

ALACRITY

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



Is NTCC HONORS the Best in the Nation?



Noah Griffin, President Brad Johnson, Matthew Jordan, & Stephen Milburn represent the incredible showing of our Presidential Scholars in 2014. They won coveted national awards to the tune of 2 Guistwhites, 2 full-ride Jack Kent Cookes, 1 All-USA Team, and 1 Coca Cola Gold. See page 2.

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Honors Highlights

- ❖ The Big Question
- ❖ Exquisite Thank-You Dinner Donation
- ❖ Firsts for NTCC
- ❖ More National, Regional and State Awards than Ever
- ❖ Where our Presidential Scholars will be Next Year

Anonymous Donor Funds Annual Honors Thank-You Dinner

We are so beholden to our Friends of NTCC Honors for memorable yearly dinners. This is the one time we can bring all the leading personalities of Honors here together. Our “Thank-You Dinner” for 2014 somehow combined a Camelot-feeling of escape with an authentic Northeast Texas ambience.

This year one couple paid completely for our party at the

Wildcat Creek Quail Hunting Resort in Detroit, Texas! An enchanted wind-swept tract of lakes and piny woods gave way to a hunting lodge with animal head mounts, ceiling displays, and beautifully polished wooden tables. There were also curiosities like a bowl of ear plugs which one of our honors students thought would be a good classroom fixture! Two attendees: Kayleah Cumpian, and Dr. Mary Hearron.



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Friends of NTCC Honors



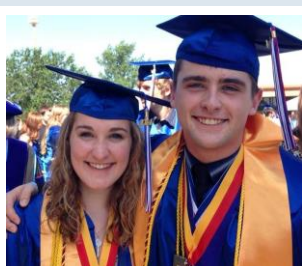
An anonymous donation of \$1,000 this past spring has again funded outreach events!



Don and Kathy Berthiaume of Littleton, CO maintained the Elizabeth Chitsey Fund and E. Chitsey Award.



Above, we thank Lynda Watson. Below, the Franklin County Arts Alliance--for donations! The latter was for our film, starring:



Best in the Nation? from p. 1.

2014 was the best finish ever for our Presidential Scholar sophomores, and the most exceptional "higher-echelon" outcome ever for the college. Is it possible that no college in Texas has ever matched it? Such a finale was another testament to the synergy between all the elements of our honors community. This includes our amazing friends from the community! The Guistwhite Award is perhaps the most notable sophomore award: only 20 are given, and this year, there were 1,700 applications nationally.

NTCC was the only college in the nation to win 2.

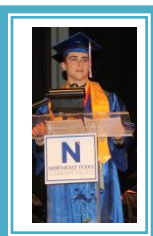
NTCC has also won more Guistwhites than any other college in the nation, including runner-up, giant Mesa (40k students) of Arizona since 2012. Our recipients this year were Noah Griffin, and Michael Jordan.

This year there were 3,705 applications for the Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) award. NTCC won 2 of 85. We congratulate Matthew Jordan, and Stephen Milburn.

On the All-USA Team, we had Noah Griffin in the top 20. Collin College (51k) won 2, to 1 for us. But giant Collin won only 1 Guistwhite, and no JKCs.

NTCC Honors has also now won more regional Boe Awards than any college or university (7).

Firsts for the College



Noah Griffin, son of Dr. Steven and Joy, from Pittsburg, 1st of NTCC to make the All-USA Team, and the Leader of Promise Award of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). He was featured in *USA Today* on 8 April 2014. He starred as Wright Patman in an effort that gave NTCC its 1st Webb Chapter Award.



Matthew Jordan, son of the late Timothy, and Sandra, first to win triple crown: the Jack Kent Cooke, Cola-Cola Gold, and the Guistwhite. He was our 1st to sit on the Board of the Great Plains Honors Council, defeating a university student. He led our 1st group Caldwell Award.



