

Get Involved

Viking Deadline

Friday, April 19

Send all submissions to the editor, [Kassandra Garcia at Kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu](mailto:Kassandra.Garcia@vikings.grayson.edu). Remember, anyone can contribute!

Student Leadership Series

TBA

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, 12:00 p.m.
BSM building

Clay Club

First Thursdays, 5 - 6 p.m.
Ceramic Room, Arts & Communications

Cosmetology Club

Tuesdays bi-weekly
8:30- 9:30 a.m., CTC

Cultural Diversity Club

Second and fourth Mondays
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 Tuesdays, 3 p.m.
Culinary Arts Building

FCA

TBA

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 Monday
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Cyber Cafe, CWL

History Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.
LA 207, Liberal Arts

Honors College Club

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.
LA 103, Liberal Arts

HVACR Club

First Thursdays
5:30 p.m.
CTC Room 117

LEA

(Criminal Justice)

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

Men of Distinction

Thursdays, 12 - 1 p.m.
Study Room 5, Library

Music Club

Every other Friday
1 - 2 p.m., Choir Room,
Arts & Communications

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Please recycle this paper!

Phi Theta Kappa Captures Astounding 16 Awards at Regional Gala in Houston!

By Omicron Psi, Second Most Distinguished Phi Theta Kappa Chapter in Texas



(L-R): Professor Mary Linder, Jeramy Babb, Alison Earnhart, Melissa Rodriguez, Connor Hall, Dr. Molly Harris, Abigail Reasnor, Cassandra Garcia, Phi Theta Kappa Texas Regional President Lavada Burse, Anita Maharjan, Rachel Ross

On March 7th through 10th Grayson College's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Omicron Psi, attended their regional convention. That Saturday, March 9th, they received sixteen awards, not including the additional nine District 2 Hall of Honor recognitions they obtained for exemplary hard work.

Some of their awards included 2019 Texas Regional President, First Finalist for Most Distinguished Texas Chapter, Most Distinguished Honors in Action, Distinguished Advisor Team, Distinguished Officer Team, and Friend of Texas, which was given to Grayson's very own Rhea Burmel from Marketing!

Presidential Perspective: Lavada Burse

Attending the Texas Regional Convention this year was truly transformational. Last year was my first year attending, as I was a new Phi Theta Kappa member and officer. I love that I was able to reconnect with friends from other Phi Theta Kappa chapters across Texas.

While there, the Omicron Psi chapter campaigned for the Texas Regional President position. This process brought the officers and members closer together more than ever. To see the look on my team's face when we won awards was priceless. I left the convention so proud of everything we've accomplished, but even more proud of my team and how far we've come this past year.

Officer Perspective: Cassandra Garcia

Attending this convention assured me that Phi Theta Kappa is my life-long home. I cried happy tears so many times between awards, and I couldn't be happier to be in this chapter. We accomplished so much, and it was amazing to see the hard work we put into our undergraduate research project pay off, and the hard work we put into our chapter in general.

New Member Perspective: Alison Earnhart

As a new member of Phi Theta Kappa, I had heard in our weekly meetings about the work that Omicron Psi Chapter at Grayson has done in this past year. However, until attending the Texas Regional Convention, I did not fully grasp the scale of the work that was being accomplished. I'm not going to lie: it was daunting to sign up for a trip that I knew next to nothing about, but the officers and advisors of Omicron Psi made it sound like I would be missing out on the trip of a lifetime. Turns out, I was worried for nothing. I have a new group of friends who are extremely supportive in every possible way, whether it be academic, personal, or career related. It's an amazing opportunity to grow as a scholar and leader with the Omicron Psi Chapter here at Grayson.

We could not be more proud of what was accomplished here. Congratulations, Omicron Psi!

Time and Its Passing on Display in Art Club's *Making Faces* Exhibit with Silent Auction

By Kristin Vilbig Erickson, Professor of Art

This exhibit and silent auction is a fundraiser for the Grayson College Visual Arts Department Art Club, Delta Phi Delta. All funds raised will benefit Delta Phi Delta and their year-end exhibit.

