



Get Involved

Viking Deadline
 Monday, August 14th
 Send all submissions to the editor, Morgan Bryant, at MoBryant@vikings.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

Baptist Student Ministries
 Wednesdays, 11:30 - 12:15 p.m.
 BSM building

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 p.m.
 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
 TBA

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

Gamers Guild
 First Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.
 Design Room,
 Arts & Communications

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, Liberal Arts

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)
 Tuesdays
 12:30-1:30 p.m.
 Location TBA

Medical Lab Technology
 TBA

Men of Distinction
 Thursdays, 12 - 1 p.m.
 CWL Seminar Room A

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Nursing students honor our veterans



Photo courtesy of Mika Pierce

The Vocational Nursing Association students Chanda Hargis, Elizabeth Melton, Haley Welborn, Ashleigh Landry, and Sussane Okodo marched with pride along side veterans at the Veterans Day Parade in Bonham, Texas on March 31, 2017.

Read about our Veteran services on page 3 and see more of what our nurses are up to on page 7.

Are we safe on campus?



by James Scott
 Student

During the first week of the spring semester, Grayson student Sandy Bates* put her books on a table in the Liberal Arts building, along with her prescription sunglasses, and went to the restroom.

When she returned to get her books, she found that her prescription sunglasses were missing.

After checking the restroom, her car, and the classroom she had been in that morning, she checked at the Student Life desk to see if anyone had turned the sunglasses in.

Bates said she knew she had put the sunglasses on the table and believes they were stolen, leaving her asking, "Am I really safe at this college?"

Although upset by the incident, she didn't report the theft to law enforcement.

Director of Public Safety and Communications for Grayson College Andrew McPherson believes the Grayson campus is a safe environment for the students and faculty.

McPherson, also known as the Chief of Police for Grayson, has worked for the department for many years and began there as an officer under former Chief Tim Green.

McPherson says many thefts of this nature don't get reported. He calls the Bates experience a "theft of opportunity," in which the theft occurs because the item is easily accessible.

McPherson believes this is because the police officers for Grayson College are "looked at [by students] as 'security guards.'"

McPherson describes an incident from last year in which a woman told him she needed "a real police officer because a crime had been committed."

McPherson says he explained to the woman that the officers who work for

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Pampering the princesses of Grayson County

by Rebecca Blackburn
 Faculty



Photos courtesy of Rebecca Blackburn

(Left) Student Rhonda Rice pampers the toes of one local princess, while another princess looks on with interest.
 (Right) Student Joe Harper carefully curls the hair of a local princess.



On April 7, 2017, the Cosmetology department at Grayson College held a Princess Day, which involved giving little girls make-overs.

Each make-over included nails being polished, make-up applied, and hair being styled. We held this fun-filled event to raise donations for the Grayson County Shelter, and all donations went to the shelter.

The little girls walked out feeling like true princesses.

See great photos from a recent Fashion Show on page 6.

Make American Green Again

by Morgan Bryant
 Co-Editor



What We Are Doing At Grayson

On May 4th, here at Grayson, the Science Club will be selling a variety of plants in to raise awareness of the conservation and preservation of life— after all, every day should be Earth Day.

The club will also be handing out information over Texas' native plants. The sale will raise both awareness and money to do more conservation.

What can a sale do to help conservation and environmental awareness? All funds from the sale will go to the club's trip to the Great Birding Texas Classic event, which is a bird-watching event to help preserve and donate to the native birds of Texas' habitat.

Moreover, simply reading what the club has to say about our gorgeous native plants increases your awareness.

Just like Earth, society works like one big chain reaction; one more person supporting our environment will lead to great support and action from more people.

So join in! Help Grayson and many others make the world start thinking green, and donate your time to the cause.

Recycle the paper you're holding, turn off a couple lights, take shorter showers and ride your bike to school!

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Student Veterans Association News

by Billy Teague
 Veteran Outreach Specialist
 GC Veterans Services Office

On April 5th from noon until 1:00 p.m., a Memorial Service was held in the Veteran's HUB during the Student

Veteran Association (SVA) Meeting to remember the life of Callahn Moss Talcott, a former Grayson College student, VSO Work Study and Afghanistan combat veteran.

In attendance was Callahn's father, John Talcott, who shared stories and items from the shadow box he has created for Callahn's military service. Callahn served in the United States Army as an Air Assault Combat Infantryman, 101st Airborne Division for five years.

During this time, he served two tours in Afghanistan, earned the rank of Specialist (E-4), and received 10+ commendations/medals, including the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB).

In attendance for this memorial were students, staff, and faculty who remembered Callahn as an incredible young man who could light up a room. Billy Teague with the VSO presented John with both of Callahn's student ID badges, which had been reprinted for the memorial, and the challenge coin for College Credit for Heroes, the program in which Callahn worked as a Work-Study student.



Photo courtesy of Billy Teague
 Callahn Moss Talcott

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I write: A collage

Contributed by Dr. S. Thompson's INRW Students

by Emefa Adjo Aziale • Melissa Blevins • Sandra Biyo Issombi • Khadka Bogati • Deondra Brickhouse • Jackie Brown
Anna Chesley • Armando Dominguez Murillo • Traycee Flemmings • Micheal Green • John Herold • Bobbi Hood
Rajina Karki • Irene Lujan • Avery Motley • Leah Paveloff • Ashley Stephens • Jenisha Thapaliya • Heather Thompson
Kalea Thompson • Jesus Vasquez

Students

It is summer in Argentina. I'm with my friends, relaxing in the pool at my uncle's house.

I don't like to write because of the transition of language I must make before I write.

I don't like to write because it's difficult for me to put words on the page.

I don't like to write because I don't enjoy writing.

I don't like to write because English is not my first language.

I don't like to write because it demonstrates my lack of writing skills.

I don't like to write because I would rather be doing something else.

I don't like writing because I'm not creative.

I don't like to write because I don't know if people are going to like what I think.

from every corner, feel the fresh air hitting my face. I hear people laughing, see people smiling wherever I walk, feel the ground rumble as the subways are moving. This is why I write.

I write because I feel pain, hurt, and depression.

I write because the beauty in every sentence is coming from me.

I write because I miss my mother.

I write because all these words are like musical lyrics to me.

I write because I wish the suffering, emotion, pain, stress would just disappear.

I write because I love the sound of typing.

I write because I don't want to forget who I am.

I write because it makes me feel "not lonely."

I write because I have a dream, and I want it to be-

come as true as eating pepperoni pizza.

Is it fun to be outside in the dark after midnight . . . walking toward a house that we call safe?

I write to get away from the awful world my own mind has created.

I write to cope with what I've lost.

I write to see another side of the story.

I write to understand what has happened.

I write to get through the day.

I write to get through the night.

I write because it's my way to revive my heart when it's broken.

I write to separate my actions and my consequences.

I write to remember all the great times in my life.

I write to realize that I am

young and that I will make my own mistakes and always learn.

I find a nice warm, quiet area, almost in the dark of my room, where I wrap up my whole body under a gray cotton comforter, where I can't be seen—where no one can find me—like I'm invisible to the world.

I write to try to find the woman God wants me to be.

I write to tell about the loneliness I feel even when I'm not alone.

I write not to feel alone.

I write to encourage myself.

I write to remember things as my life keeps going by.

I write to be whole, not like pieces are missing.

I write for a chance to be

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Mu Alpha Theta
1st and 3rd Thursdays
1 - 2 p.m.
LA204, Liberal Arts

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

Phi Theta Kappa
Wednesdays
12:30 - 1:00 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 Thursdays
3 - 4 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
Every other Thursday
12:20 - 12:50 p.m.
Study Room 3, 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 - 4:00 p.m.
691 Restaurant, Culinary Arts

Veteran Nursing Student Association
First Mondays, 12 p.m.
South Campus Skills Lab

Vocational Nursing 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:
Morgan Bryant
MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu.

