

THE WINKING

May 15, 2015
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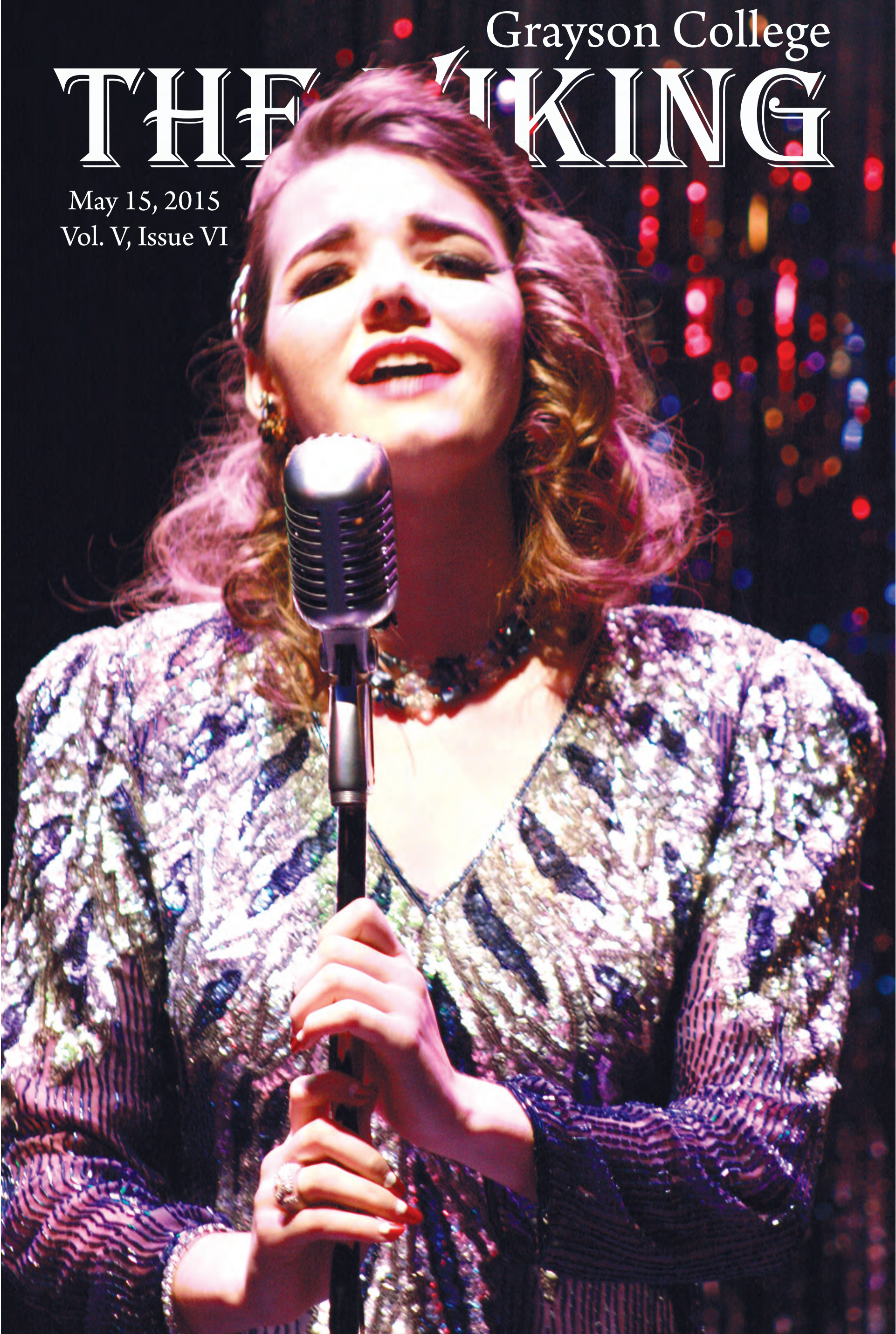


Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

GC theatre presents "Last Call at Chez Mort"

Rebecca Jones
Editor

On May 1-3, the GC Theatre Department hosted its first-ever mystery dinner with the help of the Culinary Arts Department. A Caesar salad and chicken braised with white wine was served before the performance began.

Nightclub Chez Mort has a mystery on its hands and it is up to Inspector Constantine (Dakkota Foster) to solve it. Who was behind the

tragic demise of mob girlfriend Sweet Sue (Hunter Malone)? Constantine and news reporter Smitty (Hunter McDonald) recall the details. Was it the unassuming nightclub manager Jean Paul Truffaut (JT Medders) or his stage manager Mack (Jorge Amador)? Or perhaps the mobster himself, Big Suit Stu (Gabe Parker), or his beastly bodyguard (Brandon Langston)? Was the nightclub singer Lady Lelu (Lydia Foster) out for

revenge or was something more sinister at play?

In this interactive experience, audience members were encouraged to dress in accordance with the 40s-style theme of the show. Director Holden Webster stated that he wanted to produce an "authentic experience that allows the audience to feel like they are actually dining at Club Chez Mort."

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Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

Main: Lydia Foster as Lady Lelu

Above: Gabe Parker as Big Suit Stu

GC Perks now open

Amber Northcott
Student

The smell of sweet coffee meets the air here at Grayson College. For a lot of us coffee drinkers it was about time. On April 10 the coffee shop had a training run and at about one o'clock broke down, but that did not stop them. Monday April 13 at 7:30 a.m. they officially opened and ran smoothly. The business started slow, but soon the room filled up with students and fac-

ulty, not just for coffee or a muffin, but the revealing of the coffee shop name. GC's President Dr. Jeremy McMillen spoke about how they wanted to have a coffee shop and after years of talking about it, they finally had the funds to do it. It took five years, but Grayson College finally has its own coffee shop. He revealed the name that was chosen amongst a lot of entries. The name? GC Perks!
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Photo credit: Jacki Lee

A fond farewell

Continued on page A2

Inside: Environmental Special

SGA hosts lecture with Professor Amy Hoffman • Pg. A4

<< Trashion II and the Texoma Earth Day Festival • Pg. B1

Tragic earthquake in Nepal affects the community • Pg. B4



Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

Student Government Association (SGA)
First Mondays, 12:15
Viking Room, Life Center

Paramedic Student Association
Dates TBA
Viking Room, Life Center

Student Ambassadors
Third Mondays, 12 - 1 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

Men of Distinction
Every Thursday, 12 - 1 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

