

# ALACRITY

## Alacritous Alumni

Davis. He is now working as an engineer for Trane which offers air conditioning solutions in Tyler.

At NTCC, **Andrea Wells** (below) presented her work on Margaret Houston at the 2013 meeting of the Great Plains Honors Council. She recently received her MBA at Texas A&M-Texarkana, and is working at Regions Bank as a Financial Relationship Specialist.



**Kassandra Martinez** (below) at NTCC was the premier winner of the Bonnie Spencer Award, and a winner of a McGraw Hill poster award. She recently became a citizen of the United States, and has been active in several mentoring, honorary, and ministry programs at UT Tyler. She is set to graduate this spring.



**Elyse Coleman** (below) graduated from Texas Tech with a degree in psychology, and is currently working as a therapist for children with autism in Lubbock. She is hoping to receive a masters in special education with a focus on Applied Behavioral Analysis. Coleman won a Caldwell Award, and published an essay while at NTCC.



**William Fox** like Coleman was a Caldwell Award winner at NTCC who went to Texas Tech. Fox helped facilitate the Honors film of 2016 when he researched the Texas Cherokee at the Dolph Briscoe Center, and played the role of Chief Bowsls. In October of 2017 he began work at the Vietnam Center and Archive, a major repository dealing with the Vietnam War.



Fox plans to graduate this December. His most recent essay netted him a \$1k award!



Our sixth winner of a Jack Kent Cooke, **Angelica Fuentes** (above), graduated from Texas A&M last May. She studied for a month in Costa Rica, picked up a Spanish competency, and is pursuing a Master's in public health at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. She recently accepted an internship that could lead to a position immediately upon achieving this degree.



**Jesse Rivera**, who "boxed" with North End legend Tony DeMarco during our 2012 NCHC trip to Boston, graduated from University of Texas at Tyler in 2016. In 2012, he became one of the four engineering majors who have won an award at the NE Texas Poetry Contest--the others being M. Jordan, R. Huitema, and Chesney



### In Boston for the 2018 National Collegiate Honors Council

Finding a rare diary. Persevering with a congested film. Extending a thesis about the value of music to the limit. Springboarding off the most popular soap opera of all time. Writing a story of black leaders during the era when blacks were losing the vote. These and other challenges embodied the pre-drama that eventually brought our 5 students from NTCC to Boston for the 53rd meeting of the most prestigious honors association in the nation. Ninety-five percent of the students who presented at this year's Boston NCHC came from universities. This also was the eleventh straight year that our scholars have qualified for the conference.

Jazmin Garcia (2nd from left) has an amazing story. Part of it came as a result of her perseverance with a diary of Texas First Lady Mildred Moody. This came with a 2018 Texas Caldwell Award, which in turn led to Hood and Cooper Awards. Jordan Whelchel (3rd from left),

Leaders of Promise winner, presented our honors film culture along with Valparaiso University Honors that presented their approach to program musicals. Hannah Dickson (center) took a quintessentially bold position on the value of music, earning great praise, first as a winner of the Great Plains Honors council Boe Award, and secondly here in Boston as the Student Representative of the GPHC. Matthew Chambers, 3rd from right, duplicated his impassioned exposition of misleading fictional narratives of the American elite, a feat that made him our McGraw Hill Poster winner on this theme last April. Finally, Rhylie Anderson (2nd from right) brought her work on the African-American leaders of late-nineteenth-century Texas to fruition. It all started when she located three separate narratives of African-American leaders of the period that showed little cognizance of each other. Anderson tied them all together.

### Bank Scholarships Animate Students & Program



CEO Dwyatt Bell, Jordan Whelchel, Trustees: John Bryan, Danny Bockman.

Texas Heritage National Bank has been a great enabler of three Presidential Scholars--the latest is Jordan Whelchel. This generous outlay that covers the costs of tuition, books and fees has also unfailingly, backed a scholar who has won a national award, and played a vital role in a regional Texas film. Whelchel directed this year's film. The producer of the 2018 film, Miguel Paco, had other advantages, thanks to the generosity of **Cypress Bank**. Eleven years of laptops from Cypress! A high end MacBook. Below we see MP Cypress Bank Vice President Barry Jones, Paco, & Maricela Orona, Loan Officer.



## 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.



**NORTHEAST TEXAS  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Want more information?*

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

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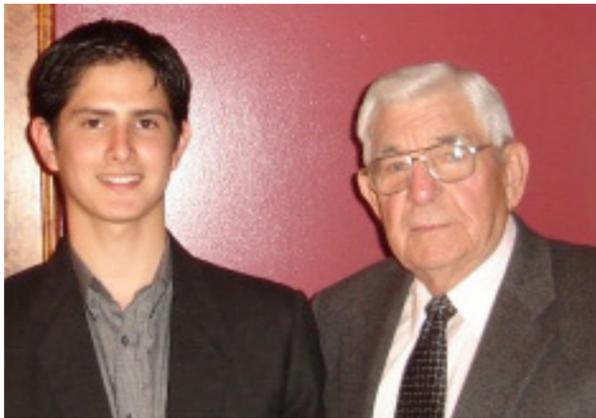
In this  
edition:

Fall  
Happenings

Regional  
Vanguard

Alacritous  
Alumni

## Our Beneficent Benefactors



**Jim Harmon** (1925-2018) was born in LeFlore, Oklahoma. He won a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. He worked as a Geological Engineer for 31 years. He and his wife, Karen, have been great friends of our students.



