

# ALACRITY

Donors make the 2020 ETG-Day A Landmark



We thank the NTCC Foundation for participating in East Texas Giving Day (ETGD) this past April! The event was a boon for NTCC programs. Supporters of Honors like Drs. Jim & Paula Archer, Jerald & Mary Lou Mowery and John & Janet Bryan seized the opportunity. Their gifts, made through the ETGD event, were matched 2:1 by generous grants such as one from the Burt and Nancy Marans Charitable Fund.

ETGD is an 18-hour event. But one can designate and pre-contribute. Thanks to ETGD, even the pandemic should not prevent incoming students such as Aaliyah Avellaneda of Mount Pleasant (below) from leveraging the opportunities of Honors here.



## Over 50 National Awards Since 2010

The thrill that takes us uphill at NTCC is the knowledge of support. This spring, the scholars of Honors Northeast crossed the threshold of fifty national awards since 2010. Particularly conspicuous in this endeavor were the winners of the 51st and 52nd such awards, Daniel Landaverde (left) with NTCC's tenth Jack Kent Cooke, and Jacob Lambie (right) with the college's eighth Guistwhite. The trek to these apex awards involved local awards, donors willing to fund these and other stepping stones, concerted professors willing to write for penultimate awards such as the Leaders of Promise, and the Pearson, administrators willing to do what it takes to fund travel so our students can present at honors conferences, and, of course, the scholars themselves, willing to trust the support that lies below, going on 6,000-word writing binges, and meeting intricate deadlines!

most one a year of each, it is easy to see how our single rural college is besting the combined community college systems of several states.

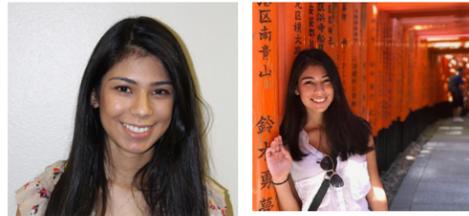
Jacob Lambie also won our sixteenth spring Coca Cola Award.

Both scholars took advantage of the possibilities at NTCC in creative ways. Both won stepping-stone, special awards such as the Chitsey, with the case of Daniel Landaverde, and the Florio Award, with the case of Jacob Lambie. Lambie won a poetry, and Landaverde, an image award, competing in the biannual honors contests. Both won State of Texas Caldwell Essay Awards in their freshman year, and participated in two award-winning films. Both presented relentlessly, locally, regionally, and nationally, beginning already with a Webb history meeting in their first semester. Landaverde completed a pioneering study of Mount Pleasant's Hispanics that will be published this summer. Lambie became a regional vice president in Phi Theta Kappa, and then an international vice president.

There were only fifty \$120,000 Jack Kent Cookes awarded in 2020, and only fifteen \$5,000 Guistwhites. As NTCC is averaging al-

## Alacritous Alumni

**Gabriela Quezada** designed our honors 2014-18 t-shirts, published her Texas Centennial essay, and was one of only five NTCC students to ever win a Britt Poster Award of the GPHC. She graduated recently with her Bachelors in Architecture from the University of Houston. She has studied architecture in



in Japan, above, and now in Brisbane, Australia. She judged our last "special" poster contest, and worked in her scores successfully, though fifteen hours away!

**Tyler Reynolds** was married this past May to Emily. Reynolds starred as Robert Potter and produced our most popular film--on Harriet Potter Ames in 2014. He graduated with a 3.6 GPA from the Mays School of Business at A&M, and works for Sewell Automotive Companies of Dallas.



**Cassidy Watkins** starred as Mary Kay in our award-winning 2016 film, won a Leaders of Promise Award, a Chitsey, and a McGraw Hill Poster Award. She now works as a Mental Health Associate for the San Marcos Treatment Center, and is interested in attending graduate school.



Cassidy also helped judge our anomalous 2020 poster contest from afar.

**William Jones** recently married Ariana Russo, the daughter of our esteemed history instructor at NTCC, John. They live in Omaha. William works for one of the most successful Mount Pleasant entrepreneurs in recent times, Scott Glover.



