During Northeast State’s 2012 Honors Convocation, we will celebrate the accomplishments of thirty-nine Honors students who have either completed 12-17 hours of Honors course credit or have completed the Honors degree with 18 or more Honors hours. This number represents 40% of currently enrolled Honors students. We know that we are seeing increases because more and more students are discovering the benefits of participation in Honors and are making the commitment to the pursuit of excellence.

When a student joins the Honors program, that student enjoys a classroom full of motivated individuals so that class time is lively and inspiring. Not only that, but Honors students are given unique opportunities to become competitive for a wide range of transfer scholarships, not the least of which is the Midway Scholarship mentioned below.

How does one become eligible? If you have an ACT of 25 or better or an SAT of 1140 or better or an overall GPA of 3.25 or better, you will receive a letter inviting you to join the program. If you complete 18 hours of Honors level course work, you will receive an Honors diploma, and all Honors courses are noted as such on your transcript. Many deserve thanks for their support of the Honors Program, in particular Allana Hamilton, Vice President of Academic Affairs, who oversees the program, and the academic deans who work closely with Honors faculty.

Again, congratulations to the Honors Class of 2012! The following pages will describe the Honors program from the perspective of those students who have completed it and hopefully show you, as a prospective Honors student, the possibilities that lie ahead.

The Midway Scholarship, offered by East Tennessee State University, supports Honors student goals by providing special honors opportunities, study abroad, exchange, or undergraduate research.

Each Midway Scholar is awarded a scholarship that provides full tuition and fees for four semesters of study; a book allowance each semester, and the opportunity to apply for a $2,500 award to fund a number of exciting opportunities like study abroad or a fifth semester of study at ETSU. These scholarships are competitive. Only 20 are awarded each year, but each year Northeast State students are among the recipients.
The Eighth Annual Honors Research Conference, sponsored by the Northeast State Honors Program and the Alpha Iota Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, commenced on February 23 in the Wayne G. Basler Library. This conference centered on the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Study Topic: “The Democratization of Information: Power, Perils, and Promise.”

The conference began with an introduction from Jane Honeycutt who explained the qualifications needed to join Northeast State's Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa. She then introduced Dinah Deford, Academic Coordinator for ETSU's Ronald E. McNair Program. The ETSU McNair Program is an internship designed for students planning to attend graduate school with the intention of pursuing a PhD. The program consists of a life changing eight weeks, and is designed to mentally prepare students to conduct research on a master's degree level. The students are paid $2,300 to participate and provided a laptop to assist with their research. Dinah Deford concluded by stating that “The McNair Program is a life changing program.” Three McNair Scholars spoke at the Honors Conference, explaining how the McNair Program was challenging and life changing. The other speakers at the conference consisted of three Northeast State professors and six Northeast State Honors students. The topics discussed varied but were related to the 2011-2012 Honors Study Topic, The Democratization of Information: Power, Perils, and Promise.

The first session began with the first speaker Jim Kelly, Assistant Professor of History at Northeast State, presenting his topic entitled The Mad Men Phenomenon: Opportunities for Critical Thinking and Research. Jim began by providing background information on the critically acclaimed show. He stated that the show premiered on July 19, 2007 on AMC and has been the subject of 5 books and numerous scholarly essays. The show centered around life in the 1960s and in particular the life of people working in an advertising firm. Mad Men, Kelly explained, gives the viewer an accurate portrayal of every facet of life in the 1960s. The show demolishes a sense of misplaced nostalgia that many cling to today. Kelly says that Mad Men can be used across disciplines to examine race relations, the roles of women, and social construction, and attain a greater knowledge about marketing strategies geared toward the general public.

The second speaker was Khaled Kadah, McNair Scholar, with a presentation entitled “Media in Transition: The Evolution of Perceived Public Opinion.” Khaled's presentation was focused on the evaluation of social media and the scope of political reform. Khaled began by discussing the definition of social media. He indicated that social media is Twitter and Facebook oriented, and traditional media consists of sources such as CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC. Khaled argued that traditional media sources are more dependent upon social media sources. Khaled designed an experiment to test the amount and type of media students watched. The participants consisted primarily of ETSU students who would only be tested once. The experiment was comprised of an online questionnaire in which students were asked a variety of questions about their media watching habits. The questionnaire was taken on the ETSU SONA system, consisted of nominal and ordinal data, and with optional questions. Although the experiment had set backs (SONA errors), the results indicated that most students preferred social media to traditional media, and social media led to the sharing of information.

