

What international students want you to know...

-Lily Omenkor, Student

For some international students, studying abroad can be challenging and complex. The most common difficulties are applying for a visa, gathering documentation, keeping up with college classes, using the English language, and adjusting to dietary needs.

According to Brad McClenny, the International Students Advisor at Grayson College, there are different types of international students at Grayson depending on the type of visa they are issued.

Some of the students apply as non-immigrants. They live in the States or outside the country and get an education through sports scholarships such as men's basketball and baseball or women's basketball or softball.

Some of the international students come to Grayson College sponsored by their parents. Most of these international students are issued an F-1 visa, which has zero duration, meaning no expiration date.

"When applying at Grayson College, the [international] student needs to apply and submit all the required documentation. Once the school approves the forms, an I-20 and acceptance letter will be issued to the student. Then, a checklist will be sent to the student," McClenny explained. The list includes official transcripts (translated



International students pose with faculty during last year's International Day (Photo provided by Ana Ferreria)

into English), official documentation showing a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 600, a valid passport for six months, an application fee of \$100, an affidavit of financial support of \$16,500 USD, a health certificate and medical insurance coverage.

According to McClenny, the students have to enroll in 12 credit hours and earn a minimum of a 2.0 GPA to maintain their status as an international student.

Rebecca Okoro, a Nigerian international student at Grayson College, said, "As an international student coming from a different background, I found it difficult to catch up with my course mates in class during lectures because of the way the course is taught and the language and accent used." She added that it took time to understand what the professor was saying in class because of the way he spoke and the illustrations he shared in class.

"Grayson College is completely

different from Nigeria, where I came from," said Okoro. "Everything is done online, which seems new to me and is hard for me to master. I wrote with pen and paper and not computers in Nigerian English. At the moment, I have started learning how to type and how to work with the computer."

Understanding English words and pronunciation was a big issue to Moumouduwa Kimbala, a Kenyan international student majoring in Nursing. "On my first day at Grayson College, I registered in school. Many students walked up to me and spoke to me, but because I could barely understand them, I kept nodding my head with a smile on my face," she recalled. "The other students were unable to pronounce my name, Moumouduwa. I have zero-tolerance for people messing up my name. If it was an exam or game that needs to be won to get a million dollars, they will go the extra mile to get it right. An effort is all it

takes. If I can say your name right, I expect the same too."

For Fatima Abdou from Mali, the major challenges at Grayson were dietary. "In my home country, I am used to our local foods. Since I secured admission to study in this school, food has become one of my major challenges. Our food is completely different from the various kinds of food in the western world," Abdou said. "Here in the school, the food smells and tastes differently from what am used to in my country. I find it hard to eat. Each time I try, it gives me stomach problems because it's still new to my system. It will take some time before my system will accept it." Abdou added, "Most of the dishes served in the cafeteria are prepared with pork. As a practicing Muslim, I do not eat pork. This has made it hard for me to select what to eat in the cafeteria."

According to McClenny, "The challenges Grayson international students face at the beginning of their first semester can improve by getting involved in campus activities and utilizing the resources to adapt to their new lives." Don't struggle alone—learn how to reach out, he suggests to them.

Two OER Microgrants Awarded, Two More Stipends Available

-Todd Ellis, Director of Teaching and Learning

Grayson College Teaching and Learning is offering two Open Educational Resources support stipends for the 2019-2020 school year. The purpose of the stipends is to assist faculty in textbook examination and course adoption of OER for spring or fall 2020 classes.

In the summer of 2019 Sarah Garrett applied for and was awarded a microgrant to adopt an OER textbook for 8 sections of Speech that impacted 200 students. Estimated student savings this fall is \$14,000. Michael Dill received and is working on a grant in the form of release-time. He will be creating an OER lab manual for Microbiology.

Full-time and adjunct faculty are encouraged to apply. The \$2000 stipend is divided into two parts:

Part I, Adopt. Selected applicants will receive a \$500 stipend for academic year 2019-20.

