

# ALACRITY

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



## Sky-High in Seattle

Honors Northeast Presents at the 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council



Amidst talk of “intellectual bandwidths,” and “departmental silos,” 5 of our scholars won invitations to explain their own ideas: (left-right) **Melody Mott**--“Surprising Fascination,” **Kassy Martinez**--“Ultimate Populist,” **Cailee Davidson**--“Texas Fabulist,” Emma Shaw--“Blind to Brown,” and William Jones-- “Quasi-Criminality.”

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### Honors Highlights

- ❖ Nine Straight Years of Presenting at Nationals
- ❖ Special Friends, Special Program
- ❖ National Limelight
- ❖ Trips, Happenings, and Contests
- ❖ Realizing the American Dream in Northeast Texas

## Our Generous Friends of Honors Northeast

We are indebted to **Cypress Bank** and their generous high-end MacBook laptops for nine years running! In the photo left to right: Honors Director, Dr. Andrew Yox; Cypress Bank, Vice President Josh Cato; our Cypress Bank Scholar for 2016, **Chesney Davis** from Pittsburg, Brenda Davis, his mother; and Mistie Nunn, Cypress Bank Loan Officer. Cypress, the oldest Camp-County based bank, also has branches in Lone Star, Mount Pleasant, and Commerce. Davis’ use of a new laptop has helped promote the kind of legerity can toggle from engineering to poetry, and excel at both.



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## Friends of Honors



Indebted again to our anonymous donor? Yes, our Seattle “five” (p. 1) each had an extra \$100 for their expenses and efforts.



For the 6th time, First Federal Community Bank has supported the cultural/academic initiatives of Honors here with a major gift. Ashley Amerson, Mount Pleasant Branch Manager, above.



We thank the Havenstrites, Al and Sue for under-writing our special luncheons and activities for the fall, and also American National Bank and Brian Niblett below for yet another annual gift (below). We are beholden to many.



## Filming the Un-Filmed Legends of Texas



Over five million have reportedly viewed dramatizations of the forced marches that took the Cherokee, Choctaw, and other native peoples out of the Southeast after 1830. And yet the “Texas Trail of Blood,” which unlike the “Trail of Tears” involved a pitched battle in NE Texas, has until now evaded theatrical treatment.

On 17 February at 7 PM at the Whatley Center of NTCC, the scholars of Honors Northeast (above in Nacogdoches) will feature their dramatization of this formative event. Our scholars researched, wrote, choreographed, filmed, directed, and produced the show, and will appear in a panel afterward to discuss its significance.

We thank Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery of Scroggins, who have inspired our 5 feature-length films. Thanks to them and others, our Ferguson film became the point of departure for a National Public Radio commentary, 27 September. This year we would like to give special thanks as well to Glenda Brogoitti, Mark Leshner Esq., and Hudson Old of the *East Texas Journal*--who taught us the value of this story. Administrators at NTCC, and Drs. Clay and Hearron facilitated research in Austin last May, and the filming in Nacogdoches last August. Our student leaders included: Director, Presley McClendon, Ryan Mendoza, Kassy Martinez, William Fox, William Jones, Emmalea Shaw, and Alecia Spurlin. Our cinematographers were Rachel Jordan, and Adriana Rodriguez. Cassidy Watkins edited “miles” of footage as our Producer. Below, some of our “Cherokee maidens.”



## WANT TO HELP?

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

Dr. Andrew Yox at 903-434-8229 or [ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu)



# Fall Happenings



Emmalea Shaw became our first privately funded Presidential Scholar, and our first Texas Heritage National Bank Scholar. She is shown above with John Bryan, Bank Trustee. We thank NTCC administrators and local voters for a newly finished, much bigger and better Honors Office for our scholars (below)!



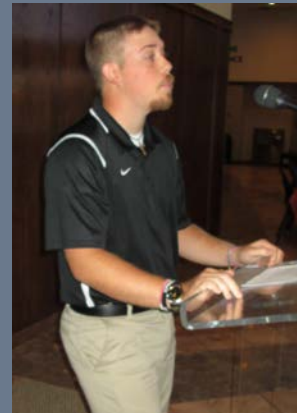
Top: Five of our scholars presented our new film trailer at the State Webb Meeting at Fredericksburg: R. Mendoza, R. Jordan, C. Watkins, W. Fox, and A. Rodriguez.  
 Above Below: Director Yox presented Drs. Jim and Paula Archer with a plaque showing our appreciation for ten Honors Roundups at their beautiful Lone Star Cattle Company Ranch. We have been so fortunate to have started each of our ten years with a picnic there.



