

Get Involved

Viking Deadlines

Monday Nov. 28th

Send all submissions to the editor at beauchamp@grayson.edu.

Student Leadership Series

TBA

12:15 - 12:45 p.m.

Community leaders are invited to discuss and share their philosophy on leadership in today's competitive work environment. LA 101

Student and Employee Spirit Day

Every Friday

Wear your GC attire with blue jeans and celebrate the Viking spirit.

Clubs & Orgs

Clay Club

First Thursdays, 5 - 6 p.m.

Ceramic Room, Arts & Communications

Cosmetology Club

Mondays bi-weekly

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. CTC

Cultural Diversity Club

First and third Wednesdays

1 - 2 p.m. Int'l Student Office

DAAC

Fridays, 12:45 p.m. HS 202

Delta Phi Delta (Art)

First Tuesdays, 12:15

Design Room
Arts & Communications

Dental Assisting Club

Wednesdays, 11:30 - 12 p.m.

HS 205

Electrical

Technology Club

TBA

Contact Aimee Flynn

903-463-8684

Eta Sigma Delta

First Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

Culinary Arts Building

FCA

Third Tuesdays, 6 - 7 p.m.

Viking Residence Hall Lobby

Future Educators

Every other Tuesday

12:20 - 12:50 p.m. CIS 200

Gamers Guild

Every Other Monday,

1:00 p.m.

Life Center

Gay Straight Alliance

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Bridge, Life Center

Grayson Nursing

Student Association

Wednesday or Friday

11:30 a.m.

Viking Room, Life Center

HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)

Second and fourth Tuesday

12:20 - 12:45 p.m., LA 108

History Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.

LA 207

Honors College Club

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.

Viking Room, Life Center

HVACR Club

First Thursdays

5:30 p.m.

CTC Room 117

LEA

(Criminal Justice)

Every Tuesday

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Location TBA

Medical

Lab Technology

TBA

Men of Distinction

Thursdays, 12 - 1 p.m.

CWL Seminar Room A

Mu Alpha Theta

1st and 3rd Thursdays

1 - 2 p.m.

LA204

A time to honor and remember: Veterans Day



Photo Courtesy of Tommy Ellis

Veterans Day Ceremony honors service from all branches: Spotlight on veteran women

By Logan Beauchamp

Editor

On November 7th the entire college came together to honor veterans present and past. We had the distinct honor of hosting members from every branch on our campus. We were privileged to have several long serving members, both active and retired, speak on what Veterans Day stands for. Donna King, Grayson College's Director of Veterans Services and Army Veteran, asked that those who have served, especially women, stand as examples to the communities in which they live and strive to act as leaders. Rear Admiral William Retz, Ret. and Master Sergeant Howard Day each reiterated the

points the Mrs. King had made and emphasized what it means to be a veteran.

The celebration came to a close with Colonel Buddy Merrick, Ret. singing "America the Beautiful," and Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be an American." Representatives of Grayson College gave a personal thank you on behalf of the entire campus to all who served.

I would also like to thank all who have put life and limb on the line so that I might write the very words on this page. It takes courage to give of yourself so that all of us at home don't have to pay the ultimate price when it comes to protecting our liberties and freedoms. THANK YOU.



Photo by Logan Beauchamp

Phi Theta Kappans serve veterans lunch



Photo Courtesy of Tommy Ellis

(Volunteers pose during a break in festivities. From Left to Right. Front Row: Stephanie Shearer, Pryscilla Lara, and Maggie Lee Back Row: Terra Armstrong, and LaToya Hart)

The Student Veteran

by Caleb Ashley

I am a student at Grayson College and the vice president of the Student Veterans Association (SVA). I am also a work study assigned to Grayson College's Veteran Services Office (VSO). After completing all of my prerequisites, I will be pursuing an A.S. in nursing; RN to be specific. I love science and my GPA is 3.36. However, I am working very hard in my classes this semester to raise my GPA to a 3.5, so that I can qualify for Phi Theta Kappa. I expect to graduate in December 2018. My plans are to continue my studies at the University of Texas at Arlington or Tyler and get my Bachelors of Science

degree in Nursing. Due to my overwhelming ambition and desire to change the world, and after I have become an established nurse, I wish to shift into a STEM field (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) occupation. I'm not sure which area, but since I love science, physics and astronomy, when the time comes, I am certain I will know which path to follow.

I am originally from Pottsboro and earned my GED in 2008 and joined the Army in 2010. I went to Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri for Basic and Advanced Training to become a Military Policeman (MP). I was then stationed

(Continued on pg 4)

The Lady Warrior: a modern soldier

by Sgt. Brittney Schmidt

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem." - Ronald Reagan

I was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in December of 2015 after 5 years of active service, and that quote means more to me now. I am currently in the inactive reserves and attending Grayson College full time pursuing a degree in criminal justice. There is no doubt that my training as a Marine has prepared me to undertake any difficult task and excel. My goal of becoming a paralegal and eventually an attorney may be a long and difficult road, but my confidence, determination and unwillingness to quit will result in reaching this goal. There is no doubt in my mind because what I learned in my years of active duty will be with me the rest of my life.

Having been a woman in the Marines, the first question everyone usually asks is, "How did you do it? Honestly, it is just the same as being a man in the Corps. It's rough. We are all challenged both physically and mentally, constantly adapting and overcoming difficult situations, and some days we don't feel like upholding the standard of "being a Marine 24/7", but we press on knowing that it's who we are. Overall, as long as everybody pulled their weight, did the right thing, and showed respect, they were treated with respect, no matter their gen-

der, race or background.