A trip to Kentucky



by Hunnington Sloan
Staff Writer

So, this past month, a few of us from the Writers Club here on campus drove up to Love Field airport in Dallas then hopped onto a plane to Denver to chill in Colorado until our flight into Louisville, Kentucky.

Our goal: to make it to the 2017 International Convention of Sigma Tau Delta! Or basically a big ole writer's convention.

Now don't let my downplay of this event deter reading further. This event was one of the most illuminating events I've experienced.

All around us, students from four-year universities and two-year colleges from around the country, who devoted their time and energy to writing, mingled and talked with such excitement.

Also, there were corners of the socially awkward who, too, loved writing, but struggled to get over their fear of talking to people.

I am in the latter group. But I am getting sidetracked. This convention held a lot of student-led readings, round tables, and lectures on a range of subjects--from world building to Marxism in your children's cartoons!

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Photo courtesy of Marlea Trevino
Some members of the Writers Unlimited club enjoyed a trip to a Sigma Kappa Delta Writers Conference in Louisville, KY.



Consider joining the Grayson Honors College

Honors College is looking for new members!

For more information, contact **Dr. Brandy Fair** at **FairB@grayson.edu**.

We meet in the **Viking Room** every **Thursday at 12:15 p.m.**

Meetings are open for anyone!

Did you know?

When you show your Grayson ID at Old Iron Post in Sherman, you'll receive

10% off your meal!

Offer is good for both students and employees, dine-in only, and excludes alcoholic beverages.

Must have your ID.

Thanks,
Old Iron Post,
for supporting
Grayson College!



Anne's Journal: Growing and moving on



by Anne Dering
Editor

Someone very dear to my heart recently told me, "You're either growing or you're dying."

She then added a question that has been swimming around in my mind ever since our chat: "Which would you rather be doing?"

Of course, I would choose growing over dying. But what do my *actions* say is my choice?

If I'm not moving toward bigger and better goals, if I'm not doing the tasks that will improve my life and the lives of those I love, if I'm not growing, then I, apparently, have chosen to die.

Do those who are dying know they are dying?

Over Spring Break, this dear friend--and a true friend, indeed - jarred me awake to my reality, and showed me that I was dying, simply because I wasn't growing.

She helped me realize I was dying while I was living.

I would wake up, hope, and wish certain areas of my life would improve, but

I was afraid to really face what that would entail.

I would go to bed with the same life, not worse, but not better either. I was dying.

Since that moment two months ago, I have taken a giant--and very scary--leap of faith and resigned as both INRW (Integrated Reading and Writing) instructor/tutor at Grayson and editor of *The Viking*, and accepted a full-time position in the corporate world.

I hated to leave Grayson College. I've been so blessed by my time here.

I love my colleagues, especially those who are now great friends.

But I must move on. Growing requires change. Change is scary.

This change, though exhilarating and fun, has also brought to the surface fears I have of my new reality.

Can I do this? Do I deserve the good that comes with this change?

Am I capable of moving past my comfort zone?

What if I fail?

Continued on page 3

Make American Green Again

Continued from page 1

The earth is like one enormous and complicated chain reaction; one small impact on one thing has major repercussions on many things.

Human impact on the environment can be beneficial or harmful. And, unfortunately, our society's awareness and attitudes regarding the harmful impacts on the environment have been more informed by politics than science.

In fact, most of the awareness about human impact on the environment is dedicated to only one day of the year, Earth Day. After Earth Day, the awareness of what we are doing to our environment is considerably diminished, often stifled by the media and politicians.

However, there is no question that actions, such as pollution, overfishing, and deforestation, hurt our environment.

The problem is that often these major impacts on our surroundings are dismissed, or questioned in relevance.

We've all heard the dismissal and denial on the news: "One less species of elephant isn't the end of the world!" "How will global warming hurt us? We have A/Cs."

But the truth is, people are not aware of the massive impact a few extra degrees has on the yearly average temperature or an extinct mammal has on the environment.

As inhabitants, we should know what is going on because the fact is that we are an integral part of the environment.

For example, it is not nearly stressed enough that the famed global warming will have great repercussions on our agricultural production.



Photo courtesy of Morgan Bryant
Grayson Science Club: (L to R) Caytlin Thompson, Dr. Parsons, Xander Ivey, Dr. Keck, Chloe Russel, Dr. Dill, Morgan Bryant

Earth's organisms are accustomed to specific environmental traits, or they evolve over time to adapt to new traits. Commercial corn is bred to prosper in specific surroundings—so what happens when these surroundings heat up five extra degrees year long?

We can just breed the corn to live in these harsher conditions, right?

Unfortunately, breeding a species to new conditions takes time and multiple generations to achieve.

By the time the corn is adapted to the new environment, the environment will have already increased another five degrees!

Not to mention a hotter environment means water evaporates faster—how do we plan to compensate for the higher water demands for our agriculture?

How will our crops survive in unusual humidity? Problems such as these illustrate just one of the many impacts global warming has on us.

The fact is, many people aren't aware of these simple but great impacts. Furthermore, many organizations and scientists trying to help raise awareness are being shunned by our society.

If we want to survive, we have to help other things survive. We have to take action and raise awareness. It must be understood that what we do to the environment directly impacts our own survival!

22 Holidays



by Shalene White
Staff Writer & Library Aide

He came into the world kicking, and she knew right away She would be picking up the pieces of her broken heart some day. He always was the soldier every time he was at play. He couldn't wait to make it official on his 18th birthday. She was proud but terrified the day he signed his life away. And knew she'd lost her baby when they shipped him to Ukraine. "Please keep him safe," every night she would pray. "I couldn't make it, Lord, if you took my son away." They draped the flag across the coffin where his lifeless body lay. And she knew she would never again be okay. Her baby boy barely made 22 holidays.

Anne's Journal: Growing and moving on

Continued from page 2

But you know what? **I can do this.** I do deserve the best that life offers me. I am capable of moving past my comfort zone. I have failed before. And, I've tried again and succeeded!

That's the funny thing about failure that we sometimes forget about--so don't give up after failing. Try again. Success will often soon follow.

Some of you might be where I am. You're at the end of your time here at Grayson. You've made lasting friendships and learned about your future careers and yourselves. You've grown and lived and loved. Now you're standing at the end of one journey and the beginning of another. The future is hidden, possibly dark and even daunting. Do you step forward and grow? Or do you stand still and die? You're either growing or dying. Which would you rather be doing?

Choose to live.

Read a great article on page 5 titled "History in Our Midst" about one man's journey through life here in Denison. Learn something new about our town and the importance of history.

Veterans Education Forum

by Tommy Ellis
Project Coordinator
Center of Excellence for
Veteran Student Success

A Veterans Education Forum was held in the Viking Room on the Grayson College campus on Wednesday evening, April 5, 2017, from 6-7:30 p.m.

The forum was arranged by Billy Teague, Veterans Outreach Specialist with the Veteran Services Office, and coincided with the Open House held the same day.

Both events were developed to enhance the outreach and recruiting efforts for the Center of Success for Veteran Student Success in an attempt to increase the number of student veterans at Grayson College.

The Veterans Education Forum included a



Photo courtesy of Phyllis Neely
Charles Leslie and Donna King listen with great interest.

The moderator, Mr. Deutsch, was adept at ensuring all comments and questions were adequately answered and on topic.

Each panelist was also afforded the opportunity to expand on their military background and/or their area expertise regarding providing services to veteran students. The information provided by the panel was so critical that the Fannin County Veterans Service Officer in attendance requested that a similar forum be considered for the Veterans Administration facility some time in the very near future.

This forum's subject matter and its importance was such that one recent U.S. Army retiree even drove from his home in Garland just to get the veterans' education information that he so desperately needed.

The staff of the Veteran Services Office encourages all veterans, dependents and survivors of veterans to call or stop by the VSO to check on VA benefits and receive the assistance the veterans' service has earned.

For additional information, please call 903.415.2615 or stop by the office located on the 2nd Floor of the Student Life Center (next to GC Perks).



