

# The Viking

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Volume IX, Issue III

## Get Involved

### Viking Deadline

Friday, October 27th

Send all submissions to the editor, Morgan Bryant, at [MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu](mailto:MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu).

### Student Leadership Series

Monday, October 23rd

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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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

*Continued on Page 2*

Please Recycle This Paper!

## A Heart-Wrenching Visit to Las Vegas



(L) Memorials of victims of the Vegas shooting. (R) Hotel from which shots were fired

Photos courtesy of Alaina Douglas

By Alaina Douglas, Grayson College Student Government Association President

Driving up to the Welcome to Las Vegas sign is exciting for anyone who has never been before like myself.

Driving up to the welcome to Las Vegas sign pouring with candles, flowers, photos, balloons and people standing around hugging each other and seeing the traffic come to halt as visitors slow to witness the last memory of the 58 lives lost Sunday night during the Las Vegas massacre is a feeling that carries no words.

Just two days after this evil act, I had the privilege to be able to attend the memorial to pay my respects.

I personally have never had a feeling of such sadness walking through the line of families, friends and passersby as we say one last good by to each individual cross that bears a photo of the

innocent life lost, and a few of their personal belongings.

It's one thing to see the news and be upset that our country faces another tragedy where lives were lost but it's another thing to look up to your left and see the glass blown out of two windows the shooter took aim from on innocent people.

It's another thing to look to your right and see the stage where two days earlier, thousands of people stood to enjoy the last night of weekend fun now surrounded by CIA, FBI and Vegas PD as they continue to gather thousands of personal belongings.

The heart-wrenching pain you feel when you look back and see the airport where victims ran to try to escape what could have been their fate.

I experienced feelings and emotions in Vegas I don't even want to begin to try to put in words because it just won't do it justice. While being in Vegas and seeing so many strangers come together and honor those victims and their families, it gave me a sense of hope and unity.

I knew standing in front of that Vegas sign was exactly where I needed to be. The one thing I took from this was it shouldn't take a tragedy to come together as one. Being in Vegas two days later made me question myself and what I'm doing in this world to make it better. I only ask that you ask yourself this question.

## High Hopes for Leonard Hoops

By Claudia Ware, Student

Photo courtesy of Claudia Ware  
Bridget Watson, bringing the ball up the court against Bonham High School

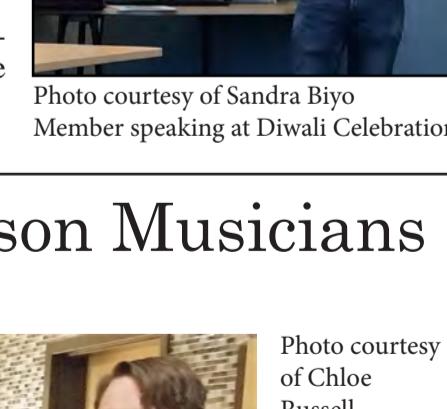
With high school basketball season being eleven days away, teams are starting to prepare. Each team has different ways of preparing, but all teams have one goal in mind - playoffs. Leonard High School's girl basketball team wants to achieve more success than last year's season did. How will they prepare?

Leonard's girls' head coach, Rae Holden, stated conditioning will be an important factor for the team this year. Conditioning will help the team run the floor and tire their opponents out. Jessi Bennett, three-year varsity basketball player, mentioned she will work harder individually to prepare for the season. Bridget Watson, also a three-year varsity basketball player, prepares by watching film. Watson stated, "Analyzing my own game film has been a large part on my preparation—seeing my strengths and weaknesses and knowing where and how I can improve...."

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## Grayson College Cultural Diversity Club Holds Diwali Celebration

By Sandra Biyo Issombi and Ashik Khulal

Photo courtesy of Sandra Biyo  
Member speaking at Diwali Celebration

Last Tuesday, Grayson College's Cultural Diversity Club members organized a Deepawali (also called Diwali) celebration, a great festival of Hindu, at the Viking Room. Many students, as well as faculty members, were present at the celebration.

Among those were Grayson College President Dr. Jeremy McMillen, Prof. Dana Kermanian, Prof. Bernie Gallagher, Mr. Brad McClenney.

Ambati M. Rao, Prof. of Engineering and Mathematics, had the idea of celebrating Deepawali festival here at Grayson. He wanted to share with Grayson College community his culture and the importance of the festival. *Continued on Page 2*

## World-Class Pianist Inspires Grayson Musicians

By Chloe Russell and Christine Harding



Photo courtesy of Chloe Russell

Music club meets Daniel Hsu after the concert

On September 20, 2017, Grayson College Music Department hosted an evening with Daniel Hsu, a 2017 Van Cliburn Bronze Medalist, presented by the Community Series Texoma Concerts. Hsu captivated the audience with his intensity and flair with his dramatic gestures and the amazing speed with which his fingers tickled the ivory and black keys of Grayson's Petrof grand piano. He enthralled both amateur and professional musicians alike with his selections from Schubert, Hamelin, Chopin, Bach/Busoni, and Rachmaninoff.

*Continued on Page 2*

Mu Alpha Theta  
To be determined  
For more information, contact [cheekb@grayson.edu](mailto:cheekb@grayson.edu)

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

Phi Theta Kappa  
Wednesdays  
1:00 - 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  
Wednesday, November 8th  
3 - 4 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

Science Club  
1st and 3rd Fridays  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
S 106, Science Building

Student Government Association  
First Mondays, Oct. 2nd  
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

Student Veterans Association (SVA)  
1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
Veterans' Hub (2nd floor of Life Center) 12 - 1:00 p.m.

TIPPS (Culinary Arts)  
First Thursdays, 3 - 4:00 p.m.  
691 Restaurant, Culinary Arts

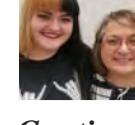
Veteran Nursing Student Association  
First Mondays, 12 p.m.  
South Campus Skills Lab

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](mailto:MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu)

# World-Class Pianist Inspires Grayson Musicians



By Chloe Russell and Christine Hard-

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Hsu is a twenty-year-old American pianist whose accomplishments also include a 2016 Gilmore Young Artist award, first prize of the 2015 CAG Victor Elmalem Competition, and bronze medal of the 2015 Hamamatsu International Piano Competition.