I joined the USMC after high school graduation in Colbert, Oklahoma and was sent to Parris Island, South Carolina for basic training. Being stranded on an island for three months with people whose sole mission in life is to turn you into a "hard charging devil dog" really does wonders to work out the weaknesses in one's moral character. To quote General "Mad Dog" Mattis retired commander of the U. S. Marine Corps, "There is no better friend, no worse enemy..." My most valued memory during this training was receiving the title of platoon high shooter. I had the highest shooting scores with an M16A4 out of forty other females in my platoon. As a result I was made a squad leader. There are four (4) in a platoon with each being in charge of roughly ten people in a squad. As a squad leader, I was then meritoriously promoted to an E-2/Private First Class fresh out of boot camp. Shortly afterwards, I was sent to Camp Geiger, NC to complete Marine Combat Training (MCT) which is basic infantry training condensed into one month. The Marine Corps' mantra is "every Marine is a rifleman", and MCT is where that philosophy is taught to Marines who are not selected to be Infantrymen. Talk about a confidence boost: this experience provided me with an immeasurable amount of confidence.

(Continued on pg 3)

Music Club

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

Paramedic Student Association

October 1, November 3,
December 1, 12 - 1 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center
(Nov. 3 is 3-4 p.m.)

Phi Theta Kappa

Wednesdays
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

Psychology Club

Tuesdays, 12:15 - 12:50 p.m.
CIS 202

Radiology Tech Club

The 15th of every month
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
HS 200

Rotaract

2nd and 4th Wednesdays
3 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

Science Club

First Tuesday of the month
3 p.m. S 106,
Science Building

Student Government Association

First Mondays (monthly)
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

Sigma Kappa Delta & Writers Unlimited

First Fridays,
12 - 1 p.m.
Study Room 5, Library

Sisters of Destiny

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.
Conference Room, Life Center

Student Ambassadors

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

TIPPS (Culinary Arts)

First Thursdays, 3 - 4 p.m.
691 Restaurant,
Culinary Arts

Veteran Nursing Student Association

First Mondays, 12 p.m.
South Campus Skills Lab

Veteran Student Association

First and third Wednesdays
12 - 1 p.m.
Veteran's Hub, Life Center

Welding Technologies Association

First and third Tuesdays
12 - 1 p.m. CTC Break Room
First and third Tuesdays
12 - 1 p.m. South Campus

Please report incorrect
listings to the editor:
beauchamp@grayson.edu

Honors College hosts 3rd "Run For Your Lives"

Dr. Brandy Fair
Professor & Advisor

On Saturday October 22nd, the Grayson Honors College hosted the 3rd annual 5K and Fun Run event. The proceeds benefitted the Officer Down Memorial Page (odmp.org) which goes to the families of fallen police officers, works to buy bullet proof vests for agencies that cannot provide them, etc. After completion of the Fun Run and 5k, participants were welcomed inside the gym with a free meal from Chipotle and a chance at over 40 raffle prizes including free food, movie passes, and gift cards. Medals were presented to the top finishers (male and female) in each age category as well as a special event just for law



Photo by Dr. Brandy Fair

enforcement/first responder participants called "Running Code". This year, the Sherman Police Department took home the award for the first place agency.

There are so many people to thank for making this event a success. First, the Honors College officers Aliza Hastings, Sabrina Inman, and Sarah

Dilling. We are also grateful to the Grayson Maintenance Dept., the Grayson Police Dept., the Music Club, and the EMT Club for both participating and volunteering to make sure the event could happen! Thanks to all the Honors students and volunteers who made the day run smoothly.

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors. Your contributions and donations made the event a success. The Grayson Honors College will be donating all of the proceeds to the Officer Down Memorial Page, totaling over \$3,000. Thank you to all the officers, participants, and volunteers who took part in a great event for a wonderful cause. Hope to see everyone again next year!

Hall-O-Fest: Announcing Contest Winners

**COSTUME CONTEST**

CWL team
Financial Aid team
Cynthia Sanchez
Angel Carranca

**PUMPKIN CARVING**

Lauren Aleman
Lori Ahhuitty
Billy Robinson

PUMPKIN DECORATING

HALO Club
Dayle Hollenbeck-Davis
Rita Martinez

Photos by Logan Beauchamp

South Campus celebrates with "Boo Brunch"



(Participants in the South Campus "Boo Brunch")

Photo Courtesy of Kim Weber

Unsung Heroes, Sing Us a Song

By Shalene White
Student

Everywhere there are people that go above and beyond the call of duty, and do so with little to no recognition. We call these people "unsung heroes." Last semester, I started a ballot to create the opportunity to give credit to our professors, while giving the students a voice. Lisa Hebert, Library Director, added to the idea by awarding certificates to those with the most votes. After tallying the votes and having the certificates made, we asked the winners to give us a short bio so we could honor them.

