

TCC Honors Program Newsletter

Volume 30, Issue 2

Spring 2020

A semester we'll never forget

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.

Inside this issue:

Jack Kent Cooke Scholar Justin West	2
Honors Program awards	2
Goldwater Scholar Justice Robinson	3
Tentative dates for next year	3
Fulbright Scholar	3
Scholarships	4
2019-2020 graduates	4

By Lynn Richmond

As I compile each semester's newsletter, I begin by looking at the issue from the previous year. I make a note to cover (again) all our "usual" and "predictable" things: We will have been to the Great Plains Honors Council conference; we will have gathered in the Center for Creativity to celebrate the recipients of our program's top awards; we will announce dates for upcoming events (Roundup, Research Retreat, Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship meetings); we will have distributed medallions for our graduating Honors Scholars to wear at Commencement. Enrollment for summer and fall will be in progress, and I might consult our course descriptions to highlight the cool field trips or hands-on service-learning of some selected Honors classes.

Alas, this is the year of COVID-19. So much has changed. And yet... Yes, the GPHC conference was canceled. But despite everything, we have still gathered to honor our award winners and graduates (just in a virtual setting). We still presented medallions (through curbside delivery or the mail). There will still be a chance to wear them in Commencement (in December). There are still Honors classes with cool hands-on compo-

nents, although the nature of those things is still in flux so watch the Honors Blackboard site and website for more information soon! And we will, one way or another, have a Roundup, a Research Retreat, and Jack Kent Cooke meetings, though they will almost certainly be virtual. While much of our future planning must remain vague for now, looking back at this spring gives us much to be proud of. Not least of these is the discovery that we can (perhaps beyond our wildest imaginings) innovate, persevere, and pull together, and in doing so, we will get through this unprecedented time. Since spring break, we have all learned what it means to be alone and yet together.

But our proud moments are not all rooted in grappling with crisis and adversity. Far from it! This would have been an extraordinary spring even without the pandemic. Good news abounds:

This year TCC Honors Scholar Justice Robinson became the college's FIRST-EVER GOLDWATER SCHOLAR!

TWO Honors Scholars, Megan Brillhart and Morgan Delancy, had their art works selected for publication in the *Tulsa Review!*

TWO Honors Scholars, Caity Urie

and Payton McCalip, became the program's first graduates to graduate from high school and TCC in the same year!

AND this year, Honors Scholar Justin West became TCC's eighth winner of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship!

We also presented the Susan O'Neal Award for the very first time, the Kontogianes Honors Award and the Henry Comby Prize, and eighteen TCC Foundation Honors Awards, all of these funded by the Tulsa Community College Foundation.

Details about these remarkable highlights are in the pages that follow.

Also in these pages, I will remind (nag) you about program deadlines (exit essays, tuition waiver requests, etc., etc., etc.) You would, after all, not recognize me if I were not issuing reminders about requirements and opportunities! (Would you?)

Read on for the news of this highly unusual spring. We do live in interesting times.

Justin West wins the nation's largest transfer scholarship!



JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION

By Dr. Allen Culpepper

Congratulations to **Justin West**, a TCC Computer Science major and Honors Scholar whom many of you know. Justin is one of only 50 recipients of this highly sought-after and hard-to-get scholarship nationwide—and one of only two from Oklahoma. (The other Oklahoma winner is from Redlands Community College, one of our fellow Great Plains Honors Council colleges.)

The scholarship is a really big deal, because it provides up to \$40,000 a year to complete his bachelor's degree at the university of his choice.

In addition to financial support, new Cooke Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advising

from the Foundation to guide them through the process of transitioning to a four-year college and preparing for their careers. Scholars will additionally receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a thriving network of over 2,700 fellow Cooke Scholars and alumni.

Nearly 1,500 students from 311 community colleges applied for the 2020 Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This year's semi-finalists included four TCC students. In addition to West, they were Justice Robinson, Alyssa Whan, and Bethany Niman.

Justin says the JKC scholarship is a dream come true for him: "The opportunities this scholarship opens have completely altered the trajectory of my life. I plan to utilize this scholarship to pursue research into Artificial Intelligence towards sustainability efforts. I will not waste this gift. Thank you so much, everyone, for helping me to succeed."

2020 Honors Awards

In a ceremony held within the Honors Blackboard site, the program's students, faculty, and administrators joined on April 16 to honor this year's recipients of the program's top awards. All awards were funded by the Tulsa Community College Foundation.

Justice Robinson, a biology 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. **Justin West**, a computer science 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.

This year, a new award was given for the first time. The Susan O'Neal Award for service to the Honors Program was presented to **María Tadros**, who received \$400.

Eighteen Honors Scholars received TCC

Foundation Honors Awards. The \$250 Foundation Honors Award is an acknowledgment of a student's outstanding academic performance and contribution in the classroom. Recipients of all Honors Program awards are chosen based on recommendations from the Honors faculty. The winners of the 2019-2020 TCC Foundation Honors Award were Ahylin Arce-Ramos, Madilyn Barron, Hailey Boyd, Morgan Delancy, Abigail Forrest, Logan Jones, Sophie Kimery, Payton McCalip, Muacha Moua, Dylan Moucka, Joe Mullen, LillyAnn Mysse, Lana Nguyen, Seoyoung Park, Gracelyn Walls, Morgan Waska, Jake White, and Meredith Wilson.

Jack Kent Cooke information

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 2021 (no earlier or later), and

they must demonstrate unmet financial need. Honors Coordinator Allen Culpepper will hold informational sessions, either in person or online, to answer questions about the application process. Watch for announcements on the TCC website (event calendar).

