

# TCC Honors Program Newsletter

## 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 2015 graduates is March 1.
- **Did you know the Honors Program has three students who are Honors Ambassadors?** They are Jennifer Glemboski and Jarimar Lozano at Northeast and Brittany Alexander at Southeast. They are happy to answer any questions about the program, from the perspective of a student going through the Honors Scholar program.
- **The University of Tulsa has increased its TCC Honors Scholar Transfer Scholarship.** Scholars transferring to TU in Fall 2015 will receive \$18,000 per year, renewable. For more information, see page 4.

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## NCHC Conference in Denver: Nov. 5-10, 2014

### TCC Research Retreat featured in Two-Year College panel

This year's National Collegiate Honors Council conference fully illustrated its theme, "The Thrill of the Climb." Not only was the conference held in the Mile-High City but plenary speaker Erik Weißenmayer, the only blind person to summit Mount Everest, told attendees his personal story of breaking barriers to reach new heights.

TCC was represented at the conference by honors coordinators Susan O'Neal and Dr. Jane Varmecky and Dean of Global and Engaged Learning Dr. Douglas Price.

Prof. O'Neal and Dr. Price took part in a panel on the topic "Beyond the Research Paper: Creating a Culture of Undergraduate Research at the Two-Year College." They described TCC's own "climb" from dream to reality as the Honors Program worked with the office of Research and Scholarly Activities to design and hold a "research retreat" for students interested in conducting research in any of several different disciplines. TCC's first research retreat took place in



TCC Honors Program Coordinator Susan O'Neal presents at the 2014 NCHC conference in Denver.

January 2014, and the second was in September. (Future retreats are expected to be held each fall.)

Dr. Varmecky reached Denver early to attend Beginning in Honors, which focuses on fostering connections and sharing advice among a group of honors directors from like institutions. Dr. Varmecky took part in sessions for two-year colleges.

TCC's representatives also attended a Social Media Boot Camp for honors programs, and they participated in the

regional Great Plains Honors Council's business meeting.

Dr. Price began his service on the NCHC International Education Committee. His primary role is to provide input on planning the NCHC annual conference with a specific emphasis on NCHC's drive to be more globally focused. Chairs of the committee are Dr. Kim Klein, director of the honors program at Shippensburg University, and Dr. Kevin W. Dean, from the West Chester University Honors College. Dr. Price also took part in a post-conference workshop on international education.

## Alumni spotlight

In 2013, Honors Scholar Caroline Jennings became TCC's first winner of the Dennis Boe Award for an outstanding research paper submitted to the Great Plains Honors Council. Now pursuing her bachelor's degree in English at Oklahoma State University, she has received additional recognition from her current home institution. For one of her short stories, she recently received the Ruby N. Courtney Writer's Scholarship, awarded to one OU and one OSU student. She read her prize-winning story at OSU's first Autumn Arts Gala on Nov. 14. OSU also awarded her a 2014-15 Wentz Project scholarship to support her research into the poetry of Anne Brontë. Warm congratulations, Caroline!

## Bagels with the Dean: “glocal” conversation

By Douglas Price

As TCC’s Dean of Global and Engaged Learning, Dr. Douglas Price feels it’s important to engage regularly in conversation with highly engaged students on some curious topic or another, and thus his idea for the annual Bagels with the Dean was born. This year, like last, Dr. Price invited interested Honors Scholars to meet with him at 7:00 a.m. one morning in November to discuss a big topic—in this instance, the intersection between “local” and “global” in the Tulsa community.

On Nov. 10, Honors Scholars David Francis, Jennifer Glemboski, Nicolas George, and Rebekkah Mallicoat gathered on Metro Campus to join in conversation not only with Dr. Price, but also with Jazi Hiriart of Tulsa Young Professionals, Roberto Maduro of the International Language Lab on Southeast Campus, TCC Honors Program Coordinator Susan O’Neal, and Honors Specialist Lynn Greene.