Ricky Huitema (left) was 1st to place in 4 Poster-Poetry Contests, and our 1st Terry Award Scholar. **Stephen Milburn** was 1st to win Chitsey, and Star Awards. For the 1st time, NTCC won two JKCs.

WANT TO HELP?

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

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Spring Happenings



Hudson Old, who we thank for the above photo, and his *East Texas Journal*, as well as the *Mount Pleasant Tribune*, provided full coverage of our Wright Patman film, premiered in Mount Pleasant, and then shown for the Franklin County Film Fest in June. The film made NTCC the only Webb Chapter in Texas to qualify twice for special graduation cords, below.



Top: 9 Student presenters, Drs. Weinbrenner and Yox attended the Great Plains Honors Council at the University of Arkansas and enjoyed meals, as with Kayleah above. Thanks to the Archers and Hearrons, fourteen students toured Texas Instruments and the DFW Chinatown (above).

State and Regional



Above: Left to Right: Elyse Coleman and Kayleah Cumpian hold their Caldwell Awards in San Antonio.

On 8 March at the San Antonio Riverwalk Wyndam, NTCC won two of the four state awards in the annual essay competition for freshmen and sophomores! Elyse Coleman won 2nd-place and \$300 for her 17-page revisionist work, "Texans Loved the Railroads." Kayleah Cumpian won 3rd and \$150 for her 18-page look at Wright Patman as the last of the Populists. At Fort Smith, Kayleah also won NTCC's 7th Boe Award (\$200 and \$500), and is being featured on the GPHC website.



2014 McGraw Hill Poster Contest

Again we thank Lisa Bailey of McGraw Hill for giving this competition its luster (\$ and !). Lisa has backed our contests since 2009. Also, we thank 13 patron-judges.(Google the title above for names). In first place, above, **Noah Griffin** won 575 dollars for work on prokaryotes.

Matthew Jordan

2nd Place

\$300



Ricky Huitema

3rd Place

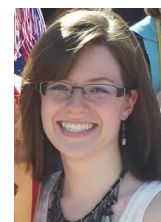
\$200



Courtney Phillips

4th Place

\$100



A Remarkable Group



Above: Elyse Coleman, Kaitlyn Klepfer, Kayleah Cumpian, Alisha Richardson, Lauren Fennimore, Noah Griffin, Tyler Reynolds, Matthew Jordan, and Ricky Huitema. Elyse's essay will be published. Kaitlyn furthers Caddo work, Kayleah won an REU internship, Tyler is producing a second film. These 4 are returning. Alisha and Lauren will be attending Oral Roberts and Texas Woman's Honors; Ricky and Matthew, Texas Tech Honors, and Noah, Dallas Baptist.

Academic Excellence



Presidential Scholar (PS) **Kayleah Cumpian** aced the Statspsych seminar, and won an expense-paid trip to North Carolina for a Math Seminar at Duke University. PS **Lauren Fennimore** won top honors in the Honors English Capstone course, presented her research on literacy at two different venues, and sang beautifully for graduation.

A Change to "Honors Northeast"?



Andrew Yox
Honors Director
and President of
the Great
Plains Honors
Council

Asterism is that special shine of a sapphire. A certain "light-play" here in *Northeast* Texas is giving students that special sparkle in their resumes and letters. How? Our college Foundation and our friends have financed trips, events, awards—a merit dynamic. Our administration is personable, insightful, and supportive. Our faculty goes "above and beyond," and this includes our "Student Success Squad" of letter-writers, a major component of student success on the national level. The Honors Committee is collegial and constructive. Our honorary tier—PTK is one of the top 100. With the efforts & forbearance of many, we produce feature-length films each year, an endeavor with a high failure rate. We have families in our area who convey love, and raise young people we can trust. We therefore contemplate a name-change from NTCC Honors to what we have found here in Northeast Texas: "Honors Northeast." Comments? Let me know!



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