Photo courtesy of Phyllis Neely
Dr. Jeremy McMillen listens as Leon Deutsch leads the forum.

moderator, Leon Deutsch, as well as 5 panelists: Donna King, Director of Financial Aid/Veteran Services; Craig Greenwood, VSO Coordinator/Veterans Advisor; Charles Leslie, African-American Initiative Coordinator; and two student veteran representatives, Robert Medlar and Santiago Borgos. Dr. Jeremy McMillen, President of Grayson College, gave the welcome and opening remarks while presiding over the forum.

Student Veteran Panel

by Tommy Ellis
Project Coordinator
Center of Excellence for
Veteran Student Success

Faculty, staff, and administration at Grayson College's recent Learning Day, March 24, 2017, were the audience for a very special and informative Student

Veteran panel discussion.

Moderator Leon Deutsch, Dean of Teaching and Learning, led the panel of six current Grayson College veteran students



Photo courtesy of Tommy Ellis
Front Row (L to R) Santiago Borgos, Amber Rogers, Lori Anstey, Johnny Reed and Robert Medlar.
Back Row (L to R) Stacie Pope, Andrew Potratz (Navy), Matthew Haws (Navy), Roger Gilliland (Army), Derrek Cheek (Marines), and Leon Deutsch (Coast Guard)

made up of Stacy Pope, Amber Rogers, Lori Anstey, Johnny Reed, Robert Medlar, and Santiago Borgos.

The ninety-minute session began with a moving "presentation of the colors," introduction of representatives of the five military branches, and a unified "Pledge of Allegiance" led by Billy Teague of the GC Veteran Services Office.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of those veterans no longer with us.

The student-panel concept was geared to providing insight into the military background of the various panel members and the various issues they have had to deal with or overcome in order to remain in school and to be successful students.

Although they all had varying reasons for selecting Grayson College following their military services, they were unanimous in praising their college experience at Grayson thus far.

Moderator Deutsch, a Coast Guard veteran himself, gave each panel member ample time to expand upon a number of topical questions regarding their matriculation at Grayson College.

One topic that was especially interesting and worthwhile to the audience was the discussion of all the "positives and uniqueness" that accompanies veterans into the classroom.

Another panel topic that generated considerable audience participation involved the dynamics of the veteran and non-veteran student relationships.

All panel members and the audience seemed in harmony regarding the value of respect-based relationships between faculty and student veterans and between student veterans and non-veteran students as well.

The very informative and first-ever Student Veteran Panel for Grayson College Learning Day concluded with the playing of TAPS, by Brett Long, eighth-grade student from Van Alstyne.

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 through email to Morgan Bryant, at MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu.

Bryant New Viking Editor

The Viking and Writers Unlimited are proud to announce that staff writer, and co-editor **Morgan Bryant** has accepted the position of head editor for the upcoming year! She, and Gabrielle DeMay have been a help to our outgoing editor, Anne Dering. She will do a great job in building the school's newspaper next year.

If you want to submit an article, story, photograph, or poem, the deadline will be **Monday, August 14th**. Materials may be submitted via email to Morgan Bryant, at **MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu**.

A look back and a step forward

by Charlotte Huckestein
Staff Writer

Graduation is right around the corner, and many students are preparing to walk the stage.

Kristen, a general studies major, said what she will miss the most about Grayson are her favorite teachers, "even the hard ones," she claimed.

"It was never easy, but all of them bent over backwards to help me," she explained.

Kristen also said that her teachers expected more from her and as a result helped her "find something in myself that I didn't know was there: resolve."

Kristen explained that Grayson was what gave her the willpower to move on to even higher education.

While speaking with me she said, "Now, I know I can move forward and succeed; now I am ready."

Now that her time at Grayson has come to a close, Kristen plans to move on to become a dental hygienist.

Another student named Stacy also shared with me what she would miss most about Grayson College.

She explained that she would miss "the interaction among students, whether in class, the library, or Student Life functions."

Stacy said the impact Grayson leaves with her is embedded in the Phi Theta Kappa or-

ganization.

"There are so many soft skills that employers and companies are looking for these days, and Phi The-



Photo courtesy of the Grayson College Facebook page.

Last year's 2016 graduating students are all smiles after the ceremony. This beautiful walk of newly graduated Grayson Vikings through two walls of mentors and educators will take place again in just a few weeks.

ta Kappa helps you learn and advance those skills.

"Those leadership opportunities that may seem small at first really build as one continues volunteering one's time with society," she stated.

An even bigger point that Stacy emphasized was the sense of family in the organization she served.

"The close-knit family that is Omicron Psi compares to no other chapter in the society.

"The advisors and officers and active members are constantly there for you through those tough college years...I am forever grateful for my lifetime membership into Phi Theta Kappa," she testified.

Stacy plans to continue her education as well. These students got involved and enjoyed the ride.

This is a reminder to those still in school that it is not too late to join a club or make good grades!

Graduation ceremonies will be held May 12th at Cruce Stark Auditorium.

All are welcome to attend this celebration of accomplishment.

Congratulations to these students as well as to the entire graduating class of 2017!

Time & Money: Wisdom about both

by Julia Pletan
Student

"Time is like a river flowing – once it's gone, you'll never see it again." Alvin Bailey, who might be recognizable as one of Grayson College's librarians, recently made this statement at a Rotaract club meeting.

Bailey is full of random facts and fun stories, as well as insight into managing two important resources: time and money. His role as Rotaract Mentor led him to share what follows.

Bailey's presentation on time management was titled "Thirteen Surprising Things Productive People Do."

His first point in this presentation was a challenge to make a change in perspective: instead of focusing on hours, focus on minutes.

Keeping track of minutes spent on a task will enable one to spend the minutes more wisely.

Next in line is to set daily priorities. Bailey argued that identifying one's most important task and pursuing it for one hour every morning would increase happiness and energy.

The third insight is surprising: productive people do not use to-do lists. Instead, they "book their days." They schedule every activity, whether with a pen and paper or on their phone.

Bailey spoke of the "less-noble present self" when addressing his fourth point. Procrastination, he said, is beat by planning for our future selves. If one is trying to eat more salads, they should not buy candy to keep in the house.

The fifth habit that productive people do is "make it home for dinner." The amount of tasks to do requires more time than one has in a day. To overcome this, set priorities and make it home in time to eat dinner.

Number six is to use a notebook. The purpose? To write down anything and everything necessary to keep one's mind clear. This could include commitments, ideas, or deadlines. Write them down, and move on.

The next tip is to check email (or social media) only three times a day. Email and social media can be distracting from the priorities set in number five. Bailey suggested using the four d's: do it, defer it, delegate it, or delete it.

The eighth habit that productive people do is say "no" to almost everything. "Saying 'yes' to one thing

is actually a 'no' to something else," Bailey explained.

Question whether saying "yes" would be hurtful or harmful. Use the "yes" answers for tasks that will advance the goals that one has already set.

Number nine is that productive people recall the 80/20 rule. "80% of the outcomes come from only 20% of the activities."

One can't give everything their best. Identify the 20%, and pour the efforts there. **The tenth tip is to have a theme for the days of the week.** Each task will have a theme, and each theme will have a day.

The eleventh task productive people do is to only touch items once. "If something takes fewer than five



Photo courtesy of Jean Sorensen.

Former Denison Club President Robert Crawley with Sorensen and Bailey last summer after a presentation the two sponsors made to the club about GC' Rotaract.

minutes to do, do it."

When changing clothes, put the dirty clothes right into the hamper. Power through that school assignment and only touch it once.

The twelfth tip is to have a consistent morning ritual. Establish a routine, and start the day off on the right foot.

Finally, productive people, instead of focusing on time, focus on energy. They recognize that breaks are

not bad because they can boost energy.

Take short, frequent breaks in order to maintain momentum. Bailey encouraged Rotaractors to find the tricks that work and use them because "once you've spent time, it's gone."

At a later meeting Bailey also presented on "Seven Money Habits for Living the Life You Want." **First up: "quit the comparisons."** Be happy for the activities that others have been able to do and buy – not jealous.