Honors College Club
Every Thursday
12:15 - 1 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

DAAC (Drug & Alcohol Counseling)
First Mondays, 8:30 a.m.
Health Science 202

Cosmetology Club
First Mondays
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Career Tech Center

Clay Club
Every Tuesday & Thursday
5:30 - 6 p.m.
Ceramic Room, Arts & Communications

Phi Theta Kappa
Every Wednesday
12:30 - 1 p.m.
Life Center Viking Room

Psychology Club
Every Tuesday
12:15 - 12:50 p.m. CIS 202

Delta Phi Delta (Art)
First Tuesdays
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.
Arts & Communications 105

LAE (Criminal Justice)
Every Tuesday
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Location TBA

Sigma Kappa Delta & Writers Unlimited
Second Fridays, 12 - 1 p.m.
Library 110 (Writing Center)

Veteran Student Association
First Mondays
Time TBA
Veteran's Hub

Welding Technologies Association
First and third Mondays
12 - 1 p.m.
Break Room, Career Tech Center

Cultural Diversity Club
First and third Fridays
12 - 1 p.m.
Conference Room, Life Center

Radiology Tech Club
The 15th of each month
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
HS 200

Music Club
Every other Friday
12 - 1 p.m.
Band Hall, Arts & Communications

Science Club
Every other Thursday
12:15 p.m. S 107

Gay Straight Alliance
Every Wednesday
3:30 - 4 p.m. Viking Room

HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)
Every other Thursday
12:20 p.m.
Dean's Conference Room, LA Building

Future Educators
Every other Tuesday
12:20 - 12:50 p.m. CIS 200

TIPPS (Culinary Arts)
First Wednesdays, 3 - 4 p.m.
691 Restaurant, CA Building

Eta Sigma Delta
First Wednesdays, 2:30 - 3 p.m.
CA Building

Film Club
Wednesdays, 5 p.m.
Irma Blackburn

History Club
Second & fourth Mondays
1 - 1:30 p.m. LA 207

Dr. Donna Kumler: Grayson College will miss you

Marlea Trevino
Viking Sponsor

At the end of this semester, Dr. Donna Kumler will be retiring from her full-time position as Professor of History at Grayson College. Although she will continue teaching part time, her daily focus will shift to research and writing, along with the leisure activities that come with being semi-retired. Admired by her colleagues and students for her prodigious knowledge of history, Kumler will certainly be remembered for her humor, as well as her faith and sincere concern for her students.

Once upon a time. . .
In 1987, when she was thirty-seven years old, Gray-

Famous Quotes from Dr. Kumler:

“Only thing we ever learn about history, is that we never learn anything about history.”

son College hired Donna Kumler full time after a three-year tenure as an adjunct faculty member. Prior to coming to Grayson, she had taught Latin, English, and World History at Sherman High School for eight years, as well as sponsored the Latin Club.

A few years later, Kumler became the Coordinator for the Presidential Scholars program, a responsibility that she looks back on as one of the highlights of her tenure at the college. To participate in the program, students had to apply, which involved submitting a writing sample and letters of recommendation, as well as being interviewed by the coordinator. The Presidential Scholars worked on research related to their majors with faculty mentors, then presented their work each April in a symposium for the community. They also helped in the college community and with graduation.

Teaching for the Honors College is another highlight of Kumler's Grayson experience, a program that grew out of Presidential Scholars. She characterizes Honors College students as “unique and rare, not just good.” She feels strongly that “there's more to what we do” at Grayson than just teach the average students; we need to “meet the needs of the gifted and talented.” Such students “don't always make the highest grade,” Dr. Kumler notes, “but have the determination to ‘stay hooked.’”

Kumler values having been recognized by her peers as Distinguished Instructor (now Piper Professor Nominee) and Faculty Association president.

Local Historian Extraordinaire

“[Dr. Kumler] is the finest historian we have on staff, and those students who enroll in her course are gifted with a wonderful opportunity to truly engage in the importance of American History,” exclaims Chair of Social Sciences Chase Machen. In 2008, when the National Collegiate Honors Council held its annual conference in San Antonio, Kumler was chosen by her students, who nominated her and signed a petition on her behalf, as one of the exemplary honors professors in the country, recalls Professor of English Jean Sorensen. “Donna specialized in recording the oral history of Sherman in her dissertation, and she has taught her students to appreciate the importance of local history by managing the competi-

tion for the Old Settlers' scholarships each year, for which students write papers focused on various times in rural Texomaland,” explains Dr. Sorensen. In the various “modules” into which Kumler organizes her courses, she always incorporates a “Did you know. . .?” page that enlightens students about how Grayson County and the region played a role in the larger American history they're studying.

“Dr. Kumler is intensely passionate about history and is extremely proficient

in movie references as well,” observes one of her honors students, Cecelia Pletan. “These two abilities are the heart and soul of her lecture. In one class period, she can quote John Locke, Edmund Burke, George Washington, John Marshall, . . . and Scarlett O'Hara.” Another honors student, Kristin Alexander, comments on Kumler's history scholarship: “One of the best qualities about Dr. Kumler is the fact that she is still always seeking to learn. Even though she already has a vast amount of knowledge about history, she never leaves it at that -- she always looks for more.”

That “Sparkle”

Both colleagues and students have many stories to share about Kumler's “sparkle.” Dr. Wade Graves, Program Director of Business and Management, relates this one: “One of my favorite memories of Donna is the sparkle in her eyes preceding a very valid point she is preparing to make in a humorous way. In 1993 or 1994, I was fortunate to serve on a committee with Donna...During one of this committee's incessant and mind-numbing discussions, something was said, and Donna—with that sparkle in her eye—replied with a question that made everyone stop, think and then laugh

“People are people. They essentially stay the same.”

heartily. A few days later, Dr. [Jim] Williams [former Grayson College president] gave all of us a caricature of himself as a cowboy leaning back with his feet on the desk with a word bubble that quite accurately portrayed his role in Donna's quip...I am happy to say I have been blessed to witness similar instances many times over the past twenty-three years and am richer for experiencing them.”

Pletan shares a few of Dr. Kumler's deadpan one-liners her classmates call “Kumler-isms”:

“When informing us about blue-light federalists, she once closed by saying, ‘... and as far as I know, none of them worked at K-Mart.’”

When talking of William Henry Harrison and his fatal inauguration speech, she concluded by giving us the due warning, “You give long speeches, you die.”

