

ALACRITY

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



Northeast Texas
Community College

The Most Decorated Student in NTCC History



Presidential Scholar, **Isaac Griffin**, above, with NTCC **President Brad Johnson**, graduated with an Associate's Degree, and a 4.0 GPA this past May--and many other honors.

He is the only scholar in NTCC

history to have won a Guistwhite Award from Phi Theta Kappa as one of twenty international finalists. He was the fourth Coca-Cola Gold Scholar in NTCC's history, appearing in *USA Today*, on 23 April. Competing with peers from university and college honors programs from Nebraska to Texas, he won one of the six Boe Awards of the Great Plains Honors Council and now appears on the front page of the GPHC website. Griffin also placed 3 times for prizes in poetry and poster competitions.

This PTK VP is the son of Joy and Dr. Stephen Griffin from Pittsburg. His award-winning research pointed to the role of Evangelicals in causing the Republican realignment of Texas.

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Honors Highlights

- ❖ Isaac Griffin raises the bar one last time.
- ❖ The Scharlachs and Harmons make a difference.
- ❖ What ever happened to Ashley Shew?
- ❖ Friends of Honors make program work.
- ❖ National and regional awards; publications.

Friends of NTCC Honors Provide Memorable Sendoffs for Presidential Scholars

Arthur and Jane Scharlach have provided a generous scholarship to **Maricely Gomez** as she continues her education at the prize-winning Honors Scholar Program at Texas Woman's University.

The Scharlachs will provide \$2,000 for her fall semester at TWU. They have also provided Maricely with an I-Pad.

Gomez's article, "Cynthia Ann Parker and Domesticism" appeared in

the 2012 edition of *Touchstone*, published by the Texas State Historical Association. The graduate of a private school in Acapulco, Gomez moved to Mt. Pleasant. She performed steadily better each semester at NTCC. She has represented NTCC Honors at both the GPHC and the NCHC.

The Elizabeth Whatley Fund and Karen Harmon also provided I-Pad Tablets for I. Griffin, and C. Mendez.



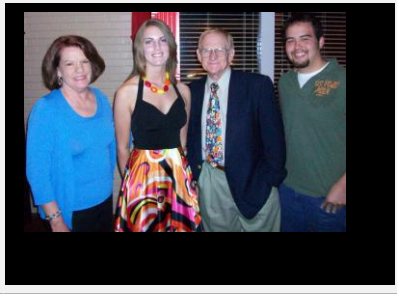
Arthur, Jane Scharlach with Maricely Gomez, and J. Brantley.



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Friends of NTCC Honors



At the Thank-You Dinner in April, 2012 Honors Director, Andrew Yox presented **Paula and Dr. Jim Archer** a plaque for five years of generous contributions to NTCC Honors.

A whole social dimension to Honors has occurred because of the Archers.



NTCC Honors remains indebted to Cypress Bank. Above left, Jacob Brantley uses one of the four laptops donated by the bank, now employed by NTCC Honors Students. President **Gary Bicknell**, and wife **Rhoda** pose also with Emily Parker above. **Dr. Mary Herron** (below) has added immeasurably to the benefits of an honors education at NTCC, and recently added to this a gift in the name of her mother, Elizabeth Chitsey, who has been a friend of student success at the college.



Carlos Mendez: On to UT San Antonio

Jim and Karen Harmon (right) have done much to support **Carlos Mendez**. Mendez, who lost his mother in a car accident, has faced tough decisions. But he not only has flourished as a Presidential Scholar, but has published a major article, and this past March, was a featured speaker in Houston at the Texas State Historical Association.

Mendez's work on **Henry Cisneros** brought him into contact with the former celebrity Mayor. Mr. Cisneros, between Mendez and Yox, has assured both that he will line up donors to put Mendez through UT-San Antonio!



Where They Are Now? News on 3 Honors Alumni



In 2007, she became the 1st symbol of NTCC Honors. She appeared in ads, catalogs, posters, and sites. Our first Presidential Scholar, **Ashley Shew**, (left with Andrew Yox) has recently graduated from UT Austin, and now works for the "Google-like" firm of Charity Dynamics in Austin. Also to the far left, Alexander Villalobos, has his BS from UT Arlington, and against amazing odds, has won another internship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Thibaut Guidet has attained a position at Rackspace in San Antonio as a Pricing Analyst (left).



WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.ntcc.edu/honors or contact

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

Spring Trip: Mardi Gras and Fun



Thanks to Dr. Jim and Paula Archer, NTCC Honors enjoyed another spring trip to Shreveport. Fourteen honors students and 3 professors (Shirley Clay and Jeremiah Hindman appear to the top right) toured the exquisite new library of the Norton Art Gallery, viewed Steuben Crystal, the Hudson River School art works, and statues by Rodin, Piccirilli and Remington.



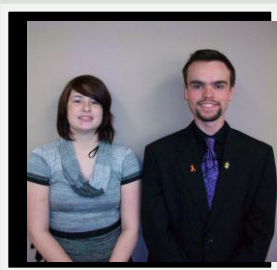
A new feature of this trip, thanks to the Friends of NTCC Honors, was spending money--\$15 for each student. The trip concluded in Jefferson for Mardi Gras, where some of the students underwent bizarre transformations. But all came home, refreshed, and with some new friends.



Fourth and Fifth Coca-Cola Golds

Isaac Griffin, and Jessica Rogers became the fourth and fifth Coca Cola Gold Scholars in NTCC History. It was also the first time that NTCC won two such national medals at once.

Both Isaac (Pittsburg) and Jessica (Ore City) were GPA paragons, and both have accepted full-ride scholarships to UT Arlington. Both have won cash awards at NE Texas Poetry Contests, and both came in 1-2 in the recent poster contest (right). Both have starred in honors films, presented in honors conferences, and were leaders of PTK.



Among the Top in the Nation.



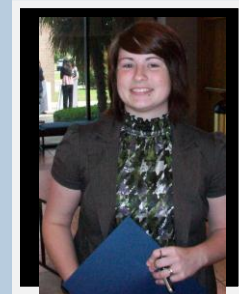
2012 McGraw Hill Poster Contest

We thank Amy Errthum and McGraw Hill for their continuing sponsorship of our poster contests. Ten from the community, including the Hon. Jerry Boatner, above, served as judges. For more information, see www.ntcc.edu/honors.

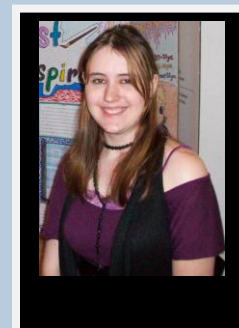
Isaac Griffin 1st Place



Jessica Rogers 2nd Place



Whitney McIntosh 4th Place



Great Plains Honors Council



Professors and Scholars elected to present at the GPHC in Kansas City in March--left to right: Honors Professor Chuck Hamilton, Jacob Brantley, Isaac Griffin, Hannah Kingston, Whitney McIntosh, Emily Parker, Dr. Yox, and Jesse Rivera.

Academic Excellence



Stephanie Calderon had a perfect GPA for the spring semester, and was accepted, along with J. Brantley, E. Parker, and J. Rivera to present at the NCHC in the fall. **Hannah Kingston** topped a stellar NTCC career with perfect scores for her final semester.

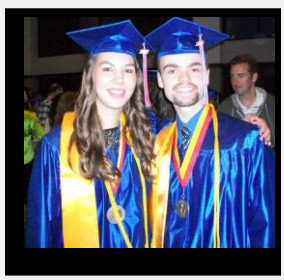
From the Honors Director



*Andrew Yox,
Honors Director*

In Houston in March, I was elated to be the winner, among the many college and university professors in Texas, of the David DeBoe Award. The award was but a symbol of the teamwork of NTCC Honors, and I was thankful that Vice President Clinton agreed to pose with me for the picture on the left. Our reputation for student awards, films, trips, presentations, and publications all stem from a terrific synergy between our Friends in the College Foundation, the Administration, our College Board, the Honors Professors, the Honors Committee and our Honors Students.

A salute too to our parents! We had some feedback in Kansas City to the effect—where do we get these scholars? We have some terrific “tiger moms” and “helicopter dads” in NE Texas: such as the parents of Hannah and Isaac (left), and Billy and Jennifer Rogers.



Honors Committee:

David Rangel,

Joy Cooper,

Robert Fenton,

Jacob Brantley



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