

# TCC Honors Program Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue 1

December 2018

- **Are you an Honors Scholar who's graduating in the spring or summer?** The Honors Program's exit essay deadline for spring and summer 2019 graduates is March 1.
- **If you want to present at the regional Great Plains Honors Council conference in April, send your proposal to the Honors Office right away!** Proposal deadlines are looming in January.
- Application deadline for most 2019-2020 TCC scholarships: **March 1, 2019**

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## Search is on for next honors coordinator

### O'Neal is longest-serving honors coordinator in TCC history

At the end of July, Prof. Susan O'Neal will step out of her role as Honors Program Coordinator and return full time to the classroom as an English professor. When she does, she will be able to celebrate being the longest-serving honors coordinator in TCC's history, having served sixteen years. She became Honors Program Coordinator in 2011, following eight years as Southeast Campus Honors Coordinator. (The second-longest service of an honors coordinator is that of **Anne Phillips**, who is retiring this semester. Prof. Phillips was West Campus Honors Coordinator for 15 and a half years.)

During Prof. O'Neal's tenure, the program launched the annual

Research Retreat; expanded its partnerships with Service-Learning, the TCC Library, and Undergraduate Research; joined Global Learning in sponsoring Fulbright Scholars and Route 66 explorations; and deepened the program's connections with The University of Tulsa and Oklahoma State University.

Engaged Learning Dean Cindy Shanks, who will lead the search for the next Honors Program Coordinator, attended this fall's conference of the **National Collegiate Honors Council**, along with Honors Specialist Lynn Richmond. The two attended sessions on successful honors teaching,



**Professor O'Neal at 2011 Honors Roundup.**

two-year college issues in honors education, diversity and inclusion, experiential learning, writing assignments as a tool for reflection (even in math and engineering), and grading and assessing in honors.

TCC's next honors coordinator will be named early in the spring semester, following interviews conducted by a search committee convened by Dean Shanks.



**Dr. Marie Plassart**



**Dr. Michel Christian**

## Fulbright Scholars shaped our semester

As December ends, we bid farewell to two French friends and colleagues who shared the fall with us. Dr. Marie Plassart and Dr. Michel Christian, both from Lyon, served as Fulbright Scholars-in-Residence at TCC and The University of Tulsa. At TU, they co-taught a class on the Cold War, and at TCC they were frequent lecturers and panelists who offered their expertise for the benefit of faculty, students, and the community. Both took part in the Honors Program's Research Retreat (see page 2).

Additionally, both offered sessions at TCC's Professional Development Day, when the college closed on Sept. 4 so that all employees could spend a day broadening their knowledge and skills. The evening of Oct. 26, Dr. Plassart gave a public lecture entitled "Socialist Encampments in Oklahoma: A 1910s Recipe for Successful Mobilization" at the Center for Creativity, and on Oct. 12 Dr. Christian gave a talk to all interested TCC employees in which he compared

early-childhood education policies in Europe and Oklahoma.

While the scholars were in Tulsa, they actively researched their own academic interests, visiting archives and historic sites across the state—Dr. Plassart uncovering Oklahoma's early-statehood socialist history, and Dr. Christian seeking the reasons that Oklahoma's universal early-childhood education policy developed in marked contrast to all other U.S. states. They inspired us all, and we will miss them!

## 2018 Research Retreat and Honors Roundup

Scholars at  
the 2018  
Honors  
Roundup



Family Foundation Endowed Chair of Research Dr. Diana Spencer).

Other sessions were an overview of the steps in the research process, presented by TCC Director of Institutional Research Dr. Jennifer Ivie, and a session on crafting research questions and conducting a literature review, led by TCC librarians Adam Brennan and Amy Lagers.

The Honors Program's other big fall event, the **Honors Roundup**, took place on Sept. 18. The Roundup is the program's annual orientation for new Scholars, refresher for continuing Scholars, and pizza dinner for everyone to get acquainted. Like other Roundups before it, this one contained announcements of opportunities, reminders of deadlines, tips for success, and guest speakers. This year, Prof. Kristen Marangoni, TCC's service-learning coordinator, spoke about changes in the Honors Program's service-learning option for graduation as an Honors Scholar, and Kaylie Bradley, from the TRiO program office, told students about the opportunities available through TRiO to first-generation or low-income college students or to students with documented disabilities.

The annual **Research Retreat**, sponsored by the Honors Program with financial assistance from the TCC Foundation, took place on Friday, Oct. 26, 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, with some panelists coming from the Oklahoma Center for the Humanities, many of the sessions borrowed this year's OCH research theme of "memory." Our Fulbright scholars, Dr. Marie Plassart and Dr. Michel Christian, joined TU psychology professor and OCH Fellow Dr. Elana Newman and OSU Center for the Health Sciences associate professor and cognitive researcher Dr. Nedra Wilson on a panel of

professional researchers. The panel was moderated by Dr. Matt Smith, of TCC's honors chemistry faculty.

A panel made up of current and former TCC students described their student research experiences. One of these, Destiny Hrnir, is not only a TCC Honors Scholar alumna but now a graduate student at TU and an OCH Fellow. The other student panelists were Christy Eslinger and Jordan Cox (both biotechnology alumni now at OSU), and Daisha Broom, who is both a TCC employee and a psychology student. Dr. Diana Spencer moderated the panel.

The day's lunch speakers came from places where Oklahomans do research, including programs seeking student interns. These were the OSU-Center for Health Sciences (Dr. Randall Davis), Tulsa City-County Library (Rachel Thompson), and TCC itself (honors faculty member and George Kaiser

## Upcoming GPHC conference: Tyler, Texas, April 5-7

The Great Plains Honors Council's 2019 regional conference will be hosted by the University of Texas-Tyler, located in Texas's "piney woods." The conference will take place April 5-7, 2019.

The conference theme is "Coming Up Roses," reflecting Tyler's long status as the "Rose Capital of America." Every conference-goer may participate in one Saturday afternoon "place as text" excursion, with options including a large-cat sanctuary, a couple of museums, a nature hike in a state park, and even a service-project in Tyler.

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 the [website](http://www.greatplainshonors.com) 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 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 will present their papers in oral presentations that are a conference highlight.

To express interest in the conference, contact the Honors Office ASAP. Submission deadlines are in January.

## Congratulations, fall graduates!

**Samira Darbandi**

**Rian Fuller**

**Michael Smith**

## 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](mailto: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

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



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## 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. The Bovaird applications 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 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 give you a verification form to be completed by the TCC Honors Office.

The Honors Scholar Transfer Scholarship is worth **\$22,000 per year, renewable, and an additional \$2,000 per year once TU confirms that you have graduated from TCC with the Honors Scholar designation.**

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.

### 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 2019-2020. Make a habit of checking your TCC email address often!

### Academic Scholars Scholarship

Do you know someone in the high school graduating class of 2019? If so, please spread the word about the Academic Scholars scholarship. Five TCC Honors Scholars from the class of 2019 will be selected to receive this eight-semester scholarship that transfers to any university in Oklahoma. See the "Honors Applications" page of our 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

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 2019.