

TCC Honors Program Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue 2

Spring/Summer 2019

Honors Scholars recognized at annual awards reception

Points of Interest:

- **Do you expect to graduate next year?** Let the Honors Office know. The exit essay deadline for Honors Scholars graduating in the fall is October 15. It's March 1 for those graduating in spring or summer.
- **Have you enrolled for fall?** Honors classes are filling fast!



The Honors Program holds a reception each year to celebrate the achievements of its students. On April 25, it recognized 2018-19 graduates of the Honors Scholar program, 2019 honors conference presenters, and the winners of the year's TCC Foundation Honors Awards, Kontogianes Honors Award, and Comby Prize.

Austin West, a political science major, was chosen as the winner of the Henry B. Comby III Prize, named for the late Dr. Henry Comby, who taught TCC's first honors class. **Gracelyn Walls**, an English major, received the Kontogianes Honors Award, given in honor of the late Dr. John Kontogianes, former Chief Academic Officer of the college. Plaques honoring the winners of the Comby Prize and the Kontogianes Award hang permanently in the Henry Comby Scholars Suite on Metro Campus. Both prizes also carry significant cash awards for the recipients: \$1000 and \$750, respectively.

Sixteen Honors Scholars received TCC Foundation Honors Awards.

Funding for these \$250 awards is generously provided by the Tulsa Community College Foundation. The Foundation Honors Award is an acknowledgment of a student's outstanding academic performance and contribution in the classroom. The award affirms excellence and rewards the student who has accepted the challenge to become an exceptional TCC Honors Scholar. Recipients of all Honors Program awards are chosen based on recommendations from the honors faculty.

The winners of the 2018-2019 TCC Foundation Honors Award were Madilyn Barron, Sarah Brown, Morgan Delancy, Sierra Deyoe, Brayden Hughes, Tyler Hughes, Alexandra McManus, Joe Mullen, Mallory Mysse, Angela Nguyen, Cing Nuam, Madison Phelan, Caitlyn Robb, Justice Robinson, Maria Tadros, and Tyler Willhite.

Three TCC Honors Scholars presented their research at the Great Plains Honors Council's 2019 conference. They were Tyler Hughes, Grant Stacy, and Justin West. (See

see the story on page 3.) Travel and conference registration expenses for the students were provided by the TCC Foundation.

Also recognized at the reception were the year's graduating Honors Scholars, who were presented with engraved pewter medallions to wear at Commencement. (See the story on page 4.) TCC's Honors Scholar program has very specific requirements, including an application process. Scholars take at least 24 honors credit hours and complete an associate degree with an overall TCC GPA of at least 3.5.

The reception, refreshments, and awards were made possible by the TCC Foundation.



Austin West and Gracelyn Walls

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TCC Honors Program Newsletter, 7/2019

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Editor: Lynn Richmond

Dr. Allen Culpepper named Honors Coordinator



Dr. Allen Culpepper, associate professor of English at Southeast Campus, has been named TCC's next Honors Program coordinator, succeeding Susan O'Neal. He will take the reins in August.

Dr. Culpepper has taught TCC honors classes since Fall 2011, when he offered an honors section of American Literature I. He has been a regular on the honors schedule at Southeast Campus ever since, particularly as a professor of Honors Freshman Composition II

He holds a doctorate from the University of Tulsa, where he has also taught. His bachelor's and master's degrees are from the University of Alabama and the University of West Florida, respectively. He is a peer reviewer for the online journal *Whale Road Review* and a board member for OSU-Tulsa's Center for Po-

ets & Writers. His interests outside his academic discipline include theatre (he teaches a drama-themed Honors Comp II, in fact), indie rock, cats, and "possum art." (See p. 3 for some possum art.)

Dr. Culpepper will continue to teach at Southeast Campus and will bring a needed "Honors presence" to that campus. He will also be available in the Honors Office on Metro Campus one or two days a week. Students can make appointments to see him in either location (or can look up his office hours) by visiting his profile on Starfish (see the story on page 3).

Dr. Culpepper has exciting plans for the Honors Program and looks forward to working with both students and faculty in his new role.