The third speaker Beth Ross, Honors Student, explored America's relationship with Israel in her speech entitled Israel through a Different Lens. Beth began her speech by displaying a video that indicated the extent of the American government's support for Israel. Beth stated that Israel is currently ranked number one in the world for venture capital funds, is the seventh largest arms dealer, and is fully industrialized. The extent of aid given to Israel costs the American taxpayer $2.7 million, and America provides 20% of its entire aid budget to Israel. Beth indicated that 40% of all Israel's exports are bought by the United States. Israel is also responsible for numerous violations of intellectual property rights. Ross explained that through AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) pro-Israel policies can be lobbied to the United States government. AIPAC is a non-transparent lobbyist group that can receive unlimited tax exempt contributions from undisclosed sources. Beth concluded, “we should not show blind support for a country when it is detrimental for our own country.”

The first speaker of the second session was Alicia Jennings, Honors Student. Alicia's speech was entitled “Star Wars: A Movie Embedded in American Culture,” and it covered the references used by director George Lucas for the Star Wars Trilogy. Lucas was inspired by such cinematic classics as “The Godfather” and “Flash Gordon,” as well as socio-political events from a variety of eras. Lucas was fascinated by the question of how a democracy becomes a dictatorship. He used the Imperial
The All-State Academic Team is a recognition program co-sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and two-year colleges. The All-Tennessee Team of Northeast State is composed of a panel of judges who award students the All-Tennessee Scholarship based on academic performance, GPA, community involvement, and extra-curricular activities, among other things. All-State Team Members receive special recognitions, including medallions and certificates along with their scholarship. Students awarded this honor are automatically nominated for the All-USA Academic Team Scholarship. To qualify, these studious nominees are required to write an essay and submit a list of their awards, achievements, and active involvement. Two highly accomplished students from Northeast State's 2011-2012 class have been selected to become All Tennessee Scholars. These two students are Brittany L. Thomas and Alyssa K. Stapleton. Brittany has been a Northeast State student since 2009. She is a proud member of the Northeast State Scholars Foundation, and the Northeast State Honors Program. She is also the president of the Alpha Iota Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She volunteers by peer tutoring, raising awareness for blindness, and raising endowment money. She is set to graduate this year with a pre-nursing major and also plans on transferring to ETSU or Lipscomb University. After she receives her degree, she would like to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Alyssa Stapleton, also known by Kelly Stapleton, has been a Northeast State student since 2010. She is a proud member of the Scholars Foundation, STEA, Navigators, and Phi Theta Kappa. She volunteers as a Sunday school teacher, children's church teacher, and as an AWANA Leader. She is set to graduate in 2012 with a pre-teacher major and plans on transferring to ETSU after graduation at Northeast State. She would like to become certified as an elementary school teacher of kindergarten through sixth grade.

Kelly commented that “students should strive to become part of the Honors Program at Northeast State, because it allows students to have the mobility for a full college experience. Through challenges, the students can see what they are capable of”. Kelly advises other students “to be prepared to work, and in the end it will definitely be worth it. When preparing yourself for what’s ahead, just know that there are people here that will help you, both faculty and other students.”

Brittany Thomas has been a Northeast State student since 2010. She is a proud member of the Scholars Foundation, STEA, Navigators, and Phi Theta Kappa. She volunteers as a Sunday school teacher, children's church teacher, and as an AWANA Leader. She is set to graduate in 2012 with a pre-teacher major and plans on transferring to ETSU after graduation at Northeast State. She would like to become certified as an elementary school teacher of kindergarten through sixth grade.

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Brittany L. Thomas

A Northeast State Community College student has been named to the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society's All-Tennessee Community College Academic Team during the society's state annual convention held in Nashville this month.

Northeast State All-Tennessee team member Brittany Thomas has been accepted into the All-USA Academic Team. Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society's All-Tennessee Community College Academic Team during the annual recognition ceremony held earlier this month in Nashville.

Thomas is one of 20 students from across the nation being honored this year. She will receive a $2,500 scholarship as an All-USA Team member. She also receives a New Century Scholars Scholarship valued at $2,000.

