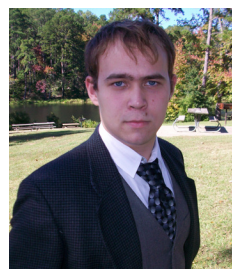


ALACRITY



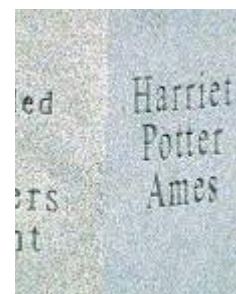
We so thank our pioneer film benefactors, Gerald, and Mary Lou Mowry; the Whatley Enhancement Grant Program led by our development team at NTCC; our college administrators for dealing with some unprecedented situations, and other multi-year film benefactors, such as Glenda Brogoitti, and Mark and Rhonda Lesher, for initializing, and encouraging our film series on regional legends.



A film has to begin before we are even sure who most of our scholars involved in it will be. We thank members of our community such as Hudson Old, Kerry Wooten, and Nigel Christopher who have given us some tantalizing ideas. In one case, students did propose a film. Many appreciated the Caldwell winning essay, by Morgan

Capps on Ma and Pa Ferguson. Her work, mentioned on NPR Radio, was viable!

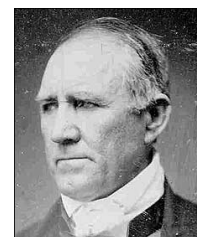
Our scholars have reacted with a good deal of verve. The film series is not a product of grade pressure. Except for a few film scholars who begin the work within a traditional research-paper format for an NTCC History class, and the producer who is able to waive a requirement for the Texas History class in exchange for the film project, the film is accomplished largely by early spring-to-summer research trips, and outside work during the summer.



One interesting feature of the films is that once the students take over, they dominate. We have toyed with having more professional input into the film-making process. But one dividend of the film has been the chances



for student leadership. It is difficult to expect a professional to oversee three weeks of actor development, the last one being a kind of 80 hour binge, for free. Students like our recent director, Brenda Godoy, however combine the leadership, hours, and mental calculus to see the project through. Stars like Cassidy Watkins, below, who willingly memorize



thirty pages of script, as well as hunt for usable costumes, have been indispensable.

The result has hopefully brought our scholars and supporters--our community together with a few shared story lines about inspirational leaders and regional culture. For our scholars, the films have, we believe, functioned as a wind-fall for citations involving leadership, presentations, publications, and awards. See our



honors website for our films on: Morris Shepard, Wright Patman, Harriet Ames, Ma and Pa Ferguson, Sam Houston, and Mary Kay.



Presidential Scholars Brenda Godoy, Cassidy Watkins, Adriana Rodriguez, and Rachel Jordan in Atlanta

NTCC Presents Tenth Straight Time at NCHC

Angelo State University Honors has worked through the years to offer a high-level experience. Year after year, their students land invitations to present at the National Collegiate Honors Council. Besides the well-funded and led Honors College at Texas Woman's University, and that of the University of Houston, no four-year institution in Texas has such a commanding presence at the annual NCHC. However, Northeast Texas Community College has presented ten times in the last ten years, one more than Angelo State! Last November, four of NTCC's gifted, well-vetted Presidential Scholars made it to nationals. Two constituted 1 percent of the nation's Leaders of Promise winners; all four would constitute more Jack Kent Cooke Semifinalists than posted for all community colleges in the state of Ohio.

NTCC's student speakers at the NCHC each averaged more than five public presenta-

tions before coming to the NCHC. In a special touch, some great friends of NTCC have granted the yearly NCHC presenters a yearly stipend of \$100 each. Each of the four created an original work of research, and led a major phase of NTCC's film initiatives.

Brenda Godoy presented the film trailer of the recent Mary Kay film. Cassidy Watkins, producer of the Cherokee film, and the star as Mary Kay, discussed efforts to portray Texas' vanquished tribe. Rachel Jordan, and Adriana Rodriguez presented twice at the conference. Rachel presented her work on Texas regionalist and modernist art; Adriana on the Compromise of 1850. Both helped present the films as well.



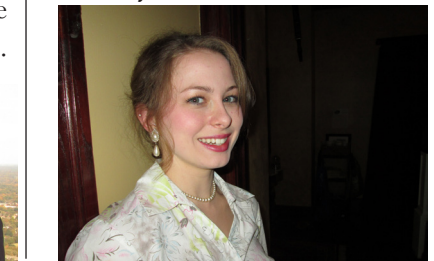
Texas Heritage National Bank Funds Second NTCC Honors Presidential Scholarship



THNB Trustee John Bryan, Cassidy Watkins, and VP Brenda Howard

Cassidy Lynn Watkins became the second Texas Heritage National Bank Scholar of NTCC's history this past fall, with tuition and fees covered by the Daingerfield bank. THNB is one of the most historic banks in the area with roots going back to 1889.

Our second THNB Scholar is on track to at least equal the high level of excellence shown by our first winner, Emma Shaw. Besides being a Jack Kent Cooke Semifinalist, and a Leaders of Promise winner, Watkins stars as Mary Kay in the NTCC film production at the Whatley Center, 16 February.



Honors Northeast

College Leaders

President, Dr. Ron Clinton
Interim VP Instruction, Dr. Kevin Rose

Honors Committee: Alicia Cantrell, Joy Cooper, Erika Garza, Dr. Drew Murphy, Sarah Spiker, Heidi Wooten.

Honors Professors: Dr. Andrew Daniel, Dr. Melissa Fulgham, Dr. Mary Hearron, Dr. Karyn Skaar, Dr. Paula Wilhite, and Dr. Andrew Yox.