Throughout art history, artists have been interested in the concept of time and the perception of the passing of time. From the story panels of early Renaissance art, like Sassetta's *St. Francis and the Poor Knight* and Francis's *Vision*, where three distinct moments in time are depicted in one image, to Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending the Staircase*, where a single figure is repeatedly depicted as it moves through time and space, to Dali's melting clocks in *The Persistence of Memory*, artists have explored many ways to depict time and its passing.

The *Making Faces* exhibit asked artists to create original works from clocks and clock parts. From wall clocks to watches, the works were to maintain their function as clocks; however, hands, faces and cases could be altered and adorned.

Come see the creativity of our Grayson Art students, as well as area artists, and perhaps bid on a unique timepiece for your wall.

The exhibition opens March 25th and runs until April 19th. Bidding for the silent auction closes at the end of the Artists' Reception, which is Friday, April 19th from 5:30 - 7 pm.

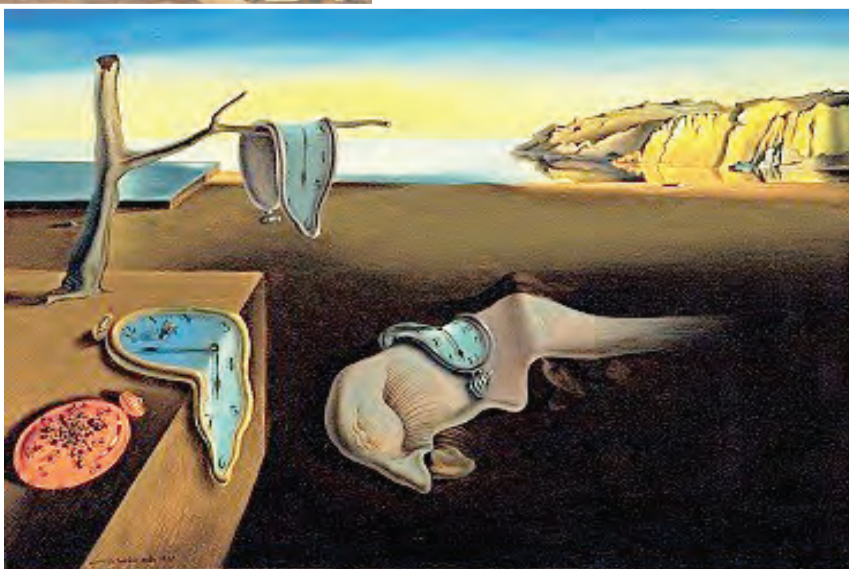
For more information about this exhibit, the 2nd Floor Gallery and other Grayson College Art Events, please visit our Facebook page: [Grayson College Visual Arts Department](https://www.facebook.com/GraysonCollegeVisualArtsDepartment).



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On the right, an angel visits St. Francis in a dream, at the top center, St. Francis sees a vision of the Heavenly kingdom, and on the left, St. Francis give a poor knight his cloak--three distinct moments in time happening simultaneously in the image.



Left: St. Francis and the Poor Knight, and Francis's Vision, Sassetta, 1437-44, Egg Temprea on poplar, 34.25x20.75", The National Gallery (<https://www.nationalgalleryimages.co.uk/imaget>



Above: Salvador Dali, *The Persistence of Memory*, 1931, oil on canvas, 9 1/2" x 13", The Museum of Modern Art (<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/79018>) Dali created a surreal and impossible scene calm and quiet, where hard objects become soft, and time itself melts away.

Left: Marcel Duchamp, *Nude Descending the Staircase*, 1912, oil on canvas, 57 7/8" x 35 1/8", Philadelphia Museum of Art. When displayed at the 1913 Armory Show in New York, this work created immense scandal and was caricatured by journalists covering the exhibition. One critic compared it to an "explosion in a shingle factory." Despite this initial negative reaction, this abstract cubist work had a profound impact on later generations of artist with respect to their understanding and depictions of space and movement.