His other words of wisdom on this point were, "Don't compare other's chapter twenty to your chapter five."

The second habit that ought to be established is to avoid debt. This is a tough one for college students, but life will be happier when managing money instead of debt.

Being free of debt allows one to view every dollar as an opportunity instead of an obligation.

The third tip is to create a plan for one's money. Through the plan, give oneself permission to spend.

Be intentional with money; the top three categories of successful people are, in order, giving, saving, and spending.

Fourth, think before spending. Avoid spending oneself broke by following one's plan and not being an impulse buyer.

The fifth strategy that Bailey gave is to "save like you mean it." Having an emergency fund is a good idea, but ensure that money is always going into savings when possible.

The next tip given was to "give a little...until you can give a lot." Bailey gave the example that if someone is tightfisted, they cannot lose money, but they cannot gain money either. Make giving a habit.

Finally, establish the habit of talking about money. It may at times be hard, but do it anyway.

Talk about it with a significant other; ensure that you're on the same page as they are. Find a mentor or accountability partner to advise one, especially before big purchases.

Bailey serves with Professor Jean Sorensen as co-sponsor to the Rotaractors and a mentor to the group.

Bailey concluded the presentation with the reminder that money is a tool – not a goal. His words of wisdom have guided the group present and may help those reading now.

Are we safe on campus?

Continued from page 1

Grayson College are all police officers who investigate crimes and even take people to jail.

One reason the Grayson College Police are sometimes not looked at by students as "real police" is the services the department offers.

The officers assist in helping unlock vehicles on campus in which the keys have been left or jumping off the battery when it goes dead and someone's car won't start.

The local Grayson County Sheriff's Office does not offer the services the Grayson PD does.

The deputies will assist in traffic control and have been known to help change a tire.

However, the deputies, due to liability to the Sheriff's Office, the county, and the deputies themselves, are not able to unlock vehicles.

They don't carry the tools or have the training to open a vehicle without causing damage.

The deputies don't carry jump boxes and due to the electronic devices in their vehicle, are not allowed to hook jumper cables to their vehicles that may cause costly damage that county taxpayers would have to pay.

Lt. David Sikes with the Grayson County Sheriff's Office compares the call statistics of the Sheriff's Office and Grayson College Police Department, saying the agencies have similar call types, but the Sheriff's Office has a much higher call load.

Statistics are calculated on the number of different types of calls such as theft, burglaries, assaults and other disturbances, etc.

Sikes, who started his career in law enforcement in 1972 and has worked as a dispatcher, a jailer, a patrol officer, and an investigator, states that the Grayson College Police assist the Sheriff's Office by responding as back-up units for calls near the college campus and have even taken calls for the deputies when they are busy.

Sikes says the Sheriff's Office and the Grayson College Police Department have a good working relationship.

McPherson says he spoke with Sheriff Tom Watt three weeks ago about a letter of understanding on sexual assault cases that allows the Sheriff's Office Investigators to assist the Grayson College Police with



Photo courtesy of GC Police Department

Grayson County Sheriff's Deputy James Scott and Grayson PD Officer Clayton Wilder, working together to keep the area safe.

their investigation of sexual assaults that occur on campus.

McPherson believes at least one sexual assault goes unreported each semester as compared to the national average.

McPherson comments about the campaign concerning sexual assault and points out the flyers that can be obtained in the Campus Police Offices.

McPherson compares Grayson College's size to that of the City of Tom Bean, Texas, saying the land size is comparable.

He describes the difference by stating only 86 students live on campus while the city of Tom Bean has many more residents.

McPherson compares the statistical analysis of the crime rates and says the college rate is comparable to that of the city of Tom Bean.

He says the college, like the city, had only one narcotics issue in October of last year and had about the

same call load if one leaves out the traffic stops the Tom Bean officers conduct each month.

Interim Chief of Police for Tom Bean Howard Day, who's been in law enforcement for 19 years and has served as an investigator for the Department of Justice with the Army, says both Tom Bean and Grayson College see a population increase during the day.

He continues that both see a low number of dispatched calls, but the college has a lower level of residents whereas the city has a population of about 1,100.

Day cites a study by the Texas Department of Transportation completed in 2013 that reported that the city sees about 5,200 vehicles per day passing through on the roads.

McPherson compares the statistics for the college crime rate to those of the county, saying, "We're asleep 24/7 compared to the Sheriff's Office."

He states that some of the crime, such as burglaries, are from off campus, but most of the crime that occurs is committed by people who belong on campus.

McPherson says with faculty and students, there are about 5,000 people who belong on campus, and usually there are about 1500

people on campus at one time during the day, including on the South Campus in Van Alstyne, Texas.

The Grayson PD call statistics show only 5 to 6 report calls per month for Grayson College, and very few major crimes ever occur on campus.

McPherson states that there have been only 3 thefts reported so far this year, but he encourages everyone to report all thefts, as well as any other crimes committed on campus, to the Grayson College Police Department.

Based on this information, Sandy Bates would likely say we are safe on campus.

* Name of the student has been changed for privacy.

The Grayson Police Department can be reached by calling (903) 463-8777 during business hours, (903) 814-3343 or (903) 893-4388 after hours. For emergencies, call 911.

Movie Review: *The Fate of the Furious*

by Zachary Pletan
Staff Writer

Imagine for a moment that the Avengers' primary occupation was driving cars.

Already you would know if you want to see the eighth entry in *The Fast and the Furious* franchise. Anything I can write is just gravy.

So let's get the worst out of the way: Vin Diesel spends a good half of *The Fate of the Furious* attempting to brood but instead merely looking constipated.

It is as if Hawkeye were made the main Avenger. There's nothing wrong with Hawkeye, but there are more charismatic personalities sharing the screen. In his case, it is Iron Man and Captain America; for Vin Diesel, it is Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Jason Statham.

The Rock and Statham are a brilliant duo and sorely needed after the sudden end to the Vin Die-

sel/Paul Walker bromance caused by Walker's tragic death several years ago.

Large portions of it make no sense. If you know anything about cars, racing, electronic warfare, probably submarines, etc., this movie is the proverbial dripping water torture—just enough "off" to register without being worthy of complaint.

The film shines, however, in its ability to quickly segue between improbable yet awe-inspiring concepts in action scenes until you have once again suspended your disbelief.

The spectacle is flashily directed and mostly unhampered by the shaky-cam that so often obscures badassery. Special mention is also warranted for the climax's understanding-- seemingly drawn from *Mad Max: Fury Road*-- that sometimes, the most thrilling location for a setpiece is not a warehouse or a city, but a blank canvas.

Ultimately, the film left me literally fist-pumping the air and gasping with joy (and also wondering when and why Dominic Toretto switched from Coronas to Buds.)

My advice is to bask in the action, comedy, and camaraderie, and you will not be disappointed.



Beginning as rivals, the affable Johnson and acerbic Statham trade first barbs, then handshakes, then trust.

In a franchise built, improbably, on the idea of family, it is a joy to witness the assimilation of former enemies via mutual respect and understanding.

That the family would be so quick to induct the killer of a former member (see *Furious 6*) does, however, bring to mind another small problem the film has.

Video Game Review: *Persona 5*

by Hunnington Sloan
Staff Writer



"This is truly an unjust game... Your chances of winning are almost none. But if

my voice is reaching you, there may yet be a possibility open to you. . . ."

This is the set-up for the story of *Persona 5* as you start up the game. *Persona 5* is the fifth (I guess technically sixth) in the series of Shin Magami games from the gaming company At-

lus exclusive to the Sony PlayStation.

endings to work towards with a new game, plus where whatever you unlocked skillwise and a few other surprises, help towards a "true" ending of the game.

The story is a high point for the game. Without my giving spoilers for anything major within the game, you take on the role of the protagonist, who has been wrongfully accused of a crime and is sent to live in Tokyo on probation.