## Our 29th National Award



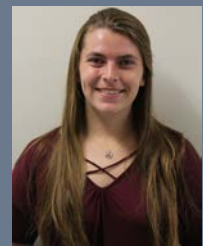
**Ryan-Rose Mendoza** upped our national award count for honors as one of the 200 college students in the nation to win the Coca Cola Leaders of Promise award of Phi Theta Kappa. She also won a premiere new award, the **Dr. Jerry Wesson Award**, for leadership in both Honors and Phi Theta Kappa at NTCC. We thank an anonymous donor for this show of appreciation for Dr. Wesson's impact and legacy here.



**Chesney Davis** won our 9<sup>th</sup> NE Texas Poetry Contest and \$400; Query website: NTCC Honors

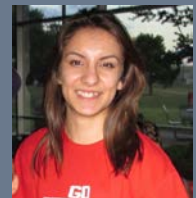
**Cailee Davidson**

2nd Place  
\$300

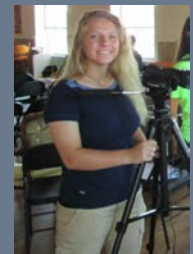


**Adriana Rodriguez**

3rd Place  
\$200



**Rachel Jordan**  
6th Place  
(Non-Honors Students Won fourth and fifth).

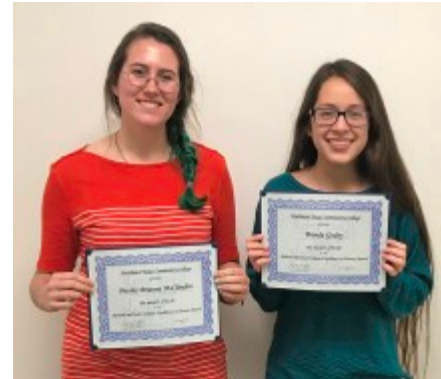


## Fall Trip



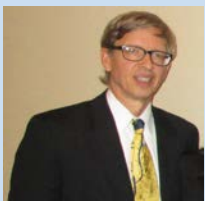
We not only had a beautiful day in Fort Worth, we won a “dance battle” with Tarrant College! Top down, right to left above: Cailee Davidson, Samantha Hammonds, Yezenia Cedillo, Leivy Zuniga, Brenda Godoy, Aubry Buchanan, Chesney Davis, Emma Shaw, William Jones, Cassidy Watkins, Chelsea Chalk, Kassy Martinez, Alecia Spurlin, and dance stars, Rachel Jordan, and Adriana Rodriguez. We thank Drs. Jim and Paula Archer for their steadfast funding and support of our semester trips!

## Eckman Awards



We are so pleased this semester to premiere the *Richard and Joan Eckman Awards for Excellence in Honors*, and to present \$100 gifts to our academic leaders in the fall honors seminars. **Presley McClendon** (left) won among the sophomores, and **Brenda Godoy** among the freshmen. Mr. Eckman patented several wonders with Dresser Industries.

## Would Honors be Elitist?



*Andrew Yox*  
Honors Director

2017 is our Tenth-Year Honors Anniversary here!

This takes us back to 2006 when we first considered honors. Would we have an elitist program? In the spring of 2007, our French foreign-exchange student, Thibaut Guidet, wearing a black suit and gold tie, and Jilian Parton, daughter of a Winnsboro pharmacist, in a fashionable black suit of her own, offsetting her vermilion hair, strode down the aisle to accept 2 Boe awards for scholarship from the Great Plains Honors Council. Later in a day that was streaming with sunshine, our students posed by the stone-hedge-styled rocks outside the chapel of Abilene Christian University, looking very upper class.

It was beautiful. It was misleading. Of the 17 who would go on to win 29 national awards, eleven, two-thirds have been from poorer or lower-middle-class families. Our 36 most recognized scholarly citations since 2008 have gone 21 times to students who have qualified by various measures for special aid. Our 1-a-year “Jack Kent Cookes” are low-income awards. We are beholden to so many here in working to realize the “American dream.” (Email [ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu) for the longer, new, *Ten-Year History of Honors Northeast*.)



*In Abilene at*  
*the GPHC 2007*

### Honors Committee:

Joy Cooper,  
Erika Garza  
William Jones  
Dr. Drew Murphy  
David Rangel,  
Sarah Spiker  
Heidi Wooten

### Honors Professors:

Dr. Andrew Daniel  
Dr. Melissa Fulgham  
Dr. Mary Hearron  
Dr. Karyn Skaar  
Dr. Paula Wilhite



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