Phi Theta Kappa

Wednesdays
12:30 - 1 p.m.
LA 107, Liberal Arts

Psychology Club

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.
CIS 202

Radiology Tech Club

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

Science Club

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

Student Government Association

Every other Thursday
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
LA 107, Liberal Arts

Sisters of Destiny

Every other Thursday,
12:15 - 1 p.m.
Conference 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 Tuesdays, 2 - 3:00 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

Writers Unlimited

Every other Tuesday
12:20-12:50 p.m.
Study Room 5, Library



Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	# Games	Time
3/25	Murray St.	Tishimino, OK	1	5:00
3/27	Ranger	Ranger, TX	2	1:00
3/30	Ranger	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/3	Hill	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/6	Hill	Hillsboro, TX	2	1:00
4/8	Murray St.	Dub Hayes Field	1	2:00
4/10	McLennan	Waco, TX	2	1:00
4/13	McLennan	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/17	Weatherford	Weatherford, TX	2	1:00
4/20	Weatherford	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/22	San Jac	Sam Houston St.	1	4:00
4/24	Vernon	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/27	Vernon	Vernon, TX	2	1:00
5/1	North Central	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
5/4	North Central	Gainesville, TX	2	1:00
5/11	Regional Tournament	San Angelo, TX	TBA	TBA
5/26	JUCO World Series	Grand Junction, CO	TBA	TBA

Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	# Games	Time
3/23	Ranger	Ranger, TX	2	12:00
3/25	Murray State	Denison, TX	2	1:00
3/30	Weatherford	Denison, TX	2	12:00
4/3	Vernon	Vernon, TX	2	1:00
4/6	McLennan	Denison, TX	2	12:00
4/10	Hill	Hillsboro, TX	2	1:00
4/13	Temple	Temple, TX	2	12:00
4/15	Murray State	Tishomingo, OK	2	1:00
4/17	NCTC	Denison, TX	2	1:00
4/19	Cisco	Cisco, TX	2	1:00
4/24	Ranger	Denison, TX	2	1:00

Congrats to ETA Sigma Delta Inductees!

By Jeramy Babb, Student and ETA Sigma Delta Chapter President

In 1978, when a group of students from the University of New Hampshire's Whitmore School of Business and Economics got together for a project, they found a need to recognize hospitality and tourism students. According to ICHRIE (the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education), ETA Sigma Delta Honor Society was born.

In those times, honor societies existed for other disciplines, but not for the field of study serving one of the world's largest industries, the Hospitality and Tourism industry. Today there are over ninety active ETA Sigma Delta Chapters worldwide. We here at Grayson College are proud to be one of those chapters, but there is still history yet to be made.

On March 19th at 6:00 pm, history will be made once again as the Spring 2019 semester pledges, Tristen Torres, Jarrod Thomas, and Rory Larkins, take the societal Oath. I couldn't be prouder of my chapter and these gentlemen. Each of them is from different backgrounds and interests and some with quite touching stories to tell.

If you see our new inductees around, be sure to congratulate them because receiving an invitation to be inducted into the ETA Sigma Delta International Hospitality Management Society is a hallmark of great accomplishment for the Hospitality Management major.

To be a member of ESD, our pledges must have completed over fifty percent (50%) of the credit hours required for their degree, have a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 in a 4.0 system or its equivalent in another grading system, be in the top 20th percentile in class standing, and agree to uphold the val-

ues of excellence, leadership, creativity, service, and ethics.

With that, I want to thank all members of ETA Sigma Delta at Grayson College and our incredible advisor, Professor Rusty Weatherly. It is a great honor for me to represent ETA Sigma Delta International Honor Society as the President of the Grayson College Chapter.

This has been more than just a lifetime of memories in the making; it has been a career game changer for me, and it will be the same for our new pledges. Congratulations!



ETA Sigma Delta Inductees (L-R): Tristen Torres, Jarrod Thomas, and Rory Larkins

Linares, McGriff, Russell, and Ralston Represent Grayson at 2019 Texas Music Educators Association Conference

By Dr. David Tercero, Director of Music and Program Lead, Fine Arts

Over the Valentine's Day weekend, the Grayson College Music Department traveled to San Antonio, Texas to attend the Texas Music Educators Association conference. TMEA is the largest music educators' conference in the nation and for the 2019 conference, boasts more than 29,000 attendees.