The All-Tennessee Community College Academic Team is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, “USA Today,” and the American Association of Community Colleges as part of the All-USA Community College Academic Team selection process.

All-Tennessee team members are eligible to receive scholarships from each of the six universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents system if they choose to enroll.
Brooke Boone

Local High School standout academically and athletically, Brooke Boone, is in her last semester at Northeast State. She is currently studying Pre-secondary Education and hopes to receive the Midway scholarship and transfer to ETSU to pursue a degree in Pre-Secondary Education with an emphasis in history.

When asked why she chose to stay local and attend Northeast State, she replied, “I liked the smaller class sizes, and I did not want to be looked over at a larger university.”

Upon learning more about Brooke, it becomes apparent that she has not been over-looked, but has made a name for herself as a successful student, and a productive activist in the community. Brooke is currently a member of the Honor’s Program, and is the current Vice-President of Leadership within the Alpha Iota Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She describes her leadership style as “lead from the front”. This style of leadership is evident in her comments about the Honors classes which she is taking, “the Honor’s classes are great because they (classes) keep you engaged with group participation, and they are more advantageous to learning.”

Brooke’s favorite Honors course has been Humanities I with Mr. Jim Kelly because of the engagement with her fellow students and the seamless learning that the environment fostered. Brooke’s “lead from the front” attitude, and positive outlook have made her a successful student who is to be admired as an example of how an Honor’s student should operate effectively at the collegiate educational level.

Brooke’s advice to others who may be thinking about joining Northeast State’s Honor’s Program is eloquently stated in her comment, “Upon joining the Honor’s program you will meet and become part of a close community of scholars, and learn from some really innovative teachers as well.”

Alan Koch

Alan Koch, current student at Northeast State, graduates in May with an associates degree in Philosophy with an emphasis in Religion, and a second major in Speech Communication. He hopes to receive the Midway Scholarship and transfer to ETSU in the fall to pursue a Master’s degree in Divinity.

Alan is a current member of the Honor’s program and Phi Theta Kappa, and when asked why he chose to join the Honors program, he replied, “I like to be challenged, it raises my game”. Alan is no stranger to challenge, and he exemplifies the American success story. Alan dropped out of high school to enlist in the United States Marine Corps where he would serve his country honorably for 24 years.

Upon completion of his duty to his country, Alan enrolled into college at Northeast State where he is now a member of Toast Masters and the Debate team. Alan said, “It was not easy at first because I did not know how other students would react to me, but I really have enjoyed my time at Northeast State and in the Honors Program.”

Alan also enjoys being an active, positive catalyst in the community. He uses his wisdom and faith to the positive benefit of others, and enjoys the opportunities he has received through the Honors program and Phi Theta Kappa to give back to the community. When asked if he had any advice for students who may be thinking about becoming a part of the Honors program and Phi Theta Kappa Alan responded, “it opens doors because of the high academic standards, and I do not know why anyone would not.”

As a former Marine who has honorably served his country, Alan continues to look forward to serve academically with other students and to push himself, as well as other students, to achieve their goals.
Whitney Thomas graduated from Northeast State with an Associate of Arts in Advertising and Public Relations in 2011. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications with a concentration in Public Relations and a minor in Political Science at East Tennessee State University. Whitney said, “I learned so much in the Honors classes that I took compared to my non-honors classes.” She also expressed that she enjoyed the classes and that the teachers were genuinely interested in their students’ success. When asked how the Honors program helped her with her lifetime goals, Whitney responded that, “If it were not for the Honors Program and the guidance of Jane Honeycutt, I would not have been accepted into the Midway Honors College at ETSU.” As a result of her participation in the Honors Program at Northeast State, Whitney has had many unique opportunities given to her that she would not have been a part of otherwise. She said that the Honors Program also helped her with expanding her knowledge outside of her classes and has taught her that there is more to the material than what is just taught in class. In the Honors Program, the classes are labeled as difficult, but Whitney said, “I learned that just because the class is labeled as Honors does not necessarily make it harder. The Honors classes that I had contained a lot of information, but the professors handled the material in better ways than most of my other classes.” Whitney believes that “the Honors Program gives you more ways to learn, and the classes in the Honors program are more engaging.” She says her “experience with the Honors Program was always great.”