Justice Robinson becomes TCC's first Goldwater Scholar!



By Dr. Allen Culpepper

Congratulations to Honors Scholar and biology major **Justice Robinson**, who has been named a 2020 **Goldwater Scholar** by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. The Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship for the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in America and provides up to \$15,000 split between two years of study. Justice is one of five Goldwater Scholars selected from Oklahoma and one of 396 selected from across the country.

"I am still really shocked and proud to represent Tulsa Community College. I am a non-traditional student who had a six-year gap from high school to college, so I am older than most of my peers," Justice

told the TCC Marketing staff for the article in *The Daily*.

After graduating from TCC next month, her long-term goal is to earn a Ph.D. and conduct research in neurobiology, to understand changes in the brain.

Justice's mentors have been Honors professors **Melissa Masse**, **Neil Enis**, and recently retired **Diana Spencer**. She believes the mentorship she received at TCC, along with the ability to work in the Biotechnology program doing undergraduate research and presenting her research, has helped her academic success.

Honors Prof. **Mary Phillips** is the Goldwater representative at TCC, and she is to be commended for recognizing the scientific talent of TCC students and getting TCC connected with the Goldwater program.

Tentative dates for your calendar

We don't know whether we'll be able to come together in a physical location for these events; some or all will probably become virtual gatherings. However, we have reserved dates and locations for the Honors Roundup, the Research Retreat, and our fall and spring awards.

Roundup: This mandatory pizza dinner for our Honors Scholars is tentatively

set for Sept. 17 (4:00 p.m., Center for Creativity, Metro Campus). If this is online, you will have to provide your own dinner, but we hope that you will still learn about the program's opportunities and meet some of your fellow Scholars.

Research Retreat: November 13 (time TBA, Center for Creativity). Half-day workshop

open to all interested students, not just those in the Honors Program.

Fall presentation of medallions: December 2 (4:00, Metro Campus board room)

Spring awards: April 15 (4:00, Southeast Campus Chat Room). We will honor not only our spring and summer graduates but also the winners of our program's top awards.

Our year with Fulbright Scholar Dr. Kendra Reynolds



This year, TCC was fortunate to have a gifted poet from Northern Ireland as our Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Reynolds arrived in August 2019 and spent most of the academic year living in Tulsa, teaching at both TCC and The University of Tulsa, visiting classes, and giving public presentations, before she had to make an unplanned early departure when COVID-19 closed the campuses of both TCC and TU.

As Honors Coordinator Dr. Allen Culpepper said during his remarks at the online awards ceremony, "She charmed us with her personality and her accent, which we don't hear much around these parts, and it has been a delight to have her with us."

She taught Honors Composition II during the spring semester, beginning on the Metro Campus and finishing online, working from her home across the Atlantic. She gave a public reading of her poetry at TCC in the fall. She was planning to offer a second reading in the spring, but it was canceled because of the coronavirus threat and her return to Northern Ireland.

Several Honors students and Honors Scholars will have one more opportunity to interact with her when she participates in an online, international conversation about life during a pandemic. This conversation was organized by TCC Director of Global Learning Dr. Douglas Price, who also chairs TCC's Fulbright committee.

www.tulsacc.edu/honors

How to contact the TCC Honors Program

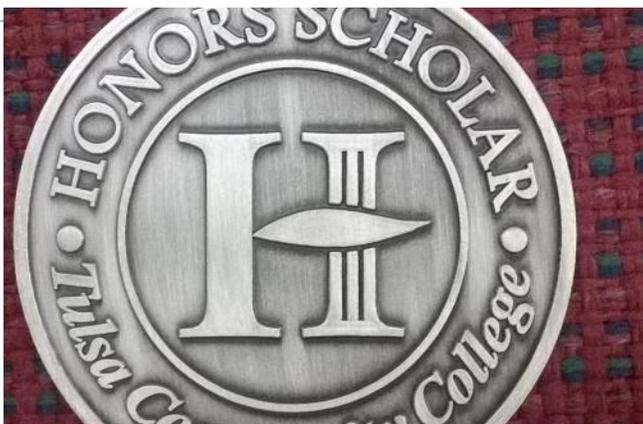
If you have questions about the Honors Program or suggestions for us, please let us know. Email us at honors@tulsacc.edu

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, 2019-20

Honors Scholar graduates!

Alex Benton
Sarah Brown
Blake Carter
Monica Daniels
Mallory Mysse
Robin A. Nguyen
Madilyn Barron
Emmalee Benzel
Hailey Boyd
Lun San Ciang
Morgan Delancy
Elvin James Hardwick

Payton T. McCalip
Alexandra McManus
Joe Mullen
Seoyoung Park
Justice C. Robinson
Caity Beth Urie
Maria Tadors
Gracelyn Walls
Meredith Wilson
Madison Hayes
Dylan Moucka
Rabyne Eckstein-Shirley
Eric Tackett
Justin West

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 \$24,000 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 2020-21 form. Once you have requested the waiver, be sure you have enrolled in fall Honors classes no later than July 24, 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 in order to maintain your eligibility for the scholarship!

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

Early in the fall semester, the 2020-21 application process for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship will begin. The scholarship 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 eight winners since 2002, including Justin West this year!

Honors Program Coordinator Allen Culpepper is TCC's faculty representative for this scholarship.

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.

Honors Scholars in the high school class of 2020 should apply for the **Academic Scholars scholarship** (deadline July 5).