Successful applicants will work with Library Information Services staff and the Director of Teaching and Learning during the year to identify and review potential OER texts for a spring, summer or fall 2020 adoption. The grant recipient will notify Todd Ellis in writing that they have selected a textbook. Include the textbook name and publisher.

Part II, Adapt. Grant recipients will then create and adapt a Canvas sandbox OER course or class shell in which the textbook will be used. They will then receive the remaining \$1500. Note, the course does not have to be designed around the textbook, although that is a common pedagogical practice.

A link to the application and additional information can be found at <https://www.smcore.com/1vbxm>.

Could climate change affect North Texas agriculture?

-Luisa Perez, Student

Over the past few decades, North Texas' climate has changed dramatically, which can be summarized in two words: floods and excessive humidity. The annual temperature of North Texas has risen about one degree Fahrenheit since the first half of the 20th century. The increment in temperature and unpredictable natural disasters such as floods, droughts, continuous rain, and wildfires are, unfortunately, something North Texas will experience more, which can lead to economic and health problems, stated Barbara Mayes, climatologist and meteorologist from North Texas.

(Continued on page 5)

Colonel Dale Howard to speak at Remembrance Ceremony

-Wayne Ryon, Financial Aid Advisor



The Wall of Honor is current on display in the Student Life Center (photo by editor.)

Join us November 11th at 11:00am on the second floor of the Life Center by the Veteran's Hub for our Veteran's Day Remembrance Ceremony with guest speaker Colonel Dale Howard, Perrin Air Force Base Museum.

Colonel Dale Howard served in the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War and the Kosovo Campaign. Colonel Howard retired with thirty years of commissioned service in 1998. He was recalled to active duty after the terrorist attack of 9/11; served as Senior Strategic Analyst for Counter Terrorism for the U.S. Department of Defense for the Army and Military Liaison

Officer to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, retiring again in 2007.

Colonel Howard was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, the Department of Defense Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Republic of Slovenia Silver Star Medal, as well as several other personal and unit campaign medals, ribbons and badges. He is currently retired and lives in Sherman, Texas with his wife Sally, a retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant.

Reception will follow after the ceremony, beginning at 11:30am with a veteran meet and greet.

WANT TO SEE YOUR WORK IN THE VIKING?

We are now accepting stories, poems, comics and photos!

Send your work to our editor, **Storm Anderson** at stnanderson@vikings.grayson.edu

Remember, anyone can contribute!

Advertising? Social media is your new best friend

- Trey Connelly, Student

Imagine scrolling through social media and seeing a picture of a delicious cheeseburger: the sesame-seed bun, crisp lettuce, melted cheese, and the tender patty. That image was an advertisement created by an employee for the sole purpose of bringing customers in to eat at their restaurant. Advertising drives business forward and help them grow.

“[Social media] is vital,” said Tyler McCarley, owner of the internet service provider 903 Broadband, located in Leonard, Texas. He started advertising on Facebook around the time when 903 Broadband opened.

Word of mouth is also necessary for his company’s advertising, but social media is better for putting the word out not only for new customers, but also for current customers as far as the transparency they try to have for outages.

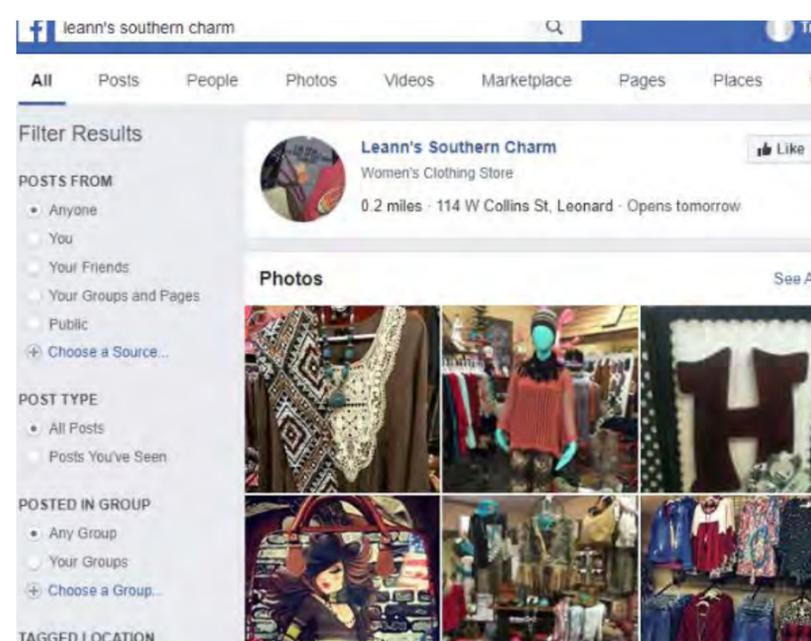
903 Broadband did a giveaway recently, and it touched 10,000 different people. That’s huge for a small town. They can’t reach that many people with any other platform.