Jones won our McGraw-Hill Poster contest in 2017, a GPHC poster award, starred as Sam Houston and published an essay.



In 2012, **Isaac Griffin**, eldest son of our famous Pittsburg family, was hailed as the "most decorated student in NTCC history." Griffin had just won Boe, Guistwhite, Coca Cola, poetry, and poster awards. He is now married to Hope and living in Cañon, Colorado. He works as an Area Director of a Christian outreach group called Young Life. We now are favored to have our fifth Griffin sibling, Samuel.



**Samantha Garza** appeared four times on our first *Alacrity* in 2008, and along with Zachary Richardson was our first scholar to present at the National Collegiate Honors Council. After having three children, starring in two theatre productions, and now mediating Covid cases at Titus Memorial Hospital, she was recently accepted to enter the Physician's Assistant School at the University of Texas, Rio Grande.

## Alacrity: Newsletter of Honors Northeast

### College Leaders

**President:** Dr. Ron Clinton  
**VP Instruction:** Dr. Kevin Rose  
**Associate VP:** Anna Ingram

**Honors Committee:** Jacob Lambie, Erika Garza, 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, Dr. A. Yox.

**Honors Coordinator:** 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.



**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.*

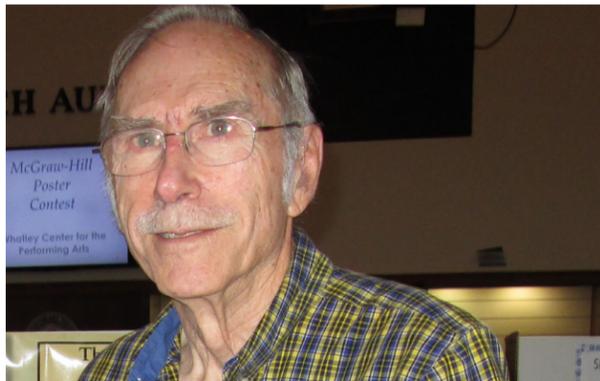
In this  
edition:

Spring  
Happenings

Regional  
Vanguard

Alacritous  
Alumni

## Our Beneficent Benefactors



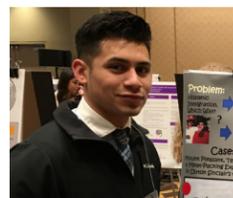
**Al Havenstrite 1936–2020** and wife, Susan, were unforgettable donors/boosters of Honors/NTCC. He served as the Chief U.S. Probation Officer of North Texas. In 2018 he was thrilled when 13 NTCC honors students presented work at his alma mater of Oklahoma State.



Like a Saturn Rocket that depends on mixed fuel, our merit dynamic has depended on a mix of personal and financial encouragement. We are so thankful for **Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery** (top left) and **Drs. Jim and Paula Archer** (top right) who enabled along with Texas Giving Day (p.1) matching funds, the single greatest boost to Honors here since the original contribution of Elizabeth Whatley in 2007. It is because of support like this that honors mediated

24 local student awards this past year, a record. We thank Lisa Berg and the TSHA above for struggling against financial shortfalls and continuing to sponsor the Caldwell Awards which netted the program, \$600. We are so delighted to have heard from and received a contribution recently from **Karen Harmon**. We thank **Glenda Brogoitti, Edward Florey, Dr. Mary Hearron, Mark Lesher, and Casy Slight of McGraw-Hill** for other gifts as well!

## Star Sophomores



Each year we wonder how an incoming group can possibly measure up to the past group, and each group is full of surprises. Our graduating sophomores--Texas Heritage National Bank Scholar, Mercedes Collins; violent video expert and poetess, Karla Fuentes; PTK international vice president, Jacob Lambie, film director, Peyton McClendon who graduated his past December; Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, Daniel Landaverde; and Dr. Jerry Wesson Scholar, Verania Leyva were the first group to sweep the Texas State Caldwell Awards for freshmen and sophomores, and our first group to win two Caldwell group awards in both of their two years for the best Texas history project of any university or college group. Indeed all six helped both years with our film initiatives, working together harmoniously and industriously. Lambie won our first international office. Between them, they won just about every major award there was out there to win including five different national awards, and in the case of Collins, a statewide championship with the Dr. Mary Hood. Their attendance on our "Archer Cultural Trips" was over 70 percent. Our sophomores sponsored two Christmas parties with Andrea Reyes, and Peyton McClendon sponsored a film night. Four of them supplied the expertise for our second all-NTCC-panel at professional meeting. The group helped recruit our award-winning 2019 cohort, and our promising 2020 incoming group.