TCC to host Fulbright Scholar from Northern Ireland

Throughout the 2019-20 academic year, TCC will host a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from Northern Ireland.

Dr. Kendra Reynolds will teach a Spring 2020 honors class, and she will be on TCC's campuses in both fall and spring semesters, giving public presentations and participating in the life of the college.

She is, like our previous Fulbright Scholars, shared with the University of Tulsa, where she will be teaching within the TU Global Scholars program.

Dr. Reynolds looks forward to conducting research in Tulsa and to experiencing higher education in the United States. Her expertise includes twenty-first century literature, gender inequality and conflict, and marginalized and exploited groups. She is presently chairwoman for Women Aloud NI, an organization that promotes "women's writing and voices in the post-conflict society of Northern Ireland." She has taught writing and literature at Ulster University and has tutored secondary school students who were struggling with English language and literature classes.

She also teaches adult creative writing through libraries in Northern Ireland.

Dr. Douglas Price, TCC Director for Global Learning, has led the effort to bring Fulbright Scholars to the college. Dr. Price recently said, "It is a tremendous gift to the institution to have an individual from another world area spend such a significant amount of time sharing perspectives on literature and writing with faculty and students. Dr. Reynolds will be a catalyst for our efforts to forge and sustain academic connections with Ulster University."

Important dates for your calendar

The 2019 **Honors Roundup**, the annual meeting and pizza dinner required of all Honors Scholars, will take place on Wednesday, **Sept. 11**, in the late afternoon. All Honors Scholars will receive an email about the exact place and time.

The Honors Program will again sponsor a "**research retreat**" open to all interested students. This year's will take place on Friday, **October 18**. Reservations will be required; watch your TCC email for an announcement and registration instructions.

The Honors Program's **annual awards reception** will be held April 8, 2020, in late afternoon. All Honors Scholars are encouraged to attend and help us applaud the achievements of our graduating Scholars, award winners, and conference presenters for the 2019-20 academic year.



GPHC presenters, from left, Justin West, Tyler Hughes, and Grant Stacy

The Great Plains Honors Council held its 2019 conference April 5-7 in Tyler, Tex.

Honors Scholars Tyler Hughes (“‘The Sacred Line’: Class Division within Snowpiercer and ‘The Lesson’”), Grant Stacy (“Polycultural Solutions to Environmental Problems”), and Justin West (“Zero Waste Initiative: Waste Audits for a Sus-

2019 Great Plains Honors Council conference

tainable Campus”) represented TCC as conference presenters. Their travel and conference registration expenses were provided by the Scholars-in-Motion grant from the TCC Foundation.

The presenters were accompanied by Honors Program Coordinator Susan O’Neal, Honors Specialist Lynn Richmond, Dean of Engaged Learning Cindy Shanks, Honors faculty members David Charlson and Allen Culpepper, and fellow Honors Scholar Justice Robinson. O’Neal and Richmond attended the organization’s annual business meeting. As a member of the GPHC development committee, Richmond also participated in a meeting of the GPHC executive committee and reported on her work as GPHC website manager.

In addition to stimulating academic presentations, conference-goers enjoyed excursions to historical and cultural sites

in and around Tyler and heard a presentation by Cristina Tzintzún, executive director of Jolt, a Texas-based advocacy group that builds the political power of the Latino community.

TCC’s travellers stopped for lunch in Paris, Tex., a visit illustrated below with possum art by Dr. Allen Culpepper.

Next year’s conference in Wichita, Kansas will be co-hosted by Wichita State University and Hutchinson Community College. The dates are March 20-22, 2020.



Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship informational meetings this fall

In August, the application for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship—the nation’s largest and most prestigious transfer scholarship—will open, with submissions due in November. Applicants must have 30+ earned hours after the fall term, with cumulative GPAs of 3.5 or higher. They

should plan to transfer to a four-year institution in Fall 2020 (no earlier or later), and they must demonstrate unmet financial need. To learn more about the application process and decide whether you’re a good candidate, come to either of two informational meetings with the scholarship’s TCC representative, Honors Coordinator Allen Culpepper.

