

**Annual Report
Honors Program
May 15, 2013 – May 14, 2014
Deborah Hutton**

Total number of students in Honors Program during 2013-14: **505**

Entering Freshman Class (Class of 2017): **143**

Number of current TCNJ students who joined the program: **2**

Graduating Seniors who completed the program: **89**

Fall 2013 Courses:

ECO 101-H1 Honors Principles of Microeconomics	Prof. D. Vandegrift
HON 201 General Chemistry I Honors	Prof. M. Manea-Krichten
HON 203-01 Issues in Philosophy	Prof. C. Preti
HON 203-02 Issues in Philosophy	Prof. C. Preti
HON 230 Islam in Comparative Perspective	Prof. M. Ismail
HON 270 Aesthetics	Prof. R. Kamber
HON 370 Art Amongst War: Visual Culture in Afghanistan, 1979-2014	Prof. D. Hutton
FSP 101-H2 Springsteen's Lyrics as Literature	Prof. L. Konkle
FSP 101-H3 Springsteen's Lyrics as Literature	Prof. L. Konkle
FSP 111-H1 Morality, God, and Free Will	Prof. R. Kamber
FSP 111-H2 Morality, God, and Free Will	Prof. R. Kamber
FSP 114-H1 Islam and Politics	Prof. M. Lowi
FSP 114-H2 Conceptions of the Cosmos	Prof. P. Wiita
FSP 134-H1 Understanding Modern Iran	Prof. J. Gross
FSP 134-H2 Understanding Modern Iran	Prof. J. Gross
FSP 134-H3 The Beatles and their World	Prof. D. Venturo

J-Term 2014 Courses:

HON 351 An Odyssey in Ancient Greece	Prof. L. Riccardi and G. Steinberg	Faculty-led Study Tour, Dec. 31, 2013-Jan. 17, 2014
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Spring 2014 Courses:

ECO 102-H1 Honors Principles of Macroeconomics	Prof. M. Naples
HON 202 General Chemistry II Honors	Prof. M. Manea-Krichten
HON 203-01 Issues in Philosophy	Prof. R. Kamber
HON 203-02 Issues in Philosophy	Prof. R. Kamber
HON 270-01 Brains, Minds, Zombies and Machines	Prof. C. Preti

HON 270-02 Transnational Feminisms	Prof. M. Jaksch
HON 270-03 Studies in Literature: Satire: Twain & Vonnegut	Prof. B. Bearer
HON 270-04 Nomads, Warriors, Poets	Prof. H. Hustis
HON 370-01 Creating and Contesting Sacred Spaces	Profs. C. Paces and J. Gross
HON 370-02 Modernity and Modernism: French Painting in the Nineteenth Century	Prof. L. Fichner-Rathus

Honors By Contract:

<i>Semester</i>	<i>Number of Projects Approved</i>
Fall 2013	48
Spring 2014	53
Summer 2014	8

Members of the Honors and Scholars Program Council:

- Faculty and Staff: Shaun Wiley (Chair), Deborah Hutton (Honors Program Coordinator), Brian Girard, Brenda Ghitulescu, Jiayan Mi, Matt Middleton, Abby O'Connor, Christopher Wagner
- Students: Lori Paolini (Student Council Rep), Rob Cortinas (Student Council Rep), NHI Lam (Student Council Rep), Julie Ciak (Honors Student Rep), Symone Yancey (Honors Student Rep), Natalia Zak (Honors Student Rep), Julie Bradley (Honors Student Rep), Brian Hurler (Honors Student Rep)

Outstanding Scholar Award

<i>Semester</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Project</i>
Fall 2013	Nina Ventresco	Junior	Psychology	Examining Americans' Attitudes toward Drone Strikes on the Eve of the 2012 Presidential Election
Spring 2014	Christina Dibartolo	Senior	History	From Victims to Activists: Women's Agency in the Post-Yugoslav States

Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference April 3-6, 2014, Niagara Falls, NY

This year, 10 TCNJ students presented their work at the conference. Their travel and conference fees were fully supported by the Honors Program, with supplemental funds from their individual schools. The students all did exceptionally well and were outstanding ambassadors for the TCNJ Honors Program.