The early yet lively conversation ranged in focus from Tulsa’s economic and cultural connections with the rest of the world, to

generational differences in global awareness, to the reasons people sometimes fail to explore other cultures that exist within our own city. The main take-away from the conversation was the realization regarding how “global” Tulsa really is. TCC Honors student Rebekkah Mallicoat said, “I realized that the subject is more relevant than I’d imagined, to more fields, businesses, and areas of society than I’d originally recognized. Considering Tulsa in the light of a global community initially seemed unlikely, but the various mentions of the diverse cultures and immigrant populations that call Tulsa home offered an entirely different view of the city.” TCC Honors student Nicolas George added, that “being ‘global’ affects us all, whether we know it or not. Expanding our acceptance of all people will help advance our communities to being more involved on a global scale and people will be more likely to not isolate themselves amongst their own ‘groups.’” In addition, the conversation revealed that being global does not necessarily mean you are, or have been, a world traveler. Rather it requires open-mindedness,

ability to listen carefully to others, sustain an interest in other cultures, remain flexible, and employ of sense of curiosity about your surroundings including those you meet. TCC’s Honors Coordinator, Susan O’Neal shared that, “Global can be something that happens locally when you encounter people who have the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives that the physical globe offers.” TCC Honors student Jen Glemboski, captured the sometimes mysterious impact of the world on a particular community, indicating that “almost nothing is unaffected by the global community, yet no one can personally identify their role well.” Regarding generational differences, she added, “Tulsa has not had a very global focus in the past, but we can see the shift gradually occurring, possibly related to generational changes.”

All participants commented that they enjoyed the conversation (and the bagels/ coffee) and agreed to participate in future conversations. The group pondered on how to engage others in future conversations on this important topic.

## Honors Nutrition class writes National Science Foundation grant application



The grant-writing 2014 Honors Nutrition class with Prof. O’Brien (on the far right).

Near the beginning of the fall semester, the National Science Foundation announced the launch of a program designed to inspire innovative thinking among community college students: the Community College Innovation Challenge. In its announcement, the NSF explained, “In this contest, NSF is challenging students enrolled in community colleges to propose innovative science, technology, engineer-

ing and mathematics (STEM)-based solutions to perplexing, real-world problems. An incentive: Teams submitting top ideas will receive professional coaching and cash prizes.”

Dr. Valerie O’Brien’s fall Honors Nutrition class saw the announcement, and the students surprised Dr. O’Brien by declaring that they wanted to accept the challenge. The NSF required them to find a

faculty mentor (Dr. O’Brien has happy to accept their invitation) and a community or industry partner.

The real-world problem they elected to address was the effect of climate change, and the resulting reduction in cultivatable land, on the world’s food supply. Believing Oklahoma’s already harsh summer climate to be a perfect laboratory, the class designed an experiment that would simulate a new approach for rooftop gardens: one that incorporates shielding devices to protect the gardens from high wind and intense heat.

The students found a community partner in Iron Gate, the downtown food ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church. Their NSF grant application, submitted during the winter break, will be judged during the spring semester. Winners will be announced in June.

## Upcoming GPHC conference: Padre Island, April 10-12

The Great Plains Honors Council's regional conference will be held on South Padre Island this year and hosted by the University of Texas-Pan American. Thanks to a generous grant from the TCC Foundation, the Honors Program will pay all travel expenses for honors students who are accepted 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, visit [great-plainshonors.com](http://great-plainshonors.com)