Other local businesses are prospering due to social media advertising. Leann Latimer, the owner of Leann’s Southern Charm, a flower shop and boutique located in Leonard, Texas, said because she started advertising on Facebook, she now has a website, a warehouse, her store, and over 300,000 followers online.

Big businesses and some small businesses have amassed a large following online, and Jeff Johnson, Leonard High School’s technology assistant, said a website or other types of social media are useful ways a business could contact their potential and current customers. Businesses can take information from

someone’s phone and send messages to it later about a particular item businesses may have on sale or something similar, he explained. If they can ever have anybody register an email address, then businesses can send out mass emails of sales that they may have going on.

Advertising this way may influence a customer to return to a restaurant or store, whether the customer knows it or not. Customers may still receive emails



Leann’s Southern Charm finds great success advertising on Facebook. (Photo provided by author.)

from a specific restaurant even if they no longer visit. After they receive an email, their curiosity may pique and tell that person to return to the store and give it another chance, Johnson added.

If the business sends too many emails, however, it can turn away a few potential or current customers, according to Johnson. “You just throw [email] in the trash, throw it in the trash, throw it in the trash, and eventually, you get put off by that,” he said. I think there is a risk [advertising that way.]”

Television is a useful advertising tool for big businesses that have locations in every state, but small businesses have to think twice

when deciding whether they should advertise over television.

“I think [television advertising] would cost too much and not reach enough people,” both Latimer and McCarley claimed. McCarley explained how television would broadcast to the other side of Paris, Texas. But his business hasn’t made any plans to go to Paris, so advertising there would waste a lot of customers. He added,



“[With television advertising] you can’t really pinpoint [customers] like you can with some of these social media posts.”

Latimer suggested to continue to make new groups on Facebook to bring in more customers. She has gained several followings outside of Facebook, such as the people who visit her store and the people in the small town she lives in.

Word of mouth moves very quickly, even out of small towns. McCarley said some customers and even non-customers have created next-

door groups, which are social networks for a neighborhood or community.

Sometimes people may not like the service provider they have, ask what their friends are using, and then switch over to McCarley’s business.

He explained how marketing is dependent on what type of business is being run. “Our business is all about rapid growth and trying to get [loyal] customers...If you don’t get the word out there, everybody else is. You have to keep up, or you [go] past [other businesses], one of the two,” he said.

Keeping up with an competing business is challenging, but starting a business advertising it can be just as difficult, if not more difficult.

McCarley suggested, “Depending on your growth forecast and what you’re wanting to do, you have to keep in mind [that] part of advertising is the type of customers you want to serve.”

If a technology business is being run, customers are already online and are usually on social media anyway. But if there was someone who started up an agriculture business, there are probably other tactics that would be used, just because the consumer that they’re dealing with might not be online as much, explained McCarley.

Latimer started advertising on Facebook about six months after she opened up the floral part of her shop. “The minute you open up your business,” she said, “you need to open up your Facebook page and get all your friends and family to share it and do giveaways. Make it fun, make it exciting, and you’re pretty much ready to go. People will support you.”

New Texas law bans unwanted nude photos

-Breanna Newton, Student

Receiving unwanted nude photos is a widespread but little-talked-about problem.

On September 1, 2019, among many laws passed in the last Texas legislative session that came into effect, was one that made it a Class C misdemeanor with an up-to \$500 fine if someone sends an unsolicited nude photo electronically to someone else’s phone or social media.