You go to school, and one day you discover this other world

To start off, I have invested just under fifty hours into this game and probably have another oh, hundredish hours to put in.

This in no means is bad. I'm super excited for this.

Persona 5 is a perfect example of a JRPG (Japanese Role-Playing Game). First is the multiple

Continued on page 7

Student Veteran Panel

by Tommy Ellis
Project Coordinator
Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success

In an effort to increase the local community's awareness of the many services

Grayson College's Veteran Services Offices offers to veterans as well as to their dependents, an Open House was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 in the Veteran's Hub.

The all-day affair, staffed by the entire VSO office, offered all interested parties the opportunity to stop by, tour the facilities, get answers to their questions, and pick up relevant information regarding veteran educational benefits.

Anyone who may have missed the Open House is encouraged to stop by the VSO office any weekday, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The office is located on the 2nd floor of the Student Life Center, next to GC Perks. Those unable to stop by are invited to call 903-415-2615.

The Voice of the Zookeeper's Wife

by Gabrielle DeMay
Co-Editor

As Jessica Chastain's performance in the sensational production of *The Zookeeper's Wife* sweeps the nation and theaters overseas, bibliophiles and animal lovers return to the book that inspired the film to rediscover the author's lyrical voice as it reconstructs a beautiful historical tale played out in a terrible time.

Diane Ackerman, who has written for *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*, visited Collin College's Preston Ridge campus on Wednesday, April 5, to speak about her joys and processes in putting together this piece of creative nonfiction.

Ackerman's lecture was part of Collin's "Book in Common" program, in which

students and faculty alike read an influential piece of modern literature, then participate in workshops and attend lectures given by the author.

The Zookeeper's Wife blends a forgotten story in Holocaust Poland with well-selected historical accounts to build context and a moving, meaningful backdrop to a true-life tale of compassion and courage.

The narrative follows Antonina Zabinski, the wife of the director of the Warsaw Zoo, an "animal whisperer" whose furred and feathered charges were her children and a brave soul who rejected Nazi principles by hiding and protecting Polish Jews from persecution.

Ackerman's lecture was as compelling as her writing, as she spoke of the inspiration

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Take one/leave one project

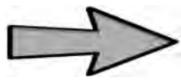


Writers Unlimited/Sigma Kappa Delta launches the "Take One/Leave One" interactive display outside the library.

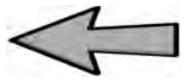
Pictured are Writers Unlimited members Hunnington Sloan, Kyle Morman, Zach Pletan, and Morgan Bryant. Not pictured are members John Moody, Anne Dering, Shalene White, Gabrielle DeMay, John Skipworth, and Charlotte Huckestein.

Students can take or leave inspiring notes. As part of the display, members also created "movable art" projects from "found" materials and added passages from Shakespeare.

These projects are free for students to take home then pass on to someone else.



History in our midst



by Megan Hutchinson
INRW Instructor/Staff

*This story is adapted from an interview by Kristen Dyer on March 2, 2017.

History is everywhere around us. Many times we look right by it and never even notice.

That old building? That was someone's business once upon a time.

That old man walking slowly through the store? He has stories to tell . . . stories that most people don't even think to ask about, much less listen to.

Here is a story of one man, our town, its history, and its people.

Austin "AB" Clark, 74, is a third-generation railroad man, born and raised in Denison, Texas.

His grandparents came to Texas in a covered wagon a century ago, long before the railroad was a major factor in the Texas Frontier.

Soon, Denison was booming, and the MKT "Katy" Railroad came to town with a depot, machine shops, and other ancillary services to keep the railroad going.

Austin's Grandfather Clark had worked as an engineer on the Katy. His father was a conductor and

brakeman on the same railroad until his death in a derailment north of town.

In an ironic twist of fate, one of the men who was on-call for derailments was his father's braking partner, Gus, who later became Austin's stepfather, and



Photo courtesy of Megan Hutchinson
This train is similar to the one that Austin Clark drove years ago.

eventually lost both legs to the railroad.

In the 1950s it was not unusual to see children in and around the railroad shops.

This was a time when children learned their trade from their parents, and it was never too early to start.

Young Austin would go down to the train yards or

the machine shops and absorb whatever knowledge he could, becoming enamored with the railroad, as most little boys were.

The railroad put on parades and barbecues all year 'round to keep up employee morale, making the employees and their children feel like one giant family.

After a stint in the Air Force and some time as a Denison police officer, Austin decided he was ready to join the railroad.

Given all the tragedy that had befallen the Clark family in their time at the Katy Railroad, Clark's mother was not keen on his following in his father's footsteps.

The local pediatrician was also the official physician for the Katy, and Clark's mother made it clear that her son was not to pass the physical.

Little did she know, he had already applied to the Frisco Railroad as a backup, which used a doctor she had no influence with.

In 1969, Clark joined the Frisco Railroad and spent 17 ½ years as a brakeman and conductor and another 17 ½ years as an engineer. Throughout this 34-year career, Clark worked in several interesting locations.

Continued on page 8

NOW HIRING!

Looking for a job in a fast paced, friendly environment, with flexible hours and an employee discount?

We need you!

12 temporary part-time positions open at Grayson College Bookstore: July 31st – September 8th, 2017 for the Fall Back to School season! Hours fall between 6 am and 7 pm, Monday – Friday.

NOTE: This is a temporary position that will start July 31st and run through September 8th.

Schedules are flexible and can be adjusted to fit class schedules.

1 part-time Barista for GC Perks, experience preferred, but not required: Hours fall between 7 am – 4 pm. Schedules are flexible and can be adjusted to fit class schedules.

1 part-time Café Team Lead (This is a key carrying leadership position): Hours fall between 7 am – 6:30 pm and average 30 hours per week (hours are subject to business demands).

1 part-time Bookstore Team Member: Regular hours fall between 10 am – 6 pm (hours are subject to business demands).

APPLY ONLINE AT FOLLETT.COM/CAREERS SEARCH DENISON TX AND SELECT GRAYSON COLLEGE BOOKSTORE #1406 PLEASE APPLY TO ALL POSITIONS HIRED UNDER TEMP RETAIL TITLE

For more information, please call the bookstore at 903.463.8631 or email mcquirev@grayson.edu

I Write: A Collage

Continued from page 2
be heard.

I write one word at a time to give me time to think about what happened, to get my story straight.

I write to be successful.

I write, not worrying if it is all right to say what I need to say.

I write to learn to show me who I am.

It is Friday morning. I am inside my room, sitting at the table, ready to write. A cup of coffee is on the table. The clock says exactly six. I am feeling refreshed and take a deep breath. I start to write.

I write because sometimes I have no one to share my feelings with.

I write because I want to use my valuable time.

I write because I am creative. I write to create my own words, to increase my vocabulary.

I write because I can write anything I want.

I write because I am not afraid of my mistakes.

I write because I have questions.

I write because I have answers.

I write to understand and save my memories.

I write because I see something.

I write to be fully alive.

I write to draw myself into the moment.

I write to achieve my goal.

It is warm and sunny, with a cool breeze kissing my skin, as I sit on my baby blue patio chair, listening to the cardinals singing.

I write to understand.

I write to accept.

I write because I am mad.

I write to imagine.

I write to let go.

I write to grieve.

I write to forget.

I write because it is a forever image to hold on to.

I write to improve.

I write to my past.

I write as an act of faith.

I write to yell, to scream out my thoughts and opinions.

I just have to write my dreams.

Home alone, in the darkness of my room, it's quiet

enough for me to think.

I write about everything and nothing at all.

I write about what I fear so that I can conquer it.

I write to express myself, even when I'm not feeling a thing.

I write to avoid the emptiness inside.

I write to remember myself.

I write to calm my nerves, to control myself.

I write for myself.

I write to control my dreams.

I write to remember; I write to forget.

I write to make myself feel better.

It's almost 4 pm. I've just eaten a snack after school and have relaxed. Sitting on my bed, I grab my laptop.

I write because if I don't, I will fail my class.