Recent highlights include his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 2016 and Carnegie Hall debut in 2017 as part of the CAG Winners Series at Weill Recital Hall.

In addition to his many ventures, he has collaborated with Tokyo Sympho-

ny Orchestra, Symphonia Boca Raton, and the Grand Rapids, New Haven, Roswell, and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras. He has also toured the United States with the Verona String Quartet.

In international quests, he has built a following and performed extensively in concerts across Japan.

Mr. Hsu started his piano studies when he was six years old and made his concerto debut with the Fremont Symphony Orchestra when he was eight years old. His recital debut was

performed at the Steinway Society of the Bay area at age nine, and he was accepted into Curtis at age ten.

Prior to the performance, which was open to the public as well as to students and faculty, the Culinary Arts division offered hors d'oeuvres to the arriving guests, which were hailed "a delicious and elegant touch" by many.

Fine

## Circle Mirror Transformation: Smallest Most Important

By Zachary Pletan, Staff Writer

I'll be honest: I struggled a bit to approach the performance of *Circle Mirror Transformation* held in Grayson College's Black Box last month. The facts first, then. The play is about an acting class in Vermont. The characters perform numerous acting exercises, which lend insight into who they are and what they feel. They spend six weeks learning to be what they are not: A tree. A baseball glove. Each other. Confident, or happy.

The play is small in scope, but it wants us to share the significance of its insignificances, to understand that a life is five or six large events and innumerable small ones. A romance blossoms and a marriage dies. The instructor tries to collect course fees from a student's perpetually absent mother. In between it all, somebody mimes a tree.

It is in how they mime it, however, that most of the drama is found. We are invited to see our characters as beings instead of actors, to understand existences instead of events.

Because of this, *Circle Mirror Trans-*



Photo courtesy of Zachary Pletan.

(L-R) Writers Unlimited members Melissa Hively, Abigail McGinn, Derek Logan (Schultz), Rachel Tyler Masters (Lauren), Marlea Trevino, Zachary Pletan

*formation* could only ever work as a play. In a stage production, and especially in the extremely intimate Black Box setting, the audience is a part of the proceedings.

With no screen to separate us from our subjects, we are bystanders rather than observers. If a character cries, we are the awkward friend who doesn't know how to comfort them. If two fight, we are the child who wishes they wouldn't. And if they love, well...

Because such a minimal story rides on their performance, the actors carried the weight of the production.

Each had their moment to shine,

and the group I was with spent awhile discussing whose performance we enjoyed most. Personally, I found Derek Logan's Schulz a convincing portrayal of depression and love and identified somewhat with the above-it-all insecurity of Rachel Tyler Masters' Lau-

ren. Ultimately, I found *Circle Mirror Transformation*'s oblique approach to plot and drama challenging but worthwhile. While this production is long since ended, I urge the reader to make time for the theater department's next show, *The Spitfire Grill*, between November 17-19.

## Grayson College Cultural Diversity Club Holds Diwali Celebration *Continued from Page 1*

By Sandra Biyo Issombi and Ashik Khulal

### What is Diwali?

Deepawali, Diwali, or Tihar is a great Hindu festival that is celebrated in October each year. For many Indians, this five-day festival honors Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth but also Ganesh, the god of education, knowledge, wisdom and wealth. Lakshmi is glorified during the Panchayatana puja. In western society, it is also known as "festival of lights." The first day of the festival is called

Kaag Tihar. Crows and ravens are worshiped by offering them sweets and dishes, which are placed on the roofs of houses.

The second day is called Kukur Tihar (worship of the dogs). It is also called the Khicha Puja by the Newars. Dogs, which are considered to be messengers of Lord Yamaraj, the god of Death, are worshiped each year on this day. The third day is the most important of all and is called Laxmi Puja. On this day, people worship cows. In Hinduism, a cow signifies prosperity and wealth. In ancient times, people benefited a lot from cows.

The fourth day of Tihar is considered as Goru Tihar or Goru Puja (worship of the oxen), depending on the people's cultural background. The fifth and last day of Diwali is called Bhai Tika and is observed by sisters applying tika to the foreheads of their brothers to ensure long life and thanking them for the protection they provide. Sisters make a unique garland for their brothers from a flower that wilts only after a couple of months, symbolizing the sister's prayer for her brother's long life.

The celebrations began at 6 p.m. and there was plenty learn about Diwali. We enjoyed a variety of Indian dishes after watching a presentation about the holiday. Everybody showed great interest about the program and good vibes were all around. It was a fun, entertaining, and educational way to learn about Hindu culture.

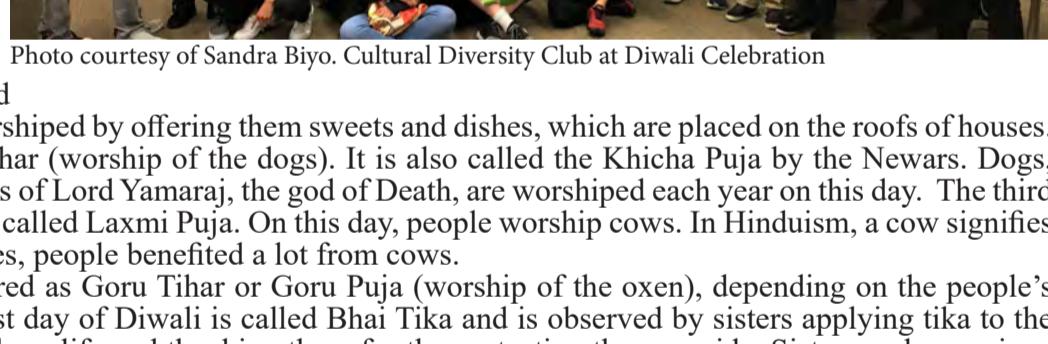


Photo courtesy of Sandra Biyo. Cultural Diversity Club at Diwali Celebration

### English Word of the Month:

**Preta** (n) [Prey-tah]

#### Definition:

A wandering, hungry or dis-

turbed spirit or ghost

### German Word of the Month:

**Misslingen** (v) [Miss-ling-en]

#### Definition:

To fail or end without success

### French Word of the Month:

**Borgne** (n) [Boor-nya]

#### Definition:

A one eyed person

## Are you grieving a loss of any kind?

## Grief Meetings, Grayson Room

(in Student Life between the cafeteria & book store)

Mondays 4 p.m.- 5 p.m., Fridays 1 p.m.- 2 p.m.