Whitney Wolf Herd, the founder and CEO of the popular dating app Bumble, testified in front of Congress in favor of the bill. Herd said, “If indecent exposure is a crime on the streets, then why is it not on your phone or your computer? We want the standards of acceptable behavior online to match those in real life.”

This law is a step in the right direction, but there is much more work that needs to be done.

Many Texas lawmakers were committed to the bill because they realized the transmission of unwanted pictures is a growing problem for young people especially and one that has often been ignored and left unpunished.

Dallas-area Representative Morgan Meyer supported his sponsorship of the bill by telling *The Daily Wire*, “Currently, if a

person commits indecent exposure, it is a crime. Yet if that same person engages in such an act over texting or a dating app, the unwanted recipient has absolutely no recourse, even for repetitive offenses. This must stop.”

Rachel*, a senior at Leonard High School, recalled that last year, another student sent Rachel pictures of his penis at least 7 times, even though she had never requested photos of this nature, and she repeatedly asked him to stop sending them.

Another Leonard High School student, Mary*, has also been on the receiving end of these unwanted pictures, and she said nearly every one of her friends has been a victim as well.

This new law applies to every citizen, but women are much more likely to receive these unrequested photos than men.

According to a 2017 YouGov survey, around 41% of young women ages 18 to 36 have been sent at least one unwanted nude picture by a male friend or acquaintance. A 2017 Pew Research poll shows that 53% of young women have received explicit images they did not ask for.

Although this problem is rarely reported by young men, it is an

issue that affects both sexes. Kaleb Marshburn, a Bells High School junior, said he has received multiple unrequested nude photos from his peers. Marshburn recalled, “I told some of my friends about it, and we all had a good laugh . . . Many people think it is funny. But it did make me feel uncomfortable.”

Although Texas has been praised as one of the first states to pass a law criminalizing the act of sending “dick pics” and other unwanted personal pictures, many victims wonder how this law will actually be enforced.

Alice Dills, the counselor at Celeste High School, remarked that while she was aware of the new law, she was unsure how the punishment would actually be implemented.

Dills commented, “Students [victims] are often embarrassed to come forward about this problem, and some fear they may face consequences themselves for having a lewd picture on their phone. . . I honestly don’t know how this law will be enforced.”

A local police officer who regularly works with the students at Leonard High School and other high schools in the county declined to be interviewed about this topic

when asked because he said, “My supervisors have not updated me on new laws regarding this topic.”

The goal of any law is to punish the offender but to also prevent future offenders from committing similar crimes. If local officers don’t even know about this law, it seems unlikely they will enforce it, noted Dills.

Digital and online harassment is a real and serious problem for all ages. Texas is one of the first states to pass a law prohibiting a person from sending an unsolicited explicit photo, and states often considered more progressive like New York have expressed interest in passing their own laws preventing this crime.

However, more must be done if this issue is going to be resolved. Citizens need to realize such activity is not “normal.” Parents and other adults need to talk to the young people in their lives about what is acceptable communication on their phones and on social media and what is not.

Police officers and other officials need to be briefed on the new law and on ways to prevent this “digital flashing” from occurring.

Texas Leadership Conference at Grayson College

-Abby Flores, Alison Earnhart, Ana Luiza, and Rosario Labrada, Students

Letter to the Editor

On Libraries. More than books.

-Anonymous

I appreciated very much the article "Libraries. More than Books" and its highlighting of all of the services and programs available to the community at the Sherman Public Library.

I also wanted to mention that the Sherman Public Library is part of the BARR, the "Bibliographic Association of the Red River," which is a consortium of libraries in Grayson County – the Sherman Public Library, the Denison Public Library, the Grayson College Library, and the Austin College Abell Library.

Simply put, a BARR library card provides a person with access to a trifecta of local libraries. Patrons can check out books at Sherman, Denison, and/or Grayson College libraries.

And if you can't easily get to one of the other libraries, there is a courier service available that will bring the books to your preferred library! (Just ask a librarian to help you put the books on "Hold" and specify pickup at your preferred library) And just to make things uber-convenient, you can also return BARR library books to either Sherman, Denison, or Grayson College libraries, where they will be checked in and returned to their appropriate home library.