This extraordinary event features over 300 workshops by nationally recognized clinicians for band, orchestra, vocal, elementary, and college educators; more than 100 performances by the state's finest musicians; and one



(L-R): Brian Linares, Ethan McGriff, Chloe Russell, Kevin Ralston

giant exhibit hall filled with over 1,400 booths representing all facets of the music industry.

This year, Grayson College was proudly represented by four music students who performed in all-state ensembles at the conference. Brian Linares-bass, Ethan McGriff-tenor, and Chloe Russell-alto were all selected to participate in the Texas Two-Year College Choral Directors Association All-State Choir.

In preparation for the concert, these students attended several rehearsals under the direction of the esteemed guest conductor Dr. Craig Hella Johnson. The Saturday night concert held at the Stars at Night Ballroom, consisted of a wide array of styles ranging from the Baroque era to modern arrangements of 20th century music.

Kevin Ralston-percussionist, is the first Grayson College student selected to perform with the Texas Community College Band Directors Association

All-State Symphonic Band. The guest conductor of the Symphonic Band Concert was Phillip Clements, a highly respected music educator who is the Director of Bands and Instrumental Activities at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

A special note about the concert is that it featured the world premiere of Daniel Montoya Jr.'s *Get on Up*, who was in attendance and addressed the audience before the performance. Kevin Ralston was also a featured soli in the final selection of the concert, *El Camino Real* by Alfred Reed.

In addition to All-State ensembles, Grayson College, represented by Dr. David Tercero and Dr. Andrew Wright, participated in TMEA's College Night. College Night is an opportunity for colleges and universities from all around the nation to interact and recruit prospective Texas music students.

The TMEA conference provided Grayson faculty and students the opportunity for professional development, to participate in inspiring performances, and recruit some of the top musicians in the state.

If you are interested in participating in the Grayson College Band or Choir, contact Dr. Tercero at tercerod@grayson.edu.



Dr. David Tercero and Dr. Andrew Wright discuss Grayson's music program with student prospects at the Texas Music Educators Association Conference

Student Support Services Welcomes New Advisor, Kinzie Randolph

By Kinzie Randolph, Student Support Services Advisor, and Pam Polk, Director of Student Support Services Grant

A new advisor, Kinzie Randolph, has joined the staff of Grayson College Student Support Services (SSS). Trio Student Support Services (SSS) is a federal Trio grant program that serves first-generation, low-income, and students with documented disabilities. Its purpose is to provide academic support services to assist participants to remain in college and reach the goal of graduation. All services are free to participants.

For more information about Grayson's SSS Program, call 903/415-2597, or email sss@grayson.edu.

Meet Kinzie!

My name is Kinzie Randolph, and I am so excited for this opportunity to work with Student Support Services (SSS) as an Advisor. I graduated from Texas State University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Anthropology. I have experience in recruiting, mentoring, and advising incoming and first-year college students, as well as some experience working in the mental/behavioral health field.

Working in mental health, you learn a lot about the importance of person-centered health care. This means connecting with the person as a unique

individual, which I think is just as important when working with students. Connecting with and learning about students is one of my favorite things because each time I meet a student, I learn something I didn't know before.

Please feel free to stop by our office and say, "Hi!" I look forward to meeting you all soon!



Kinzie Randolph

New Counselor/Success Coach Claudia Smithart Ready to Advise Students

By Claudia Smithart, Special Services Coordinator/LPC-I Counselor

Hello Vikings! The Advising and Counseling Office has a new face that you might see around campus, mine! I'm the new LPC-I-Counselor and Success Coach for the Public Service Pathway.

I'm from the Dallas area but moved to Howe in my junior year of high school and graduated from there. I then was accepted to the Honors College at Texas A&M University-Commerce and double-majored in Psychology and Sociology, where I graduated Suma Cum Laude and with highest honors in 2014. I then pursued my Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, also at Texas A&M University-Commerce, where I graduated in 2017.