Grayson College Counselor Intern Becki Rathfon, & her colleagues, Kolton Hall & Brittany Cole, are offering a counseling grief group to Grayson students.

If you have been faced with a loss that is resulting in unresolved grief, you may benefit from this counseling group. This can include any form of loss, for example, loss due to death, divorce, romantic relationship, friendship, illness, loss of job/career, &/or any life changes.

For any questions pertaining to individual counseling or the grief counseling group, please contact Becki Rathfon at [rathfonb@grayson.edu](mailto:rathfonb@grayson.edu) or at 903-463-8685.

# How to Celebrate the “State Champ” Way

By Lexie Lenderman, Student

Homecoming in Texas is a big deal, but in Gunter, Texas, homecoming is like football Christmas. Between the student body dress-up days, tailgate, pep rally, parade, and the football game, homecoming in Gunter is a week-long celebration.

Every year there is a homecoming theme picked by our fan club; this year the theme was “Small Town Under the Big Lights.” When it was first announced that this was the theme, people were a little confused. Most of the time the theme is something easy such as “Hawaiian” or “USA,” so this theme was very different. The offensive coach for the Gunter Tigers, Coach Randy Miller, said it best when he explained that this homecoming theme fits our community perfectly. Miller said that this was a great theme “because as we grow [as a community], we still can keep our small-town feel,” and that’s what this year’s homecoming was all about.

As many community members are aware, last December, the Gunter Tiger football team won the football state championship. It was huge for the town because it was the first state championship title Gunter has ever received, and because of this great achievement, the town has garnered a lot of publicity. Fans now have to get to the games hours early to even get a seat in the stands and many schools are bringing in extra sets of stands for our fans because games are bringing in a record number of people. Even though the town is all over the news and media, though we still can manage to keep our small town feel, which was what this year’s homecoming was all about.

Ethan Everson, a new student and football player from the 5A town Prosper about 15 minutes away, explained how Gunter’s and Prosper’s homecomings differ. He said that in Gunter, the homecomings are more personal and more special. He said, “It’s better because the small town brings back more graduates because of the connections, rather than a big high school like Prosper.”

Because we have all of these close connections, during homecoming week we do activities a lot of bigger schools aren’t able to do such as the tailgate and the parade. Every homecoming Wednesday is tailgate. During the tailgate, all of our small-town businesses open up booths filled with free food behind our football stadium, and in between eating there’s games, activities and a pep rally that goes on as well. During this pep rally, the cheerleaders and band get everyone excited for what’s coming the rest of the week. Even the elementary school students and alumni will perform in this pep rally. This pep rally is huge because unlike all of the other pep rallies during the season, the whole entire community gets involved. And although this may already seem like a lot, the week is only getting started.

Friday is the biggest day of all. This is whenever we have our homecoming parade and game. Everyone comes to school that day not even thinking about school but what this exciting day holds. Everyone is then released early from school to go line the highway for the homecoming parade. All of the school’s sports and organizations make a float representing their program to ride in during the parade.

The parade kicks off with the band, which walks the entire parade playing music, followed by the homecoming court, superintendent, football team, and then all the rest of the organizations. Anyone who ever plans on attend-



Photo courtesy of Lexie Lenderman.

The Gunter Tiger football team during the National Anthem at Homecoming

ing a Gunter homecoming parade will want to bring a huge bag to fill up with candy since everyone in the parade always brings a bag of candy to throw out, and there ends up being tons candy everywhere.

And if you thought that was all happening that day, we also have a volleyball game that afternoon as well. Even though football may be the main focus of the week, people still get excited to see their Lady Tigers come out and dominate. Halle Ward, a junior on the volleyball team, explained how the excitement of homecoming carries over to volleyball. She explained, “Everyone comes into the gym after the parade and before the football game, excited to watch us win.” She also said, “The excitement definitely carries over to the court ‘cause everyone is in the stands cheering us on, well more than usual.” After the volleyball game everyone packs up and moves over to Tiger stadium for the football game.

Before the football game starts, we have the senior homecoming court coronation, when the ten chosen senior homecoming court nominees walk out with their parents on the football field, and a king and queen are announced. This is special not only to the parents of the nominee but also the student because while they walk out, a biography is read about them and they can reflect on the last four years of high school.

After a king and queen are announced the homecoming game officially begins. For our Gunter Tigers, beating any team in our district is a breeze, but playing in a homecoming game is special. Everson said it’s special because “the past graduates come and see how we are doing” and “we get to show them how we are continuing to grow and get better and better.” The next night, we have our homecoming dance, where everyone in the school gets dressed up and gets to come to the decorated school and dance. After the dance, the homecoming week is officially over. Even though it is over, the memories made will last forever.

# Hurricane Harvey Affected More Than Just Houston

By Kelcie Simmons, Student

While it is obvious to students at Leonard High School that Hurricane Harvey has been causing a lot of turmoil on the coast of Texas, it is not as obvious to them that students of their very own high school are suffering from the repercussions of this hurricane.

Diamond Farr, a junior at Leonard High School, experienced the hurricane firsthand. Farr lived in Leonard for a short while before moving to Houston in 2015, but after Harvey flooded her front doors, she was forced to move back. Farr explained that the water was up to her shoulders before a helicopter used a large net to rescue her and her family from the roof of their house. “I thought I was going to die...at one point, my aunt was carried 3 miles away and ended up in the woods,” she stated. The current carried Farr’s car away: “One moment we were on the ground, and the next thing I know, we’re being carried away, and we didn’t know what was happening,” Farr recalled.

