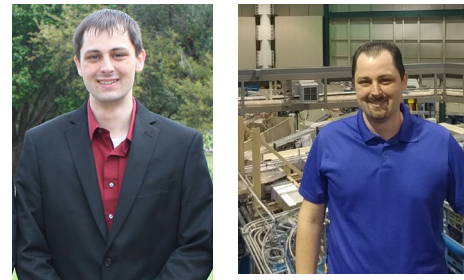


# ALACRITY



Earnest, super-fastidious **Matthew Jordan**, our third Jack Kent Cooke winner, recently won a \$138,000 National Science Foundation grant as a graduate student at Louisiana State. His notable discoveries relating to electro-chemical processes with bio-oil comes during a period of remarkable gains with energy in our region. Jordan spearheaded our first group Caldwell Award with his work on Caddo ceramics.



Above, from Hughes Springs and right, attending our Barbara Conrad film premiere this past February. Andrea compiled the first comprehensive alumni directory in NTCC history, tracking down the addresses of past honors students.

**Kelli Knepp** won our 2014 Poetry Contest and the Leaders of Promise Award. She stood guard during the “renowned”



## Alacrity: Newsletter of Honors Northeast

### College Leaders

**President:** Dr. Ron Clinton  
**VP Instruction:** Dr. Kevin Rose

**Honors Committee:** Rhylie Anderson, Erika Garza, Dr. Jeremy Holland, Dr. Drew Murphy, Heidi Wooten, & Dr. Andrew Yox.

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

**Honors Assistant:** Andrea Reyes  
**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.

lightning scene of the Award-Winning Ma and Pa Ferguson film, in what was one of the most revised scenes we have ever produced. A graduate of UT Tyler, Kelli is now teaching English in Brownsboro ISD, west of Tyler.

**Clayton Ferguson** delivered a memorable essay at the 2011 Great Plains



Honors Council on how Lyndon Johnson brought the Space Age to Houston. He received his BA from Texas Tech, and his Master’s Degree from Oklahoma State, and now works for the army in San Antonio as an environmental scientist.

**Victoria Watts** who helped celebrate our one and only Mardi Gras in Jefferson,



is a teacher in Jacksonville. She is ESL certified, and studying Library Science.



### A Sweep of State of Texas Caldwell Awards at Corpus Christi

Are scholarship and other forms of creative endeavor as important to learning in an information age as erudition (see p. 3)? If they are, there was yet another dramatic testament of the winsome support system that is operating in the case of *Honors Northeast* this past March. NTCC scholars won first, second, third, and fourth, in the freshmen-sophomore division for their essays, and a third-place in the junior-senior division. Our film on Barbara Conrad won the group Caldwell, topping both university and community college entries, and our Webb chapter, won the Chapter Award. This may have been the most notable sweep of Caldwell Awards since the state contest started in 1974.

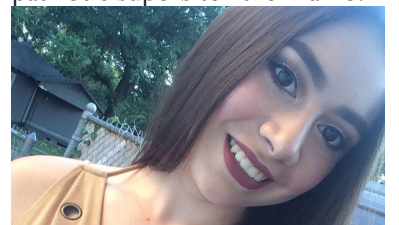
To be sure, NTCC had an amazing class enrolled in the Biotex seminar in the fall of 2018. Above from left to right are most of the more notable students who bequeathed this remarkable precedent: Jacob Lambie served as the

Unit Production Director of the Conrad film, and as a film scholar. His work on the subtle racism that accompanied the “end of racism” at UT Austin won a third-place Caldwell. Next, Olivia Griffin, of our remarkable Griffin family, won a first-place Caldwell for her work on Justin Dart, the ADA activist. Her ‘bricolage’ thesis upheld the point that Dart launched his movement, borrowing from others. Verania Leyva won a fourth-place Caldwell as another of our film scholars--providing the basic plot of our Barbara Conrad story. Hannah Dickson engaged in a landmark study of Mount Pleasant’s Hispanics and placed third in the upper division. Karla Fuentes as Director of Audiography and as the magnetic instructor of Conrad, Edna Gustafson in the film, also helped the film to attain the top laurels. Finally Miguel Paco, our Cypress Bank Scholar put the whole award-winning Conrad film together on his laptop.

### Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery Enable Much



It rarely has been clearer how indebted we are to **Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery**. Our impassioned poster contest bore the imprint of their generosity (p.3). The film, with the weight of its needs, objectives and contingencies, is an honors extravaganza with no known parallel in the nation. This is the 6th year in a row the Mowerys have supported and inspired our film. After its unprecedented two-award victory this last year, we breathed a sigh of relief only to face new challenges. Two giving-day gifts, have set us up again. We are getting ready this summer with Maritza Quinones, below, as Adina De Zavala, whose work wrought the patriotic supersite--the Alamo.



*Want more information?*

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

*NTCC is an AA, ADA, Equal Opportunity institution.*

In this edition:

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Regional Vanguard

Alacritous Alumni

## Our Beneficent Benefactors



Our Spring Thank-You Dinner above at the Selah Inn in Mount Vernon was born in benevolence, developed with a scholarly discussion about trends in education, and celebrated with friendship & fun. Our anonymous donors have a way of making us feel amazingly special!