## Regional Vanguard



NTCC was a central presence at last February's meeting of the Webb Society (Left) in Austin. Six students all presented with gusto. In the end, Katelyn Cox and Maritza Quinones had won second- and third-place Caldwell Awards for their essays. Jalyn English, our film producer, accepted the award for the best group project. The six Austin scholars (top right) also including Gem Elmore, Jaidyn Thompson, and Sam Griffin made the now canceled GPHC and NCHC meetings. Six was a record! At right, film stars, McClendon and Quinones



## Spring Happenings



We thank the Archers and also **Ned and Margaret Muse** for another wonderful time in the Big D above for our 26th semester trip. We took in an organ recital, went to the Art Institute, the North Park Centre, and took in some upscale bowling. Our 12th annual McGraw Hill Poster Contest awarded Karla Fuentes a \$400 1st Prize, Katelyn Cox, \$300, Maritza Quinones, \$200, and Sam Griffin \$100 (pictures right). Jalyn English won our 8th Chitsey Award for the



honor student who most exceeded expectations. The once waitlisted candidate,

below in white, has impressed all his professors with his steel-trap memory. Top right, below: we were so pleased to learn that former Texas Heritage, and Cypress Bank Scholar, Jordan Whelchel, earned a full-need, full ride to Rice University! Bottom left: Katelyn Cox became the first freshman in our history to earn two back-to-back Eckman Awards for obtaining the highest GPA in the two, first-year seminars. The daughter of a Tanzania missionary, she has done all things well. Verania Leyva won her second Eckman as well. Leyva, our second "Dr Wesson" Scholar won a full-tuition scholarship at UT Austin, and will pursue biomed sciences there.



## Deo Gratias! "Optimizing the Pandemic." By Dr. A.Yox, Honors Director

Students at Yale successfully pushed through a pass-fail grading scheme for the pandemic spring of 2020. But Harvard Medical School announced it will continue to prefer applicants with real grades.

The pandemic has created hardships, and tragedies, but also excuses, and . . . realizations! Realities persist.

In the early-nineteenth century, first-born sons of the landed gentry often had outlandish advantages. The practice of primogeniture meant remarkable dividends of land with which to start their life. In some ways, the pandemic has compounded a dividend already known to many NTCC students--time. We thank God firstly, for the extent to which time is possible. Time in an Information Age is what land was. At least NTCC can present students with educational costs that are relatively negligible. Hard-working, loving parents who can see the logic of educational achievement can provide an amazing primogeniture of time. Many of our students, now have less driving and employment, but more time to study, to build their expertise, and even achieve accolades.

And what aids this? I might enjoy announcing that my charisma was such that I am good at inspiring ambition. In the Bo Pilgrim biography we are ransacking this summer, our foremost Northeast Texas entrepreneur discusses the importance of daring others into excellence.

I believe that honors professors Dr. Mary Hearron, and Dr. Paula Wilhite are experts at making the kind of personable incitements that can inspire concerted change.

But I aver that our NTCC System is inspiring attainments right at this moment. Our wonderful donors are incentivizing every step in the honorary pathway. Professors are willing to mentor. Honors Coordinator, Andrea Reyes has been writing summertime recommendations, and helping with award applications. Administrators meet daily deadlines to keep us afloat. The opportunities are clear, real, and vitalizing. Deo Gratias! NTCC has become a boomtown of student success.

I would also like to give a shout-out to our long-term poster judges who accommodated to our anomalous virtual contest of 2020: Dr. Shirley Clay, Lisa Ellermann, Edward Florey, Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery, Rev. Dr. Wayne Renning, and Dr. Jerry Wesson. Thanks so much!