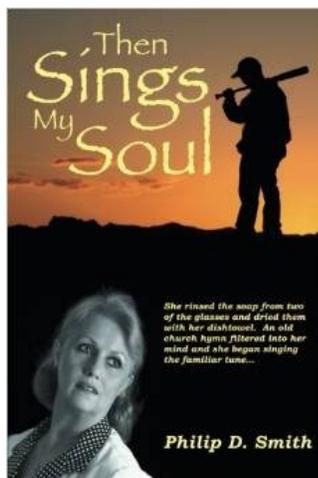
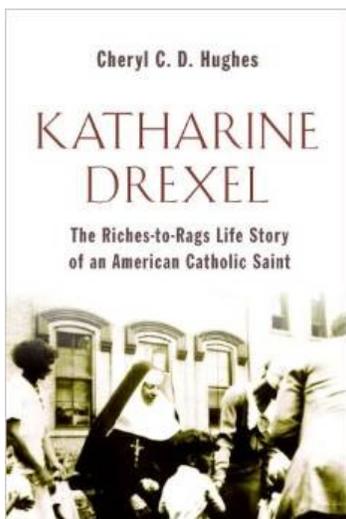
Students' presentations based on their own research, analysis, and other projects

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 will award the privilege of paid conference expenses to honors students only, with first consideration going to Honors Scholars.

## Faculty publications

The Metro Campus Liberal Arts division hosted book signings in the fall to celebrate the publications of two members of the liberal arts—and honors—faculty. Both signings were held in the Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity.

Dr. Cherie Hughes gave a brief presentation of her book *Katharine Drexel: The Riches-to-Rags Life Story of an American Catholic Saint*, published in 2014 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Dr. Hughes wrote her doctoral dissertation on St. Katharine Drexel, who in 2000 became just the second American to attain sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Hughes teaches humanities and religion classes at TCC. This biography grew out of her dissertation research.



Dr. Philip Smith, a historian, just published a work of fiction. His novel *Then Sings My Soul*, set in Tulsa in the 1950s, incorporates meticulously researched local history and draws on Dr. Smith's love of baseball and his memories of growing up in West Tulsa. The family at the center of the book are a woman and her children who lost their husband and father in World War II. At his signing, Dr. Smith shared his thoughts about reading and writing fiction, as well as his memories of his West Tulsa youth. *Then Sings My Soul* was published in 2014 by WestBowPress.

## TCC quiz bowl news

TCC's quiz bowl team was very successful last school year, but what are they up to this year?

Quite a lot! The defending spring-bracket champions in the Mind Games tournament on KSBI-TV has already played once again in the 2014-2015 edition of that tournament. The TV station that aired Mind Games in the past has changed hands, so it remains to be seen whether those match-

es will air (or where they will air), but watch the Honors Program's Facebook page to find out. We'll post something as soon as we hear.

They are also, for the first time, playing host to the regional sectional tournament for the National Association of Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) community college competition. The sectionals will take place on Jan. 24th and will be held on Metro Cam-

pus. Several teams from Oklahoma and Kansas will be in Tulsa to compete.

Up to two teams from the sectional tournament will advance to the national community college tournament in Atlanta. Last year's team did in fact go to nationals, where TCC's team captain, Jimmie Carter, placed ninth in the individual rankings! Go, team! Best wishes for a repeat.

## Congratulations, fall graduates!

David A. Francis  
Joshua Phillips  
Justin Stanley



## How to contact the TCC Honors Program

The Honors Program has a new e-mail address! If you have questions about the program or suggestions for us, please let us know. E-mail us at **honors@tulsacc.edu**

The main TCC Honors Office is on Metro Campus, although honors classes and faculty honors coordinators are on every campus. See below:

**Metro Campus:** Susan O'Neal, MC 523C, 918-595-7378

**Northeast Campus:** Jennifer Kneafsey, 918-595-7490

**Southeast Campus:** Dr. Jane Varmecky, 918-595-7633

**West Campus:** Anne Phillips, 918-595-8086

**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: Amount has increased!

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.

**Beginning in fall 2015, the Honors Scholar Transfer Scholarship will be worth \$18,000 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 2015-2016. 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 2015? If so, please spread the word about the Academic Scholars scholarship. Five TCC Honors Scholars from the class of 2015 will be selected to receive this eight-semester scholarship that transfers to any university in Oklahoma. See the "Honors Forms" 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!