During my master's internship, I completed all 700 hours at Eastfield College in Mesquite, Texas, where I worked with students on personal and career counseling. Upon graduation, I worked for Dallas Metrocare Services, working initially in-home with individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities, from which I then transferred to a center where I worked specifically with children with Autism, providing Applied Behavior Analysis therapy.

In November 2018, I received my provisional license in counseling, an

LPC-I, for which I still have to earn 3,000 client hours in order to become a fully-licensed LPC. I plan on completing all of these hours here at Grayson and moving forward in the counseling and advising office in my career.

Do you fall under the Public Service pathway and need advising? Set up an appointment with me for advising, and welcome me to Grayson! If you need personal counseling, which is free for all Grayson students, you can also set up an appointment with me by emailing me at smithartc@grayson.edu.



Claudia Smithart

Thinking about Careers? March is National Athletic Trainers Month

By Lorena Tidwell, Athletic Trainer

This fall, Grayson College hired me, Lorena Tidwell, as a full-time Athletic Trainer to care for our student-athletes. Under the medical direction of Dr. Stephen Sandoval, I am able to provide coverage to our athletes, coordinate health care with doctors and hospitals, establish protocols, and respond in emergency situations.

Grayson College currently fields baseball, softball, women's basketball, men's basketball, and cheer. With the development of an Athletic Training Career Pathway, we are able to recruit athletic training students, offer scholarship opportunities, and help them transfer to a four-year athletic training program.

Every March, athletic trainers across America are recognized for their commitment to helping people prevent injuries and stay healthy and active. From high school gymnasiums to professional sports arenas, athletes of all ages and levels deserve access to on-site health care.

Athletic Trainers are health care professionals. Athletic Trainers provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical examination and diagnosis,

therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitative care. Highly educated and dedicated to the job at hand, Athletic Trainers can be found in high schools and colleges, corporations, professional sports, the military, performing arts and clinics, hospitals, and physician offices. They provide compassionate care for all.

If you are interested in pursuing athletic training, please contact me at tidwelll@grayson.edu or 903-415-2618.



Lorena Tidwell

Critical Crafting: Grayson Webmaster Helps Market College to Potential Students

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor

Have you noticed when you're scrolling through the Grayson website that a "Let's talk. . . online" link pops up? If you've ever responded to that mystery person in Grayson College cyberspace, you might be chatting with Derek Dalton, the college's webmaster. One of his job duties is to "webchat" with visitors to the Grayson website. "Ultimately, a website is a marketing tool to potential students," explains Dalton. "That's why I'm here [in this position] instead of an IT person."

Many hats

Dalton's photography and graphic design background helped him land the webmaster position at Grayson five years ago. At the time, the college was transitioning to a new content management system provider and web template, so Dalton spent the first year of his employment moving old content to the new platform.

In addition to updating content daily, Dalton works with content creators at the college to help them change content and trains users on logging in, editing, and accessing the content management system. He updates the college catalog, which he transformed into its current digital form. He also created the online directory from a template provided by the college's content management system provider.

In his marketing role, Dalton tracks analytics to drive more visitors to the college's website. He can see how many visitors are on the website at a given time and compare how many page views a page received on a given day to a previous day. "Search engine optimization" is

critical, insists Dalton, since the goal is for the college to be in the top 10 responses to keyword searches. He's also responsible for updating the digital monitors on campus and ensuring the text and designs displayed follow the college's branding guidelines.

Interest in technology

In high school in Durant, Oklahoma, Dalton took computer and graphic design classes and enjoyed "taking things apart to see how they worked." So in college at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, he earned his bachelor's degree in Graphic Design and Visual Media.

Contrary to the stereotype many hold of IT employees' being introverted, Dalton is an extrovert, largely due, he feels, to his work in graphic design and photography, which required him to work with a variety of client types.

He has owned his own web design company and photography business.