She once asked us if we knew about government relief in the Great Depression regarding the ‘dole—not a car light, not a pineapple.’

When lecturing about Huey P. Long and his assassination, she remarked that,

“much to the surprise of the Louisianans, Long did not rise from the dead.”

Alexander recalls that when discussing Teddy Roosevelt, Dr. Kumler noted, “Roosevelt would be the one taking selfies.”

Cares about students

Students and colleagues observe that Dr. Kumler has always set the academic bar high. “. . . [S]he has always been a great historian and professor who has always expected high standards for the students of our college. This has helped the success

doctorate in May 1999, Sorensen received a “congratulatory gift” from Kumler, an inscribed a book of daily devotions, “Simple Abundance: A Daybook of Comfort and Joy” by Sarah Ban Breathnach. “I keep book-marked the page on October 22 on compromises: ‘Compromise, if not the spice of life, is its solidity,’ by Phyllis McGinley,” Sorensen shares. “Donna never compromises on matters of integrity, but her good humor helps with managing many a difficult situation.”

Sorensen was one of many colleagues whom Kumler helped to adjust to Grayson life. “What I will truly miss is a great mentor and true friend right next to my office. I can't tell you how much I will miss being able to just pop in (usually when she was extremely busy) and talk ‘history.’ She always made time for me when I needed it and...could always be counted on to keep me ‘in check’ as the department chair! There have been some hard days that Kumler has made bearable with her sage advice and kind words,” recalls Machen.

Students haven't changed...but teaching has

When she first started teaching, in the mid '80s, the average age of Dr. Kumler's students was around 27. They were better prepared for college class regarding study skills, for example, understanding how to dissect a chapter. But otherwise, she recalls, they weren't really so different from her students in 2015. She would like to see her current students as engaged in the course subject matter as they are in technology!

The “straight lecture” has given way to a more engaging “Socratic” style of teaching. While she acknowledges that lecture isn't typically an ideal teaching technique, Dr. Kumler cautions that for those professors who are gifted, their students can benefit greatly from a well-prepared delivery. During a week-long workshop in

Washington, D.C. last summer, she heard some of the best history scholars from all over the world lecturing with no notes and no PowerPoints, walking around the room and engaging individuals. She worries that the teaching profession will lose those special talents if we “go all the way to engagement. . . we need a balance.”

What's next?

In addition to teaching part time for Grayson, Kumler plans to finish researching and writing her history of the college entitled “A Pasture with Promise: The First 50 Years of Grayson College.” She also plans to pursue publication of her dissertation entitled “They Have Gone from Here” about how that event impacted Black professionals in Sherman during the 1920s and '30s. She will also continue with her many church responsibilities, some of which, of course, involve writing. And. . . she will sit on her deck, work crosswords, and drink coffee at least two days a week!

We will miss you, Dr. Kumler! ♥

New coffee shop on campus: GC Perks

Continued from page A1

The name is very fitting, don't you think? Many who were involved in the project spoke and afterwards they cut a ribbon to make the officially opening much more official. It is a definite thanks to all of them to make this coffee shop happen. After that I then scooted my way to a student studying right next to me. Veronica Garcia has been a student at Grayson since July of last year. I asked her about the

coffee shop and what she thought. She said it was loud, but also mentioned she would definitely come when there were fewer people. She thought it was nice to have a coffee shop. I myself had grabbed a Carmel Macchiato and was pleased with our new coffee shop's friendliness and taste. Five years was a long wait for this coffee shop, but it was worth waiting for. Go see GC Perks and grab a coffee, a tea or even a delicious muffin! ♥



Faculty and students hope the coffee bar will become the campus's cultural hub.

Photo credit: Derek Dalton

Local WWII veteran talks about his experiences in the war

Matt Hamilton
Professor of History

As part of Grayson College's commitment to provide educational, cultural, social and public service activities designed to tangibly enrich the individual and our community, the History Department hosted a guest speaker from the Perrin Air Force Base Historical Museum on April 28, 2015. The event was held to supplement material being discussed in this semester's history courses. Most of the history faculty are currently covering World War II and the history department felt it would be a great experience for the student body to hear the personal story of someone who lived through the event. Students and members of

the community were treated to the stories and experiences of Retired Chief War-

Photo credit: Rebecca Jones



James W. Farris

rant Officer, USAF, James W. Farris. Farris talked about how he enlisted in the Army Air Corp (the precursor to the Air Force) at the age of seventeen, before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. He then chronicled his journey through the war as an air-

plane mechanic in the Pacific theatre, including stories about his time spent in New Guinea, the Philippine Islands and Okinawa. Farris spoke of his reaction to hearing about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and to the United States' decision to drop the atomic bomb on mainland Japan. Farris is a co-founder and volunteer of the Perrin Air Force Base Historical Museum in Denison, Texas. Grayson College and the history department would like to thank Mr. Farris for sharing his experiences during the war. The Perrin Air Force Base Historical Museum is located at 436 McCullum Avenue and open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ♥



GC's military appreciation baseball game



Photo credit: Dusty Hart



Photo credit: Gary Starr



Photo credit: Gary Starr

On Wednesday, April 29, the Vikings faced off against Hill College in the school's first annual Military Appreciation Baseball Game at Dub Hayes Field.

A celebration of student achievement

Amanda Like
Professor of English

The Honors and Awards Committee completed the annual Evening of Excellence event on Tuesday, April 14. Departments nominated students to receive an award for their educational success and their role in the

Academic Excellence," says Carleen Moore. "Each department has a presenter known to the students. We hope this evening doesn't just honor the students for their academic excellence, but their journey to provide a better life for themselves and their families."

The Psychology Department boasts a number of students that were awarded during the Evening of Excellence. One student, Jill Payne, had this to say about the evening: "I never thought I would be recognized for this award. I do this for my family, and I am excited to have my husband and son joining me here tonight." Besides Payne's family,

there were a number of family members that attended the award ceremony to support students. Families were extremely proud to see students being recognized for awards such as the Outstanding Studio Artist Award that was awarded to Joey Spindle and Outstanding Paramedic student Thomas Harville.

Awards focused not only on academic success, but service as well, which is the core of Grayson College's philosophy. The Community Service Award was

awarded to Wesley Milner, the Outstanding Service to the Grayson Honors College recipients Sydney Baker, Nathanael Essin, Tana Pirtle and Brandon Robinson. The Music Department also awarded two nominees for Excellence in Music-Piano and Community Outreach, Kristin Alexander and Elizabeth Crawford.

