

John V. Roach Honors College Report Card

Overview:

In the VIA Strategic Vision's outlined objectives, the second cardinal goal published a desire for enhancing the TCU Honors Program. With the creation of the endowed John V. Roach Honors College during Fall 2010, TCU has achieved this goal and designed a path for building an Honors experience promising distinction—a unique national model for the role of an Honors College within a selective, private university.

Since 1962, the Honors Program remained true to its core mission of providing academic challenge and support to high-achieving students. The Honors Program traditionally focused on providing this challenge through course offerings and small, out-of-class opportunities for discussion. The emphasis had logically been placed on individual classes that satisfied Honors requirements.

The newly founded John V. Roach Honors College enhances the curriculum that defined the Honors Program to move beyond the classroom, facilitating critical thinking, an understanding of world cultures, an appreciation for creative activities, and the connection of ideas across disciplines in those aspects of students' lives that have traditionally been considered co-curricular or residential.

The Honors College will thus support students' intellectual growth both in and outside of the classroom, attempting to erase as many divisions as possible between the in-class/out-of-class divide. The John V. Roach Honors College mission will work to link the academic work of TCU students and faculty to a residential component, as well as the larger community

Detailed Overview:

1. Recruit and retain students, faculty, and staff who can achieve their full potential at TCU.

The John V. Roach Honors College has . . .

- **[1a: Success]** Achieved funding for a full-time Director of the Honors Program; that position no longer exists, but the faculty member subsequently assumed the position of Dean of the John V. Roach Honors College in June 2009.
- **[1b: Success]** Achieved funding for a full-time Assistant Director of the Honors Program in June 2007; that position no longer exists, but the faculty member subsequently assumed the position of J. Vaughn and Evelyne H. Wilson Honors Fellow in June 2008.

- **[1c: Failure; Restructuring for new funding]** Sought VIA funding for a Faculty Fellows Program. Funding was denied; Fellows Program was highly rated.
- **[1d: Success]** Secured funding for and hired a full-time Academic Honors Advisor.
- **[1e: Success]** Worked with staff from Student Development Services to create, plan and staff the first international Frog Camps. Designed specifically for incoming Honors students, these Frog Camps help recruit high-achieving students and provide unique opportunities for students to challenge themselves intellectually and to form bonds with each other and with Honors faculty.
- **[1f: Success]** Increased graduation rates. For example, the Honors freshman class entering in Fall 2001 consisted of 240 students, and 47 of them graduated with Honors in 2005. The class entering in Fall 2005 had approximately 195 students; 92 of those students graduated from Honors in Spring 2009. 122 students are projected to graduate from the John V. Roach Honors College during the 09-10 academic year.
- **[1g: Success]** Helped recruit impressive students. In Fall 2009, the Honors Program admitted the most selective class ever, offering invitation to scholarship recipients at the three highest levels, i.e., Chancellor's, Provost's, and Dean's Scholars.
- **[1h: Success]** Increased retention rates of Honors students on campus, particularly from the freshman to sophomore years. In 2006 the retention rate was 90.4%. Our average retention rate currently rests around 87%.

2. Design a vibrant learning community characterized by distinctive curricular, co-curricular, and residential programs.

The John V. Roach Honors College has . . .

- **[2a: In progress]** Contributed new courses to the TCU Core Curriculum. Through the newly developed Cultural Visions initiative, Honors students have the opportunity to take 18 two-semester sequenced Honors courses housed in departments across campus. All of these courses offer core credit, and many of them offer interdisciplinary learning opportunities.
- **[2b: In progress]** Initiated a new model for study abroad. The experiential and interdisciplinary model, called "Cultural Routes" does not require tuition and enables students to study cities and cultures as texts. Started during Summer 2009, the program is continuing in 2010 and expects to offer additional abroad programs in 2011.

- **[2c: Success]** Served as a university hub for interdisciplinary learning. Faculty and students from all over the university represent the Honors College: students from every college on campus produce graduates of the JVR Honors College.
- **[2d: Success]** Enhanced its Spring Honors Week that links to the University Festival of Undergraduate Research and Creativity. Students representing all colleges at TCU present Honors Research and compete for the Boller Prize. Judges for these presentations represent many of TCU's academic colleges.
- **[2e: Success]** Supported Honors capstone research theses, while increasing steadily the number of students who complete a capstone Honors Research project. In 2010, 75 students are expected to complete an Honors capstone research project.
- **[2f: In progress; limited success]** Offered increased financial support for Honors students completing advanced, interdisciplinary research in majors campus-wide.
- **[2g: In progress; limited success]** Offered increased financial support for Honors students studying abroad.
- **[2h: Limited success]** Supported an Honors Living and Learning Community in Samuelson Hall. Professors, students, and administrators have all participated in the community's activities.
- **[2i: Success]** Supported an Honors Freshmen Interest Group first in Milton Daniel Hall (before renovation) and then in a renovated Clark Hall. Professors, students, and administrators have all participated in the community's activities.
- **[2j: In progress]** Developed Multiple Points of Entry: The Honors College will offer multiple points of entry. The proposed system will provide for a symmetry of terminology (Associate Honors Scholar) for students completing either lower-division or upper-division requirements; maintain the highest-level of accomplishment (official graduation from the Honors College) for those students who complete all levels of Honors; and places TCU students on the same level as transfer students, thus removing the extra privileges previously granted only to students who transfer to the university.
- **[2k: Success]** Created a Faculty Advisory Board that represents every academic college at the TCU.

3. Sustain an environment in which rich personal interaction is enhanced by outstanding facilities and appropriate technology

- **[3a: Success]** Scharbauer Hall was completed in January 2010. The college occupies notable space on the ground floor of Scharbauer Hall. Facilities include offices for administrative staff and faculty, seminar space, and conference rooms for students.
- **[3b: In progress]** Milton Daniel Hall will open in August 2010. The Honors-only residence hall will house all Honors freshmen and offer unique housing for a smaller population of Honors upperclassmen. Milton Daniel's Honors residential community will create new and exciting opportunities for competing in the recruitment of high-achieving students, increasing TCU's ability to retain high-achieving students, developing an engaged community of learners—both students and faculty/staff—who interact regularly within the walls of the residence hall, and serving as a place for all Honors students to gather, interact, and participate in Honors College courses and programs.
- **[3c: Limited success]** A new web site was launched to recruit students, provide information to help retain students and ensure their progress, and more effectively link the college to faculty, parents, and donors.

4. Accelerate our connection with the greater community: Fort Worth, Texas, the nation, and world.

- **[4a: Success]** Hosted Fall 2008 Fogelson Honors Forum with Governor Jeb Bush and Senator Bill Bradley. Speakers participated in afternoon session for students, a small dinner at the Chancellor's house, a VIP reception in the BLUU ballroom, and a public lecture attended by approximately 1000 students, faculty, and community members.
- **[4b: In progress]** Created a Board of Visitors for the college.
- **[4c: In progress]** Supported a student-led initiative to develop extensive and Honors-based service-learning partnerships with Fort Worth organizations.