I don't write because I'm not good at it.

I write because I will have to for the rest of my life.

I write to complete assignments.

I write to send letters to my family.

I write because I'm supposed to.

I write to get better at it.

I write to get comfortable with writing.

Video Game Review: Persona 5

Continued from page 5

where you and friends you meet along the way can go into the minds of adults with "twisted desires" and steal their hearts to change them.

In the game, over the course of a year, you go out, attend class, and overall work to resolve your own false charges placed upon you and to get back at all the adults who use the youth to their own means. To help the story along is a slew of characters that range from awesome to somewhat flat.

To quote a friend who is playing the game as well, "Morgana can transform himself into a rocket and have Ryuji pilot him so they can both (expletive) right off into space."

But this is only one small complaint against the story aspect of the game. The gameplay is where this game and series shines.

In the honored tradition of JRPG's, there is a turn-based system in combat. During these fights, there are options to use "personas," powers that reside within those who have removed their masks of their inner selves.

These range from fire attacks to buffs for allies. One major return for the series that wasn't used in the previous game, *Persona 4*, is the ability to talk to enemies who had

their weaknesses exploited.

This allows the protagonist to obtain new personas, money, and items.

Now the major things I'd like to talk about are both the music and style of the game.



With the amazing handling of the series music, sound director Shoji Meguro brings this intense acid jazz into the game, giving it the right kind of vibe for people who are going around being thieves.

This is even more pushed with the art style of Shigenori Soejima and Masayoshi Suto. The battle scenes really pop, and the animated cutscenes carry the style of a full-length animation for a stand-alone series.

I could go on about how great this game is, even with the small bumps that can be experienced.

The overall reception of the game is high, with many people enjoying the game who haven't even touched a *Persona* game before.

This game is amazing, the music really sticks after putting the game down, and the story is enjoyable with only a few down points. Go check it out!

by Rebecca Blackburn
Faculty

London, Paris, the Death Star, Jamaica, Hawaii, Atlantis, Tea-Party, Enchanted Forest, UK, and Wedding.

I write to visit memories.

I write to become happy.

I write to accept the fact that I'll write forever.

I write to challenge myself.

I write to get out of my comfort zone.

I write because it's good for me.

I write to want to write.

I write to become a better me.

It is a spring morning. As the sun is coming up in the calm field, I sit on the ground, take off my sweat-shirt, and begin to write.

I write to organize my thoughts.

I write to clear my head.

I write to share my thoughts.

I write to organize and think of a better way to say them.

I write to talk to people far away.

I write to get an organized set of plans for the day.

I write to let other people know my concerns.

I write down poems because it helps me to memorize them.

I write to think about things.

I write down the highlights of a vacation.

I write as if my words push the sun above the trees.

It is after 5:00 pm on a Sunday. I think about what I want to write for English class. I walk around my room and write down ideas.

I write because it gives me a voice.

I write because it's easier than talking.

I write because it helps me understand my feelings.

I write because it's like reading a book.

I write so I don't have to hear the crack in my voice

when I am about to cry.

I write to help others understand themselves when their problems are similar to mine.

I write so I don't forget what I need or want to say.

I write as a reminder that tomorrow can be better than today.

I write just to remind myself that I am a better person than I was.

I write just to write.

I write about life.

I write about my love for animals, for the lake, for the outdoors.

It's just after 7:00 am. I'm sitting on the porch, looking across the land. I see beautiful trees, hear the sound of birds, and smell the fresh air as the day begins.

I write to make a picture of everything I see and hear.

I write to begin a story of my life and where I want to be and what I want to do as my day gets started.

I write the different questions that come into my mind.

I write to remember this day.

I write to show my professors that I am ready to move to the next step.

I write to see what kind of improvements I need to make.

I write out of my heart and passion.

I write to show my love, to hide my sadness.

I write when I'm in doubt of my course of action.

I write because paper and pencil pass no judgment.

I write to collect all of my memories so that I can read them later to my children.

I write because I can.

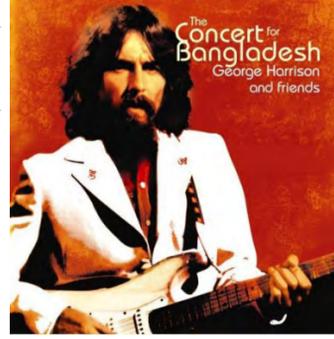
I write because it makes me happy.

A look back at George Harrison

by Rolanda Bryant
VSO Administrative Assistant

For those fans of George Harrison as I am, here's a small review of his concert for Bangladesh in 1971.

Held in Madison Square Garden in New York City on August 1, 1971, it was organized by Harrison and Ravi Shankar (sitar master) to raise international awareness and fund relief efforts to Bangladesh.



www.georgeharrison.com

It became the best-selling live album in a boxed 3-record set. Starring Ringo Starr, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Billy Preston, Leon Russell and Badfinger, the concert raised close to \$250,000-- a great humanitarian aid project. Patti Harrison (George's

wife) said her husband's performance was "magnificent."

I remember when I first heard the album, I loved it.

I think I played that album so many times it got scratchy.

Harrison was always called the "quiet Beatle," but after the Beatles broke up, he really showed his talent as a guitarist and songwriter.

When he was still with the Beatles, he wrote one of the most beautiful songs of all time, "Something," which was inspired by his wife, Patti.

If you can get the CD of the concert and take a listen, I know you'll enjoy it as I did.

'Destination' fashion show was a hit!



Local businesses sponsored our silent auction, and all clothing was donated by Belk.

All donations and proceeds went to the Crisis Center.

Photos courtesy of Rebecca Blackburn

(Left) Two young models, dressed in costume, posed before the fashion show.

(Right) Models lined up to show off their themed costumes at the fashion show.

The Vocational Nursing Association Students are active in our Grayson Community



Photo courtesy of Mika Pierce

The Vocational Nursing Association students Ashleigh Landry, Elizabeth Melton, and Haley Welborn marched with pride along side veterans at the Veterans Day Parade in Bonham, Texas on March 31, 2017.



Photo courtesy of Mika Pierce

The Vocational Nursing Student Association was happy to help with UIL on the main campus last month! Back Row (left to right): Mika Pierce, Elisa Pinotti, THE VIKING, Okunbar Alfred-Iyamu. Front Row (left to right): Lisa Fair, Charlotte Belew, Rebecca Swanstrom, Janette Feagan

Poem by John Skipworth



J...Join me on this journey past,
O...off'ring glimpses of passions lost.
H...Hallowed halls leave but a trace,
N...nudge me closer; I will break.
S...Screams of dying dreams echo,
K...know time is running out.
I... Imprisoned dreams crowd within,
P...promised freedom, a dream itself.
W...Worthy ambitions now give way.
O...Optimism, a fleeting thought.
R...Rise up now you must.
T...Take hope's keys and free them.
H...Heed the call of imprisoned dreams.

Student Veterans Association News

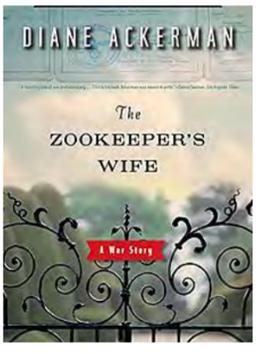
Continued from page 1

Coming in May: Wednesday, May 3rd at noon in the Veterans HUB, Grayson College students Mackenzie Buckner and Emily Estes are planning a Student Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon followed by singing.
Songs that are planned are the National Anthem, "God Bless the USA", "America the Beautiful," "American Honey" and "Hero". Mackenzie and Emily are fund raising to help pay for the luncheon and said they just want to give back to their fellow students and (veterans).
This luncheon is open to all student veterans and their family members. For more information, contact Billy Teague, Veteran Outreach Specialist, at 903-415-2630.

The Voice of the Zookeeper's Wife

Continued from page 5

for the book, stemming from her love of Przewalski's horses.



A series of fantastic coincidences led her to friend's translation of Antonina's diary. Ackerman fell in love with the tale and decided to share Antonina's story with the world.