After combing through them, we decided to share a few excerpts from each one. Dr. Sherry Cooke, the Sociology professor here at Grayson, is quoted "I was born a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... Wait, no. Let's see, 'I was born a poor black child.'" Well borrowed from Steve Martin's The Jerk. "I grew up in Compton, Ca. Yes I am straight outta Compton, and no, I never knew Snoop Dogg. Dennis Johnson of the Celtics sat behind me in English. I was taller than him at the time. And for the record, Kevin Costner, Duke Snider and James Coburn are also 'straight outta' Compton." Dr. Cooke got her Associates from Chaffee College in California. That degree proved

to her that she was more than just a "hood rat." It gave her the confidence to obtain her Ph. D. from TWU.

Dr. Brandy Fair, our speech professor, obtained her B.A. and M.A. in Communication Studies at UNT, and her Ed. D. in Supervision Curriculum at Texas A&M Commerce. Dr. Fair is the Department Chair of the Fine Arts Dept. and also the Honors College Coordinator. She says "Student success is the 'light bulb' moment for me. That instant a student understands the concepts, the information 'clicks on' in their mind, and they perform the task assigned-I love it!"

Dr. Patrice Parsons received her Ph. D. at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Parsons spent 18 years as a researcher. Her big dream is "to have her students ask 'why' and to be curious and find reasons for everything to the best of their abilities." Dr. Parsons also wants them to "reflect on their thinking and realize the deficiencies they have or the information that is missing and acknowledge the unknowns."

Rusty Weatherly came to Grayson College in 2010 and started a Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts program. He teaches Hospitality Management classes in

the Culinary Department. Weatherly has 16 years of experience in restaurants, bars and hotels. He holds a BS and MS in Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management from Texas Tech. He has a passion to make sure that students are successful and reach the goals they are trying to obtain. He is the current Eta Sigma Delta Honors Society sponsor at Grayson College.

Professor Mary Linder has been at Grayson College since 2006. She obtained her Master of Education in Secondary History from Southeastern Oklahoma State. Linder is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at Texas A&M University Commerce. Linder is the advisor for Grayson College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Omicron Psi. In addition to her work with Phi Theta Kappa, Professor Linder is an advisor in the Gay-Straight Alliance, a trainer in the Safe Spaces Ally program and serves on the Legislative Committee for the Texas Community College Teachers association.

We also learned that there are staff members that are just as dedicated. Nancy Luthe is an Academic Advisor and the College 101 Orientation Coordinator at Gray-

son College. After receiving her Bachelor's degree from the Drake University School of Journalism, Nancy worked as a news reporter, producer and assignment editor. Luthe changed careers paths and currently works in the Advising Office where she enjoys her work in promoting student success. Success to her means "empowering our students to find solutions to challenges in their communities and to become thoughtful members of society". Charles Leslie, Air Force Veteran, is also on the advising team where he assists students on their college career paths. Mr. Charles is noted as being "Recruiter, & Enrollment Advisor Devoted to Student Success." He loves to "cultivate and encourage students to reach their full potential and their educational goals!" Other recipients of this honor were Maria Huerta, the main campus custodian, and Kim Weber from the South Campus.

Grayson College is honored to be able to have these amazing individuals. Just remember, not all heroes wear capes. So, when you see somebody going above and beyond, take five minutes and let them know how awesome you think they are!

Disclaimer

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 GC. 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 GC. Material for publication may be submitted to *The Viking* office (Lib 110) or through email to Marlea Trevino (trevinom@grayson.edu) or Logan Beauchamp (beauchamp1@grayson.edu).

Real Men Wear Pink

by Shalene White

Student



Photo Courtesy of Shalene White
(Above: Charles and Shalene White)

It is common knowledge that October is always Breast Cancer Awareness month. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was started in 1985 as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and Imperial Chemical Industries (one of the main producers of anti-breast cancer drugs) in an attempt to bring the epidemic to light. In 1993, the pink ribbon was added as the symbol for the organization—both dates are older than some of the students here at Grayson.

This yearly event has sparked a multitude of local charities across the nation hosting their own events. In the Sherman/Denison area, there are a few events to help raise money for breast cancer awareness.

The Sherman area 'Women Rock' is an organization that has the same purpose in mind; raising money to help with breast cancer awareness. This year was their 6th annual 'Bras for a Cause' charity event. This occasion, which was on October 29th, was not only for the people fighting breast cancer. It was also to celebrate the fighters and the winners; there were women on stage who had beat cancer's butt.

The yearly shindig brings in quite a bit of money. Not only do people pay to attend the event, but they also have auctions inside. The most interesting part of the night is when men, clad in the most outrageous bras that you have ever seen, get on stage and show their stuff. After the men 'walk the runway', they auction the bras off, and that brings in even more money. Some bras went for \$200, while others sold for as much as \$1200!

The Grayson College Culinary Department decided to go all in this year, and collect as much as they possibly could for BCAM. They did a pancake breakfast and other money raising events. When they got up on stage at the 6th annual "Bras for a Cause", they were able to give the charity \$1500 that they personally raised. With the help of Chef Joanna Bryant, one student was able to get on stage while garbed in the glitziest, most blingy bra one could ever imagine. Culinary student Charles White strutted his stuff, and was able to raise \$500 more for the charity. This just goes to show you that nobody is too tough to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

Let's get Physical! Or Not?