<i>Student</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Paper or Poster Presented</i>
Melanie Crampton	Senior	Physics and Secondary Education	Fluid Injection and Its Effect on Seismicity

Devin Dimmig	Senior	History and Secondary Education	The Contender: Undermining Political Gender Equality
Mackenzie Mosera	Junior	Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing / Biology Double Major	Tectonic Plates, Volcanism, Mountain Building, & Hydrothermal Vents on the Galápagos Islands & Ecuador
Alyvia Miller	Senior	music and int'l studies	Consumer Preferential Differences toward Smartphones in the USA and China
Andrew Miller	Junior	Physics	How much do diurnal land-sea circulations contribute to coastal wind power?
Katrina Notarmaso	Senior	Political Science	Population Policies and its Effects on the State and Nation
Pooja Padgaonkar	Junior	Biology (BS/MD Program)	Breaking Societal Boundaries : A Critical Assessment of Indian Gender Norms Through Photography
Renuka K. Reddy	Junior	Biology	The Cardiac Connection: Exploring the Effects of Prenatal Nicotine Exposure on Cardiorespiratory Control and Neonatal Mortality in the 5-HT Deficient Pet-1 Knockout Mouse
Julian Sison	Sophomore	Biology	Identifying Major Proteins Involved in Barnacle Adhesion
Nicholas Wolfson	Sophomore	English	Chariots on Fire

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

- **Second-year Honors Mentor Training Session, August 26, 2013**

At this event, Avani Rana (from Student Affairs), Tiffany Youngblood, and Deborah Hutton worked with the 24 Honors Mentors to introduce them to what it means to be a mentor. We did several ice-breaking activities and role-playing exercises, and they got to know each other.

- **Freshman Honors Excursion to Grounds for Sculpture, August 28, 2013**

This annual event, intended to welcome and bond the freshman class, as usual, was a big success. It went particularly well this year because the students were introduced to their second-year Honors mentors, and the mentors, who had been trained by Avani Rana, in Student Affairs, were a great addition to the day. The new Honors Freshman class was transported by bus to the Grounds for Sculpture, where they were given drinks, pizza and snacks, and Honors Program t-shirts, before doing a group scavenger hunt. The groups were arranged to have each mentor and his/her five mentees.

- **Freshman Honors Program Information Session, October 10 and October 11, 2013**

At this event, held twice just before registration for spring classes, the freshmen were provided with more information on the Honors Program requirements. Additionally, the Honors members of the TCNJ debate team were available to share their experiences in the Honors Program and to answer students' questions.

- **Job Search and Interview Workshop, co-sponsored with MUSE and the Career Center, October 18, 2013**

At the interactive workshop, students learned job search strategies to help them land that first interview, and they also practiced Skype style online interviewing with a new tool available to TCNJ students, the Perfect Interview. Unfortunately, there were some issues with the new software, but overall it went pretty well. We think it would be worth trying again.

- ***Working Internationally: A Panel Discussion, Young Alumni Lecture Series Event, co-sponsored with the Office of Academic Affairs, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the International Studies Program, November 7, 2013***

Four recent TCNJ graduates (2007-2011) came to campus to discuss their current international-related work in the education, legal, non-profit, and financial sectors. About 30 students attended the event, which seemed to go well.

- ***Competitive Fellowships: What's in it for you? Information Session, February 27, 2014***

Presenters: Marla Jaksch, Jon Stauff, Matthew Bender, Deborah Hutton, and Caroline Chica (former TCNJ student and Fulbright Scholar to India)

This was our second time holding the event, at which we provided information on fellowships such as Goldwater, Boren, Fulbright, Rhodes, etc. About 20 students attended the Thursday-evening info session, and it went well, although we wish the attendance had been more. We agreed that next spring we may try to have it at a couple different times over a few days, as there were many students who wanted to attend but couldn't because of conflicts.

- **Accepted Students Day, April 5, 2014**

Over 100 accepted students and their families attended the Honors Program Session, organized by the Admissions Office. The students were congratulated, given pins, and provided information on the Honors Program. Four current Honors students spoke and answered questions. Glenn Steinberg attended as the faculty representative, as Deborah Hutton was at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference with the Honors students.

- **Senior Honors Reception, April 16, 2014**

Speakers and Presenters: Dr. Jaqueline Taylor, Provost, Dr. Christopher Murphy, Associate Provost, Deborah Hutton, Honors Coordinator, and Meredith Quinn Olearchik, TCNJ Honors Program Class of 1996

This annual event, attended by seniors and their families as well as some faculty and staff, recognizes and honors the graduates who have completed the Honors Program. There were short speeches by the Provost and alumna, and then the students received the medallions that they wear at graduation. A booklet listing the students achievements was also produced for the event; a pdf of the booklet is available on the honors website.