All of her family’s belongings, including the 5 acres of land they owned, were ruined. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) inspected her house and concluded there was over \$50,000 of damage. Farr stayed in a shelter with other Houston residents before moving back to Leonard last month. She does not know when she will be able to go home to Houston.

Even though many students at LISD can’t say they were in the middle of the chaos of it all, there are a few who got a small taste of the damage this hurricane caused. Austin Lewis, another Leonard resident and Leonard High School student, had grandparents affected by the hurricane. His grandmother and her boyfriend experienced minor flooding in their home from the San Jacinto River. “We were really worried about them until we were informed that there was little damage and that they were safe...they lined the baseboards of their house with towels and ended up having to get their floors fixed, but that was it,” Lewis explained.

Lewis also said that Leonard residents feared a gasoline crisis shortly after the hurricane hit Houston. North Texas gets a lot of their gas refined in Houston, so residents were worried that they were going

to run out of fuel for their cars and farm equipment. “My cousins in Utopia were scared, so they got gallon gas cans and filled them up,” Lewis elaborated.

Both Farr and Lewis saw many people help to fix the repercussions of Hurricane Harvey. Farr was able to stay in a shelter on the outskirts of Houston run by people who volunteered by handing out food and clothes. Lewis saw many people getting boats and heading down to Houston to rescue people from their homes. “We [his family] really wanted to get our boat and help those in need, but we couldn’t go because my sister and I had school ... I was able to help by donating money here up at the school,” said Lewis.

Along with residents from all across the US, the Red Cross played a vital role in aiding those in need. Peyton Jeffers, an Oklahoma State University college student who decided to go to Houston spontaneously and help with one of his friends, was a volunteer for this organization. He and his friend weren’t Red Cross certified, so they were required to attend an orientation that split them up into groups. Jeffers explained that the first day, he helped pass out water, food, and clothing until two in the morning. The second day there, he and his friend worked at an animal shelter. “It was really sad seeing all that the hurricane had done,” Jeffers stated. “...I was glad to help in any way that I could.”

Lewis, Jeffers, and Farr agree that the best way to protect people from natural catastrophes like this one is to react to the warnings as soon as possible. “When you hear the first evacuation warning, you think everything is going to be fine, but when you realize it isn’t and you wanna leave, it’s almost too late,” Farr said. She continued, “I would tell people that they need to leave AS SOON as they hear the evacuation warning.” Jeffers believes the higher authorities should make mandatory evacuations to help protect people. Even though we can’t prevent events like Hurricane Harvey from happening, we in our small Texoma communities can prevent the amount of suffering. It’s as simple as donating money or hopping in the car with a friend to help those in need.

# Disclaimer

## Editorial Information:

Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta publish *The Viking* as an ongoing service project to the college.

All students, faculty and staff at GC can participate in producing *The Viking*. This newspaper is 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.

Submit material for publication through email to **Morgan Bryant at MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu**.

## Go Green--

## Bring Your Own Cups!

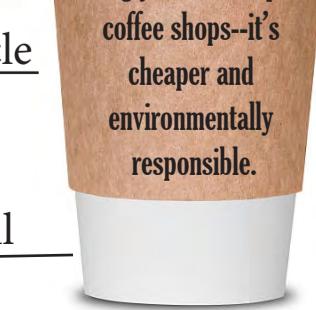
To-go coffee cups are a nice convenience; however, they pose many problems when it comes to the environment. The cup-portion of a to-go coffee cup is NON-RECYCLABLE because it is made up of tightly bonded paper and plastic. This makes them non-biodegradable, and your coffee cup will outlive you ten times in a landfill.

Many people do not know these cups are non-recyclable and place them in recycling bins; this can render an entire bag of recyclable materials unrecyclable.

The good news is, most coffee shops actually give you a discount for bringing your own cup.

Recycle

Recycle



Landfill

# High Hopes for Leonard Hoops

By Claudia Ware, Student

With wanting to build a strong team this year, Leonard has added Cramer Johnson, previous head coach at Detroit High School, to the coaching staff. With a new school comes different ways to prepare an athlete for a sport. Johnson stated, "...Kids [at Leonard] are more dedicated [than at his previous school], willing to work, and it shows in the results." Even though Leonard prepares for a season differently, Johnson had a head start. Johnson mentioned he really only knew the offenses that Leonard would be using for this year. Holden mentioned that with Johnson's being a head coach last year at his previous school, he will be able to give the team new ideas for Leonard's offense.

Leonard's girls' basketball team is made up of seniors and juniors, so this team will have more experience than other teams in the district. Watson stated, "It should really give us an edge over the competition." Most teams in the district have younger players on their team who have to learn what is expected of them in games or practices. Bennett stated that with many of the teams in our district having younger players that the team will not be as experienced as our Leonard team.

The younger girls in the program will keep the practice competitive. Watson said the younger girls

are talented and will benefit to our practices and games. Some players will need time to adjust to the faster-paced game, though. Bennett said, "I think the underclassmen will have a really good JV [Junior Varsity] team and get playing time, which is what they need." Districts having a group of younger girls can help the program in the future, because they will understand how playing at an advanced level works.

With this being many seniors' last basketball season, they want to do better than last year's season. Starting that season off strong, Leonard faced some difficulties half way through the season. Bennett ended up getting mononucleosis and another player, Danielle Koch, hurt her leg. With two starters being out for most of the season, others had to step up and take charge. Both Bennett and Koch were back to playing by the time playoffs came. Leonard ended up playing Ponder for the Bi-District game. Unfortunately, the result was Ponder winning the game by three.

Not wanting to repeat last year's season, there could be some added pressure to do better this year. Bennett stated, "This is our last chance [as seniors] to win a playoff game...so I think it is normal to have some added stress about the season, but I believe it [the season] will be good." Watson also feels stress: "I do feel more pressure this year because I want to 'go out with a bang', and I'd feel awful if I had less success this year than in previous years." Both are determined to make their last basketball season the best.

