

# ALACRITY

Alacrity (ah LACK rah tee) Cheerful willingness to overcome obstacles



Northeast Texas  
Community College

## NTCC the only Community College in the nation to present four times at National Collegiate Honors Council conference



Invitations issued to Presidential Scholars **Carlos Mendez, Maricely Gomez, and Jessica Rogers** made NTCC the only community college in the nation to have students present at the National Collegiate Honors Council

national meeting the last four years in a row, 2008-2011.

The NCHC, established in 1966, has 1,000 members, mostly universities. Saddleback, Moraine, and Broward Colleges presented for the first time in 2011, and St Petersburg College in Florida, known for their success with research, failed to receive an invitation in 2011.

NTCC had great reasons to be in Phoenix. Mendez and Gomez came in first and second in the State of Texas Caldwell competition for their papers on Henry Cisneros and Cynthia Ann Parker. Jessica Rogers, was a 2011 NTCC Boe and Portz nominee who, for her work, interviewed the world-famous, physician, Denton Cooley.

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### Honors highlights

- ❖ NTCC Presidential Scholars present again at the NCHC.
- ❖ Our Initial Benefactor set a pattern.
- ❖ A Merit Dynamic lives at NTCC.
- ❖ A remarkable Fall Trip.
- ❖ Looking Ahead...

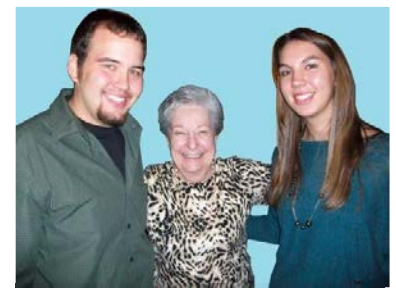
## NTCC Honors celebrates fifth anniversary of Whatley donation

**Elizabeth H. Whatley** helped establish NTCC Honors in 2007 with a munificent \$50,000-dollar gift. This past November, Presidential Scholars **Jacob Brantley** and **Hannah Kingston** along with professors Hearn and Yox visited Mrs. Whatley in Longview, presenting a token of appreciation for her seminal gift.

Mrs. Whatley was in great spirits as she was asked to recall the origins of NTCC and the role of her husband,

James in accounting for so much of the campus' buildup.

Whatley set NTCC Honors on a very special trajectory. We remain very indebted to her yet today. In addition to funding NTCC Honors, Mr. and Mrs. Whatley are also the namesakes of the Whatley Center for the Performing Arts and the new agriculture instructional building on campus called the Elizabeth Hoggatt Whatley Agriculture Complex.



**Elizabeth H. Whatley** (center) with Presidential Scholars Jacob Brantley and Hannah Kingston



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## Friends of NTCC Honors



**Cypress Bank**, for the fourth year in a row, has contributed a laptop for use of NTCC honors students! Above is Billie Sue Hanson of the Lone Star Branch, with former Daingerfield Valedictorian, J.Brantley, who is now the Honors Student Council President.



NTCC Honors remains indebted to **Dr. Jim and Paula Archer**, (above) hosts of our fall Honors Roundups, for their many gifts. A \$1,500-dollar matching contribution from IBM last August guaranteed Fall and Spring Honors student trips. Our three-Phoenix bound students this fall were quite elated to have \$200 each more of spending money thanks to the gifts of **Jim and Karen Harmon**, and **Jane Scharlach**. We also thank Karen Harmon (below), who has also provided a major stipend for Carlos.



## Sophomores Presidential Scholars receive iPads

The Honors Committee has explored ways to reward Scholars directly for their achievements, and for completing milestones.

Our generous Friends of Honors have made this feasible with donations to cover the purchase of iPads, particularly for sophomore Scholars before they transfer to universities.

This past fall, **Jane Scharlach**, (top photo), provided an iPad to Maricely Gomez, for her success as a Presidential Scholar. Also **Jerry Myers** (bottom photo) for **First Federal Community Bank** in MP, provides the same for **Hannah Kingston**.