HONORS COURSE OFFERINGS
FALL 2012 — SPRING 2013

**Fall 2012 Courses**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<td>EDUC 1010</td>
<td>College Success</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>1:30-2:25</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
<td>Composition I</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>1:30-2:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 2030</td>
<td>Literary Heritage</td>
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<td>9:00-10:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 2010</td>
<td>US History I</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>12:00-1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM 2010</td>
<td>Intro to Humanities I</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>12:00-1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1310</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>10:30-11:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPCH 2300</td>
<td>Public Speaking</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>10:30-11:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPCH 2320</td>
<td>Argumentation and Debate</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>12:00-1:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Biology I</td>
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**Spring 2013 Courses**

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<td>Art History Survey II</td>
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<td>ENGL 1020</td>
<td>Composition II</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 2180</td>
<td>Myth and Tradition</td>
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<td>US History II</td>
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<td>12:00-1:20</td>
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<td>HUM 2020</td>
<td>Intro to Humanities II</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>12:00-1:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1530</td>
<td>Probability and Statistics</td>
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<td>1:30-3:20</td>
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<td>PSYC 2310-A03</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
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<td>Intro to Sociology</td>
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<td>11:00-1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1020</td>
<td>Introduction to Biology II</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>7:30-8:50</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Biology II Lab</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>8:20-10:10</td>
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Why choose the Honors Program?

The purpose of the Honors Program is to provide a greater challenge and a richer experience for able and highly motivated students at Northeast State. The Honors Program is open to first-time, transfer, and returning students. Admittance to the Honors Program as a first-semester freshman requires an ACT composite score of 25 or an SAT combined score of 1140. Students who have completed 12 hours of college-level coursework with a minimum grade point average of 3.25 may apply regardless of ACT or SAT scores.

To continue in the Honors Program, the student must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25. Attendance at Honors Lyceum events is also expected. Honors classes are marked as such on the student’s transcript. Students who complete 12 hours in the Honors Program will be recognized during the College’s Honors Convocation; graduates completing 18 hours of Honors coursework will receive diplomas noting completion of the Honors Program.

To apply or learn more, contact Jane Honeycutt, Honors Program Coordinator, at jbhoneycutt@NortheastState.edu or 423.354.2596.
Tabetha Garman is a new addition to the Honors faculty at Northeast State. She currently teaches one Honors class—Honors Humanities—as well as U.S. History. She completed her bachelor’s degree at Lees McRae College before attending East Tennessee State University for her master’s degree. While at ETSU, she earned the Outstanding Thesis in Art/Humanities Award for her thesis “Designed for the Good of All: The Flush ing Remonstrance and Religious Freedom in America.”

Before coming to Northeast State as a full time instructor, Professor Garman taught at East Tennessee State University. While she enjoyed her time there, she appreciates the smaller class sizes at Northeast State which give her the opportunity to encourage learning and open discussion. When asked what she likes most about teaching at Northeast State, she said “I like that Northeast State fights for students using programs like the STEP program. The administrators and faculty at Northeast State go out of their way to encourage an open, creative atmosphere. They put the students first.”

When asked what she enjoys most about Honors classes specifically, she said “I like the sense of intellectual freedom in the Honors classes. You have the opportunity to go off on tangents; you can go different places.” She believes that Honors classes give students the chance to distinguish themselves. She stated “we don’t challenge ourselves intellectually as much as we should. Honors classes offer students a way to exercise their brain muscle.”

When asked to share her feelings about teaching in general, Professor Garman said “history and humanities have always come easy to me; this is all information I have in my head anyway, so teaching gives me the opportunity to share it with others.” She went on to add “I consider myself to be one of the luckiest human beings in the world; I get paid to do what I love to do.” In reality, it is Northeast State, the Honors program, and her students that are lucky to have Professor Garman. She is knowledgeable, dedicated, and a welcome addition to Northeast State and the Honors program.

Dr. Rick Merritt has been teaching speech and communication classes for more than 20 years. He graduated from Penn State with a degree in Speech Communication. He joined the Air Force and worked as a broadcaster for eight years including three years at the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA). While at USAFA, Merritt earned his master’s degree in Human Communication Theory at the University of Northern Colorado. After leaving the Air Force, he taught adjunct at Pikes Peak Community College and Colorado Christian University. He later earned his doctorate at the University of Denver. After obtaining his Ph.D., he moved to New Jersey where he worked as a Training Manager before coming to Northeast State.