by Lane Harder

Student

Online or in person? Our campus offers both a physical and a digital newspaper, but either can have more strengths than weaknesses. The internet is inevitably a convenient resource, but oftentimes it "wouldn't suffice," according to past editor of *The Viking*, Rebecca Jones. Jones endorses only physical news, saying she's "old school," and refuses to read the news online. However, is this charm worth the cost of printing 1000 newspapers each month? This is the question the current *Viking* editor, Logan Beauchamp has to ponder as he preps a new issue. He says he likes the convenience of internet-based news, but ultimately, the physical paper has "more effect" and that "in a perfect world," he would gladly manage both with equal importance. Despite the thoughts of students such as Marcus Coleman, who believes there is little appeal in having a physical paper, Mr. Beauchamp believes it is important to still print news "because you could take it home and show it to your family" if a story catches the reader's interest. The ultimate goal the Mr. Beauchamp conveys is showcasing students' passions to the public, so he distributes *The Viking* outside of campus, taking it to local bars and public venues to spread awareness of the paper, and perhaps gain a larger reader base in the process. He also hopes our newspaper will be more active in the community, which is evident as Jones mentions the newspaper's involvement in a breast cancer fundraiser during her time with *The Viking's* staff, which doubled as an effort to increase community awareness of *The Viking*. As previously mentioned, students appear to

have an opposing viewpoint to a physical newspaper, calling it not "necessary" in the words of Coleman. Jones states "Many students have full-time jobs, kids," and other worries to handle, so she doubts there is a large number of students who would have interest in their campus newspaper, with current editor Mr. Beauchamp agreeing. Coleman shares that he prefers the internet for the news due to his lack of time to participate in any activities outside of his classes. "Not only does [printing the paper] waste



Photo by Lane Harder

money," he says, but "I don't even know anyone who still orders them!"

Maria Silen, a student of Grayson College in the early 2000s, makes it evident that students also felt this way during her studies on campus. She feels that students only acknowledged *The Viking* when they were required, which was mainly in regard to assignments in their English classes. On the other hand, she also relates that students in the art program felt more competitive for their works to be featured in the next

The Lady Warrior: Continued from page 1



Photo courtesy of Tommy Ellis
(Above: Sgt. Brittney Schmidt)

Later I attended my Military Occupational Specialty School (MOS), in 29 Palms, California. I learned how to perform my duties as a 7236 Tactical Air Defense Controller which consisted of directing the interception of hostile aircraft, providing positive control of friendly aircraft, and the coordination of surface-to-air weapons and interceptors in anti-air warfare environments. The responsibilities that came with this training are almost beyond description; however, it also has played a huge role in whom I am today and my willingness to take on difficult jobs.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, North Carolina was my only duty station while being in the fleet. During these years, I travelled frequently to control aircraft for different squadrons and branches of the military in the states and overseas. In January of 2013, I was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for six months on Camp Leatherneck in the Helmand Province. We worked side by side with the British Royal Air Force controlling and monitoring aircraft. Four months prior to our arrival, Camp Bastion (a base attached to Camp Leatherneck) that primarily housed the British was attacked leaving 2 U.S. Marines dead and destroying 8 USMC Harrier attack jets. Knowing this we were always on the alert. We worked seven days a week for six months, up to sixteen hour shifts and had little or no time

to ourselves or to call our families. I realized how hard deployment is on military members, but even more so on families. My heart always went out to the spouses who stayed behind to watch children and run households by themselves. However, I know none of us would trade our experiences, and we appreciate the opportunity to do something for our country. It is a feeling of honor and pride that can't be replaced.

Following my deployment to Afghanistan, I returned to North Carolina to complete the remainder of my active duty service. I spent time travelling around the states working as an Air Intercept Controller. It was also a time for reflecting on the past five years as a Marine: the physical regimen I endured, the difficult classes I mastered, the knowledge I gained and the priceless experiences of world travel. During this time I had to start thinking about my life after the Marines.

After a short period of time in California and taking Sociology classes at Mt. San Jacinto College, I made the move back to Grayson County to be closer to my family. They are so important to me, and I realized I spent too much time away from them during my service. Now, here I am at Grayson College taking the next step in my journey. Not only am I taking four courses this Fall semester, I am also working part-time in Grayson's Veteran Services Office. I have joined the Students Veterans Association (SVA) here on campus. While here at Grayson, it is my hope to contribute to my classes, to my job and to the SVA. I want to make a positive impact. The time will come when I graduate from Grayson and continue my education at Baylor Law School in Waco. I chose to pursue my associates at Grayson College because of the positive atmosphere and its high quality of education, as well as being a veteran-friendly campus. Likewise, my choice in Baylor Law School is based solely on the institution's stellar reputation in the legal profession.

God, country, family, and the Corps have all been the positive influences in my life that define who I am. They have led me to Grayson College to further my education and to become the person that I need to be to succeed at the highest level. Semper Fidelis.



It's not too late to accept membership into
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Deadline extended to December 2!

Do you:

- Have a 3.5 GPA?
- Desire to serve others?
- Want to strengthen your leadership skills?
- Need scholarships to help pay for college?



