Angela Sas and Emily Reno have been named to the All-Kansas Community College Academic Team. Both are members of the JCCC Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa.

Angela Sas will graduate with an AA in Liberal Arts. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree, double majoring in biology and Spanish, at Park University. She hopes to obtain a doctorate and work in Global relations and research.

In addition to her studies at JCCC, Angela has worked as an activities ambassador, sustainability intern, radio promotions intern, computer sales associate and audio engineer, and has volunteered with the Shawnee Food Pantry and Wayside Waifs. She has the distinction of being named to the President's Honor Roll, an honor that only 2% of attending students receive. As an Honors officer, she helped create opportunities for Honors students to network and gain experience as well as raise money for merit-based scholarships. She founded the Intracouncil Club on campus whose main goal was to create conversation and collaboration between clubs on campus. This allowed for funding larger events and more unique ideas.

Angela is the recipient of the Gilman Scholarship, a competitive scholarship that helps students study abroad. This opportunity allowed her to attend classes in Costa Rica.

Emily Reno will graduate with an AA in sustainable agriculture entrepreneurship. She will major in environmental studies at the University of Kansas. Her long-term plan is to achieve a master's degree and she wants to invest herself in a career that will focus on sustainability of resources. She has a strong sense of serving the community.

Emily was the recipient of the Sunflower Grant in 2013. Her devotion to sustainability led her to join the international EcoReps exchange program. In May of 2015, she traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, representing the winners of a competition among selected secondary education institutions across the country.

She has authored and published an environmental economics workbook as part of a sustainability award to incorporate into general economics courses at the college. She was also a member of the Las Pintas Solar Experience, helping students construct solar water heaters in Las Pintas, Mexico, an underserved suburb of Guadalajara.

Phi Theta Kappa 5-star chapter

JCCC’s Alpha Iota Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa received the five-star chapter level. This requires participation at the local, regional and national level. The Chapter’s Honors in Action event for homeless veterans filled sixty care packages.

Student officers are Shawn Huggins, Mackenzie Lewis, Xiaoxia Li, Joshua Freudenhammer, Regan Lewis and Alyssa Gatewood.
Fall 2015 Honors Program Presentations

Thomas Wyss, Judith Rowden and Kristin Khoang

Each student in the Honors Program at JCCC is required to present a paper or project at an academic conference or at the JCCC Symposium. During the Fall 2015 semester, Anna Geilman, Karolina Gryglewicz, Thu Khoang, Thomas Wyss, Kelsie Parrett, Dasy Resendiz, Samuel White, Emily Spradlin, Catherine Short, Fabian Shepard and Kristin Anthonis presented their work.

Anna Geilman, Thu Khoang, Dasy Resendiz and Emily Spradlin shared a bit about their experience with us.

ANNA GEILMAN

In December 2015 my partner, Karolina Gryglewicz, and I presented our Honors Project for Environmental Studies - “Room 361: Collaborative Classroom.” Under the direction of Bobanne Kalkofen, we were charged with turning an underutilized classroom into a space where various disciplines could meet and be edified. Working with multiple professors including electrical, interior design, building construction and architecture, we drafted a plan to incorporate components that would be beneficial to all. We queried local lighting manufacturers, members of the sustainability committee and JCCC building managers to make sure that our plan could actually be built. Our final project consisted of including a large construction wall with various panels highlighting electrical, plumbing, HVAC and construction methods for both inside and outside insulation, as well as wood and metal framing.

Our collaborative classroom plan also included a wall with removable panels that could be affected by both wall washing and grazing lights. This allows interior design and merchandising students to be able to see how lighting greatly affects a space by highlighting textures. Another point of our project was to utilize a window separating this space from another classroom. By inserting a daylight bulb we were able to show how light streams into a room at various times of day, illustrating how there is a need to use window treatments to avoid unwanted glare and heat. Using different treatments for each window panel, students are able to see which window treatments are appropriate for certain geographical applications – important to not only interior design students, but also architectural students. Lastly, we created a ceiling plan with architectural clouds housing different types of lamps (e.g. fluorescent, LED, halogen/incandescent). We framed each cloud with up lighting and the ability to color change, providing a calming environment in which to hold meetings or simply have class. This contract changed the way I design. I see how lighting fundamentally affects a space. I learned how various disciplines must work together in order to get the best end result. I made connections in the community that I would not have otherwise made. I am grateful for my membership in the honors program as I absolutely feel like it has enriched my education.

THU KHOANG

In Fall 2015 I had the privilege to attend the Kansas Honors Connection Conference held at Emporia State University. I presented my paper “The Ethical Dilemma of Euthanasia.” The permissibility of euthanasia is argued based on individuals’ fundamental ethical values and is supported by multiple normative ethical theories. This paper was a product of my Honors Contract for the Ethics course. I am so thankful to have great support from faculty members. Professor Gale has inspired and sparked my interest in philosophy, and Anna, director of the Honors Program, had great contribution to the conference success. Participating in this conference allowed me to learn from other honors students and further developed my public speaking skills.

DASY RESENDIZ

My name is Dasy Resendiz, and the title of my presentation was “Contemporary Pow Wows.” I did my presentation in the Honors Program classroom on November 17, 2015. I did research on pow wows and what they were and why they are so important to Native Americans. I attended two pow wows during my research and I got to interact with Native Americans, and I got to talk to dancers and I got the opportunity to help at a pow wow.

I also attended a presentation over pow wows at an elementary school with my professor and his team. I had attended a pow wow previously at JCCC the semester of spring 2015 and I wanted to know more about it, so I enrolled in a Native Americans class and I asked my professor if I could do an honors contract on pow wows and he said yes. I had a tremendous help from my professor, Sean M. Daley, because he guided me and provided me with a lot of resources so that I could carry out my research. Thanks to him I was able to talk to people and interact with them.

I don’t think I will forget this project, it was not only a learning experience but this gave me an insight into a tremendous rich culture. My major is global and international studies but this experience made me want to pursue a minor in indigenous studies. I want to focus and learn more about indigenous people not only here the United States but in other countries as well.

This meant a lot to me, that even on the day of my presentation I got emotional, because it was an awesome experience.

EMILY SPRADLIN

On November 23, 2015, I presented my Honors Contract, “Themes and Cultural Influences of the Works of Haruki Murakami,” to my Introduction to Fiction class. I summarized five of Murakami’s short stories, then used elements of those stories as examples of the ways Japanese and American culture influence his work. During the research stage of this project, my Introduction to Fiction teacher suggested articles and books that helped in compiling credible research, and he offered input on the direction my presentation should take. My presentation was heavily inspired by years of interest in Japanese culture and literature in general. Participation in this activity was the encouragement for me to take an Introduction to Japanese Culture class in the spring of 2016 and to sign up for another Honors Contract.