*Continued from Page 1*



Photo courtesy of Claudia Ware  
Jessi Bennett, handling the ball against Commerce opponent

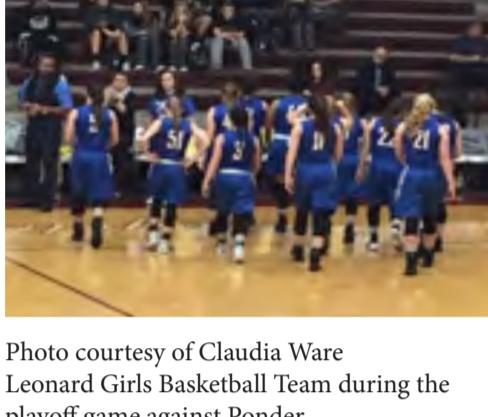
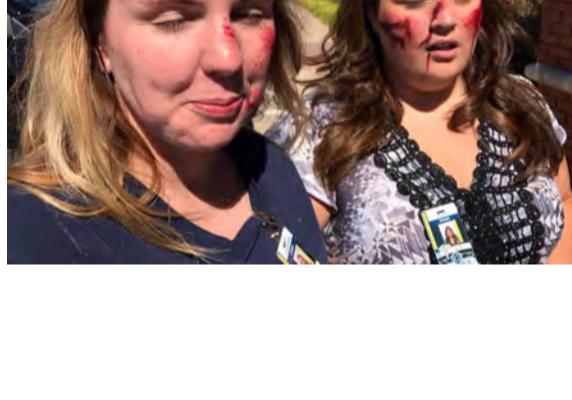


Photo courtesy of Claudia Ware  
Leonard Girls Basketball Team during the playoff game against Ponder.

## Nursing Students Play Dead

All photos courtesy of Mika Pierce

The vocational nursing students assisted with Emergency Preparedness at Baylor Sherman on October 18, 2017. The students got to "play" the patients in an emergency bus accident. The students were treated in Baylor Services and through Hazmat Services.



## Perkins Scholarship & Grants Focus Group Meet Individually Or In Group

Date: Group Meets Every Wednesday\*

Time: Between 2:30p.m. – 3:15p.m.

Location: Grayson College, Health Science Building, Conference Room Health Science Administrative Offices

\*PLEASE CONTACT BECKI RATHFON AT RATHFONB@GRAYSON.EDU TO SCHEDULE AN INDIVIDUAL MEETING IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE GROUP MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAYS AT 2:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

### Are you a female & pursuing (or once pursued) your education in any of the following:

- \* Viticulture/Enology
- \* Drafting
- \* Computer Maintenance
- \* Electrician (South Campus)
- \* Auto Body
- \* Business
- \* Selected Culinary Arts Programs
- \* Computer Science/Information
- \* Heating & Air
- \* Criminal Justice
- \* Basic Megatronics
- \* Welding
- \* Selected Cosmetology Programs

### Are you a male & pursuing (or once pursued) your education in any of the following:

- \* Child Development
- \* Office & Computer Programs
- \* Registered Nursing
- \* Accounting
- \* Selected Cosmetology Programs
- \* Dental Assisting
- \* Medical Lab Technology
- \* Vocational Nursing
- \* Business
- \* Selected Culinary Arts Programs

The Perkins Scholarship provides funds for qualifying students whose gender is not traditional for their chosen career path, as well as providing eligible students with services, including travel assistance and childcare assistance. The staff at Grayson College strive to meet the needs of our students. Please contact Becki to see how you can help continue the scholarship and offer feedback to help better meet the needs of alike students.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: BECKI RATHFON @ 903-361-7950**

# Something's Cooking at The Spitfire Grill

By Calvin Russell, Student

Say what you want, say what you will about the Grayson College Theatre Department, but it is going to come alive this year. Every other year, the Grayson Theatre Department selects a musical to be performed during the fall semester as well as a "straight play," which only contains lines, that is also performed around the same time. With this semester's straight play *Circle Mirror Transformation* by Annie Baker coming to an end, the Grayson College Theatre Department will soon close that door and open another one as they begin preparing for a very rustic-feeling and compelling musical known as *The Spitfire Grill*, based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff.

*The Spitfire Grill* follows a girl named Percy Talbott who has a passion to follow her dreams once she is released from a five-year prison sentence due to her shady past. Percy soon finds herself working at the local restaurant in Gilead, Wisconsin called *The Spitfire Grill*. The family-friendly restaurant is owned and operated by a tough-skinned and flinty old woman named Hannah Ferguson, who is actually looking to sell the old eatery. Through months of hard work, Percy finds herself in a very difficult situation and tries to do whatever it takes to stay true to her dreams that she so desperately wants to become a reality.

To bring this intense story to life, a company must use a combination of technical elements such as makeup, lights, sound, and scenic designs, as well as strong direction from the production director and energy and passion from the actors who are involved in the show.

Alison Trapp, the director of *The Spitfire Grill* and the theatre department director here at Grayson College for the past two years, goes through a very particular process when selecting shows for a theatrical season. "When I'm picking shows for a season, I look for shows that have educational qualities and an opportunity that provides the students with challenges them to learn as young actors" Trapp said. Since the department is small, Trapp thought that *The Spitfire Grill* would be perfect to match the department numbers.

The lead role of Percy Talbott will be portrayed by Mary Stulsas, a sophomore theatre major here at Grayson College. Stulsas has related to the character on a personal level while going through her preparations to becoming the feisty country woman. "Percy is a very strong woman although she has done some horrible things in her life. She thinks that she has overcome herself and starts to release her insecurities and really develops as a woman and starts to believe in herself," Stulsas stated. The young actress feels close to the character because she herself believes that she is letting her insecurities get the best of her just like Percy Talbott is. She is really excited to get this show up and running to tell an amazing story.

