

ALACRITY

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



Honors Northeast in Denver



Left to right: Dr. Mary Hearron, Miranda Mendoza, Kayleah Cumpian, Tyler Reynolds, Elyse Coleman, Ana Martínez and Dr. A. Yox. 2015 is the 50th anniversary of the National Collegiate Honors Council. **Dr. Hallie Savage**, Executive Director, notes that among the 100s of universities and colleges in the association, “since 2008, Honors at NTCC has successfully presented at our national conferences. The NCHC is proud to recognize Northeast . . . for its commitment to quality honors education” (Cont. page 2).

January 2015

Volume 7 Issue 2

Honors Highlights

- ❖ Milestones for NCHC and NTCC.
- ❖ Munificence Makes for Mastery
- ❖ The Great Legend of NE Texas—in Film.
- ❖ National, Regional and State Awards
- ❖ Honors and Alpha Mu Chi: A Marriage made in . . . NTCC.

Cypress Bank and Other Generous Benefactors



Cypress Bank continues its most impressive skein of laptop gifts for Honors. **Gabriela Quezada** (left with Cypress VP B. Gooding) is our 7th Cypress Bank Scholar. She also was 1 of our 6 Boe Essay Finalists! (Right) **A Truly Gracious Soul** has again awarded our NCHC presenters \$100 each. **Dr. Mary Hearron** also donated to the Denver experience.

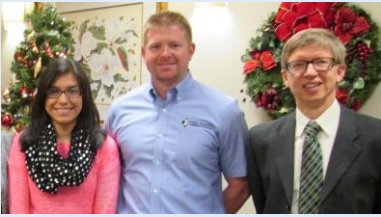


Inside This Issue:

Friends of Honors..... Pg. 1, 2
 Scholarship in Denver.....Pg. 2
 Initiatives with FilmPg. 2-3

NE Texas Poetry Contest.....Pg. 3
 Director’s Message.....Pg. 4
 Academic Excellence.....Pg. 4

Friends of Honors



First Federal Community Bank has supported us for 5 years! Above, **VP Ashley Amerson**.



VP Ernie McAnally, and American National Bank were our 1st donors in 2007, and continue to support us above.



Dr. Charles Florio (above) amazes with his energy & financial support. Below, Miranda Mendoza and Chris Hall on spring trip. We thank a very a **Special Couple** who gave \$500 to make events like this possible. Also, we thank **Karen and Jim Harmon** who gave *after* their move to Denton!



In Denver, from p. 1.

NCHC committees select proposals to present on the basis of appeal, previous awards, and scholarly promise. Making the cut this year for NTCC were Elyse Coleman, for her work on railroads, Kayleah Cumpian on Wright Patman, Ana Martínez on early Tejanos, Miranda Mendoza on Gematria, and Tyler Reynolds, who introduced the Honors film on Wright Patman.

Elyse Coleman's Caldwell-Prize winning work conveys the excitement that greeted the train technology in the 19th century. Our automobile-culture has a more jaded version of the story.

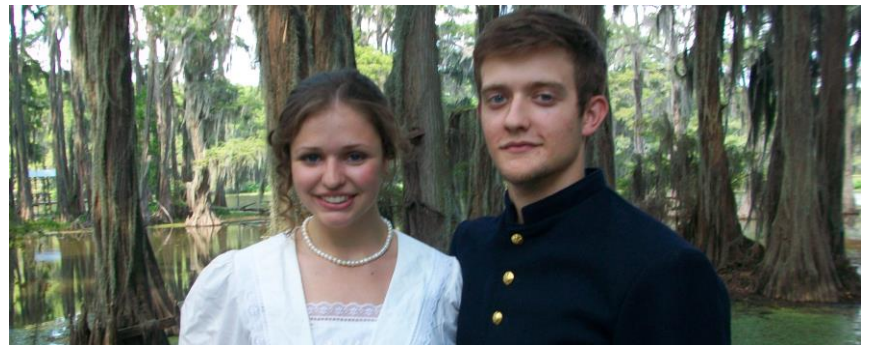
Kayleah Cumpian's Boe-Award work showed how a Northeast Texas Congressman (1929-1976), conveyed populist momentum in Northeast Texas and Texas at large.

Miranda Mendoza's look at symbolic numbers reticulated the interdisciplinary core of Honors. Mendoza linked progress to the spiritualization of mathematics.

Ana Martínez presented her revisionist work on Hispanics who resisted the exclusionary culture of post-Revolution Texas.

Tyler Reynolds chaired our second panel in two years at the NCHC featuring our films. Reynolds was our 2013-14 producer.

Coming Film of Harriet Potter Ames



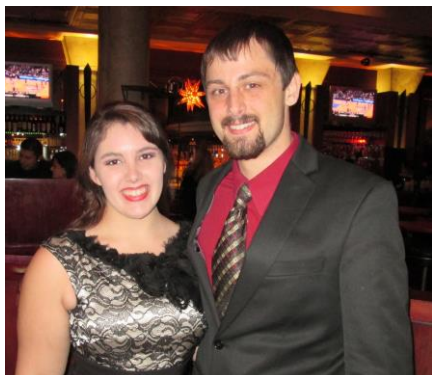
The life of Harriet Potter has become an acclaimed legend of NE Texas. Charles Dickens related the tragedy of her 2nd husband in *American Notes*. In 1959, her story morphed into an international best-seller by Elithe Kirkland--*Love is a Wild Assault*. For the 1st first time, thanks to ongoing (!) film donations of **Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery**, Honors NE has made a cinematic version of the tale. Starring Cassia Rose, and Tyler Reynolds (above), and produced by William Villalobos, the film will premiere at the Mount Pleasant Library, 20 February, at 7 PM.