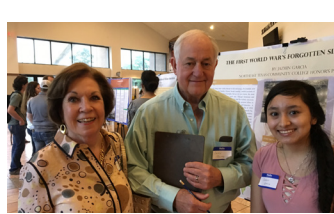


We are so indebted to Drs. Jim and Paula Archer, above left for the whole social dimension of honors, a carryover of the way Dr. Archer's Chemistry Club at NTCC once operated. This spring, Dr. Paula Archer continued to help us with a generous matching IBM grant, from her long-term former employer. The Caldwell Award fund of the State of Texas netted our program and students a

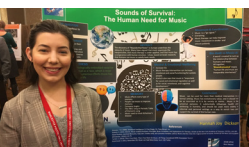
combined \$1,675 in Corpus Christi, \$600 of which can go to the 2019 film. We thank Casey Slaght and McGraw Hill for 11 uninterrupted years of support for our poster contest.

There are many other donors who have given us the wherewithal to do what we do. We are thankful for the 9th donation of First Federal Community Bank, for Glenda Brogoitti's special help and so many others!

## Star Sophomores



Coca Cola Awards each spring go to 150 top community college students in the nation. NTCC Presidential Scholars have won 15 of these awards since 2010. Above to the left, Rhylic Anderson and Hannah Dickson were our winners this year. Anderson was the premiere winner of the Dr. Florio Award for Leadership, and Dickson was our 4th student leader of the Great Plains Honors Council. Next, to the right above, Anderson with the flowing hair, Matthew Chambers, and Jordan Whelchel work on the Barbara Conrad film which won an unprecedented two awards (p. 1). Chambers and Whelchel shown next in Boston with Valparaiso University Honors Professor, Dr. Jeni Prough, and Yox, presenting film work at the NCHC. Whelchel won a Leaders of Promise, and a Bonnie Spencer; Chambers, two McGraw Hill awards. Jazmin Garcia shown next with our gracious donors, the Mowerys, won a Caldwell, a Dr. Mary Hood, a Leaders of Promise, a poetry, and poster award! Madison Blood, above, won a Leaders of Promise. Next, Dickson also won a Boe Award, a Star, an Eckman, and an upper-division Caldwell with us. Finally a salute to Matthew Chambers (above right). His goal was to transfer to UT Austin, in electrical engineering. He did it. With a perfect GPA. All told, our sophomores won five national awards, and four regional awards for scholarship! Two published articles in a state journal.



## Regional Vanguard



NTCC was a presence at this spring's meeting of the Great Plains Honors Council (left) even if dwarfed numerically by Tarrant Cornerstone Honors Program. Right top, Boe winner Courtney Baldwin appears with GPHC President-Elect Mike James of Harding University. Hannah Dickson, shown at left, kneeling, as our 4th NTCC leader of the GPHC prompted an early campaign by Texas Woman's University to attain this spot in the year ahead. Right: Jazmin Garcia, Morgan Martin, and Rhylic Anderson all published in *Touchstone!*



## Spring Happenings



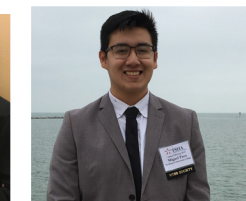
Our thanks to the Texas Heritage National Bank for a wonderful spring trip above that took us to the Perot Museum, Jorge's for dinner in the Art's District, and the famous Kalita Humphrey's theatre for a production of *Sweat*. Our 11th annual McGraw Hill Poster Contest was a thrilling event, right, thanks to the Texas-sized awards of Gerald and Mary Lou Mowery who underwrote most of the costs, but also to McGraw Hill's long-term support. This year Olivia Griffin came



in first with her soon-to-be published study of Justin Dart and the ADA.

Matthew Chambers came in second with his work on phosphorescent cyclometalated platinum. Hannah Dickson came in third, and Jazmin Garcia, fourth.

This year's Chitsey Award for the honors student who most exceeded expectations went to Daniel Landaverde, shown below with Dr. Marry Hearron representing the Chitsey family. Right, Miguel Paco, flawlessly presented our Conrad film in five different locations in one semester! Below left, Karla Fuentes won the Eckman Award by having the highest GPA in Stat-Psych. Jordan Whelchel won among sophomores.



## Deo Gratias! "Our Mozart Hypothesis at NTCC." By Dr. A. Yox, Honors Director

Our honors retreat discussion at the Selah Inn--enabled again by magnificent donors--highlighted an interesting kind of academic atheism that is gaining ground.

Why believe in higher education? According to Bryan Caplan, Richard Arum, Josipa Roksa, and others, students nationally aren't learning much. What they learn fades fast. Student aptitude languishes. Try something like an SAT at the university. After all our talk of "critical thinking," the gains after four years are not impressive.

Here at NTCC we are so privileged. We do not need to focus on academic atheism. We can focus on the Mozart Hypothesis. Students can learn--just as Mozart did, becoming a master of counterpoint and harmony as a teenager. College students too can obtain knowledge of the highest order, and become experts. They therefore can contribute to the life of the community.

There would have been no Mozart without Leopold. The father served as mentor, business manager, and agent for his son's enterprises. Likewise we are thankful for the above-and-beyond support system now provided by a few key donors, some striking collegial teamwork here at NTCC, awarding agencies like the state of Texas, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa, and a strong network of friends in the community.

Mozart was Mozart because he had something to give to the community. One characteristic of all our honors seminars are their commitment to research. In an Information Age, our textbook canon has become almost monstrous. This is ironic as students seem to be, nationally, learning less, and forgetting more. However, the trend might be intelligible in an age where information has become so cheap, but where the need for solutions to basic problems has become as daunting as ever.

Mozart was Mozart as he entertained others. We thank our community which has encouraged and awakened scholarly opportunities for our students by granting interviews, speaking engagements and judging contests. We were excited this last spring by the double-Caldwell winning, pioneering work on Mount Pleasant's Hispanics by Hannah Dickson, and Daniel Landaverde.