Luca Denton, also a sophomore theatre major here at Grayson College, has taken on the role of both actor and technician and finds fun in both. The make-up side of being a technician is what she finds most exciting because she likes to picture and then create the way a character looks. "First, designing the makeup for a show takes a lot of script reading. You have to really read the script and know the details of each character," Denton said. Percy is young, according to the script, but prison has really "hardened" her, so she would possibly have a little aging. A lot of time goes in to designing how each character looks.

Now that he's back in town, Fabian Garcia recently became Grayson College's new Technical Director in the Theatre Department and has been working hard to get this show designed and on its way to being performed. Garcia was once a Grayson Theatre major. After Grayson, Garcia went to the University of Virginia to earn his masters in Theatre Arts. Not only did he go and earn his masters at a very prestigious university, Garcia also participates in a troupe in Virginia that does about 3 shows during the Summer period.

*Continued on Page 6*

## Grayson Veterans Host Local Job Fair

By Tommy Ellis, Project Coordinator, Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success

The 2017 Texoma Veteran Resources EXPO/Job Fair hosted by the Grayson College Veteran Services Office (VSO) and the Texas Veterans Commission was held on Tuesday, September 26, in the college gymnasium. This year's all-day event was moved from the Student Life Center to the gymnasium to accommodate more exhibitors and guests.

As a result, the EXPO drew sixty-two exhibitors who provided a wide array and assortment of veteran products, services and resources for veterans, their families and dependents. From service dogs and equine therapy to housing assistance and medical services, the 269 attendees had access to a host of essential and critical service providers.

Veterans and guests had the opportunity to have face-to-face and one-on-one discussions with experts in numerous fields of interest. This year a very special exhibit was also on display: the Afghan-Iraq Memorial Wall for Texas that displays pictures of over 600 military personnel from Texas who have

paid the ultimate sacrifice in the War on Terror. This somber exhibit travels throughout the state to honor those fallen heroes and to insure that their sacrifices were not in vain. Additionally, an assortment of vintage military vehicles from the Red River Military Vehicles Preservation Association (MVPA) were on display outside the main entrance and welcomed all exhibitors and guests upon their arrival.

Early arrivals at the EXPO were treated to a special opening ceremony that included bagpipes and drums, military hymnals, the National Anthem by vocalist Adam Cernero and a keynote welcome by Admiral William "Bill" Retz, U.S. Navy, Ret. Hosting the annual EXPO/Job Fair is Grayson College's and the Texas Veterans Commission's way of bringing numerous veteran service providers together at one convenient location in order to benefit all of the veterans in our community and surrounding area. The EXPO/Job Fair was aided greatly by the College Student Veterans Association (SVA). Members not only played an active and critical role in the day's activities but benefited from networking with the various veteran service providers/exhibitors as well.

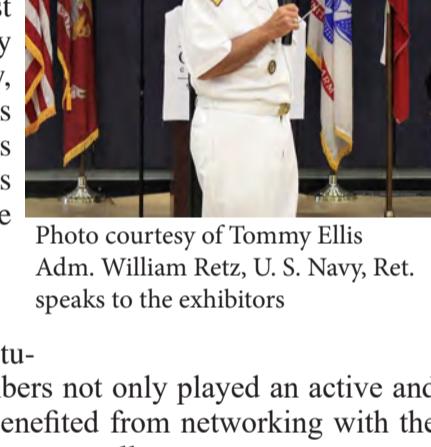


Photo courtesy of Tommy Ellis  
Adm. William Retz, U. S. Navy, Ret.  
speaks to the exhibitors



Photo courtesy of Tommy Ellis  
(L-R), Travis Usery, Amber Rogers, Brittany Schmidt

## Hard Hits in High School Football: Reform for Safety

By Emma Gannet, Student

In the year 2013, concussion rates in high school football were at an all-time high. Football-related concussions have now almost been cut in half due to new rules being enforced by the UIL, rules that limit the amount of full-contact practices and regulate the way that concussions are diagnosed and treated within high school football. The results of these rules greatly and continuously reduced the amount of concussions, but how did these rules affect local high school football teams?

In 2014, the UIL required that the amount of full-contact football practices be limited to 60 minutes a week after the second week of practice, so coaches had to adapt their practice plans to abide by these regulations. Head Football Coach and Athletic Director for Bonham High School Tony Johnson says that he has had no problem changing his practice schedule and even altering his players' tackling form to fit and carry out the new rules. In turn, Warrior Football has seen "... a significantly less number of concussions..." than other football teams, as compared by Bonham ISD's Head Athletic Trainer, Brianne Vincent.

Regardless of how few concussions the team experiences, full-contact sports such as football, are very prone to head injuries. Therefore, the UIL's new regulations did not stop at prevention of concussions but also carried over into the treatment of them. These rules include that an athlete with the symptoms of a concussion is not allowed to return to practice within the same day, due to the fact that symptoms of head injuries differ between athletes. Regarding this rule adaptation, Vincent comments, "My initial step is to monitor the athlete overnight. I always tell my athletes to only go to the emergency department if 1) their symptoms all of a sudden get worse and 2) if their symptoms get better, then get worse." Vincent then explains that the rule change did not have much of an effect on her personal immediate course of action since these rules were already the steps that she was taught to take and used previously.

Concussion symptoms are not taken lightly within the Warrior Football program. These head injuries are never just a headache to the coaching staff in Bonham. The board of coaches is very in tune with the new precautions and treatments to concussions. "...The training of the trainers and coaches has improved. We have way more information than we used to. I personally having had both my sons play this game, take it very seriously if there are concussion symptoms," states Johnson.

Even after these symptoms are recognized, the new protocol regarding concussions is carried out thoroughly. "I clear an athlete to play once they have completed a 5-step return-to-play protocol. The protocol cannot be started until the athlete has been symptom free for 24 hours and has to remain symptom free throughout the protocol," comments Vincent. The fol-

lowing are the 5-steps within the 5 step protocol:

1. No activity- Complete physical and cognitive rest until medical clearance
2. Light aerobic exercise- Walking, swimming, or stationary exercise,
3. Sport-specific exercise- Running drills with NO head impact,
4. Non-contact training- complex training drills and resistance training with none-to-minimal contact
5. Full-contact practice- If still symptom free then return to normal training activities.