Did you also know that the libraries have a wide selection of DVD movies available to check out? (can you say *Toy Story 4*?!)

So don't delay.... Whether you are a bibliophile or a movie buff, the BARR card opens up a world of options for your enjoyment and entertainment.



Phi Theta Kappa officers pose with speaker Kantis Simmons. (L-R: Abby Flores, Rosario Labrada, Kantis Simmons, Alison Earnhart, and Ana Ferreria. Photo provided by Rosario Labrada)

On October 11 through October 13, Grayson College hosted the 2019 Texas Leadership Conference for Phi Theta Kappa.

It was amazing to see Phi Theta Kappans come from all over the Texas region to our campus to experience this event!

At the conference, we were able to learn how to improve our leadership skills, and we made a lot of new friends. During the weekend, we had the opportunity to hear impactful speakers and engage with different chapters in the breakout sessions and workshops.

We definitely had a lot of fun. Even though hosting was exhausting and there was a lot to be done, the effort was worth it, and we enjoyed every bit of it; we grew as individuals and as a chapter.

First Vice President's Perspective

Hosting TLC was an amazing experience filled with leadership

opportunities. We were able to open our home campus to almost 400 Phi Theta Kappans and share our institution with a like-minded group of students who care about our communities.

Texas Leadership Conference offered a chance to grow as leaders by learning about overcoming adversity, avoiding conflict, and historical significance.

Our chapter worked alongside students from Cedar Valley College to present a workshop over Effective Chapter Management to other students. This workshop gave us a chance to share our collective knowledge of our chapter's successes with about forty students who wanted to better their college campuses.

Overall, TLC was a fun way to share our facilities, improve upon our leadership abilities, and meet new people!

Public Relations Secretary's Perspective

The 2019 Texas Leadership

Conference was my first Phi Theta Kappa conference ever, and I am happy to say that I had an amazing time! The speakers were awesome, the people were nice, and hosting the conference made it even more incredible!

Acting Recording Secretary's Perspective

The Texas Leadership Conference hosted at our very own Grayson College was an amazing opportunity to listen to many thought-provoking people.

Though they all were marvelous, I must say our speaker, Mrs. Bland's encouragement to "get up off our butts..." had a deeper impact on me.

Her reminiscence on her historical walk alongside Martin Luther King Jr. was very much appreciated. It encouraged us to take action and be the change, and it encouraged us to stand up for people who may be oppressed because that's what we would want them to do for us.

Grayson College Foundation launches AwardSpring

-Cynthia Perez, Grayson College Foundation

The Grayson College Foundation scholarship process just got easier for current and future Grayson College students. As of December 1, individuals seeking scholarship assistance can take advantage of a new software to apply for Grayson College Foundation scholarships that are awarded for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Foundation has implemented a scholarship management program called AwardSpring. Through the new scholarship system, scholarship applicants can apply for all available scholarships by completing a single scholarship application.

The AwardSpring system will automatically match

applicants to scholarships based on the information provided on the scholarship application. The AwardSpring Student Guide will be available online to assist applicants through the application process.

The new scholarship application will open on **December 1** for the 2020-2021 academic year with the initial awarding period to take place at the end of March, 2020.

Submitting a complete scholarship application by the priority deadline of **March 20, 2020**, will provide the scholarship applicant the best opportunity to be considered for and/or awarded a scholarship. The scholarship application will close June 30, 2020.

Instructor Spotlight: Ernest Sparacin

-Marlene Phillips, Director of Advising and Outreach



Above: ESL Instructor Ernest Sparacin. (photo provided by author)

Ernest Sparacin can definitely tell you a thing or two about teaching adults. "Being a great teacher starts with being sensitive to the students, understanding their position, and moving forward from there," affirmed Sparacin.

As an English as a Second Language (ESL) Instructor in a classroom with students from all over the world, Sparacin certainly needs sensitivity and perceptiveness. To understand his novice students, he must rely on his and students' nonverbal communication in addition to drawings on the board.

