated last spring as a TCC Honors Scholar and Goldwater Scholar and is now doing research at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Finally, the co-chairs of TCC's Institutional Review Board, Dr. Jennifer Ivie and Dr.

Alicia MacKay, presented on the IRB process that must be undertaken by anyone doing research involving human subjects in any way.

The Honors Program's other big fall event, the **Honors Roundup**, took place the evening of Sept. 17. The Roundup is the program's annual orientation for new Scholars, refresher for continuing Scholars, and (in normal years) pizza dinner for everyone to get acquainted. Like other Roundups before it, this one contained announcements of opportunities, reminders of deadlines, and tips for success. Unlike earlier Roundups, this was the first to be held in the evening, and the first to be held online. Attendance was good, whether because of the hour or the format we're not quite sure. We hope to be together again for the 2021 version.

GPHC and NCHC conferences

This year's National Collegiate Honors Council conference was (yes) virtual—and one of the virtues of the lack of travel expense was that the Honors Program could afford to send more attendees this year, including five Honors Scholars! Only very rarely have TCC students had the opportunity to take part in an NCHC conference. The student attendees (Ahylin Arce-Ramos, Dylan Bruton, Kaliana Lee, Kat Pacian, and Edwin Sanchez) attended sessions on topics ranging from building community in honors programs to career outcomes for honors scholars, quantum computing, or implicit bias. Kaliana Lee reported that one session even sparked ideas for her research in one of her own Honors classes here at TCC!

Faculty and staff attending the conference were Dr. Allen Culpepper, Engaged Learning Dean Cindy Shanks, Dr. Robert Katz, Paul Zintgraff, and Lynn Richmond. They will meet in January to compare notes on the sessions they attended—and are still

attending, as the NCHC sessions were spread over several weeks and are available to them for a full year.

The Great Plains Honors Council's 2021 regional conference will be hosted by Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX, but it remains to be seen whether the conference will actually happen in Wichita Falls. Plans are proceeding for the conference to be in-person with the option of shifting online if necessary. The conference dates are March 12-14.

Thanks to a grant from the TCC Foundation, the Honors Program will pay registration and (if needed) travel expenses for Honors students who submit proposals to present at the conference. The GPHC conference provides participants with a valuable opportunity to make academic contacts and explore new ideas with Honors students and faculty from a six-state region. To learn more about the conference program and its schedule, as well as how

to write a good proposal, visit the [website](https://www.greatplainshonors.com) [greatplainshonors.com](https://www.greatplainshonors.com).

Students' presentations based on their own research, analysis, and other projects are always important elements of the conference. Topics of student presentations at GPHC conferences come from every academic discipline.

The Honors Program awards the privilege of paid conference expenses to Honors students only, with first consideration going to Honors Scholars who have made proposals to be presenters.

Students may submit proposals for poster or oral presentations, or even full academic papers for consideration for the Boe Award. Each member institution may nominate up to two Honors Scholars' papers for Boe Award consideration. Boe winners present their papers in oral presentations that are a conference highlight. Each institution may also nominate two posters to compete for the John Britt Poster Awards.

Changes in the Honors Program's graduation requirements

Honors Scholars need to be aware that during the pandemic the Honors Program will not be limiting the number of online Honors classes that can be counted toward Honors graduation requirements. The program is considering making some permanent changes to the number of Honors hours and the number of online Honors hours in our graduation requirements, and we'll keep you posted once that policy change has been decided. For now, though, don't be afraid to take online Honors classes beyond the usual nine-hour limit. Also, Honors Scholars should check the current Honors Handbook (posted on the Honors Blackboard site) for the new option that replaces the old Honors Service-Learning Option for graduation. In the past, the Honors service-learning project had to be done outside of a class. Now, Honors Scholars who want to graduate from the program with 21 Honors hours instead of the usual 24 may also take one non-Honors service-learning class—or research-intensive class, Common Book class, or travel (e.g., study abroad) class—in order to meet the requirements for graduation as an Honors Scholar.

How to contact the TCC Honors Program

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

Honors Coordinator: Dr. Allen Culpepper, 918-595-7647

Honors Specialist: Lynn Richmond, 918-595-7378

The easiest way to set an appointment with one of us is to go through Starfish (linked on the Welcome tab of MyTCC).

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Scholarship news

The Bovaird Scholarship

If you are transferring to The University of Tulsa in the fall, it's a good idea to apply for the Mervin Bovaird Foundation Scholarship. The Bovaird is awarded each year to four TCC students transferring to TU. This scholarship may be combined with the TCC Honors Award. The Bovaird application is included in the [TCC Foundation Scholarship Application](https://www.tulsacc.edu/admissions-aid/aid/financial-aid/types-aid/scholarships), <https://www.tulsacc.edu/admissions-aid/aid/financial-aid/types-aid/scholarships>

University of Tulsa Transfer Scholarships

If you are planning to transfer to The University of Tulsa, you will need to apply for admission to TU before applying for university-sponsored scholarships. When you apply for transfer admission, notify TU that you are a TCC Honors Scholar. TU's admissions office will then give you a verification form to be completed by the TCC Honors Office; this will make you eligible for the

TCC Honors Award of \$25,000 per year, renewable.

TU also offers transfer students the chance to apply for the competitive **Presidential Scholarship**, which is a full tuition scholarship. The application deadline is **January 15** for students entering TU the following fall. If you do not receive the Presidential Scholarship, The University of Tulsa will award the **TCC Honors Award** to any TCC student who graduates as an Honors Scholar with an all-college cumulative GPA of at least 3.25, provided he or she has never previously attended TU, does not yet have a bachelor's degree, and is not an international student.

TCC Honors Tuition Waiver

In March, you'll receive an email from the Honors Office when it's time to request the Honors Scholar tuition waiver for 2021-2022. Make a habit of checking your TCC email address often!

Other TCC scholarships generally have a March 1 deadline and an online application (the TCC Foundation Scholarship application).

Academic Scholars Scholarship

Do you know someone in the high school graduating class of 2021? If so, please spread the word about the Academic Scholars scholarship. Seven TCC Honors Scholars from the class of 2021 will be selected to receive this eight-semester scholarship that transfers to any university in Oklahoma. See the "Honors Applications" page of the Honors Program's [website](#). The application is part of the [TCC Foundation Scholarship Application](https://www.tulsacc.edu/admissions-aid/aid/financial-aid/types-aid/scholarships), <https://www.tulsacc.edu/admissions-aid/aid/financial-aid/types-aid/scholarships>.

Other

Be sure to contact the school(s) you are considering to determine all deadlines. These are often in January or February!