After each of these steps, the injured athletes are monitored for returning concussion symptoms and must stay symptom free for 24 hours, states Vincent. According to BHS Senior Austin Ballard, who has had 2 concussions in his high school football career, treatment and advice for a concussion besides the 5-step protocol include: not looking at electronic devices, wearing sunglasses as much as possible, taking Advil and fish oil, staying inside and out of direct sunlight as much as possible, and lots of rest.

Warrior Football has adapted to comply with the rules and ensure the wellbeing of their athletes through their high school career. It is unlikely that they will ever see a complete absence of concussions within their team, but will likely continue to see a decline in the number of concussions with the coaches and athletic trainers relentlessly work to make their program safer.

Concussions are more than just a headache or a dizzy-spell; the brain actually tends to slow down and avoid work after a TBI (traumatic brain injury), making reaction times slower and further injury more common.



Brain Scan- epsa-online.org

# The Student Becomes the Teacher: Jesse Reinhard Returns

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor

Almost the entire left side of Mary Karam's "MK Gallery" in downtown Denison is taken over by brightly colored cats, birds, and "diablos." These playfully rendered creatures are part of Grayson adjunct professor Jesse Reinhard's art world, currently on display.

Karam is drawn to Reinhard's humor and detail. "He's fastidious about what he draws," she enthuses. He extends his works by painting the frames as well to complement the works, a practice he began when he worked in a frame shop in New Mexico.

Most of the displayed work Reinhard painted during the last six months. As is often the case for artists, many of his pieces have a personal connection.

Reinhard attended Howe High School, where his father was the science teacher whom all students, including Reinhard, had to take. "You're Going to Howe" represents his teenage reaction to this interesting situation. He painted "Cat Heaven (Part 2)" using glazing and varnish right after he lost a cat when he moved to Texas from New Mexico. This piece was originally shown at Grayson's Second Floor Gallery. He always has had cats around his studio, so they've naturally migrated into his work.

The colorful "Ava's Owls" Reinhard painted when his wife was pregnant with his first child, a daughter, when he lived in New Mexico. The painting means a great deal to him because he remembers so sharply the special time of his life the work represents. In composing the piece, he drew it first, outlined it in black, then rotated it to add the bright colors.

Local environs influence Reinhard's topic choices as well. "Last Remaining



Photo courtesy of Marlea Trevino  
"Ava's Owls" by Jesse Reinhard



Photo courtesy of Marlea Trevino  
"You're Going to Howe" by Jesse Reinhard

"Light" depicts a single goose surrounded by neutral shades and was inspired by Reinhard's tranquil hikes through Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge in Grayson County.

Reinhard began his art career in Denison while attending Grayson College in 1997. For many years to follow, Reinhard participated in art exhibitions in several of the different art galleries on Main Street in Denison. In 2004, he moved to New Mexico, where he went on to

earn a Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking from New Mexico State University.

Reinhard worked for over a decade as a studio artist and college instructor in New Mexico before moving back to Grayson County in 2016.

He currently teaches Painting and Art Appreciation classes at Grayson College alongside Grayson Professor Steve Black, who was Reinhard's teacher years ago. As a teacher, Reinhard feels that seeing his students work with color influences his own color palette, and his students' energy inspires him. "I have motivated students who work very hard," he reflects. He tries to teach his students to get good with the supplies they have at hand—acrylic paint and basic

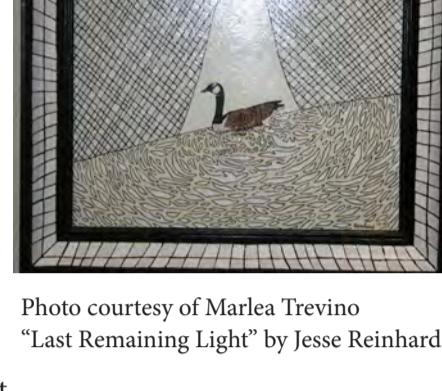


Photo courtesy of Marlea Trevino  
"Last Remaining Light" by Jesse Reinhard

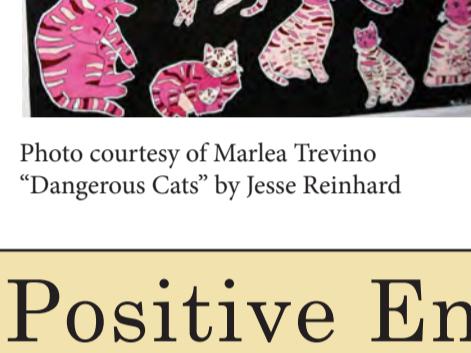


Photo courtesy of Marlea Trevino  
"Dangerous Cats" by Jesse Reinhard

small paint brushes--so they don't have to spend a lot of money on expensive materials. His advice to his students is always "hard work and practice." He's thankful for the good professors he's had and always listened to their suggestions. Reinhard's exhibit continues through December 16 at the MK Gallery at 404 West Main Street in Denison, Wednesday-Friday, 1-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Something's Cooking at The Spitfire Grill

By Calvin Russell, Student

*Continued from Page 5*

"I love color," Garcia proclaimed. "I want to use it in the lighting, but set wise, I want to use muted colors so that the set would contrast the lighting. Also we want to do a corner set, which means we are going to have to put the audience on the South and East side or on the North and East side." With the set in place Garcia also wants to surround the audience with an outside design and create deconstructed buildings so that the audience can have the feeling of being outside while some scenes are taking place inside.

The Grayson Theatre Department has been around for over 20 years and has performed well over 50 shows during that time. This year is different from all the others because the new team of directors, Alison Trapp and Fabian Garcia, want to make sure that this would be a year to remember by bringing changes to the department. "Spitfire" is special to me because it's going to be the first musical I've directed here at Grayson due to the fact that we do a musical every other year with a Shakespeare show in between," Trapp proclaimed.