Merritt teaches Argumentation and Debate, Public Speaking, and Fundamentals of Speech Communication, but he has also taught College Success, Media Writing, and Radio and Television Production in his eight years at Northeast State. “The students are wonderful, and I like that I can experiment with my classes and try different things,” he said. “If something does not go correctly, then I simply go back and reassess and try again; that sort of experimentation is encouraged.”

When asked what he enjoyed about teaching Honors classes, Merritt responded “I like the engagement of the students in an Honors class. I also like that the learners keep me on my toes; it helps me to be a better instructor.” As for the difference between his regular classes and Honors classes, Merritt said “the expectations are higher and, at least in my class, there may be experiments with learning. I also will get feedback from the students to assess my own level of proficiency.”

What does Dr. Merritt suggest to those who may be considering the Honors program? “Do it!” he said. “The classes are typically smaller. You have opportunities to shine in these classes and the camaraderie is outstanding with the learners. I would also suggest that learners work to earn 18 hours to earn honors distinctions at graduation.”

With experience comes insight. Merritt gives students two quotes to remember when delivering a speech. “Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you’re right,’ Henry Ford. Also, from Norman Vincent Peale, “You can if you think you can.”
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 officers to reflect officers of the Nazi regime, and he used generals to reflect dictators. Lucas’s biggest influence was the Vietnam Era. His newer movies reflect the Bush administration and the post 9/11 war in Iraq. He also draws upon religious comparisons to propel the characters. Lucas uses The Force as a religion in the movie, and it is often at odds with science. In later movies, The Force is explained as possessing a molecular structure, thus giving a scientific explanation for The Force.

The second speaker was Caroline Phillips, Honors Student, with her presentation “The Effects of Advanced Technology on Society” that focused on the cost/benefit ratio of modern technology. Caroline contended that although technology is very beneficial, it can also be extremely detrimental. From the invention of the computer to the development of the IPod, technology has continued to grow and expand into daily life, but with this expansion come risks. For example, the Internet has made everything from newspapers to grocery shopping accessible online, resulting in job loss for workers. Social networking sites accompanied the Internet which resulted in privacy issues surrounding access to information and social interaction. The Craig’s List killer, who found his victims via an online classified listing (Craig’s List), killed many women after seeking them out on the popular internet site. Although this example is extreme, there are many reports of negative social interactions that occur between participants of such social networking sites. There are some positive uses for technology such as international communication, new medical treatments, and entertainment.

Next was Victoria Graves, McNair Scholar, who introduced ideas surrounding the problems of modern economics. Victoria’s presentation was entitled “Beyond Hegel: The Problem of the Modern Day Rabble.” She began by postulating that the problem of the rabble has been around since 1868. Victoria defined “the rabble” as a group of impoverished people held down by low wages. The structure of capitalism is designed to accommodate a certain number of low-wage jobs in order to maximize profits. Even though Hegel and Roles essentially solved the problem of the old rabble, the problem of the modern day rabble represented a new set of challenges. The new rabble, still impoverished, has amassed a great amount of debt in order to attain social normality. The new rabble, hoping to overcome poverty, has acquired a massive amount of debt through student loans. This has created a new class of discontented educated rabble who protest in order to act out against the “system”—not in a productive manner and without an agenda. The Occupy Wall street Movement can be viewed with numerous vulgar insults, and that was the beginning of civil disobedience in cyberspace. In the 1980s, hackers like Cpt. Crunch and the Tennessee Tuxedo emerged. This new wave of hackers were instrumental in developing ways to hack into phone lines, large corporations, and government offices. In his book “Hacker Heroes of the Computer Revolution,” Steven Levy describes a Hacker Code of Ethics in which hackers adhere to these six principles: (1) access to computers should be unlimited and total, (2) all information should be free, (3) authority shouldn’t be trusted, (4) hackers should only be judged by their hacking, (5) art and beauty can be created on a computer, (6) computers can better your life. Civil disobedience in cyberspace demands that you release information, hack, repair, and then leave. Congress passed the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act in 1986—due to multiple successful hacks into government databases—which made it a crime to hack into computer systems. Hacker activist groups began to form during that era such as the Hong Kong Blondes and The Cult of the Dead Cow, who are still operational. Today groups like WikiLeaks, 4 Chan, and Anonymous lead the hacking revolution. Anonymous allows members to post what they perceive to be injustices; in addition, if enough people agree with the member’s perceived injustice an action is taken. Tabatha states that the purpose of the hacking community is to deny the government the right to shut down the internet.

