

TCC Honors Program Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 1

December 2015

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 2016 graduates is March 1.
- **Did you know the Honors Program has three students who are Honors Ambassadors?** They are Joshua Navarro and Erick Langford at Northeast and Samira Darbandi at Southeast. They are happy to answer any questions about the program, from the perspective of a student going through the Honors Scholar program.

Inside this issue:

Transferring into TU Honors Program	2
GPHC conference	2
Fall graduates	3
Scholarships	3

TCC Honors Program Newsletter, 12/2015
 © 2015, Tulsa Community College
 Editor: Lynn Richmond

NCHC Conference in Chicago: Nov. 11-15, 2015

In 2015, the National Collegiate Honors Council celebrated its golden anniversary. With 50 years of guiding American honors higher education in the past, and a challenging future ahead, the NCHC chose "Make No Little Plans" as its 50th conference theme, and invited honors administrators, faculty, and students to Chicago on November 11-15.

Representing TCC were Southeast Campus Honors Coordinator Jane Varnecky, Director of Global Learning Douglas Price, and Honors Program Coordinator Susan O'Neal. The conference provided professional development through a series of conference threads related to honors concerns such as globalization and diversity, best honors administrative practices, and community college honors programs. Jane Varnecky attended sessions in the Developing in Honors thread, after attending the Beginning in Honors workshop last year. Doug Price and Susan O'Neal were part of a panel of honors administrators and faculty from TCC and San Jacinto College who spoke about developing stronger relationships between honors programs and college administrators. Some of the other discussions in which TCC per-

sonnel participated concerned strategic planning; budgeting; the impact on honors curriculums by Advanced Placement, CLEP, and other methods for earning college credit before entering college; curriculum mapping; developing curiosity through the curriculum; and building community. All three met with their regional colleagues during the Great Plains Honors Council business meeting.

In keeping with the honors pedagogy of "city as text," conference-goers also had opportunities to experience Chicago. Alongside honors students, Doug Price explored the "Magnificent Mile" downtown, opening doors, exploring buildings, and juxtaposing the new and old architectural sites to determine their current meaning and historical significance. Price looks for ways in which international students studying at TCC can experience Tulsa as "text." Susan O'Neal participated in a Partners in the Park excursion to historic Pullman, railroad car magnate George Pullman's planned industrial community, one of the first of its kind. She toured the Pullman Palace Car factory, Hotel Florence, an "executive" home,

and the Historic Pullman Center, all of which provided greater insight into late 19th century issues such as industrialization, international business, race and class divisions, labor unions, and civil rights activism. O'Neal teaches her Honors Composition 1 course using a "city as text" approach.

There were other special events that showcased Chicago talent, such as Emerson Spartz, who spoke about the importance of continual self-education and the reading that has shaped his life. While a student at Notre Dame, he devised his own curriculum for what he wanted to learn, reading a non-fiction book every day for most of his college career. At age twelve, he founded *MuggleNet*, the number one Harry Potter site; at nineteen, he published his first book; and at twenty-eight, he is the CEO of Spartz Inc. digital media and one of the foremost authorities on internet virality. He has claimed "extreme curiosity" is a key to his success as a business executive.

The conference closed with a celebratory dinner, at which the improvisational group Second City performed comedic skits aimed at the college honors students and professors in their audience.

TU Honors Program an excellent option for transferring Scholars

Transferring into The University of Tulsa's Honors Program has always been possible, but until recently it has not been practical, as the program's curriculum often meant transfer students would remain at TU an additional year.

However, last year curriculum changes made it possible for transfer students to complete the Honors Program in five semesters, if they plan their schedules carefully. Another piece of wonderful news is that participation in the program offers an additional scholarship, which may be combined with TU's \$18,000 transfer scholarship that's already available to graduates of TCC's Honors Scholar program.

Two alumni of TCC's Honors Scholar program have already transferred into the TU Honors Program and are now pursuing bachelor's degrees as TU Honors Scholars.

TCC graduate Destiny Hrcir says the experience has added greatly to her time at the university.

"There are many aspects of the program I have found either helpful or inspiring—from financial assistance to the spirit of academic enthusiasm," she said. "But honestly I am most grateful for the people—both professors and others—whom I have been able to meet and talk with through the program and whom I likely would not have had the opportunity to

meet otherwise. The conversations I have had and the advice I have been given are of inestimable value to me."

In order to complete TU's Honors Program and receive Honors Scholar transcript designation, scholars must complete the Honors Core Curriculum, which consists of four honors seminar classes, as well as the student's own Honors Plan. Honors Program Director Dr. Denise Dutton explained that the honors plan is undertaken by TU Honors Scholars in the junior and senior years and consists of a thesis or tutorials and reading groups that are carefully designed to help students pursue their developing academic interests. At the end of each semester, Scholars maintain their own Honors Portfolios by indexing "the ideas they have engaged over the semester," by selecting a writing sample or other assignment that represents the best work they have done during the semester, and by writing a reflection on the things that have stimulated their curiosity and shaped them during their semester's work. Every Scholar has a designated faculty mentor, who uses the portfolio to help the Scholar identify and review emerging interests (and outline strategies for exploring those interests more fully). By the time Scholars graduate, they will have compiled a portfolio that contains:

- A bibliography of their college studies (books, movies, blogs, podcasts—ideas they've encountered, whether within or outside the classroom);
- Samples of the work they are most proud of, from each semester;
- A coherent narrative of their academic development—how they came to be interested in what they're interested in.

The "priority deadline" to apply for admission to TU's Honors Program is Feb. 1. Students who apply by Feb. 1 are guaranteed a seat in the program, if they are accepted. (Students who apply after Feb. 1 may or may not be able to be accommodated in the program, even if they meet the program's admission requirements.) Approximately 45 students are admitted per year.

TU Honors Scholars are eligible for scholarships worth \$1000 per semester for each semester they are actively engaged in the program.

The program's application and much more information are available online: <http://utulsa.edu/academics/honors-program/>

Upcoming GPHC conference: Siloam Springs, April 8-10

The Great Plains Honors Council's 2016 regional conference will be co-hosted by John Brown University and Oral Roberts University. The conference will take place in Siloam Springs, Ark., on Friday-Sunday, April 8-10, 2016.

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, as well as how to write a good proposal, visit 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 will award the privilege of paid conference expenses to honors students only, with first consideration going to Honors Scholars.

Honors students who wish to present should submit an abstract to the Honors Office no later than Jan. 19. Contact us at honors@tulsacc.edu.

Congratulations, fall graduates!

Miles Bewley
Constance Campbell
Josh Hallford
Raymond North

How to contact the TCC Honors Program

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 Varnecky, 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

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.

The Honors Scholar Transfer Scholarship is 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 2016? If so, please spread the word about the Academic Scholars scholarship. Five TCC Honors Scholars from the class of 2016 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! For example, the application deadline for TU's Honors Program is Feb. 1, for admission in Fall 2016. (See the related story on p. 2.)