Awards for service were not the only aspect during the evening, but academic achievement. Chris Hendrik was awarded Excellence in Sound Design. Phuong

Nguyen and Mark Pedigo were awarded Outstanding General Chemistry Student. Three students in the Dental Assisting Department, Chessica Douglas, Jade Graham and Crystal King, received Academic Achievement awards as well.

The Evening of Excellence is an important event not only for the students, whose achievements are recognized, but also for the family and faculty who have helped support and guide students to new paths and even higher achievements to come. ♥



Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

college's success. "Faculty nominate students from each department and receive a certificate of

Editorial Information: The Viking is published by Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college. Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff at Grayson College. The newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion, and views expressed in The Viking do not necessarily reflect the policy of Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration or the faculty and staff at Grayson College. Material for publication may be submitted to The Viking office (LA105E) or through email to Marlea Trevino (TrevinoM@grayson.edu) or Rebecca Jones (jonesre@grayson.edu). Volunteers for production and writing may also visit The Viking office.

In case you missed it... "Past Human Environmental Impact and Solutions for the Future"

Logan Beauchamp
Student

For those of you who just can't always make it to every school event, we bring you "In case you missed it..." The purpose of this article series is to give a brief summary to students and faculty about events held by clubs, organizations and other college entities. This way if you miss the event you will still be in the know.

On April 23, 2015, at 6 p.m. GC Professor of Biology Amy Hoffman gave a very informative presentation entitled "Past Human Environmental Impact and Solutions for the Future" in the Irma Blackburn Auditorium. She was invited to speak by the Student Government Association in conjunction with Environ-

mental Awareness Week and Earth Day.

In her presentation she outlined that there have been several cultures that have perished due to over-consumption of resources and the environment. The ancestral Puebloans were her main focus. This culture thrived for millennia before they disappeared into the desert. The main cause, Hoffman says, was that scarcity of resources drove them to fight each other and eventually migrate out of their homelands.

Hoffman went on to outline severe human impacts on the environment, simplified as the acronym **HIPPO**. These were listed as **H**abitat Destruction, **I**nvasive Species, **P**ollution, **P**opulation of Humans and **O**verharvest-

ing. She said that because of HIPPO the extinction rate has gone from two to three a decade up to thousands per decade in the last hundred years. She told us that restoration, environmental laws and government sanctioned national parks are just a few of the methods that can be used to counter the effects of HIPPO. Professor Hoffman stated that even our diets affect the environment, due to the amount of water we use to produce our foods. This effect can currently be seen taking place in California. Others factors, which included the Earth's carrying capacity and the destruction of biodiversity were examined by the professor and her audience.

The professor did end on a good note though. She

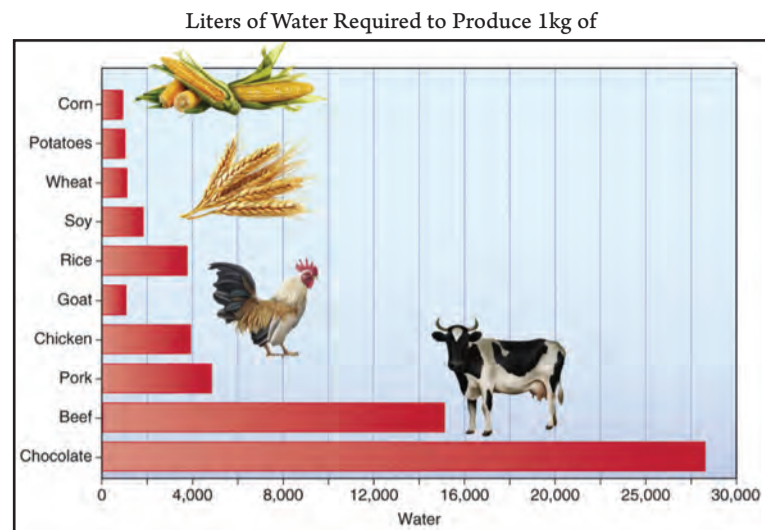


Photo credit: McGraw Hill

stated that the solutions lie in humanity learning not to live off of nature, but in harmony with it. We are living in a time of decisions, in which we must choose to either change how we live or destroy ourselves like the ancestral Puebloans. She said that our options, such as recycling, conservation,

restoration, are choices each individual must make. She asked that we as an audience consider our attitudes towards these choices. The thing is that, in the end, these choices are easy after we consider the alternatives.



GC partners with Inceptia

Michelle Flores
Financial Aid Counselor

Grayson College is pleased to announce a partnership with Inceptia, a financial education and student loan default prevention corporation. This partnership is valuable to you in that Inceptia offers Financial Avenue, an online learning environment that offers financial literacy topics; to mention a few, Budgeting: Create your budget, Contracts: Before you sign away, Credit Cards: Choosing and using cards wisely, Paying for College: Loans, grants, jobs and more.

We are sure that these modules will benefit our students in financial education and loan default prevention. Our mission is to support students with the knowledge needed to become financially responsible. GC students will have a place while they're in school and afterward where they can access financial literacy facts, basic student loan tips and information or to learn about repayment options before and after borrowing for school.

All students, faculty, and staff may go to www.fa.financialavenue.org to

sign up for their own account. The Grayson access code is: 3gbez

When a student with student loans graduates, drops below six hours or leaves Grayson, Inceptia will contact them with information such as their student loan servicer particulars and repayment options.

Defaulting on student loans should never be an issue, there are options out there. The GC Financial Aid counselors and the Knowl, Inceptia's mascot and financial whiz, are here to answer your questions! ♥



Photo credit: Inceptia.org

GC to offer fall yoga class

Maria Silén
Yoga Instructor

Here comes a new chance for you to learn this unique Yoga form. The two available class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30- 1:45 p.m and 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. in AC 100. You can register through the CWL; call Lauren Hummert at 903-463-8731 or e-mail lhummert@cwlgcc.org for more information. You will invest in your health and well being. If you want to receive a grade you register through GC Admission & Advising. You can also check my Facebook page and website, Serene Harvest - Art of Qi-Gong, Meditation & Yoga,

for pictures and information.

Ayurveda means the wisdom of the natural state, the wise way to health. Ayurveda strengthens what is positive, good and beneficial for us. It removes and dissolves negative obstructions in thought, speech, and conduct. Ayurveda means, "long healthy life" and -veda means, "wisdom." Tibetan Yoga is the confluence of centuries of ancient Indian, Chinese and Tibetan practices. It is a complete practice cycle and is sufficient to achieve and maintain body-mind fitness.