Accept now at ptk.org or contact Advisor Mary Linder: ptk@grayson.edu

edition. Compared to the interest levels students felt in her time, she believes that now this level is diminishing. "Unless it is a special edition," Silen sees the future of *The Viking* as "strictly online" because "it is a cost" to access news elsewhere. The debate of newspaper costs caused a stir within our neighbor campus, Austin College, semesters ago. Advisor Christina Herrera has been with the college's newspaper, *The Observer*, for a mere 15 months, but still proves a valuable source in explaining what the campus learned from publishing their newspaper strictly online. She says it "had to do strictly with the cost of printing," as the campus was struggling to govern the costs of web hosting and printing their publication. This is what caused the campus to decide on dropping physical releases of their paper in order to cut costs. "[The change to digital] looked good on paper," Herrera notes, as she has read the proposal the former advisor used to move to digital, but the idea ultimately failed after being put into action. Readership of *The Observer* diminished to less than 100 views, with many of these digital views being newspaper staff checking articles for errors. Now, the school has learned from their mistake by acquiring a "group of dedicated" readers and writers who see big plans for the future of *The Observer*, both as a physical and digital publication. Herrera hopes that this year will "lay a good foundation" for the newspaper over time. Will *The Viking* face the same fate *The Observer* did if the campus decided to move it to strictly digital? Will our newspaper even exist for future students? "Only time will tell," Coleman says.

Why Choose Honors College?

by Aliza Hastings, Sabrina Inman, and Sarah Dilling
Students & Honors College Members



→ Photo courtesy of Dr. Brandy Fair (Posing at the National Collegiate Honors Council from Left: Aliza Hastings, Sarah Dilling, Dr. Brandy Fair, and Sabrina Inman.)

Three Honors students and their advisor, Dr. Brandy Fair, traveled to Seattle, Washington to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council conference. Each student reflected on their experiences and attempted to put their thoughts into words about what they gained from the conference and from participating in the Grayson Honors College.

Aliza Hastings: This October, me alongside my officer team traveled to Seattle, Washington to attend a national honors college conference, NCHC. This experience heightened my sense of belonging in the Grayson Honors College. The conference theme was Why Honors. Not only was this conference an amazing opportunity to meet honors students from around the nation, learn about benefits of being an honors student, and the opportunity to bring innovated ideas to implement in the Grayson Honors College, but this conference has allowed me to become a successful, talented, and outgoing student at Grayson College. I believe there are many reasons why a student should join Honors College; however, the most important one would be that Honors pushes students to become the best version of themselves.

Sabrina Inman: The honors conference hosted in Seattle, Washington was a once in a lifetime experience for me. This being my first conference I learned many things related to being an honors student. One thing from this trip that sticks with me is the history I learned about the city of Seattle and the Native American Tribes. This conference has given me a new outlook on the Honors College experience and why I joined the honors college. My main aspiration of joining honors college was to better my transferring opportunities, but as time has progressed I have not only grown myself academically as a student but have developed leadership skills that I will have for the rest of my endeavors.

Sarah Dilling: I enjoyed the NCHC experience very much! Each of the Honors students could choose what forums, lectures, and classes we wanted to attend. We learned a lot from this conference and gained some great advice. Sightseeing around the city was fun for us to see certain historical artifacts of Seattle including the Space Needle, Pikes Place Museum, and Chihuly Garden and Glass museum. This experience has excited me about my future in the Honors College and I am ready to innovate new ideas to our Honors program. We all agree that the Honors College has helped us grow as students. When asking the question "Why Honors?" we believe it has given us the extra push needed in the college experience to continue to better ourselves. NCHC provided an opportunity to inspire groups of students to become passionate about their own Honors College experience.

If interested in learning more about the Grayson Honors College please come to one of our weekly club meetings. We meet Thursdays from 12:15-1 in the Viking Room next to GC Perks. Anyone is welcome to attend! For information about Honors classes offered, scholarships available, etc. please contact Dr. Fair at fairb@grayson.edu or at her office in AC 108-B.



<http://tinyurl.com/TheGCScoop>

Add *The Scoop* in Canvas and access it like you do your courses! Get connected with your peers, stay up to date on campus activities and be one step closer to success.



The Student Veteran: Continued from page 1



→ Photo by Tommy Ellis (Above: Caleb Ashley)

Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii. Hawaii was quite different from Pottsville, especially with a year round average temperature of 80 degrees. There, I was engaged in MP work for six months, i.e. guard duty, sentry, security work, etc. Then, I was trained in more combat-type duties prior to deploying to the ancient city of Kandahar, Afghanistan. Alexander the Great conquered this area over three hundred years before the time of Christ. It is the birthplace of the

Taliban and where Osama bin Laden began his war against the Western World.

For the year I was in Kandahar my role was as an "open turret gunner" strapped to my M2 50 caliber machine gun. I was going out on patrols, providing security for convoys and assisting in a variety of other mission-essential duties. During my time in Kandahar, I learned just how different it is in a third world country, and I must say, I learned a lot from my visit. I watched the locals knead bread with their feet and have had rocks thrown at me by children who didn't know any better. I had locals express their gratitude and appreciation for what I shared with them. I was medically discharged from the Army in August of 2013. Because of my military experience, I am now able to attend Grayson College due to the GI Bill. For that, I am grateful.

I get anxious in crowds and struggle with anxiety and PTSD. However,

attending college classes, especially speech class, and working with different individuals in the VSO, I find myself improving greatly. I know without a doubt that I'm conquering these fears and that someday the PTSD will only exist in my past, not in my present and certainly not in my future. Proud veteran, father and Grayson College Viking.

I am most proud to be a father of three beautiful children ages two, three and six as well as a husband to my wonderful wife, April. When not in school or studying, I spend most of my time playing "daddy" or just aggravating my children, teaching them, playing with them, and showing them what it is to exercise empathy. I enjoy playing video games like Call of Duty Black Ops Zombies and World of Warcraft. When not in class, I can frequently be found working in the Veteran Services Office, in the Hub studying or outside the office at GC Perks relaxing.