Honors Secretary: Delbra Anthony

Like to Help?

View our Honors Northeast website, and you may find the largest collection of prize-winning essays, films and poems about a single region--in this case, Northeast Texas--in the world. Our benefactors have enabled this "above-and-beyond" culture of scholarship. If you would like to contribute, contact VP Dr. Jonathan McCullough, 903-434-8229, Nita May, 434-8113, nmay@ntcc.edu, or Dr. Yox at ayox@ntcc.edu.



**NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Want more information?

903-434-8229 • ayox@ntcc.edu
www.ntcc.edu/honors

NTCC is an AA, ADA, Equal Opportunity institution.

In this
edition:

Fall
Sensations

Regional
Vanguard

Virtual
Alumni



Jordan Whelchel & Cypriss Bank VP Billie Sue Hanson

Our Beneficent Benefactors



For 10 straight years, Cypress Bank has inspired our honors program with their professionalism and unflagging generosity. Pittsburg-based, with four locations, CB has provided honors here with ten high-end laptops. This year's Cypress Bank Scholar is Jordan Whelchel, left, accepting the gift from the Lone Star Branch, Vice President, Billie Sue Hanson.

and four years of being away, Jim and Karen Harmon continue to make a major impact on what we have done. Last fall they covered a whole category of social expenses. We have been so thankful as well for significant financial gifts recently from Dr. Charles Florio, and Dr. Jerry and Barbara Wesson. They have supported our whole story. Lastly, we have received four major anonymous gifts!

Though separated by 150 miles,

Fall Sensations



The legendary attainments of our six 2018 Presidential Scholar sophomores are all the more remarkable in a collective sense. No one in our remaining sophomore class falls below the threshold of national recognition. We regret that our retention has been no more than 50 percent over the years (though the majority of those dropping honors still stay at NTCC). And we did not think our standards were that high! From left to right above, shown twice each in various honors activities are: Adriana Rodriguez, Alicia Cantrell, Brenda Godoy, Rachel Jordan, Cassidy Watkins, and Chesney Davis. The five girls are all Jack Kent Cooke Semifinalists. If NTCC was a state, we would have the 19th highest number of JKC Semifinalists, more than Connecticut or Alabama. Meanwhile Chesney Davis became the Dr. Mary Hood Texas Region Scholar, the top-rated Phi-Theta-Kappa community-college student in the state. In Phi Theta Kappa's Leaders of Promise Award, there are 200 national winners, and we were able to claim three: Alicia Cantrell, Rachel Jordan, and Cassidy Watkins. In the Texas Star awards of last summer, both Rachel Jordan and Brenda Godoy came away as winners. Preliminary indications are that we did well with the Phi Theta Kappa Fall applications, and so we pray for some major transfer scholarships in the spring.



Regional Vanguard



With its anomalous pride, Texas has opened a door to student scholarship about itself. This may be why the Lone Star campuses around Houston lead the nation in JKC semis (see above). Our scholars presented our film trailer on Mary Kay in Austin at the Walter Webb Society in October: Rhylye Anderson, Warren Wu, Jordan Whelchel, and Matthew Chambers (left). Brenda Godoy presented professionally at the East Texas Historical Association between a writer and a professor! She was accompanied by Jazmin Garcia.



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Fall Happenings



Our thanks to Drs. Jim and Paula Archer and other friends for gifts allowing us to enjoy our 21st semester trip to Fort Worth. We dined by the Trinity River at the Woodshed Smokehouse, went to the zoo, the cultural district, and lastly to a fierce competition with Tarrant College Honors in Jenga. Despite astonishing balancing acts by the "Davis" team of Chesney, and Raegan, and Madison Blood, we were defeated.



Our 10th Annual Northeast Texas Poetry

Contest saw Adriana Rodriguez winning, Chesney Davis came in 2nd, Jazmin Garcia 3rd, Hannah Dickson, 4th, and Morgan Martin won an honorable mention.

We are very thankful for the anonymous donor who provided a second \$200 Dr. Jerry Wesson Prize for leadership. Wesson's leadership at NTCC goes back to the "DeWitt Era" of the 1980s. He has inspired honors here in many ways. This year's winner was the leader of both the Honors Student Council, and the local chapter of PTK, Alicia Cantrell (below left). Cantrell, also a winner of the Walter Cooper Award, won an astonishing 3 awards in one month! Our Eckman Award winners were very impressive. Eckmans go for the superior seminar performances. We so thank our anonymous donor for being able to present Hannah Dickson, and Matthew Chambers (below) each with \$100.



Deo Gratius! "In Ulimate Mode." By Andrew Yox, Honors Director



In pinball, point accumulations lead to 'ultimate mode'. The steel ball lingers in the upper playfield, ricocheting from targets to banks and jackpots. The score accelerates like a rocket. We who participate in Honors Northeast have the privilege of feeling the sense of "ultimate mode." Our friends in the community are allowing us to recognize and encourage scholarly achievement in ways that go beyond the restraints of a public institution. Our powerful Alpha Mu Chi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa led by Dr. Fulgham, in connection with the zeal of state officials in the Webb Society, and the merits available in

two major Honors Councils escalates the number of impressive website hits, and résumé entries. Our NTCC administration and donors have facilitated honors travel, a great precondition to student awards and opportunities. Our honors professors mentor and write with remarkable empathy and insight; our Honors Committee oversees the whole with diligence. Finally our wonderful scholars are "holding out against equilibrium, maintaining imbalance, and banking against entropy."

One notable high point this last semester was reached with the election of Rachel Jordan (below) as Student Representative of the Great Plains Honors Council. Jordan, a soon-to-be-published author, and beloved cinematographer, defeated a senior from Oklahoma State!