During her presentation, Ackerman discussed her creative process, revealed people and information that had not made it into the book, and incorporated interesting and adorable facts about the making of the movie.

Diane Ackerman is an excellent speaker and held her audience's attention well. Members of Grayson College's Writers Unlimited/Sigma Kappa Delta club attended her presentation.

After the question-and-answer session, the students lined up to have their books signed by Ackerman.

The film version of the story was released to theaters on March 31, 2017, and is now playing in theaters as close as Plano and Allen, Texas.

Success in the Adult Basic Education Program

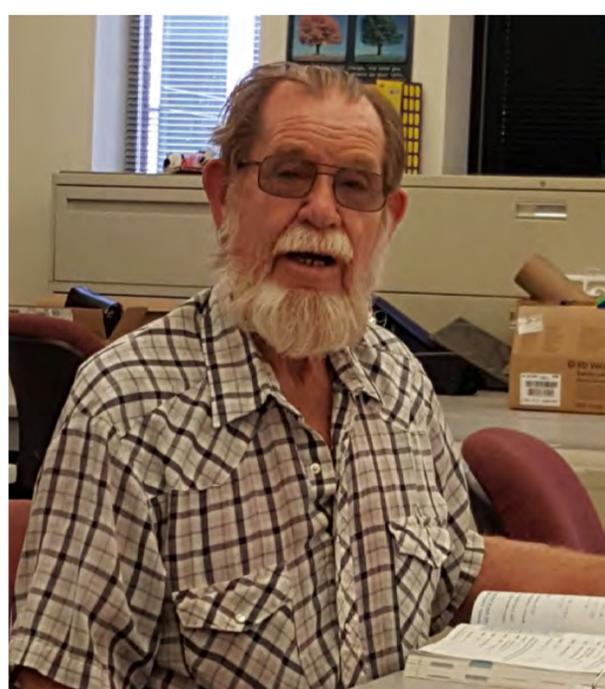


Photo courtesy of Pam Clark

Wade Whitmire takes a quick break from studying for his GED. He glances up and says "Look at me; I'm doing great!"



Photo courtesy of Vicki Keitz

Dr. Matt Hamilton (center) received his doctorate degree on March 24th pictured with Dr. Jeremy McMillen, Dr. Chase Machen, and Dr. Dava Washburn. Congratulations on quite an accomplishment!

Why are goodbyes so difficult?

by Shalene White
Staff Writer & Library Aide

Everybody knows that goodbyes are an integral part of life. However, this does not mean they come easily.

They can make the toughest person feel like the ground has opened up and swallowed them whole.

I have just recently experienced the crushing blow of that two-syllable word. Our "fur-baby," Bubba, crossed the Rainbow Bridge last week.

Yes, he was a pit bull and a breed of canine, but he was more. He was the one that was always happy to see us, waiting with his tail wagging when we got home.

No matter how crappy of a day one of us would have, walking in the door and being greeted by Bubba and our female pit, Patches, would lift even the darkest of moods.

Even though our feeling of loss is still raw and lingering, I will soon have to experience it yet again.

Next fall, I will be transferring to Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Although I

will still be working at the Grayson College Library, I will no longer be able to write for The Viking, so I wanted to thank a few people who have helped me pursue my interest in journalism.

Professor Stella Thompson urged me to submit one of my essays for Creative Writing to The Viking. Without her gentle urging, I would not be currently writing for the Anna-Melissa Tribune, and I definitely would not be pursuing journalism as my minor.

Professor Mary Linder has not only been my professor for both Texas and Federal Government, but has also been my advisor in Phi Theta Kappa.

She has pushed me to see myself from a different perspective, enabling me to see that I am smart, and I can push myself to be better.

And Lisa Hebert, Director of the Grayson College Library, recognized the drive in me, that I was in college not just for myself, but to better myself for my family's future.

Thanks to her, I am no longer the skittish, unsure, nontraditional college student that I was 5 semesters ago.

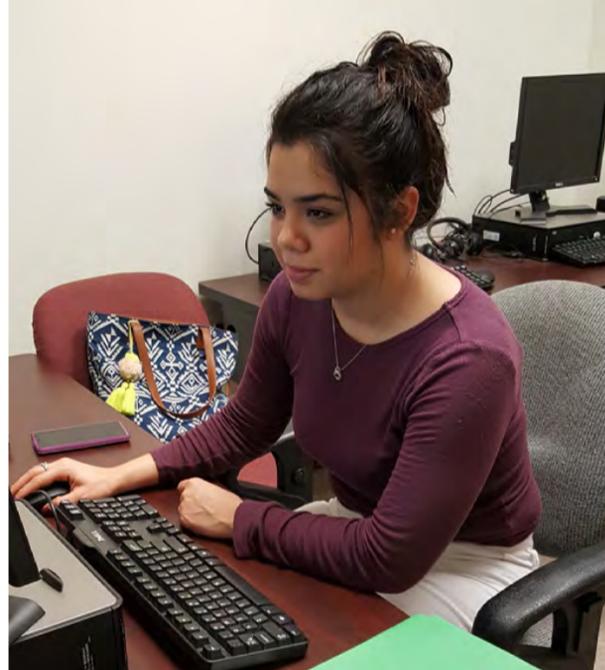


Photo courtesy of Pam Clark

Paulina Lopez concentrates in class and says, "I really hope that I have improved on my benchmark."

Thank you, Pam Clark, for sharing a glimpse into what's going on in the Adult Basic Education department. Best of luck to our Vikings who are in that program and keep up the great work!



History in our midst

Continued from page 5

Although he generally operated out of Fort Worth or Irving, traveling to Madill, Oklahoma, Clark had the opportunity to work in other parts of the country through loans to other rail yards.

At one point, he worked out of the largest rail yard in the country, Alliance, Nebraska. He also worked some of the more barren environs of our country's interior, running a coal train from Edgemont, South Dakota, to Gillette, Wyoming.

In addition to working the tracks, Clark was a union representative and officer. Clark saw many changes, not only to the railroad, but to Denison, as well.

Over the years, the Katy wielded less and less influence in Denison.

The machine shops closed down, then the depot. The Katy-run hospital shut its doors, and the town became stagnant.

A lack of diversification left the town with few employers after the Katy merged with the Union Pacific, which eliminated hundreds of

who had been severely injured in a catastrophic car accident. Following her death in 2006, Clark eventually moved back up to Denison to join his brother and two sisters-in-law in their golden years.

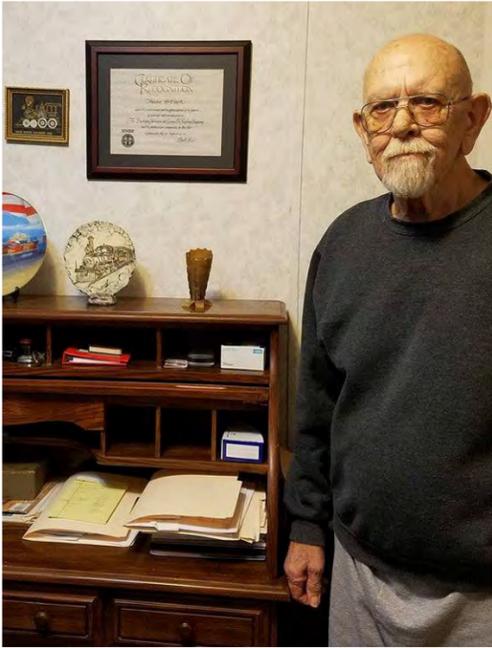


Photo courtesy of Megan Hutchinson
Austin Clark and some of his memorabilia.

He still gets together with Frisco retirees every six months to reminisce about the good old days, who was a bigger drunk, who messed up the most, and who was the easiest to work with.

Next time you encounter an older person, ask them about their life; ask them about the history we don't learn in textbooks. Ask them about all those things you never knew. Let their story be heard.

jobs in the area.