Sparacin's unconventional background gives him a unique way of relating to his non-English-speaking students. Sparacin was formerly an independent graphic communications designer. His job was to find ways to share information nonverbally with consumers. It's the perfect skill set for an instructor teaching someone who doesn't know English in a classroom with native speakers of multiple languages.

Sparacin puts this imaginative hat on every

day as he enters the classroom. "I make doing the work a creative and fun experience. In fact, I'm having too much fun," laughed Sparacin. With 13 years of experience in adult education under his belt, Sparacin has hundreds of former students who would likely agree. The ESL class is more fun, than a Las Vegas show.

Despite the atmosphere of fun Sparacin is serious about something; an ESL student's limitation is linguistic only but that is temporary. "The potential in these students is always there, but the hurdles without command of English leave them stuck," sighed Sparacin.

Sparacin is proud of the role he's played in the lives of students who have overcome those hurdles. Some of his students are now nurses, engineers, and other professionals.

Grayson College Adult Education has a whole team of excellent instructors. Sparacin is just like them only different, and we like it that way!

CDC attends 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Bab

-Cultural Diversity Club

On October 29, the Cultural Diversity Club attended the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of the Bab that was hosted by The Baha'i communities of Sherman and Denison. The event happened at Austin College, and it was a very interesting experience with a religion that until then, was not well known by any of our members.

The Baha'i religion believes in unity through diversity and cultures, the same principles our club has. It was a great opportunity to network and learn new things.

Storm's Soapbox

Look at this cool thing I did.

- Storm Anderson, Editor

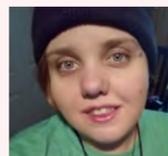


Over the last two months, I've looked at more skulls than I think is allowed outside the specific field of taxidermy.

This came from an opportunity to volunteer my time at retired Grayson art professor Steve Black's Skiddy Street Puppet Company repairing puppets for Denison's 8th annual Dia de los Muertos festival.

Hopefully, next year I can get started early enough to create a puppet of my own. For now, I just wanted to express my gratitude at being welcomed into such a weird yet fun environment.

Top: The wings of this angel puppet needed a new coat of paint. Bottom: I got to reconstruct the face of the yellow puppet and actually wore the Diablo puppet during the Dia de los Muertos Parade. (Photos provided by author.)



19th Annual Black, White and Variants of Grey exhibit now open

- Storm Anderson, Editor



The 2nd Floor Gallery currently has 68 works of art on display created by both student and professional artists. (Photos provided by author.)

For the 19th year, the 2nd Floor Gallery is proud to present Black, White, and Variants of Grey. This exhibit, meant to push the artists' creative problem-solving skills, restricts all works into an achromatic color pallet. This total ban of color forces artists to use other means to make their work stand out among the rest.

While some artists may find those limitations difficult, Grayson student Owen Beck disagrees. "I enjoyed working with only black and white. I've been using a lot of color in my pieces because I don't really know how to work well with color yet. I found black and white easier because then I'm really only working with light and shadow."

The design challenge of the exhibit has brought some of the best artists in our area to the 2nd Floor Gallery, and this year has been no exception. The 2019 exhibit

features 68 works by 33 artists, including Grayson and SouthEastern students and several local professionals.

"I felt really excited seeing my own art hanging up next to some of the best local artists," Grayson student Alexis Greenwood admits. "Everyone's styles are really diverse and unique. I was more excited about this show than the others. You get to see everyone's styles develop more over the semester, and it's been really cool to see."

The Black, White and Variants of Grey exhibit will run through the end of the Fall semester. Hours of the 2nd Floor Gallery are 9am-3pm Monday through Friday. The artist reception will be held on Friday, November 15th from 5:30-7pm at the 2nd Floor Gallery in the Art and Communications Center.

Design class creates public art for the Day of the Dead

-Kristin Erickson, Professor

Grayson College design students made papel picado banners to celebrate the Day of the Dead, a day to honor the memory of loved ones who have passed. "papel picado, or "punched paper," is a traditional folk art practiced throughout Mexico and is frequently used as decorations for celebrations.