It includes self-massage and acupressure, postures, stretching, dynamic move-

ment, breath-work, gestures, mantra recitation, progressive relaxation and meditative contemplation, to center the practitioner and align body, energy and mind. Tibetan Yoga hones the practitioner's faculties and supports the manifestation of natural perfection.

No previous experience or fitness level is required. There is no competition, no striving, and no ultimate goal to be attained. All can derive benefit from these practices. Much joy and radiant health, Maria Silén, founder: Serene Harvest Art of QiGong, Meditation & Yoga. ♥

Peer Tutoring is located in the Testing Center (SC 115)

Tutors are trained and CRLA certified

Tutoring is scheduled by appointment. Sessions are one hour per week.

Tutoring Center hours:
M-Tr: 8 AM - 8 PM
F: 8 AM - 4 PM

To request a tutor come by or contact Jeffri Johnson Hodge at hodgej@grayson.edu.



Fall 2015 Honors Courses

Course ID	Course Title
CHEM 2323.HRS	Organic Chemistry 1
ENGL 1301.HRS	Composition 1
ENGL 2327.HRS	American Literature 1
GEOL 1305.HRS	Environmental Geology
GOVT 2305.HRS	Federal Government
HIST 1301.HRS	United States History 1
MATH 2413.HRS	Calculus 1
MUSI 1307.HRS	Music Literature
MUSI 2311.HRS	Music Theory III
PSYC 2301.HRS	General Psychology
SPCH 1321.HRS	Business & Professional Communication

Independent Honors Contracts are also available for a course not listed but only as a last resort. See Dr. Fair within the first week of class for contract information/eligibility.



Be sure to join our Grayson Honors College Facebook page!



Photo credit: Maria Silén

Visit: www.sereneharvest.wordpress.com
Phone: 903 436 0569

Maria has been teaching Yoga classes and private sessions since 2003 at various places in Grayson County, such as at local gyms, karate schools, wellness centers and most lately at the CWL at GC in addition to yoga studios in McKinney and Dallas Meditation Center. Each year Maria visits Sweden where she also is teaching classes, workshops and private sessions in both Yoga and QiGong. In the beginning of Maria's Yoga teaching career she was teaching Western Hatha Yoga. Later she began to study under Linage holder Tashi Nyima of Dallas and learned the Tibetan Ayurveda Yoga form. She has since been teaching this form that is now offered at Grayson College. Maria is thrilled to be able to share her passion and knowledge with students and employees at Grayson College and the public in the community. The different kinds of modalities and forms are helping, supporting and harmonizing Maria's own personal life, so now after almost 20 years of daily practice it is part of her life and life style. "These kinds of exercises are just too good and beneficial not been shared with others and that was why I decided to become an instructor," she comments, adding "you can always modify them to the time you have, where you are and your needs for the moment." Yoga (and QiGong) enhance the immune system, help us to stay physically fit and healthy while they free us of self-doubts and fears that interfere with our peace of mind. More importantly, they unfold their capacity to manifest self-knowledge and strength towards self-care, radiant health and live a fuller life.

Planning your transition from student to professional?

GC Career Services can help!
(in the Advising area)

Assistance is available for:
resume writing, cover letters,
completing job applications,
preparing for interviews,
job leads & more.



Contact: Gretchen Huff, 903-415-2544 or huffg@grayson.edu.



"TRASH FASHION II"

Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

Artists participating in the *Trashion II* runway show at the annual Texoma Earth Festival agreed to use 80 percent or more recycled materials in their designs. Many artists, like Joey Spindle (above), modeled their own garments, while others enlisted the help of friends. The festival took place April 25 at the Sherman Municipal Grounds.

Dinner theatre mystery

Continued from page A1
 Crew members included Dustin Meadows, Bryce Dansby, Aaron May, Annetta Johnston, Robert Gildner, Katie Gaskill, Forrest Harris and other GC theatre students and faculty.

A pre-show performance featured guitarists (GC Music Department Director) David Tercero and student Brad Roberts, as well as Tercero's wife, vocalist Robin T. Montgomery. ♥



Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

GC theatre students receive summer internships

Robin Robinson
Theatre Director

The Grayson Theatre Department has a mission to prepare students to either enter the workforce after receiving his or her associate's degree in theatre or to transfer to a university theatre program. One step to help with this mission, is to encourage students to seek summer internship opportunities in theatre. In the past, the GC Theatre Department has had several students work in different theatres over the summers, but this year is a record for the number of current majors who have received contracts to work this summer.

This year the GC Theatre Department has ten students who have received contracts to work in various theatres. These are paid internships that supply housing and a

stipend for these students to gain experience in the professional world. Robin Robinson, Theatre Director and Professor stated, "summer theatre jobs are so important because it allows students to decide if this is the major they really want to pursue before spending four years studying theatre." Tenna Matthews, GC professor and Design Director said, "gaining experience as an undergrad in professional theatre gives graduates a leg up when pursuing employment after they finish their education. Many graduate students have never actually worked in the field, and if undergrads can put on their resume that they have already worked, then they will have doors open to them in their chosen field."

Holden Webster, a freshman theatre major, will work

for the Des Moines Metro Opera in Iowa from May 27 through the third week of July. He will be an intern and work backstage in all tech areas as well as work running crew. He is excited to have this opportunity. He told Robinson, "one of the operas is entirely in Czech!" Since Holden wants to one day be a director, this will be great exposure to him to witness first hand how opera works and how all the tech areas work together to create these productions.

Katie Gaskill will be working at Texas Shakespeare Festival in Kilgore for the summer. She will be working front of house as well as teaching a makeup class to a visiting company of Chinese students and also high school students.

Continued on page B2

Phi Theta Kappa wins big in San Antonio

Michaela Bledsoe
Student

On April 14, the Omicron Psi Chapter of Grayson College took 11 Phi Theta Kappa members, advisors and alumni down to the lively city of San Antonio for both their Regional and International conventions. Having both of these events take place in the same week gave little time for relaxing but these hard-working individuals are no stranger to that.