As an AT&T employee, he got to "play" with new phone technology. As part of his web marketing work for KXII, a CBS/Fox affiliate serving the Sherman/Denison and Ada/Ardmore/Durant areas, he designed the graphics for their First Alert weather app. In his current job managing the website for the college, Dalton draws on his computer background as well since he uses HTML and javascript.

Professor Dalton?

Dalton finished his master's degree in December at East Central University in Education Technology and is considering teaching a few different tech-based courses for the college.

In the meantime, make sure you ask him how his day is going the next time you visit Grayson.edu!



Grayson webmaster Derek Dalton vacationing with wife Sedonia and daughter Kyia in Branson, Missouri

There is a Right and a Wrong. Take a Stand!

By Juan Cabrera, Student

After a century of brutal and horrific wars fought against genocidal ideologies and villainous tyrants, it should be no surprise that societies around the world have begun to embrace and celebrate diversity while embarking on a mission to eradicate speech that oppressed minority groups might find distasteful or offensive. This has brought to life a reactionary movement that has coined these efforts as being too “politically correct,” and from tolerance, intolerance rears its beastly head.

In this pivotal period when white supremacy, Nazism, and fascism claw their way from up the depths of defeat back into relevance, placing a limit to what we claim to know incapacitates our ability to discern the absolute truth, hinders us in combating intolerance, and leads us into the philosophical trap of relativism. These factors provide a breeding ground for these hateful ideologies and ultimately, handicap us in the battle against intolerance.

Intellectual humility is a virtue that is quintessential to any academic and is important to consider when venturing beyond our own field of knowledge. Intellectual humility, however, must not stymie efforts into the acquisition of further knowledge, and that is what John Locke’s statement, “I am not here speaking of probability, but knowledge; and I think not only, that it becomes the modesty not to pronounce magisterially, where we want that evidence that can produce knowledge; but also, that it is of use to us to discern how far our knowledge does reach; for the state we are present in, not being that of vision, we must, in many things, content ourselves with faith and probability...” (Locke 671), precisely does.

For example, through much of human history, we have been unaware of the origins of existence, but, for many cultures and societies, there is a Creation story that has been passed down through many generations to explain this event. This is a case in which knowledge has been left to faith and probability, and the absolute truth has been obscured by what Locke would be content with, as we have now gained insight into the Big Bang, thanks to the advent of improved scientific instruments.

It is important to consider that while we should be aware of the limits of our own knowledge, if we adhere to Locke, we become complacent as we fill the gaps of our knowledge with faith and probability instead of the desire to learn more of that we currently do not comprehend. Thus, we must distinguish between intellectual humility and complacency and be careful not to stagnate new progress by leaving it to uncontrollable forces to dictate when we have reached the extent of our knowledge, in order to inch ever closer to the truth.

The incapability to pursue the absolute truth leads to another issue which

is that of combating intolerance and ideologies that seek to harm others due to differences in beliefs. Locke defines knowledge as, “the perception of the agreement or disagreement of two ideas” (Locke 664) and expands on this by stating, “Knowledge then seems to be nothing but the perception of the connection and agreement, or disagreement and repugnancy, of any of our ideas” (Locke 664). In this way, Locke limits knowledge to the recognition that the ideas are unique because they are not their counterpart, but he does not give knowledge the ability to differentiate between right and wrong or the acknowledgement of the conflict between the two ideas.

To those seeking justice or morality, this is insufficient and allows for the cultivation of intolerant speech and ideologies. If we were to confine knowledge to the mere acceptance of differing ideas, the absolute truth is obscured, and an attempt for its unearthing is never made.

A judge must go by a set of guidelines of known truths. It is whimsical to believe that a court hearing would end with a nod to both sides after the defendant and prosecutor have stated their cases. If we are to remain impartial, as in the case of this judge, we are falling into relativism, in that both sides have different perspectives; thus neither is right nor wrong.

Locke restricts knowledge to this impaired state by writing, “For when we know that white is not black, what do we else but perceive that these two ideas do not agree?” (Locke 664), and makes it easy prey to relativism. Now that Locke has deteriorated knowledge, it is of no use to use in the task of eradicating intolerance. Knowledge, instead of a weapon for the righteous, is an enabler for the despicable acts that the intolerant have a penchant for. We cannot use knowledge to choose between white and black, and we are frozen in limbo, stuck in moral ambiguity.

