

TCC Honors Program Newsletter

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“Honors Coordinates,” new Honors blog on Blackboard

Dr. Allen Culpepper has begun writing a new blog called “Honors Coordinates” on the Honors Scholars organization site in Blackboard. If you have not been reading his blog, you have already missed eight amusing and helpful entries on topics of interest to Honors Scholars and/or Honors faculty. For example, he has provided infor-

mation about the program’s efforts to increase its visibility and services on Southeast Campus, new courses in the Honors curriculum and some goals for future years, opportunities like author Phil Klay’s lecture and various scholarships available, and resources for checking the legitimacy of offers that appear to come

from honor societies. Some other posts, including a report from the National Collegiate Honors Council conference and reflections on Fulbright Scholar Kendra Reynolds’s poetry reading, are excerpted in this newsletter. To find the blog, visit the Honors Scholars site in Blackboard and click on the folder labeled “Coordinator’s Blog.”

Welcome to our 2019-20 Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Kendra Reynolds joins us from Northern Ireland



Dr. Reynolds

From Dr. Culpepper’s blog: “The Great Beyond” ...by which I mean Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Kendra Reynolds’s great poetry presentation “Writing Beyond the Self” at the C4C. If you weren’t there, you missed out on some lovely poems and an opportunity to hear and ask questions of our visiting scholar and poet from Northern Ire-

land. She will be with us only this semester and next, so if you haven’t met her or attended a presentation, you will want to make sure to do so next semester before she leaves us. (And if any of you still need to take Comp 2, remember that she will be offering an Honors section of it at Metro in the spring).

At her reading, she shared about eight of her poems and talked with us about the inspiration for them and about how personal experience in combination with an interest in larger issues leads to the production of her poetry. Many of her poems are rooted in her personal experiences, she said, and “yes, it’s confessional poetry” in that sense, “but it’s more than that” because “I like to connect it with bigger issues.” Her poetry springs from her own experience, but her poetic process involves “turning my personal story into either a political or philosophical reflection.” On the political side, many of her poems are related to ideas from feminist theory, one of her scholarly interests, but there’s also poetry

of a more philosophical bent connected with her family.

Poems that she read included “As a Woman, Writing,” “Self-Portrait,” “Edible Woman,” “The Paper Boat,” “Beauty or Knowledge,” “Father Time” (connected with her dad and gardening), “A Reclaiming” (with “A” being the letter A), and “The Little Bruised Heart” (written for her partner, Michael, who was visiting and was thus able to attend the reading). It’s hard to pick a favorite, but “Edible Woman,” which was inspired by the study of feminist theory and eco-criticism, made some interesting parallels between the privileging of culture over nature on the one hand, and of male over female on the other, and I was really impressed by the way that “Paper Boat” (for her late brother) moved from concrete experience to philosophical and rather mythological reflection and back again.

She mentioned that she is actually rather new to poetry, coming to it from scholarship and still considers herself more of an academic than a creative writer. But because “the academic writing can be quite dry even though I’m passionate about it,” poetry gives her a creative outlet. Asked about advice for getting started, she suggested “sign up for as many workshops as you can, and writing groups as well,” and keep in mind that you don’t have to be famous and published to be a poet: “If you write something, you’re a poet.” And the best way to get past writer’s block is to just keep writing.

The audience was engaged and attentive and had good questions for her, and the numbers were respectable, with about 40 people in attendance, but still, given TCC’s size—we are a BIG college, y’all—it would be nice to see some larger crowds for this kind of event, especially when our guest is an international one who will be at our college, and in our country, for only a short time.

Honors Hour

From Dr. Culpepper's blog: I want to say thanks to the group of Honors Scholars led by Maria Tadros who have been meeting on Thursdays at SEC for Honors Hour this semester. Other regulars include Justin West, Joe Mullen, and Payton McCalip, and some others have attended from time to time. It's important to have student initiative and feedback for the program, and I'm hopeful that attendance will grow so that we will have a more representative group of Honors Scholars to advise us. We have not sought student-organization status for the group, but that's something we can pursue in the future (that would make the

group eligible for some funding and other resources); we need to get regular attendance up to 10 or 12, though, before that becomes a practical possibility.

Also, on the subject of numbers, I really want to see us increase both the number of Honors Scholars in our program and the number of students taking Honors classes. Conventional wisdom is that around 5% of the student population is a good number for Honors. You might not realize it, but TCC is a really big college, and we have a long way to go to reach 5%. Along the way that, I really would like to see us

double the number of Honors Scholars as a short-term goal and get up to around 500 as a longer-term goal. There are things Lynn and I can do to help recruit students, and of course will have to have the support of the TCC administration, but one of the best things that can happen is to make the program better known among TCC students and among people in the community, outside of TCC. That's something Honors Scholars, students in Honors classes, and Honors faculty can all help with. Please help us spread the word about the quality and benefits of our program.

The Honors Office and Starfish

Students can set appointments and faculty can recommend students through an app called Starfish.

If you want to visit the Honors Office and you are not normally on Metro Campus, we always urge students to contact us first to set an appointment; because our staff is small, there are times when other obligations taking one or both of us from the office can cause the Honors Office to be closed temporarily.

Now there's an easy way for you to see our calendars and book an appointment with one of us directly, through the Starfish link in your welcome page on MyTCC. If you are an Honors Scholar, you should find Allen Culpepper and Lynn Richmond as part of your "team," along with your advisor and the faculty teaching your current classes. You can simply add yourself to the calendar of either one of us by finding a time that's available for us and

convenient for you. Dr. Culpepper can meet students at either Southeast (TR) or Metro (MW); Lynn can meet at Metro Monday through Friday.