First Stop

During the Regional Convention portion of the week, the chapter met with members all across the Lone Star State and celebrated in the Region's successes while also electing new regional officers. This year the Omicron Psi Chapter decided to take the challenge and run for the position of District II Vice President. After their hard work campaigning, Omicron Psi was elected to hold the office. The chapter's former president, Brandon Robinson, will be the chapter's representative for this coming year, and he will work alongside five other student officers to plan out the Texas regional events and represent this wonderful Region.

Awards Abound

Omicron Psi chapter members, advisors and alumni were recognized for their efforts at the Regional Convention and brought home a multitude of awards. Four officers were inducted into the District II Hall of Honor: Brandon Robinson,

Elizabeth Taylor, Jana Henderson and Michael Moore. One officer was awarded the Texas Region Hall of Honor Award: Michaela Bledsoe. Two members received their Five Star Competitive Edge pin: Tiffany Moser and Michaela Bledsoe.

One of the advisors was inducted into the Texas Alumni Hall of Honor: Professor Jesus Sosa. The prestigious Tejas award was also presented to our very own Tenna Matthews. One of the advisors, Professor Mary Linder, was presented with the Regional Coordinator Award. Finally both Jana Henderson and Tiffany Moser became new members of the Texas Regional Alumni Association.

Omicron Psi, as a chapter, won numerous awards as well: the College Project Award of Merit, the Honors in Action Award of Distinction for Theme Eight and was recognized as not only as one of Texas' Top Chapters, but ranked number four over all in the entire state. The chapter's hard work really paid off for them this year; being able to celebrate all of these accomplishments while also preparing to serve as a Regional Officer has gotten everyone excited for the upcoming year.

A Prestigious Honor

During that same week the chapter also attended Phi Theta Kappa's International Convention where approximately 4,000 members worldwide gathered to celebrate at the one and

only NerdNation! During this convention, Omicron Psi busied itself campaigning for our own Elizabeth Taylor, who was running for the International position of Division II Vice President. Serving as an officer at the International level is the highest position of leadership a member can hold.

Only five out of the nearly 260,000 active members have the honor of claiming that title. After months of preparation, campaigning, speech giving, and numerous meetings, Elizabeth Taylor was announced as the 2015-2016 Division II Vice President. We are incredibly proud of her and cannot wait to see what this opportunity has in store for her.

However, the excitement did not end there. During the Hallmark Awards ceremony at the NerdNation, both the chapter and one of its advisors were recognized for their handwork and dedication this year. George Melchor received the Alumni Award of Appreciation for his support for the current and future members of Phi Theta Kappa.

As for the chapter awards, Omicron Psi was honored with the Distinguished Chapter Award, the Distinguished Honors in Action Award and the Distinguished College Project Award. The chapter was also recognized for maintaining their Five Star Level and they can claim the title of one of the Top 100 Chapters internationally. Additionally, the chapter was celebrat-

ed for being the third highest money-raising chapter in Phi Theta Kappa for Relay For Life.

Celebrating the recognition received for the chapter's hard work was only made better by the com-



pany of Grayson College's own Dr. Jeremy McMillen, Dr. Chase Machen and Dr. Dava Washburn. Without the continued support of our college, the awards the chapter received would not be possible.

Valuable Experience

Also while at NerdNation the students had many opportunities to experience, learn and grow from numerous events and opportunities. Members attended educational forums where they heard from speakers and learned valuable skills. Both advisors Professor Mary Linder and George Melchor presented a workshop over Civic Leadership that gathered a huge crowd. Additionally, at the general sessions members were able to hear from world-renowned speakers such as John Legend, Malcolm Gladwell and

Dr. Michio Kaku. During the week members were given the opportunity to connect with many different students from not only their home state but from chapters around the world. Meeting these future leaders of tomorrow and hearing from the leaders of today at NerdNation gave its attendees something that they can carry with them forever – a spark to ignite their passion and light the world.

Fresh Faces

The Omicron Psi Chapter looks forward to the 2015-16 school year and welcomes its newly elected officers:

President: Stacie Pope
First Vice President: Michaela Bledsoe

Vice President of Special Projects: Tony Beckman
Secretary: Rebecca Foster
Public Relations Officer: Lillian Smith

To see pictures and videos of our trip, like our Facebook page at facebook.com/ptk.omicronpsi. If you are interested in joining the chapter and working with us on making the next year even better, join us for our weekly chapter meetings. We meet Wednesdays during the regular semesters from 12:30-1:00 p.m. in the Viking Room, and you can visit our website at ptkomicronpsi.org.

Contact Professor Mary Linder linderm@grayson.edu if you have any questions. We hope to see you soon. ♥

Summer theatre internships

Continued from page B1

Working as a house manager is a great opportunity for Gaskill to see how the business side of theatre works, as well as push her creative side teaching stage makeup.

Other students spending time with Shakespeare this summer are Ryan Ramirez, Krystina Burns and Tommy Stowers. They are all working at the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival at SOSU in Durant.

Ryan has been cast in the chorus as a performer in the musical "Shrek," as well as an intern in the shop. Tommy Stowers will return for the third year to work as a Carpenter at OSF and Krystina will work as an audio intern.

Hunter McDaniel and Bryce Dansby are working for Quinlan ISD this summer working with students from Kindergarten through high school. Hunter is directing and teaching as part of the A.C.E. program, and Bryce will be the tech director for their program. This is ideal for Hunter since he wants to become a theatre

teacher, so he and Bryce will gain experience of being in charge of students.



Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

AJ Johnston and Dustin Meadows will both work at Millbrook Playhouse in Mill Hall, Pennsylvania. AJ will be a stage management intern where she will work with professionals as well as gaining experience as actually stage managing one of the productions. Dustin will be an intern in the tech areas as an electrician as well as a chorus member.

Lydia Foster is staying close to home, but she is working as a stage manager intern with the Sherman Community Players this summer to gain more experience and to

work with all ages. She just moved to Texas in January, and she is excited for the op-

portunities that Texas has offered her in the world of theatre.

The GC Theatre Department is proud of these students for pursuing these opportunities and also to be brave enough to accept the challenge of working in a new environment. "It's so rewarding," says Robinson, "to see our students return after working a summer. They come back more mature with more experience and are ready to take charge the following year in our department." ♥

Pond beautification project underway

Rebecca Jones
Editor

With word from Lowe's/SkillsUSA that the college has secured a \$25,000 grant for the beautification and maintenance of the pond (sometimes referred to as Grayson Lake), phased planning has begun and volunteers are ready to get their hands dirty. An Advisory Committee met May 7 to discuss the latest details.