WANT TO HELP?

Contact: Dr. Jonathan McCullough at 903-434-8115 or

Dr. Andrew Yox at 903-434-8229 or ayox@ntcc.edu

Happenings



It is a first. The same college in the Great Plains Honors Council had two students in the highest student position in the GPHC, two years straight! Above, Matthew Jordan 2014 and **Kayleah Cumpian** 2015. Kayleah defeated a junior from John Brown University. Below, Honors Students join **Glenda Brogoitti** at the meeting of the Native Plant Society in Texarkana. Honors reenacted “Harriet” characters from the film.



Top: Cinematographer, Dr. Chuck Hamilton, checks with film Director, Kayleah Cumpian, over a scene with Cassia Rose. Above: Pro-Dallas Mavericks Honors Students celebrate during our spring trip.



National Honors



Above: Kelli Knepp and Tyler Reynolds, Leaders of Promise Recipients for 2014.

Coca Cola and Phi Theta Kappa have awarded 200 “Leaders of Promise” prizes nationally for \$1,000 since 2012. Last year, Noah Griffin pioneered our 1st award, but in 2014 we won 2 of the 200. Kelli Knepp, skyrocketed into Honors this past summer after a great first-year at NTCC and won the **Chitsey Award** for the best performing Honors Scholar. State PTK Star-Award winner, and Presidential Scholar, Tyler Reynolds, has presented our honors films 7 times.



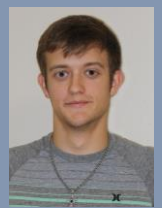
2014 Northeast Texas Poetry Contest

Kelli Knepp (above) wrote a luminous poem: (\$400) “NE Texas through the Eyes of a Child.” It invited the reader to swing, fish, tug, and pet a rabbit—rapturously. See our poems on the poetry page of our website. Google <Honors Northeast>.

**Miranda
Mendoza**
2nd Place
\$300



**Tyler
Reynolds**
3rd Place
\$200



**Morgan
Capps**
4th Place
\$100

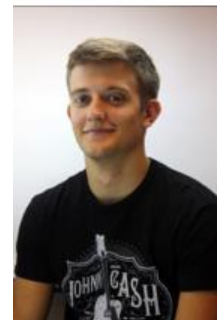


Fall Trip



Just as we thank **Dr. Jim and Paula Archer** for the yearly honors roundups, we have them to thank for our tradition of trips! Above at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, left to right: Isaac Burriss, Angelica Fuentes, Dr. Mary Hearron, Morgan Capps, Kassity Connor, Brian Taylor, Cassia Rose, Kelli Knepp, Chris Hall (in front), Louis Hall, Manolo Garcia, Miranda Mendoza, Zachary Davis, Marisol Bautista, Gabriela Quezada, Maria Perez, Dr. Melissa Weinbrenner, Ana Martínez, Jessica Velazquez, Tyler Reynolds.

Academic Excellence



The top performer in our Bio-Tex Seminar in the fall was **Morgan Capps**, who was also the 2014 Valedictorian of the Jefferson Christian Academy. In the other honors Hu-Music Seminar, our Honors Student Council President, **Tyler Reynolds**, took the highest honor. Other top performers in the seminars were Isaac Burriss, Zachary Davis, Ana Martínez, and Jessica Velazquez.

NTCC's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)



Andrew Yox
Honors Director



Melissa Weinbrenner
Honors Professor

NTCC continues to flourish with a strong and positive tie between two spirited societies, Alpha Mu Chi (AMC)—our local PTK chapter, and Honors. PTK is the largest honorary society in the United States, with five times more chapters than its university equivalent—Phi Beta Kappa. It has a growing international presence, and gives away millions of dollars in scholarships each year. Our Honors Students had been averaging about one of these national scholarship awards a year, but in the last year we have won six (p. 3 and volume 7:1 of *Alacrity*), plus 3 state PTK awards.

A photo of a recent AMC meeting shows a group comprised half of honors and ex-honors students, and half of non-honors students. AMC has been amazingly successful in recent years, guided by **Dr. Melissa Weinbrenner** who again has been elected a PTK Scholar, and is NTCC's 2015 Piper nominee. AMC has won 2 International-level *Honors in Action* awards in two years, a very rare feat! **Elyse Coleman**, (pp. 1-2) was the lead writer for the 2015 award.

Honors Committee:

David Rangel,

Joy Cooper,

Robert Fenton,

Tyler Reynolds



P.O. Box 1307 Mount
Pleasant, TX 75456
903-434-8100
www.ntcc.edu

*NTCC is an Affirmative Action,
ADA, Equal Opportunity Institution.*