Assistant District Attorney mentors at Student Leadership Series



→ Photo by Logan Beauchamp

(Left to Right, SGA Service Coordinator Logan Beauchamp, Assistant District Attorney Britton Brooks, SGA President Joseph Tajik, SGA Secretary Shalene White)

Rotaract: Serving the community through action

by Julia Pletan

Student

Grayson College's Rotaract club held its final fall semester meeting with the focus of on gratitude, in light of the coming Thanksgiving holiday. Club members expressed their appreciation by writing thank you notes to many employees of the college who help make their college experience positive. The messages were sent to those who work hard to create a learning environment that welcomes students and invites them to become a part of the campus community.

The members of Grayson College Rotaract participated in Hall-O-Fest this year for the second time by raising awareness of the work of Rotary International in ending polio. To support the END POLIO NOW cause, Rotaractors provided two paths for recognition: quizzing and giving. Last year, Rotaract imitated the work of international healthcare workers to indicate the newly vaccinated by dyeing the pinkie fingers purple. Vaccinations cost a mere 60 cents, and all donations are tripled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. A small individual donation may save the life of a child or prevent a crippling disease. The message of working together to serve humanity, the theme of Rotary this year, was promoted.

This year, instead of purple pinkie recognitions, the club raffled two 30 oz stainless steel double insulated tumblers customized with the Viking Mascot, and the winners' names. Glassworks, the local vendor etching the tumblers, added the Rotary logo with the date of birth of Jonas Salk, inventor of the polio vaccine. Dean Leon Deutsch won the drawing

for donation recognition and student Yessica Serrano won the drawing for the quiz prize. Mr. Deutsch is the Dean of Teaching and Learning. Ms. Serrano is a first semester student at Grayson College with a degree plan in elementary education.

In addition to awarding the prizes to the winners of this year's Hall-O-Fest contest, Rotaract VP Rache'l Terry presented members with the t-shirts she designed for the service club. To capture the spirit of service, Ms. Terry designed a wave logo with the motto "Reach Out and Dive In." The club officers and members have been busy volunteering with Austin College Rotaractors and the Grayson County Rotarians, the local Rotary club that sponsors both college-based Rotary organizations.

When the spring semester begins. Grayson College Rotaractors will be joining again with Austin College Rotaractors and the Grayson County and Sherman Rotaries in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The annual MLK breakfast held at Austin College has long celebrated the civil rights leader and promoted a spirit of service in the community. Students interested in joining Rotaract are welcome. For more information about Rotaract, contact Dr. Jean Sorensen at sorensenj@grayson.edu or by calling her office phone: 903-466-8660.

Campus Resources

Gym & Fitness Center

Open to all students and staff with a college ID.
Monday - Friday
6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

BSM Weekly Luncheon Program

Free lunch for students and employees.
Wednesdays
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sweet Treats Stop

Complimentary sweet pastries, snacks and more, provided by Great Western Dining Service.
Sponsored by Student Life.
First and Third Wednesdays
9 - 10 a.m.
Life Center, 2nd Floor

Hump Day Snack Attack

Complimentary assorted snacks provided by Great Western Dining Service.
Hosted by Student Life.
Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 1 - 3 p.m.
Life Center, 2nd Floor

Mindfulness Workshop

Tools, Techniques, and evidence-based methods to help you regulate stress.

Nov. 29 - 30.
Tuesdays, 10 - 11 a.m.
Wednesdays, 8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

Please report incorrect listings to the editor:
beauchamp@grayson.edu

Baptist Student Ministry: Fall Activities

Wednesday Noon Luncheons: GC students as well as faculty/staff are invited to the BSM Wednesday Luncheons held throughout the semester. We plan to serve the meal, provided by area churches, at 11:30 am and at 12:15 pm followed by a brief program featuring music and speakers from area churches and/or the GC community. There is no charge for this event.

Noon Time Bible Studies: Bible study groups will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday at 12:15-12:45 pm throughout the semester. Lunch is provided.

The BSM building is located between the Sports & Recreation Center and the Campus Police buildings.

For more information concerning how you can get involved in BSM – please stop by our building (open from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm), email us at bsm6101@airmail.net, or call us at 903-463-8798/903-465-2207. All students on campus are welcome to participate in BSM activities regardless of religious preference.



Photo Courtesy of the Baptist Student Ministry

GC Counseling Center Welcomes You!

by Barbara Malone
Counselor/ Supervisor

The Office of Counseling and Academic Advising is in the Administration Building. The current staff of the Grayson College Counseling Center include Licensed Professional Counselors and a Student Practicum Counselor. All of our staff are generalists and the center is able to make personal counseling available to all students.

The GCCC is under the supervision of Barbara Malone, a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor with 22 years counseling experience. “We’re pleased to extend our counseling services to students,” said Malone, adding, “It takes courage to address problem areas and examine painful feelings. Entering counseling is taking the first step in resolving difficulties.”

This year Practicum Student Counselor, Becki Rathfon, began collaborating with the center and seeing clients on. An alumni of Grayson College, Becki Rathfon is currently pursuing her Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at SOSU and brings her background from a CACREP University to Grayson. She plans to pursue licensure and become a Licensed Professional Counselor. Becki is dedicated to making a difference, helping others, and offering an attentive ear.