James Wagner, a Northeast State Honors student, followed with his presentation on YouTube and its cultural impact, “You Tube: A Cultural Phenomenon.” The first video uploaded to You Tube was on April 23, 2005, and this later led to its official launch date in December 2005. As of 2011, 24 hours of video are uploaded to You Tube every minute. In 2006, Google bought You Tube for 1.65 billion dollars; however, it costs Google millions a year to maintain. You Tube has made an enormous cultural impact—the President Obama gave the State of the Union Address on You Tube. Although You Tube has been banned in some countries, it is the number one video site and created a global culture. You
Dowsing is a folk tradition that employs different motor automatisms to attain information. Dowsers possess a deep connection with the spiritual and are able to harness different levels of psychic ability. Jami described three types of dowsing techniques employed by local dowsers. The most common dowsing device used is a Y-Rod, made from a branch of a tree. Another type of dowsing device is the L-shaped rod, composed of metal and held in each hand, it forms an X when an item is located. The last type of dowsing device used is a pendulum, composed of a crystal, metals, or some other type of material fashioned on a string, it can be used to answer a variety of questions. The dowser determines with the pendulum which direction (left, right, up, down) indicates yes or no, and

The third speaker was Andrea Winkler, Assistant Professor of English at Northeast State with “Indistinguishable from Magic: The Internet’s Influence on Writing, Language, and Literature.” Arthur C. Clark once said that any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. Professor Winkler conveyed that the internet is one of the most extraordinary tools because it allows for the democratic flow of information; however, not long ago, information was controlled by a small group of influential people. “The Internet," Winkler exclaims, “allows a massive number of people to engage in public discourse.” The internet also makes it easier to achieve “celebrity” status. Once an item is released onto the internet the poster loses control over viewership as viewers judge the content on their own terms. Winkler warned to consider the implications of posting online and take in to consideration the lack of privacy involved. She cited a recent incident that occurred in Mountain City, Tenn., where a Facebook unfriending possibly led to two murders. Through the use of Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace, people have crafted online personas that can often reflect them poorly, and messages that are intended to be conveyed are not always the messages that are received. Winkler says the use of the Internet plagiarism has become easy; however, plagiarism is easier to catch when it is done online.

The first speaker of the fourth session was Jami Bennett McNair Scholar, with her presentation entitled “Cultural Influence of the Art of Dowsing in Southern Appalachia.” Jami began her presentation by stating that culture is not static and tradition is a part of any culture. Dowsing is a ritual performed to locate buried treasure, a water source, or types of metal. Dowsing is a folk tradition that employs different motor automatisms to attain information.

The second speaker was Nancy Sarvis, Speech Communication major, with her presentation entitled Freely Given: Canine Assistance for Reduction of Test Anxiety. Nancy’s experiment was designed to test the anxiety of parti-

The next speaker was Kevin Jackson, Honors Student, with his presentation entitled Pop Culture Analyzed through MMOGs. A MMOG (Massive Multiplayer Online Game) is a program that allows players the opportunity to play with hundreds or thousands of people simultaneously. Kevin stated that he chose this subject because he has experienced several MMOGs. Kevin contends that MMOGs are embedded in pop culture today, and they reflect modern society. The most popular MMOGs are RPG based, fantasy based, and consist of about 94% of the total MMOG gaming population. MMOGs - such as Runescape, Second Life, and World of Warcraft - are so popular because they allow the user the option to upload their own data; therefore, the user can essentially create their own personalized gaming world. Kevin concluded by discussing the various reasons users play MMOGs; many play to have a social outlet, freedom, and a sense of superiority.

The 8th Annual Honors Research Conference was both exciting and intellectually stimulating and featured a variety of talented speakers. Each speaker effectively demonstrated the applications of multiple forms of technology, and the symbiotic relationship of technology and culture. These speakers demonstrated the importance of leadership, ingenuity, and intelligence.