## NTCC Honors celebrates five years with reunion



There were perhaps more local valedictorians in one room than ever before in the history of Northeast Texas. The NTCC Honors 2011 fifth-year anniversary Christmas Party brought together seven former valedictorians, as well as others who have all been members of NTCC Honors.



At left, above, Clara Ramirez and Damico Hill are finishing up their senior years at TCU and Baylor. Below, Cody Russell (with Dr. Yox) is now at Texas A&M at College Station, after receiving a prestigious national Hites Scholarship, announced last fall.

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit [www.ntcc.edu/honors](http://www.ntcc.edu/honors) or contact

Dr. Andrew Yox at 903-434-8229 or [ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu)

# Honors celebrates with fall trip



Thanks to Jim and Paula Archer, NTCC Honors enjoyed another awesome trip to Dallas. Fourteen honors students, and professors (Mary Herron, David Rangel and Andrew Yox) toured the Dallas Museum of Art, dined at the Pyramid restaurant, visited the Dallas World Aquarium, and attended a production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. There were reasons to celebrate this fall. A record five students aced both sections of their honors fall seminars—

Jacob Brantley, Isaac Griffin, Emily Parker, Hannah Kingston and Jessica Rogers.

Judges for the National Collegiate Honors Council gave our honors website, (see left) high marks for content and appearance. Also, Honors Professor and Phi Theta Kappa advisor, Dr. Melissa Weinbrenner, was selected to serve as a Phi Theta Kappa Scholar.



## NTCC Honors completes first feature-length film



See cast photo on Page 4.

She had to concoct blood, simulate a lynching, produce an applauding crowd out of the thin air and make an unlit fire burn!

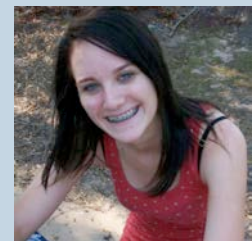
**Whitney McIntosh** (left) produced the first full-length feature NTCC student film ever. Key in YouTube, and type "Fredonia, a Tale of East Texas" to view the full film.

The story is about the most anarchic period in the history of Northeast Texas, after the Civil War. Bands of bushwhackers led by Cullen Baker (played by **Garrett Trickey**) terrorized unionists and freedmen. Tune in to see what happened!



## 2011 Northeast Texas Poetry Contest

We thank **Michael Whitney** and Elliott Motors for their continuing sponsorship of the poetry contests. He is pictured above with **Hannah Collier**, 2011 adult contest winner. Other winners included:



**Rhea Siemsen**,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place



**Isaac Griffin**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place



**Kaitlyn Tackett**,  
4<sup>th</sup> Place

## Cast of NTCC Film: *Fredonia*



The Cast of *Fredonia*, left to right: Jacob Isom, Elizabeth Griffin, Rhea Siemsen, Whitney McIntosh (producer), Isaac Griffin (director) and Garrett Trickey. Type *Youtube*, and “Fredonia, a Tale of East Texas.”

## Academic Excellence



Presidential Scholar **Isaac Griffin** may be only the second student in NTCC history to receive a perfect 4.0 in honors after two years; one more semester will tell. He is also District III Vice President for Phi Theta Kappa!

## A Message From the Honors Director



*Andrew Yox,  
Honors Director*

I hope you have enjoyed our honors newsletter. We are so thankful for our friends in the community who have helped make NTCC Honors a success over these last five years. This support directly benefits our students, as you can see in these pages.

We are looking forward with hope for some awards this spring. We are also thinking about producing a film concerning perhaps the most famous resident of Northeast Texas ever—John Morris Sheppard, born in Morris County, and the Father of National Prohibition in the 1920s. Let us know if you would like to help us with that! We are planning a spring trip for 17 February, a Poster Contest for 27 April, and a Thank You dinner for 11 April. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about NTCC Honors or would like more information.



## Honors Committee:

David Rangel,  
Joy Cooper,  
Robert Fenton,  
Jacob Brantley



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