Stulsas also has faith that this musical is going to be one to remember. "It's a Black Box musical, and the cast is small which makes it more intimate," Stulsas said.

For most people in The Grayson Theatre department, it's their first musical here at Grayson, but it's not the first for Garcia. "My first musical performed here was *All Shook Up* which was a mainstage show because it was a larger cast, and we had more theatre majors," Garcia stated. "Back when I was a student here, we would also perform smaller shows to give students more opportunities to learn how to direct, act, and design since we had a larger program. But since the number of students and the faculty has both changed, we feel like the seasons should change too."

Garcia and Trapp both want to change the department by reaching out to the community more by putting on a show that people can relate to. "We feel like this show is going to reach out to the community because it tells a great story of redemption, and a lot of people would know the show, considering it was also a movie," said Garcia. Now is a time for change with the Grayson Theatre Department.

The show is set to open its doors in the Arts and Communication Building on Friday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m. with another performance on Saturday, November 18th at 7:30 p.m. and will close after the final performance on Sunday November 19th at 2:00 p.m. Admission for the show is free and open to anyone on campus and in the community. Both the cast and the crew of the show highly encourage you to come to Gilead, Wisconsin and watch as a feisty parolee, fresh out of prison, follows her dreams to start a new life in a special small-town community surrounded by loving people.

## Positive Energy at Dallas Poetry Slam

By Huntington Sloan, Staff Writer

On Friday night, October 20th, the Grayson Writers Unlimited/Sigma Kappa Delta club, our sponsors, and I made our way down to Dallas to the Heroes Lounge (7402 Greenville), which hosts the Dallas Poetry Slam every Friday night. The lounge itself is a relaxed place with heavy Caribbean culture. Walking in the dim light of the lounge found me drawn to the lighted-up spots to take a seat.

For the first thirty minutes of the session, the DJ and host, Rage Almighty, worked to play the audience into a hyped vibe. Slowly more people poured in and filled more seats. The staff, warm and friendly, made sure everyone was comfortable and was enjoying a creative Jamaican cocktail or authentic island cuisine. Then the music cut, Rage started to spin a poem, and everyone quieted down. With that, the poetry session began.

I can do no justice in describing each poet's work. Each participant brought their heart and energy as they took their turn at the mic, from a young woman speaking about depression to her mother to how our society's best cash crop is children. A poet seated next to our table hopped up on stage and surprised everyone with an amazing piece in which every word began with a "p." The responsive audience "snapped" and shouted encouragement during all the performances.

The "feature" was a poet named Will Gibson, a returning attraction from Humboldt County, California. His set was strong, a lot of his work comedic in nature, all in a way to cover the intensity of his works, some of which spoke of the loneliness an artist faces and the misunderstanding of mental illness. Each piece of his set was on point and inspiring.

At the end of Gibson's set began the set up for the actual poetry slam. Audience members were chosen at random to be judges, including our own club member, Ellie Worthy. The first young man to speak was the "sacrificial lamb," who wasn't actually competing but simply giving the judges an opportunity to practice scoring. He was good, though. His poem about not fitting into an expected mold was heart wrenching. After Gibson, the real contest began. After two rounds and six poets, the winner of the slam was a woman named Melania Luisa, a member of the Dallas Poetry Slam 2017 team who ranks 5th in the nation. Her poems were passionately delivered and focused on maintaining the upper hand in love and dating. Several other contestants' poems described what it's like to be a "sidekick" and how young women derail their chances at successful futures by giving into others' desires.

The night was grand. The positive energy and comradery that emanated from the Heroes Lounge enveloped our club members and gave us much to ponder over the next week. None of us was brave enough to sign up for the "open mic" part of the evening, but anyone present is welcome to. The pure essence of the night is worth taking the time to attend: [TheDallasPoetrySlam.com](http://TheDallasPoetrySlam.com).

## Student Veteran Association Welcomes Officers

By Tommy Ellis, Project Coordinator, Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success

The 2017-18 student veteran officers for the Grayson College Student Veterans Association (SVA) convened for their bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. This meeting marked the first gathering for the new club officers who were elected at the previous meeting. Officers this year are: Ashley Mathis/President, Amber Rogers/Vice-President, Christopher Gonzales/Secretary, and Brittney Schmidt/Treasurer.

The SVA membership is exploring fundraising possibilities in order that donations can be made to the Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, D.C., Wreaths Across America and the Grayson College Foundation's Boots to Books

and Beyond program. The Eisenhower Memorial is yet to be constructed, but groundbreaking is scheduled for later this month. Wreaths Across America is a national program that places a beautiful wreath on every veteran's grave at Christmas. The Boots to Books and Beyond/Gap Funding allows special financial assistance to local Grayson College student veterans. The club officers and the members are all former military personnel and are committed to giving back to their community, as well as their country.

Special guest speaker and presenter at this month's meeting was Louella



Photo courtesy of Tommy Ellis. Louella Williams speaks to SVA members

Williams, President of Texoma Educators Federal Credit Union. For the SVA members, she provided a wealth of financial wisdom and information regarding personal finances, credit repair, smart shopping and minimizing college debt. Ms. Williams further encouraged all the SVA members to never let age or degree of difficulty demotivate them, but instead to always continue learning new things and to further their education.

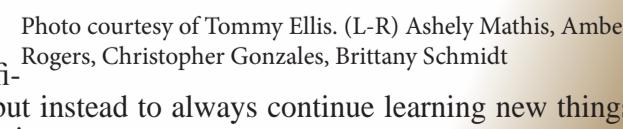


Photo courtesy of Tommy Ellis. (L-R) Ashley Mathis, Amber Rogers, Christopher Gonzales, Brittany Schmidt

The SVA meets at noon twice monthly (1st and 3rd Wednesdays) in the Veterans Hub on the 2nd Floor of the Student Life Center next to GC Perks Coffee Shop. Membership is open to any student veteran or dependent and all are encouraged to become a part of the only club on campus for military veterans. For more information, call 903.415.2632 or stop by the Veteran Services Office next to the Veterans Hub.