Metro: 4:00 on Friday, Sept. 20, Student Union East Lounge (MSU 214)

Southeast: 12:30 on Tuesday, Sept. 24, Student Union room 9109

More information is also available on the [Jack Kent Cooke Foundation website](http://www.jkcf.org) (www.jkcf.org). Click on “Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.”

Connect with the Honors Program on Starfish!

Have you received messages from your instructors and advisors through the new TCC system called Starfish Connect?

You may already have discovered how easy it is to look at your advisor’s schedule and select your own appointment time, or send a quick email without having to look up your professor’s email address in Outlook. Now, you can easily contact the Honors Program over Starfish, too!

All you need to do is click on the Starfish

link in MyTCC, and then browse “Services” until you find the Honors Program in the alphabetically arranged list. You can read basic information about the program, find a link to the program’s website, and get contact information for the Honors Program coordinator and the Honors specialist. You can even make an appointment with either Dr. Culpepper or Ms. Richmond with a simple click. We recommend making appointments with us rather than trying to drop by our offices because we are

often in meetings on other campuses or speaking with prospective students in high schools and other venues. In Starfish, these other commitments will be blocked out as busy, so you can see at a glance when we are available. Please DO make an appointment to hold the time, so that we know to expect you and don’t step out of the office for a minute just when you are planning to arrive! We look forward to getting our first appointment notices from **you** through Starfish. If you are an Honors Scholar, you’ll find us both listed as members of your TCC team.

www.tulsacc.edu/honors

How to contact the TCC Honors Program

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

The TCC Honors Office is on Metro Campus, although honors classes are on multiple campuses.

Honors Office: 909 S. Boston Ave., MC 523C
Tulsa, OK 74119
918-595-7378



HONORS PROGRAM



Congratulations, 2018-19

Honors Scholar graduates!

Saleem Batman
Justin J. Cantrell
Harlee Cooper
Renata Coutinho-Alves
Samira Darbandi
Alyssa Foster
Rian Wiley Fuller
Annabelle Glaub
Camille V. Hager
Nathanael D. Hrncir
Tyler Young Hughes
Ashley R. Kennedy

Mahnoor Khalid
Cing Hau Nuam
Molly O'Fallon
Emma Panter
Logan R. Patrick
Madison K. Phelan
Marisa Pitts
Grace Propst
Caitlyn Robb
Michael Smith
Joseph Tomlinson
Austin Dean West
Tyler Willhite

Scholarship news

University of Tulsa Transfer Scholarships

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 confirm this with the TCC Honors Office.

TU offers two generous [transfer scholarships](#) to TCC Honors Scholar graduates - the \$22,000 Transfer Honors Scholarship and the TCC Honors Award, which is an additional \$2,000 for graduates of the Honors Scholar program. TCC students transferring to TU may also apply for the Mervin Bovaird Scholarship. The Bovaird, privately funded by the Bovaird Foundation, may be combined with TU's transfer scholarships; to apply for this scholarship, complete the TCC Foundation Scholarship Application.

TCC Honors Tuition Waiver

If you are an Honors Scholar in good standing, meet the waiver's eligibility requirements, and want to request an Honors Scholar Tuition Waiver, be sure you have been to the Honors Scholar Blackboard site to complete and submit the online 2019-20 form. Once you have requested the waiver, be sure you have enrolled in fall honors classes no later than July 26, in order to avoid revocation of your tuition waiver. The tuition waiver will not appear in your student account until after you have enrolled in classes. Finally, be sure to attend the Honors Roundup (see page 2) in order to maintain your eligibility for the scholarship!

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

Early in the fall semester, the 2019-20 application process for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship will begin. The schol-

arship is designed to help students with exceptional promise and financial need reach their full potential through higher education. The award amount can be as high as \$40,000 per year for up to three years. Approximately 45 students from around the country receive these scholarships, and TCC has had seven winners since 2002.

Honors Program Coordinator Allen Culpepper is TCC's faculty representative for this scholarship. He'll hold informational meetings in September. See page 3 for details.

Other Scholarships

Be sure to check the TCC Financial Aid website for scholarship opportunities at TCC. Many scholarships, from a variety of sources, are available!

If you are transferring, contact your transfer institution about financial aid and scholarships. Application deadlines are sometimes as early as January or February for the following fall.