The Welding Technologies Association (WTA) has completed a three-phase plan for tackling the various aspects of this immense project. They have already secured a bid on cement for a pavillion to be built on the pond's western shores, a project which will use a fairly significant chunk of grant funds. Other goals include gaining a permit to use sterilized grass carp for moss cleanup.

The new Welding Program Director, Alan McAdams, professed his interest in bringing more wildlife to

the pond, not driving any away. He feels that stocking the pond won't be necessary because of the present level of diversity (a student recently caught a three pound bass here). We can, however, attract more birds with nesting boxes and remove invasive species like cattail to make the pond more hospitable.

The ultimate goal of this student-led project is to make the space more usable for the rest of the community. While the local Lowe's representative present at the meeting assured the college that he could help us stretch our dollar, this undertaking is likely to require additional aid from the campus community. For now, students and staff interested in helping out can contact Alan McAdams for volunteer information or sign up in the Writing Center. ♥

McAdamsA@grayson.edu
903-415-2528

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Social skydiving: drag show at the Good Times Lounge

Logan Beauchamp
Student

I recently had the thrill of acquainting myself with a community that is a bit different from my normal crowd: the LGBTQ community of Grayson County. You may ask yourself "How did this come to pass?" and the answer is an easy one. I've taken it upon myself to broaden my horizons, because I realized that I've lived a very sheltered life in Sherman, Texas.

There really isn't much excitement here in Grayson County; we all know it and those that say otherwise are fooling themselves. I call this process *social skydiving*, because I am essentially bailing out of my comfort zone and free falling through the situation.

Anyways, back to the story. My introduction to this community began when I and my girlfriend, Olivia Burns, arrived at the Good Times Lounge early to get an interview with the owner, Jerry Harvey. He was sitting at the bar drinking a cup of coffee and idly chatting with

the bartender. I introduced myself and told him what I was doing. He said he would be glad to help so I proceeded to ask him a couple questions.

Why open up a gay bar in the beating heart of the "Bible Belt"?



Photo credit: Logan Beauchamp
Jerry Harvey

He said simply, "To be different," and after a sip of coffee continued. "I ran it straight the first year and then gradually began having nights for the gay crowd. Of course in the beginning we did deal with police harassment." He explained to me that he has a strict policy of no liquids coming in or leaving the bar. This is because if a bottle, even if it's full of wa-

ter, is seen by an officer they can charge the person for public intoxication and fine the bar as well. Jerry told me that as time has gone by the local community has come to accept and support LG-BTQ culture, which he is very happy to see.

Is the Good Times Lounge a hub for the LGBTQ community?

"Not at all" he responded with a smile. "More straight people come here than gay people. The women come because they know they won't be bothered." I can back Jerry up on this because that night a bachelorette party arrived during the drag show and they had just as much fun as the drag queens and performers did.

Has it been a successful venture?

"Yes, very successful and very peaceful." Jerry uses some of his profits to help organizations like the local homeless and women's shelter. He also donates to the House of Eli, which according to its Facebook description is "A transitional living home for aging-out kids to learn all aspects of healthy

living in a loving Christian home. A yearlong life-change academy."

After I finished my interview I thanked Harvey for his time, and Olivia and I went to grab a bite to eat. It was going to be a long and interesting night. When we came back the bar had filled quite a bit, but the show wasn't going to begin until much later. We ordered a couple drinks and played a few games of pool with the other patrons until the show started.

When it did start the drag queens and performers put on an excellent show. They were funny, passionate, very talented and superbly entertaining. I have to say that Good Times has been one of the most fun bars I've ever been to. I left that night with a new perspective on how the LGBTQ community should be defined. They are people just like you and me, who just want a chance to live their lives the way they feel they should.

I suspect that some of the readers were looking for controversy, but I'm sorry to disappoint. There isn't any-

thing controversial to say. I highly recommend that everyone make a visit to Good Times to have a great time. When you go, say hi to Jerry, grab a drink and hit the dance floor. You won't regret it, because I sure don't.



Photo credit: Logan Beauchamp
Dozens of performers hit the stage that night.

Since I have come to the end of this entry I need a new thing to *social skydive* into. I am always open to suggestions so feel free to leave one at the Writing Center or contact me on Facebook. ♥

Why did the Confederate States of America lose the Civil War?

Matt Hamilton
Professor of History

April marked the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War. As part of a larger program to mark the occasion, the Grayson College Library created a display of collection material on the war and its conclusion. As part of that display, the question was asked of the GC community - *Why did the Confederacy lose the Civil War?* The display provided six explanations made by historians over the last seventy years of historiography on the subject and the GC community voted on which explanation they believed caused the defeat of the Confederacy. The results of that vote are now in!

According to those that voted, 61 percent believe that the Confederacy lost the Civil War because they were out-manned and out-produced by the Union. The second highest percentage of 11 percent believed that the defeat of the Confederacy is explained by its alienation of large amounts of its population from the war effort. Coming in third, at 9 percent, was a tie between the Confederacy lacking the will and determination to win and the Confederacy's adherence to a states' rights philosophy that hampered the war effort. In last place,

at 4% was a tie between the Confederacy being beaten on the battlefield and the Confederacy lacking effective military and political leadership.

While I'm not one to question the voice of the people, I would be remiss to pass up an opportunity to challenge traditional thinking. While true that the Union out-manned and out-produced the Confederacy, this advantage did not matter if the North could not actually defeat the Confederate military on the battlefield, something they did not start accomplishing until late in the war.

In addition, history offers countless examples of nation's winning a war against immense odds. In fact, the American Revolution and the Vietnam War are excellent examples of this dynamic. Thus, one could say that the superiority of men and supplies for the Union was a necessity for it to win the war, but not the cause for the Confederacy's defeat.

I would like to thank the Grayson College's head librarian, Lisa Hebert, and student workers Rachel Schroeder and Krishnia Seely for their invaluable help with the display marking the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's conclusion. The display will remain up through finals week. ♥

Electrical Technology field trip



Photo credit: Logan Beauchamp

The Electrical Technology program visited United Rentals in Sherman. The students learned about the construction equipment rental process, safety while operating the equipment and witnessed several large pieces of equipment in use. Many thanks to Jamie Legg, the Sherman Branch Manager, for his time.

Viking fans show their support



Photo credit: Randy Truxal

Some fans really know how to show love for their team. Taken between a double header.