GC students can benefit from Becki’s enthusiasm for the field of counseling and passion for therapeutic listening. She plans to offer free counseling to GC students for the current semester and the 2017 academic year.

Counseling is a chance to talk confidentially with someone who can help you learn coping skills and new ways of looking at situations. Some students benefit from one or two sessions of problem-solving, while some concerns may warrant multiple counseling sessions.

Almost anyone can benefit from counseling. College students, in particular, may face these common concerns:

- Low self-esteem
- Confusing and distressing feelings
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Stress
- Substance abuse
- Problems with eating and body image
- Relationship problems
- Academic performance
- Adapting to college life

All counseling sessions are confidential. Only you can give consent for us to release information about you. Any information that you provide, as well as counseling records, are strictly confidential, except in life-threatening situations, or in cases of suspected child or elder abuse.

Our counselors:

- Are accepting of cultural differences, including race, ability, gender, religious affiliation and sexual orientation.
- Will maintain the highest ethical and legal standards of confidentiality.
- Will be open to discussing any of your concerns.
- Are interested in listening to you.

Currently, registered students can come to the GCCC to schedule an appointment, or they may contact Becki at rathfonb@grayson.edu. At the first appointment, the counselor and student will decide what type of counseling will be most beneficial. Students requiring immediate help can be seen on an emergency basis on the same day. Sometimes all you need is a safe, caring place to talk.

Need Food?

Not everyone is able to say “yes” to this question. Texas has the second highest food insecurity rate in the nation. Phi Theta Kappa helps combat food insecurity on campus by operating a food pantry for Grayson College students. For more information email Mary Linder at linderm@grayson.edu.

Grayson College Career Services

Assistance is available for:

resume writing, cover letters, completing job applications, interview preparation, developing job search strategies & more!

*Preparation can make the difference
in YOU getting the job!*

For an appointment, contact Gretchen Huff,
Job Placement Specialist, huffg@grayson.edu (903) 415-2544.
Located in the Advising area.



Writing Center Mindfulness Workshop

by Karen Campbell
English Professor/ Writing Center

The Writing Center is offering Stress Relief and Mindfulness workshops that will present tools, techniques and evidence-based methods designed specifically to help you self-regulate and manage the effects of stress, improve concentration and learning. People at any age can practice these techniques.

Some of these tools will include education, gentle movements, breath techniques, and guided relaxation. The environment will be safe with no one being singled out to do anything they are not comfortable with. At the end of the session we will be ready to start free writing in our journals for the last 20 minutes.

Days: Tuesdays: 10:00-11:00 am, Wednesdays: 8:15-9:15 am

Dates: Nov. 29 & 30.

Time: 60 min (Stress Relief & Mindfulness practices and free writing)

Location: CIS 201

Topics we will learn and experience are:

1. Posture and alignment of the body for proper flow in body.
2. Unify alignment of body, mind and breathe into balance, stability, harmony and joy.
3. Calm and clear the mind with diverse methods such as:
 - Breathing techniques
 - Intention
 - Visualization
 - Attention
 - Release tension mentally and physically with gentle movements synchronized with the breath.
 - Still the emotions with a harmonized breathe.
4. How posture and breath can influence our self-awareness and emotions dissolving stress and anxiety.
5. The importance of rest - exercise, safety, nutrition and healthy relationships.
6. How to stay neutral in stressful situations.
7. Find peace that is our natural state of mind.
8. Practice journaling or free writing that can be useful to help relieve stress and come up with ideas for various classes.



Getting Involved: A Leap of Faith

by Charlotte Huckestein
Student

For many students this year is their first encounter with college level courses. Some live away from home, others have marital or parental duties, and still others have work, but they are all attending with hopes of earning a degree. As a first-time student, I recently had the chance to sit down with other “new” students to hear their thoughts on how they have transitioned into college life and what helped them the most.

Abraham Tobar, a freshman, said that he felt his transition was, “...decently smooth, but it has been hard adjusting to the way assignments are structured.” He informed me that the hardest part of the school year was getting started. Another freshman student, Andrea Meza, said she had to get used to, “...the hours. I am working and raising two young children, so, I have to do assignments at odd hours which has really changed my schedule recently. I did not have this problem in high school, so, it is a bit of an adjustment.” Both students found transitioning difficult for different

reasons, but their plight was the same. For me, starting college was stressful. I worried what my professors would think of me, if I could make good grades, and if I would make friends. A lot of students seem to be feeling the same way. Some of us have struggled, some of us have flourished, and some of us are still trying to figure it out, but that is okay. College is about what we learn through our experiences. One thing that really helped me to combat my fears was getting involved.

Getting involved is probably the most overwhelming thing to do as a college freshman. You might think you have too much going on, but don’t be fooled! You can do it! After all, what is the point of college without experiences? Abraham and Andrea both told me the same thing, “When I got involved, I got better.” Each explained that once they got excited about being a part of something, the rest was not so bad. Go for it! It will make a world of difference.



Photo Courtesy of publicdomainpictures.net

Turn That \$#!% Off, It's Just Noise!

by Kyle Morman
Student

What makes music so intriguing? It appeals to everyone. Men and women of all ethnicities, lifestyles, and backgrounds appreciate it. After all, sound is art... or is sound a science? A skilled musician is required, by their art, to utilize both sides of the brain actively and continuously to combine harmony and melody in ways that elicit obscure transcendental stimulation to one's imagination and dreams.