Mergers were the name of the game in the 1980s and '90s, when the Burlington Northern took over the Frisco railroad and later merged with the Sante Fe to form BNSF.

These mergers created track duplication and led to the loss of still more jobs as companies streamlined their workforces and property holdings. Over the course of his career, Clark worked for 3 different companies without ever leaving his job!

In 2003, Clark retired from the railroad to care for his ailing wife,

These men hold the stories of our collective past within them. Without them and their contributions to the expansion of our country, we wouldn't be where we are today. Denison would never have been more than a blip on the map. Soon, these stories will be lost to the winds of time.

Next time you encounter an older person, ask them about their life; ask them about the history we don't learn in textbooks. Ask them about all those things you never knew.

Let their story be heard.

A trip to Kentucky

Continued from page 2

There were so many sessions to choose from. This convention was packed to the gills with so many interesting events.

For fun, there was also an actual comic convention and bad poetry reading. I will touch upon those in a moment, not to worry.

I'll describe a few of the actual lectures I attended, just to give examples of the diversity.

The five of us who went on this trip chose different events to go to and at times went to the same ones.

Two of note I went to myself was one dealing with Addiction and Mental Health Treated in Text and another on Poets Recreating America.

Both delved into many texts and books on their respective subjects.

The students and speakers each brought excellent points and researched so well that at times, it took audience members a few minutes to finally ask a question.

As for the two fun events, the bad poetry reading was something I and fellow Writers Unlimited/Sigma Kappa Delta president Zach Pletan found the most entertaining.

This was a series of poetry readings that were intentionally done so poorly and badly, you ended up cringing so hard from the creativity these fellow aspiring writers could pull out of their souls.

Heckling was also requested from the audience, and my secret talent was discovered.

But, not only did I heckle, but I also jumped onto the stage and reenacted the famous "Bueller" scene from *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, repeating "Bueller" for a minute straight to some intense boos. It was all great fun.

Professor Marlea Treviño, *The Viking* editor Anne Dering, and students Kyle Morman, Zach Pletan, and I also joined the rest of the Sigma Kappa Delta (2-year-English honor society) contingent for some dinners and awards for our fellows from across the country!

It was a fantastic night, sitting together over spaghetti and seeing how each

other was doing in the endeavor of perfecting our own writing and living life.

As a fine top-per of our trip, we visited a few restaurants to really experience Kentucky.

I forget the name of this one restaurant, but I'll refer to it as "Momma's," where I had the

best barbecue in a long while, also, though, a strange dessert called the Preg-

dido. . . basically

the combination of vanilla ice cream,

honey, and spicy fried pickles.

I now knew the true madness of humanity from this dish.

On the final day, each of us found our way to one last lecture before flying back home, first landing in Chicago, then finally back in Dallas.

There is a huge takeaway I experienced from this trip. This was one of my first conventions to attend in a field I want to strive in.

Seeing so many students who are going forward like myself into this unknown world, wishing to tell some story, filled me with some strange warmth, something either akin to hope or the Pregdido resurging for vengeance. I'd say the former.

I can say I walked. . .well "flew" away from this convention with a better idea of how to go forward.

This wouldn't have been possible without the people who got us there: Dr. Marlea Treviño, Dr. Richard Davis, and others who really wanted this to happen.



Photo courtesy of Marlea Treviño
(L to R) Zach Pletan, Hunnington Sloan, Anne Dering, Kyle Morman, and Marlea Treviño are all smiles at the Sigma Kappa Delta Writers International Conference in Louisville, KY.

The Boonies Tracker, Part 3

by Hunnington Sloan
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is the final part of an ongoing serial

story. Parts 1 and 2 can be found online in the March 2017 and April 2017 issues of *The Viking*. -AD

Amani gasps for air as she shoots up from a dead sleep, wide awake. Her heart is racing, and she is covered in a cold sweat that makes the cold desert air cling to her, some nightmare that she cannot seem to focus on quickly vanishing. An omen? "Something dangerous must be around," she gathers from this feeling. Amani glances where the fire died out a while ago during her sleep to see if Hermes is still there. "Damn runners," she curses, grabbing her gear, marveling at their innate ability able to pluck themselves from wherever they are without leaving a single clue. ". . .leaving me behind in the middle of nowhere."

Then, all around Amani the world shifts as if suffering through a massive spasm like getting over a fever. The sand around her feet starts to drain, the basilisk corpse along with it. Her pack almost goes down with everything else, but luckily Amani is quick enough to grab her belongings and with all her strength, to start running. A tracker knows when to stand and when to run like hell is upon her. Amani looks behind her to see a glowing fracture in the air. This maw of sinister light sucking in sand, night, and air into what she could only comprehend as somewhere really, really not good for her to find herself in spurs her forward.

Out of breath, Amani reaches the top of a dune and falls to her knees. Running up sand away from a death-crack in the air drains her, but something else feels wrong. An intense burning fills her left leg. Horror seeps into her heart as Amani's gaze falls to her leg. Wrapped tightly below her knee, some deformed tendril covered in tiny teeth digs into her leg. Wincing in pain, Amani reaches for her sword. But with one fast tug, she is thrown to the ground and dragged back to the tear. The world around her fades into a darkness she never knew existed.

"Wait, that's it?" Mike spits out, annoyed, his eyes darting at mine. I gulp hard. A lump has

formed in my throat, keeping me from talking. His stare worsens, a death stare burning into my face.

"Well," I start to mutter, "I was actually going to-

"Just no way, dude," he breaks in, dismissing me with a wave and tossing me back my journal. I almost drop it to the ground as I try to take in his reaction. What offended him about my story?

"The hell, Mike! What is the problem?" Sheba demands, fuming, her face red and eyebrows furrowed in anger.

"Have you even read this yet?" Mike retorts.

Sheba slowly sits back down.

"Like look at it this way, Sheba. This story you and

grinning. But then Sheba's color returns tenfold as she jolts up from her seat and slams her hands on the table.

"Well, you prick head, your film work is garbage as well. I mean come on, even a cowpattie has better material than those uninspired arthouse films your parents paid for!" Sheba shoots, flipping Mike off as she pulls me up out of the booth.

"Uh, we didn't pay, Sheba," I sheepishly offer. I look back and feel nervous about leaving, but we walk on to her car, and Sheba flings open her door.

"Whatever. Mike can pay for it for insulting you like that," she spits back. Sliding into her seat, she puts her key into the ignition. I fall into the passenger seat and close my door. As we drive, neither of us talks. I stare at the necklaces and charms hanging from old sun-dried hemp rope as we bob up and down the road. After a bit, we pull up to my house.

"Well, I guess I'll see you later, Sheba. I'll probably start focusing in class and stop trying this whole writing thing. Probably get better at ma-

I begin. "Let me see the story, Sebastian," Sheba breaks in, holding her hand out for the journal. I tentatively hand it over to her. "I promised to edit it, remember?" she explains and begins flipping through the story intensely, muttering every now and then. She finally lowers the journal and closes her eyes. I don't dare say anything. She exhales and hands it over.

"Keep writing, Sebastian, and keep improving this," she states, patting me on my shoulder. "What this could be, dude, is something really great that people will really enjoy." My mind is blank, the first time really that anyone had said that about anything I've written.

"Are you really sure, Sheba? I mean what Mike said-

"I start. "What you have is something better than what a small-time wannabe movie maker can do. This could be an awesome book, dude!"

I'm speechless as I hold my journal.



Photo courtesy of Hunnington Sloan

little Sebastian here want made into a movie has no chance. Shit, not even as a b-rated film." For emphasis, Mike waves the air in front of him. "There is no way I'm going to touch this overly tropey mess. This writing is garbage."

My stomach knots up. I look down at my journal, and my mind is moving miles a second, each thought something negative that affirms Mike's assessment. This story really doesn't have any merit to it. Why should I keep writing?

Everyone at the table is quiet. Sheba's face is white, all color drained away, Mike sitting there, smugly

Special thanks to author Hunnington Sloan for contributing his work.