Cultural Diversity Club visits Dallas World Aquarium



Photo credit: Philippe Lauriene



Photo credit: Philippe Lauriene

My nation is crying

Abilasha Pant
Student

On April 25 2015, around 2:30 in the morning I was at my place with some of my friends. We were having a nice time until I checked my notifications. My phone was flooded by several missed calls and messages and each one was about an earthquake back home.

Shocked and horrified I started calling my parents but they were out of reach. All of my friends had a hard time reaching their loved ones. Finally around 6 a.m. in the morning I talked with them and they said they were fine. They were shaken and I could feel the terror in their voices.



Photo credit: NBCNews.com

A thousand miles away from home and family, I was getting an update on Facebook and news every second. The quake was a 7.8 on the Richter scale, making it the largest quake after 1934. It didn't stop there. They were hit by aftershocks the next day which measured 6.8 on the Richter scale. A magnitude 7 quake is capa-

ble of widespread and heavy damage.

Scared about their lives people are forced to sleep in the open street waiting for this tremendous disaster to end. The night they were hit by the quake there was a heavy rain fall and thundering making the situation for the people sleeping on the street worse.

Many houses were collapsed and 2,000 years of history was collapsed in a second. Nepal is known for its ancient temples and historical monuments, which is nothing but a junk of dirt and rubble now. Kathmandu, the capital city (my hometown) was 48 miles away from the epicenter and it was affected badly. Seeing those temples

turn into rubble, seeing that pillar "Dharahara" (like the Nepalese Statue of Liberty) fall off made my heart cry.

Not only were the people in Nepal, but all the Nepalese over the world were affected and I knew everyone was crying seeing the pictures and reading the news of this massive catastrophe. It caused the avalanche at

Mt. Everest causing 13 people's deaths and 231 still missing.

About 5,000 people are already declared dead and more than 6,500 are injured. This is only the situation of the capital city and some towns near the city. As the rescue teams will go to the rural areas affected by the quake the death rate will only increase. Lamjung was the epicenter of this major disaster and it is said that only two or three houses are left. Everything is destroyed and there are thousands of people who have lost their houses, their loved ones.

Nepal is a poor country and the government is not strong. There is always some ongoing issue in the country and now this catastrophe has happened. So, far the cost calculation of the destruction is said to be over five billion. Hearing all this news and seeing all these picture makes me cry and I feel helpless that all my people are suffering and I cannot do anything.

Every day I pray that this disaster would come to an end and there won't be any more destruction. My parents stayed outside for three continuous nights and so did the thousands of Nepalese. I hope that the situation will get better and I implore you all to pray for my dear country Nepal and my people. I hope the dawn will break this darkness and sun will shine upon us again. ♥



UNICEF staff in Nepal report dwindling supplies of food and water. More than one million children in earthquake-affected areas are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The first priorities are lifesaving interventions- getting essential medicines, nutrition and safe water to children and families in immediate need.

Five ways to make a tax-deductible donation to support UNICEF relief efforts for the Nepal earthquake:

1. Online (search 'Save the Children,' Red Cross, Salvation Army, Catholic Relief Services, Int'l Medical Corps)
2. Call toll free: 1-800-FOR-KIDS (1-800-367-5437)
3. Text "Nepal" to 864233 (UNICEF) to donate \$10
4. Mail: 125 Maiden Ln., 10th Floor, New York, NY, 10038
5. By Crowdrise Fundraiser or Facebook



Photo credit: Philippe Lauriene

On April 13, cosmetology students joined up with the Cultural Diversity Club to hold the "Around the World" Spring Fashion Show.

When the mountain spoke: an interview with Abilasha Pant

Logan Beauchamp
Student

Most of us have heard about the earthquake that shook Nepal on April 25. We Americans have seen the devastation on television or on the internet. But few, if any, of us have the ability to actually discern the damage and devastation that has taken place. We have been safe at home and not visibly affected by what is happening thousands of miles away.

Sadly, this is not the case for Abilasha Pant, a student from Nepal studying Business and Accounting at Grayson. Her home is in Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, which has been affected badly due to its vicinity to the epicenter of the quake. She learned of the disaster through phone notifications while with friends

the night before and was not able to reach her family until early the next morning. Her parents live in the capital and run a business, which has so far not been too badly affected by the disaster, though the true damage has yet to be determined. So far most

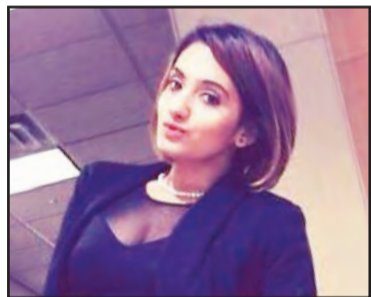


Photo credit: Logan Beauchamp

schools in Nepal, including the universities, have been shut down and the hospitals are open around the clock. The Nepalese army and police forces have been spread out to maintain order and perform relief efforts. Many countries have made dona-

tions for relief, but this does not mean the end of Nepal's troubles.

During the interview Abilasha expressed several concerns over what is going to happen to her country next. She told me that the situation is still very bad. The government of Nepal suffers from corruption and this may lead to funds never reaching the people that need them the most. Also, the Nepalese government has restricted foreign aid from several countries trying to operate relief efforts within Nepal.

The main reason this earthquake has been so damaging is that there was no proper relief fund in place even though Nepal has a long history of earthquakes. Due to the slow nature of the government more people are suffering

than need be, especially those located in places that the Red Cross has not been able to reach. There are also diplomatic tensions between the population of India and Nepal due to territorial conflicts that have taken place within the last couple of decades.

Without intervention either domestic or foreign, the situation only looks to be more terrible in the future. The economic impact may be the worst part, due to Nepal's status as a developing nation. This earthquake has knocked out much of the industry within the country. There are also ecological concerns, because Nepal is home to several endangered species.

Abilasha finished by telling me about Nepal and its people. She tells me that the Nepalese people are very

generous and that the country possesses indescribable natural beauty and culture. She told me that this earthquake has left a considerable gap between the citizens of Nepal and their government and may lead to potential political unrest. The citizens of Nepal have stood up in the place of their government and began relief work on their own. She tells me she is proud of her country. She also spoke of her worries about how foreign powers may treat her country in its weakened state and that without help it could be years before the damage is repaired and life returns to normal. We as Americans should not sit idly by and like posts on Facebook or retweet to show our support, but instead should support Nepal with action and funds. ♥

Photo of the Month



Submitted by Brandon Stockton