One might say that is important to know how deep we can swim and that we must not foray into foreign lands. Indeed, that is wise, and being humble in our capabilities is imperative for those that seek excellence and approval by their peers. It is another matter altogether, however, to limit knowledge to just what we currently can prove, or as Locke would want, to distinguish white and black but be incapable of choosing the right one.

To see why there must be a right and wrong, it is beneficial to bring Pascal to mind, who states, “But you must wager. It is not optional. You are embarked” (Pascal 460). Indeed, you must choose, there is nothing we can learn from never taking a stance, but everything to lose when we tolerate the intolerable. The 20th century is an eerie reminder that we suffer as a whole when eugenics and white supremacy are allowed to thrive, and before we allow another genocide to occur, we must make a stand.

Movies with Pickle Juice: *Isn't It Romantic* and *Cold Pursuit* Both Disappoint

By Justin Pelzel, Staff Writer

One of the elements that makes a good movie is the plot. A good plot is the foundation of the movie. If the writer and director have created a movie where the plot isn't good at all or doesn't catch the interest of the viewers, then they may lose the interest of the audience.

Another element that makes a movie a good movie is the lesson or the message that the writer and director want to convey in the story that they are telling. For example, *Liar Liar*, one of the movies that made Jim Carrey famous today with the 90's kids, focuses on the message to be truthful to those whom you want in your life. Yes, Jim Carrey does his thing on the big screen and makes it funny and entertaining, but the message doesn't change, no matter how goofy the actor portrays his character. What also makes *Liar Liar* a good movie is the synergy between the actor and the character he plays and between the cast.

If you have watched the movie *Face Off* from 1997, starring Nicolas Cage and John Travolta, their performance is spectacular. They bring to life the image the writer envisioned. Those are some of the many things that make a good movie a great movie. Those elements separate the good movies from the bad movies.

Isn't It Romantic doesn't flow well

Isn't It Romantic fails in most of these elements. My rating for this movie is definitely a 3/10. The movie has a good plot, a good cast, good synergy between its cast, but the movie just doesn't flow well from paper to the big screen. I understand what the writer and director are going for and what they are trying to convey. But the movie doesn't turn out the way it is supposed to.

The plot is fantastic; I love it. Their cast of choice is recognizable, and they have worked together before. Their cast's performance is on point and phenomenal but just can't bring the story to greatness. When watching this movie, I felt like I was waiting for something to happen to bring this movie from “another romantic comedy” to “a must-see romantic comedy.”

I am really big on romantic comedies. One of my favorites in this genre of movies is *The Proposal*, the first movie to come to mind when I think of romantic comedies. *The Proposal* is just fantastic. It has a good plot, cast, synergy, flow, and lesson to be learned. *Isn't It Romantic* just doesn't compare to *The Proposal*.

To be honest, I don't think that *Isn't It Romantic* should have ever hit the big screen. It should've just gone straight to DVD. The movies *Safe*, *Blitz*, and *Killer Elite* are some B-list movies that Jason Statham has been in that went straight to DVD and didn't have a chance to pull in money on the big screen. Yet I guarantee that these movies would have pulled in more money than *Isn't It Romantic*. These B-list movies are instant Oscars when being compared to *Isn't It Romantic*.

However I do like the cast of this movie. The cast is really good at portraying their characters, bringing synergy from character to character. It's just not enough to sell the movie for me. After having watched this movie, I felt like the movie wasn't worth the money I had spent on it.

Cold Pursuit needs a good villain

Another movie I watched over the weekend with high hopes of enjoying is *Cold Pursuit* starring Liam Neeson. This movie starts out fantastic. When sitting down and viewing the first 20 minutes of the movie, I thought that this movie was going to be amazing, but this movie was an absolute tragedy. This movie fails in different aspects from *Isn't It Romantic*. I understand what is going on and what both the writer and director want to convey. But this movie fails at justifying my reason for watching this movie. This movie's rating for me would have to be a 4/10.