We are so indebted to **Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery** who have supported our films and contests, and who have supported our supporters. **Al and Sue Havenstrite** have not only been great friends to the college, but in the fall semester they sustained honors in a very big way. Again we thank anonymous donors who generously provided extra spending money for each of our five students who



made nationals in Boston. We are indebted to the **Sewing Circle** at the Mount Vernon Methodist Church that make Santas each year. They are funding our 2019 poetry contest!

We thank many others for their financial and moral support: Friends and members of the Harmon family who gave donations in memory of Jim, **Dr. Florio**, **Dr. Hearron**, **Glenda Brogoitti**, and others.

## Pressed But Not Crushed: UT Saga of Barbara Conrad



We were fortunate to gain some film credentials, grow as a group, and re-experience the story of perhaps our region's greatest gift to the world in music, Barbara Conrad. We thank **Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery** for their substantial, sustaining support. Barbara Conrad was a perfectionist whose legendary sacrifices inform us about our sacrifices. Verania Leyva's work on the internationally acclaimed soprano notes that Conrad made excellent "UT Austin material." She practiced around the clock, and used the inconvenience of living in a segregated dorm far from campus to her advantage. The story also has an interesting contemporary spin. The officials at the University of Texas celebrated the fact that they had become the first university in the South to admit black undergraduates. But then the "end of racism," as Jacob Lambie notes concurred with a blatant discriminatory act! Barbara Conrad was cast opposite a white male. Legislators threatened budgetary retribution, and the University of Texas caved into pressure. Fortunately the crowning irony was not that the University proved hypocritical but that the yanking of Conrad from the spring opera gave her an edge. She acquired national attention, wealthy backers, and the wherewithal for a second major struggle, mastering the scene in New York City. Special thanks as well to **Mark and Rhonda Leshner**, **Glenda Brogoitti**, and **Hudson Old**.



## Regional Vanguard



Our sophomores won numerous regional and national awards in summer, and fall. Left: Left to Right: Hannah Dickson (Hood) Madison Blood LOP (Leaders of Promise) Rhylie Anderson LOP, Jordan Whelchel LOP, Jazmin Garcia (Hood, Cooper). Right Top: Jacob Lambie, Presley McClendon, Verania Leyva, Miguel Paco, Daniel Landaverde, and Mercedes Collins featured our film at the Fall Webb Meeting. Whelchel, Chambers, and Fuentes pioneered an all-NTCC panel at a professional association, the East Texas Historical Association!



## Fall Happenings



Rhylie Anderson, below left won our first Dr. Charles Florio Leadership Award. Matthew Chambers, right, became our first Dr. Jerry Wesson Scholar thanks to a very generous donation by his son, Scott Wesson. Courtney Baldwin, and Verania Leyva (bottom left) won our Fall semester Eckman Awards for maintaining the highest seminar GPA in their two linked honors classes. Tough Competition! We thank our anonymous donor for these awards. And finally, we thank the Gladys Winkle family creating our 4th scholarship with a name. Mercedes Collins (bottom right) is our first Gladys Winkle Scholar.

Our thanks to the Havenstrites, Drs. Jim and Paula Archer and others for gifts allowing us to enjoy our 23rd semester trip--to Fort Worth (above) in September. We saw the cows of the Stockyard district, ate at the Reata, visited the art district and enjoyed fellowship with Tarrant College Honors. Our 11th annual NE Texas Poetry Contest produced winners: Hayden Duncan, Karla Fuentes, Mercedes Collins, and Raegan Davis. We also had a NE Texas image



slam with scenes by M. Blood, V. Leyva, and D. Landaverde now on our website.



## Deo Gratias! "For Your Beneficence." By Dr. Andrew Yox, Honors Director

My question introduced in this column in June of 2016 still stands. Is there a website in the world with more prize-winning works of art and scholarship on a single region than [www.ntcc.edu/honors](http://www.ntcc.edu/honors)? We, of course, have focused on Northeast Texas.

Whatever the answer is, we thank God for what is even more tangible:

**Superlative Support:** Our patrons are heroes, I think, of beneficence. They are exceptional. It is a matter of faith. I once lived on Ball State campus in a postdoctoral position, and I would encounter their statue named "Beneficence" on the right at night, lit up, and strangely out of sync with all things else in its vicinity. I was impressed by the term, 'Beneficence' as implying not only good intentions, but a good act. I was impressed too that "Beni" as they call her, was not surrounded by other angels but by columns, conveying support. How fortunate we are that in this present night of constrained budgets, and educational ennui, that we can afford honors scholarships, student laptops, semester trips, an occasional luncheon, a yearly film, poetry, and poster contests, special scholarships, and special awards! If we are special it is because we have special help. Thanks to so many of you—to those who are most probably reading this!

**New Pathways:** there is a lot post-structural *Angst* out

there that students don't actually learn very much in higher education, and then forget a great deal of what they do learn. We try to address the problems with memory, and even have a new word, 'memorse'--to convey the remorse of forgetfulness in our films, tests and presentations. But I believe that our seminars are offering a very memorable kind of education as well. Our students are tackling problems, providing creative solutions, and communicating answers in highly conceptualized, scholarly formats. They are entering a public realm of discourse that is new. They are building a culture of our area, an awareness that builds regional patriotism and civic enthusiasm. They are showing verve, and thus receiving the mentoring talents and help not only of our faculty, but leading members of our community.