Faculty can also use Starfish to recommend students to the program. To encourage students to consider the Honors Program, a faculty member need only go to Starfish, create a referral, and complete the Honors referral form.

Report from the 2019 NCHC conference

Adapted from Dr. Culpepper's blog: At the annual meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council, I attended sessions on starting out as a new Honors coordinator, dealing with Honors issues specific to two-year colleges, getting more student participation in Honors events, making the Honors program more visible, etc., and I heard the keynote address by Dr. Walter Kimbrough, president of Dillard University, who spoke about bringing controversial speakers to college campuses.

There was some fun too; we got our very own indoor parade, with jazz musicians and costumed dancers at a Second Line reception. Second Line parades are an offshoot of traditional New Orleans funeral

parades. Also, I confess that beignets and cafe au lait were consumed.

Although I attended the NCHC event solo this year because I needed to attend the pre-conference session for new coordinators, I'm hoping that we can have more TCC participants for next year's conference.

While I was there, I participated in a planning meeting for a new online publication for our regional Great Plains Honors Council. Everything is still tentative, but the plan is for the journal to publish scholarly and creative work by students in every academic discipline, including performing arts and professional studies, as well as STEM and humanities-related fields. The

journal is to be called (The) Windmill and will initially be based at Emporia State in Kansas, but will be open to submissions from all of the council's member states, including Oklahoma. Students will be part of the staff and the advisory board. Applications will be taken, and I plan to apply for an advisory-board position so that Oklahoma will be represented. There will also be an editorial board comprising approximately 10 faculty members from Great Plains member institutions--two board members from each of five broad disciplinary areas. The plan is to have an April 2020 submission deadline for a first issue to be published in October 2020. This plan was approved by GPHC representatives meeting at the NCHC conference.

2019 Research Retreat and Honors Roundup

Scholars at
the 2019
Honors
Roundup



The annual **Research Retreat**, sponsored by the Honors Program with financial assistance from the TCC Foundation, took place on Friday, Oct. 18, in the Chat Room on Southeast 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, though, the format and location differed from our past practice: the Retreat was shortened to four hours, breakfast was served instead of lunch, and Southeast Campus served as our home.

As always, TCC librarians Adam Brennan and Amy Lagers offered their engaging session on crafting research questions and conducting a literature review, and this time it was complicated by a campus-wide

power outage that made their extensive PowerPoint unavailable to the big screen. This posed no issue for these born prob-

lem-solvers, who quickly used their phones to throw the PowerPoint onto the library's website, where students could access it on their own phones and follow along.

A panel of current and recent TCC students described their student research experiences. Dr. Diana Spencer moderated the panel, whose members were Alex Benton, Tyler Hughes, Logan Jones, Carissa Lovell, Andrew Maher, and Justice Robinson.

Andrew Maher was joined by Isabella Hadley and Cassandra Ortiz for a brief presentation about TCC's Student Club of Research and Scholarly Activities.

Two speakers described local research opportunities, especially programs seeking student interns. These were Dr. Randall Davis from the OSU-Center for Health Sciences and Dr. Diana Spencer, who is not only a TCC Honors faculty member but also

George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Chair of Research.

The Honors Program's other big fall event, the **Honors Roundup**, took place on Sept. 11. 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. Unlike earlier Roundups, this was the first to be hosted by Dr. Allen Culpepper, TCC's new Honors Program coordinator.

Each Roundup features at least one guest speaker. This year, Cindy Shanks, dean of TCC's Engaged Learning division, offered an inspiring talk about the importance of intellectual communities in spurring individuals to greater achievements. In addition to encouraging everyone to seize all the opportunities offered to the Honors Program's community of scholars, she particularly highlighted TCC's new Common Book program as the focus to create a real college-wide learning community.

Upcoming GPHC conference: Wichita, Kansas, March 20-22

The Great Plains Honors Council's 2020 regional conference will be co-hosted by two nearby institutions: Wichita State University and Hutchinson Community College, both located in south-central Kansas. The conference will take place March 20-22, 2020. The conference theme is "Honors Ignites Action," and the conference hosts are planning some fascinating excursions in and around Wichita.

Thanks to a grant from the TCC Foundation, the Honors Program will pay 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](http://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 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 academ-

ic 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.

To express interest, send a brief email before Jan. 1 to honors@tulsacc.edu telling us your topic and whether you'll propose an oral presentation, a poster presentation, or a paper submission for the Boe Award. You should also attach your first draft of an abstract (proposal). Tips for abstract writing are on the GPHC website. The deadline for the Honors Office to submit your proposal is in January.

Congratulations, fall graduates!

Alex Benton
Sarah Brown
Blake Carter
Monica Daniels
Mallory Mysse
Robin A. Nguyen

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

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

Dr. Culpepper has a faculty office on Southeast Campus, as well: SEC 1230.

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, 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 2020-2021. 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 app).

Academic Scholars Scholarship

Do you know someone in the high school graduating class of 2020? If so, please spread the word about the Academic Scholars scholarship. Ten TCC Honors Scholars from the class of 2020 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 [web-site](https://www.tulsacc.edu/admissions-aid/aid/financial-aid/types-aid/scholarships). 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 Jan. 15, for admission in Fall 2020.