This movie is exactly like *Taken*, also starring Liam Neeson, which is not to say that all of Neeson's movies are the same or bad. I like *Taken*, *Non-stop*, and *Run All Night*. I even think he sold the movies that he wasn't even the main actor in like *Batman Begins*, *Wrath of the Titans*, *A Million Ways to Die in the West*, and *The Next Three Days*. But this movie was not worth my time. It's not even worth watching if it were in the Redbox. I was very disappointed with this movie. This movie should have also gone straight to DVD.

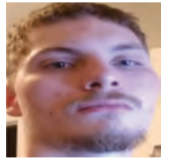
I like the storyline of the movie. It's the exact same as *Taken*, but *Cold Pursuit* takes it a little further. It's Liam Neeson versus thirty people or so rather than just one person. The similar movie *Death Wish* is absolutely ten times better than *Cold Pursuit*. Bruce Willis' performance is amazing. How he portrays the character and how he tells the story that the writer is trying to convey--everything is better than in *Cold Pursuit*. Both movies are substantially the same but have very different aspects to the story.

Liam Neeson's performance is great. Even his co-stars do a good job of portraying their characters. The movie is easy to understand and has really good aspects to it. The writer knew what he was wanting and wrote it.

One of the things that made me not enjoy this movie, though, was the villain. A good villain makes the movie worth watching. There are many different types of villains: the smart ones, the mean ones, the clever ones, the menacing ones, the crazy ones, the rich ones. But the villain in this movie had one of the worst actors fill his shoes.

I felt like the actor wasn't meant to be a villain when watching this movie. You know how every villain has that aspect to him that makes him menacing, makes you think that you shouldn't cross paths with him or her? Tom Bateman was not meant for this role. The character did bad things and was supposed to be brought to justice. I just wasn't sold on the fact that this actor was supposed to be a villain. Many different actors and actresses have played the good guy in the story and the bad guy in another story. Believe it not Jim Carrey, the funny guy he is, played a villain in one of his roles and did an exceptional job at it. Maybe if the right actor had been cast, the movie would have been worth watching.

I am really big on movies and enjoy watching a story come to life on the big screen, so there will definitely be more to come from me. Remember keep watching movies, and always have a pickle when you go to the theatre!



Scholarship Alert: Use Your Resources

By Cassandra Garcia, Editor

Take on scholarship opportunities as soon and as often as possible. Our Viking students should hopefully be applying for a Grayson Scholarship if they already haven't. The priority deadline will have already passed by the time this issue is published, but the final deadline isn't until June 28, 2019. If you apply yourself, work hard in your classes, and you get good grades, you should not have to be paying for your education. Let our generous scholarship donors take care of you.

Even if you are transferring in the fall, there is still a scholarship opportunity for you. The Ray and Mary Morrison Transfer Student Scholarship is available for Grayson County residents that plan to attend a 4-year institution. The deadline is May 31, 2019, so if you are transferring and were not aware of this available fund, please start your application!

The general scholarship application and the transfer scholarship information are both on the Grayson College website under the Scholarships tab if you are interested in applying.

Also, if you go onto the Grayson College website, select Admissions and Aid, click on Financial Aid, and then you will be given a long list of options. If you count six options up from the bottom, you will find a button that says Off Campus Scholarships.

This is another incredible scholarship resource for our Vikings, and the list of opportunities is continuously updated. Take advantage of the list that you are given, and if you stop by the Financial Aid Office, be sure to pick up a scholarship handout that includes resources such as Fastweb and College For All Texans.

If the only thing stopping you from applying for scholarships is the belief that you won't be awarded anything - think again. In my two years

at Grayson College, I have received fourteen scholarships. That money paid off both of my years here, and I have never had an out-of-pocket expense for my community college education. Believe in yourself, believe that you can do it, and know that you can pay off your education without loans and without personal funds if you're willing to put the time and effort into it.

As always, if you guys have any questions, feel free to email me at kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu!



Cassandra Garcia wearing her Phi Theta Kappa officer medal and pins