

TCC Honors Program Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 1

Points of Interest:

- **Are you an Honors Scholar who's graduating in the spring or summer?** The Honors Program's exit essay deadline for spring and summer 2017 graduates is March 1.
- **Did you know the Honors Program has student employees who are Honors Ambassadors?** In the fall they were Joshua Navarro and Anita Langford. In the spring, the Honors Ambassador is Erick Langford. We could use another ambassador to assist Erick! Please contact the Honors Office at 918-595-7378 to express interest. Applicants must be eligible for work-study employment.

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Editor: Lynn Richmond

Fulbright Scholar in Tulsa



Dr. István Fehér,
Professor Emeritus at
Hungary's Szent István
University and 2016-17
Fulbright Scholar-in-
Residence at TCC and
the University of Tulsa

If you act quickly, there's still an opportunity to take a class from our 2016-17 Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. István Fehér! His spring honors class begins on January 23. It is offered for either economics (ECON 2123) or sociology (SOCI 2113) credit and will offer a look at the intersection between international economic issues and American social problems.

Dr. Fehér is from Hungary and has spent his career studying food production, agricultural policy, and the economics and sociology of food. He served in the Hungarian government as the Head of Cabinet of the Ministry of Agriculture and as Deputy Secretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development. Throughout the 2016-17 academic year, he is in residence at both TCC and the University of Tulsa, teaching at both institutions and conducting local research in the areas of

food security and sustainable agriculture.

During the fall semester, Dr. Fehér was a frequent speaker at TCC events, including the Metro Lecture Series, the Southeast Campus Science Seminar Series, Campus Sustainability Day, and the Honors Program's Research Retreat. He was also a guest lecturer in several TCC classes.

In his spring honors class, Dr. Fehér will address issues such as challenges and trends of world food supply systems, the differing issues facing developing and developed nations, trade, trends toward nationalism, and much more. This is the chance to study with one of the great minds of our time, and to discover how international economic concerns connect with local social issues, affecting the lives of all Americans.

Having a Fulbright Scholar is a very special and significant privilege for a host institution. The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence program provides an opportunity for cultural and academic exchange between a prominent international scholar and the institution hosting him or her. Institutions who receive Scholars, and the Scholars themselves, are selected through a competitive process, and residencies are funded by a grant from the Fulbright Scholar Program, a program of the U.S. Department of State.

The Honors Program is proud to have partnered with TU's Global Scholars program, Tulsa Global Alliance, the Oklahoma Center for the Humanities, and TCC's Global Learning division in bringing Dr. Fehér to the U.S. to share his expertise with TCC and TU students and faculty, and with many others in the broader community, not just in Tulsa but throughout Oklahoma.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity to meet and discuss issues with Dr. Fehér. Even if you do not take his class, watch for opportunities to catch one of his public lectures. He will be here only until the end of the spring semester, when we will have to wish him a fond farewell as he returns to his home and family in Budapest.

2016 Research Retreat



Dr. Jane Varnecky moderates the student panel. From left: Thomas Patat, Jacob Beckham, and Brandon Curry .

University of Tulsa whose aquaponics research teams were twice named finalists in the National Science Foundation's Community College Innovation Challenge; and Thomas, a fall 2016 graduate of the TCC Honors Scholar program who will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology at TU.

Mirroring the student panel, a faculty panel made up of researchers from TCC and TU described their research, all of which touched in some way on the topic of food. From TU, Dr. Sam Halabi discussed his research into food labeling and food safety laws, and Dr. Christine Ruane spoke of her research into the history of Russian kitchen gardens. From TCC, Dr. Kurt Lively told the audience about researching tenant farming in Oklahoma, while Dr. Valerie O'Brien described her Honors Nutrition class's projects related to food supply and sustainability issues in Tulsa. Dr. Diana Spencer, TCC's George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Chair of Research, spoke about numerous research opportunities available to TCC students.

Communications professor Dr. Jane Varnecky moderated both panels.

Other sessions were an overview of the steps in the research process, presented by Honors Coordinator Susan O'Neal, and a session on crafting research questions and conducting a review of the existing literature, led by TCC librarians Adam Brennan and Jao-Ming Huang.

The annual Research Retreat, sponsored by the Honors Program with financial assistance from Student Life, took place on Friday, Sept. 23, in the Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity on Metro Campus.

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. This year, taking advantage of the presence of Dr. István Fehér, most of the sessions featured research topics related to food.

Dr. Fehér served as the day's keynote speaker, illustrating how research is leading to innovations designed to combat challenges in the world's food supply systems.

Other presenters included TCC students and recent graduates Jacob Beckham, Brandon Curry, Dallas Elleman, and Thomas Patat, who served as a panel discussing student research experiences. Jacob is a TCC microbiology student researching viral parthenogenesis; Brandon, a former TCC Honors Scholar who has worked at an OSU lab studying the gut-brain axis and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular biology at NSU; Dallas, a former TCC Honors Scholar and current Jack Kent Cooke Scholar at the

Upcoming GPHC conference: Beaumont, March 31-April 2

The Great Plains Honors Council's 2017 regional conference will be hosted by Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. The conference will take place on Friday-Sunday, March 31-April 2, 2017.

The conference theme is "Exploration Through Honors," and the Saturday plenary speaker will be an actual rocket scientist: Dr. Paul D. Spudis of Houston's Lunar and Planetary Institute. His research interests include the requirements for sustainable human settlement of the Moon.

Thanks to a generous grant from the TCC Foundation, the Honors Program will pay all travel expenses for honors students who submitted proposals to give oral or poster presentations at the conference. The GPHC conference will provide 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

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 these conferences cover every discipline. At a GPHC conference, one can hear papers on almost anything scholarly. The Honors Program awards the privilege of paid conference expenses to honors students only, with first consideration going to Honors Scholars.

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

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

Honors Coordinator: Susan O'Neal, 918-595-7631

Honors Specialist: Lynn Richmond, 918-595-7378

Honors Office: 909 S. Boston Ave., MC 523C, Tulsa, OK 74119



Scholarship news

The Bovaird Scholarship

If you are transferring to the University of Tulsa in the fall, ask the TCC Financial Aid Office about 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 Honors Scholar Transfer Scholarship. Bovaird applications usually become available in March and have April or May deadlines. When the application is available, it is posted here: <http://www.tulsacc.edu/student-services/financial-aid/types-financial-aid/scholarships>

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 **\$26,000 per year, 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

In February, you'll receive an email from the Honors Office when it's time to request the Honors Scholar tuition waiver for 2017-2018. Make a habit of checking your TCC-issued email account! This is how

we communicate with you.

Academic Scholars Scholarship

Do you know someone in the high school graduating class of 2017? If so, please spread the word about the Academic Scholars scholarship. Five TCC Honors Scholars from the class of 2017 will be selected to receive this eight-semester scholarship that transfers to any university in Oklahoma. See the "Honors Applications" page of our website for an application.

Other

If you are transferring to a four-year institution in the fall, be sure to contact the school(s) you are considering to determine all deadlines. These are often in January or February! For example, the application deadline for TU's Honors Program is Feb. 1, for admission in Fall 2017.