In the 50s and 60s a wave of new inventions altered music more drastically than any other period in history. According to Bob Bobson, a guitar virtuoso who earned a bachelor's degree in classical music from the University of Miami, and served as director of the Interlochen public radio station for the last 20 years: "We saw inventions like the guitar amplifier and the FM radio. Those [early rock musicians] reshaped the face of almost every instrument we use today."

When FM radio became prevalent, the general public gained power music industry by responding to advertising, and promoting radio stations and musicians. In an instant, the trade was completely taken over by the working class. Brad Bradbury, a touring musician, states, "Musicians could finally use the time they spent in bars and on street corners as a stepping stone to a career."

This new technology also spurred interest in guitar. Music had previously been built on structure and melody; but, by adding an electric current to an instrument, musicians could now make unheard-of noises. "The platform switched in the mid-late 50s. Guitar split pop into rock, which was led by guitarists and jazz, which was led horns and pianists. The Beatles were the first time you really ever saw two guitarists on

stage at the same time," states Bill Cook, a professional musician of 45 years.

In the late 60s, the Beatles used dozens of technical effects, including backtracking, overdubbed vocals, sound effects, and tape loops. These innovations transferred the focus of music production to the assimilation of instrument with effect. The next 10 years would experience bands like: Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Yes, the Doors, the Grateful Dead, Rush, Jethro Tull, Black Sabbath, the Who, Deep Purple and Judas Priest.

Bradbury adds "These pioneers were not restricted by record labels or media. Since all the technology, style, and platform were new there was not a strong corporate grip on the music like we see today." In the late sixties, music had become large enough for corporations to take stock of what musicians were doing.

With the backing of corporations, the music business skyrocketed. Blue-collar workers could purchase an album and listen to one artist consistently. According to Bobson, "Shows just got progressively more intense for the next two decades." However, while musicians were touring and producing music, businessmen were writing contracts. The artists lost control of the show, the industry, album art, their names, and even their profits. The loss was not purposeful; it was business.

Listening to and developing songs is one of the few arts in the world that requires skilled active mental involvement. Good tunes will not disappear, the pursuit of knowledge is embedded in the spirit of rock-and-roll. "...Rock is not dead, it has just fallen out of the mainstream. Musicians still make it for a cult following," says Cook.

Down the Rabbit Hole: A new exhibits hops in

by Steve Black
Professor

November 9 to December 8, 2016 in the 2nd Floor Gallery

The 2nd Floor Gallery is located on the first floor of the Arts & Communication Center
Grayson College / 6101 Grayson, Drive
Denison, Texas 75020

"Down the Rabbit Hole" is an exhibit featuring original works that will explore the various connotations and undertones of the concept of falling down the rabbit hole.

The phrase "Down the Rabbit Hole" often refers to something that is intricate or convoluted like a maze and often has no outlet or resolution. It may be used a metaphor for an entry into the unknown, the disorientating or the mentally deranging, from its use in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. It may refer to a psychedelic experience or alternate reality. Other references state "Down the Rabbit Hole" may mean "having your mind blown"; a search for meaning, or going to a place where everything we believe we know is totally out of sync with what is being experienced or learned about; a situation that is strange, confusing, or illogical. It may also mean the real world of dreams and imagination. The essential nature of a rabbit hole is to unravel.

Synonyms of "Down the Rabbit Hole" include blind corner, kaleidoscopic, catch-22, idiocy, sticky wicket, jam, quagmire, dilemma, bizarre, mire, impasse, madness, lunacy, idiocy, pickle, predicament, insanity, and swamp.

The exhibit is free and open to the public.

New Student Poem: New Soldiers

by Charlotte Huckestein

Students are now like soldiers.

A new battle wages within.
They carry their books on their backs
And paint their face with a grin.

Some have their wits about them.
Some stare blankly at the sky.
Still others struggle across the terrain.
Making little progress as hard as they try.

They do not know their potential.
They keep their swords half drawn.
Awaiting the failure, they fear
To come with the next dawn.

But a new school is just a new story
Written with the same pen.
An author who takes a blank page
And begins to write again.

An impromptu poem
by Zachary Pletan

Above: Zachary Pletan

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! It's in the paper, so you know you can't doubt it.
Come pick up *The Viking*, just no cents a copy. We guarantee nothing about it is sloppy.

Photo by Logan Beauchamp

A poem by Lisa Malone

Mark my love, Oh, how I miss you.
Seeing your smile and the love in your eyes.
The years flew by too fast
as we watched our children grow
Then once again hearing the laughter
as each grandchild was born.
How I wish the illness never came.
All too soon you were gone.
Memories of joy and happiness overflow
Just like my tears for times past.
When I see the faces of our family
I also see the many sides of you
Remembering the times of laughter
shared among us.
So much given of you.
Thankful for the time that we had.
Cherishing each and every memory.

(Pictured Below: Lisa and Mark Malone)



Photo by Lisa Malone

GRAYSON COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Fall 2016 Concerts and Recitals

AC/GC Wind Symphony Concert

Nov. 16th 7:30pm
Cruce Stark Auditorium
Director, Robert Archer

GC Music Department Recital

Nov. 22th 7:00pm
Cruce Stark Auditorium

For more information about the performances or information about the Grayson College Music Department contact:

Dr. David R. Tercero
903.463.8720
tercerod@grayson.edu