Design students created both the design for their papel picado as well as the chisel they used to punch out the design before attaching the designs to string in order to hang them.

You can view these brightly colored decorations in the foyer of the Arts and Communications building in front of the Cruz Stark Auditorium.

If you would like to get involved with the arts on campus, come and join Delta Phi Delta, Grayson College's Art Club. The art club meets 1st Tuesday of the month in AC 105/Design Room. For more information about Grayson College Art Events, visit our website at: <https://www.grayson.edu/Pathways/VisualArts/index.html> or our Facebook page at: Grayson College Visual Arts Department.



Above: All the detail in these papel picados were created by using handmade chisels. (Photos provided by author.)



Above: Design students string their designs together for hanging. (Photos provided by author.)



This is a story about a girl who died, leaving behind her mother and two brothers.



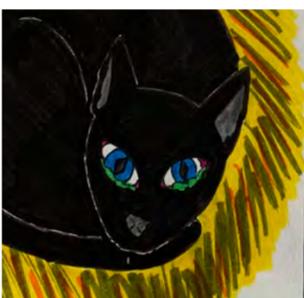
She didn't know what to do. The other spirits warned her not to follow her family. But she didn't listen.



Their grief continued over the next year. Her spirit never left and so they never moved on. Her mother could no longer bear it and begged at the girl's grave, "Please, I love you but you must leave." And so the girl did.



She flew and flew until she found a small thicket at the edge of a small village. There she cried alone.



Years passed in solitude until one day, the girl came across a sick black cat with bright blue eyes.



The girl watched over the cat as it struggled to survive. Yet when the first freeze came, she was once again alone.



The girl sat and stared. Her heart called out for the cat's return.



And the cat returned to her. And for the first time in decades the girl smiled.

Story about a girl

- Sierra Smith, Student

2019 Homecoming Court nominees announced

-Laura Branigan, Student

While the 2019 Homecoming King and Queen won't be announced until after this issue is released, *The Viking* would like to extend our congratulations to all the nominees of this year's Homecoming Court.

Your nominees are:

Queen

- Ana "Abby" Flores, *Phi Theta Kappa*
- Angela Perry, *Honors College*
- Blakely Cheek, *Softball*
- Makayla Hill, *Black Print*
- Mary "Ida" Esfandiari, *Student Government*
- Shelby Vasquez, *Cheer*
- Taylor Welch, *Psychology Club*
- Zayla Pope, *Student Support Services*

King

- Kristian Enbysk, *Student Government*
- Liu Chi Cong "Leo", *Cultural Diversity Club*

Princess

- Shyenne Daniel, *Cheer*

Winners will be announced at Halftime during the Men's Basketball game November 9.

New Texas Open Educational Resource Law

-Todd Ellis, Director of Teaching and Learning

Texas law SB 810 (now TEC 51.452), requires that college course catalogs disclose to prospective students those courses that include Open Educational Resources. The purpose is to allow students to make informed choices about textbook costs when considering a college education.

If students type "OER" in the search box of Grayson.edu they will see a document detailing our OER course offerings.

DigiTex, The Digital Higher Education Consortium of Texas, recently reported that Texas House Bill 3652, passed in September 2019, directs the THECB to contract with an existing OER repository to develop and maintain a customized state OER web portal.

HB 3652 states that "open educational resources available through the portal must be searchable by course or learning outcome, program or field of study, and other topics. The portal must also provide access to repositories maintaining a wide range of open educational resources, including textbooks, full courses, course materials, modules, images, videos, assessment software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support learning."

(Continued from "Could climate...", page 1)

James Watsons, an agriculture expert and owner of many farms in the North Texas area has noticed a strange change in his crops in the last couple of years. "Last year we had definitely so much rain that affected the crops," said Watson. The unusual storm patterns North Texas is experiencing can be unfortunate for the farmers. Rick Lynn, a science professor at Grayson College, explained how climate change is affecting our economy and health. "The reduction in precipitation will dramatically decrease crop production, impacting the livelihood of farmers and all of the industries that support them," said Lynn.

"As droughts and winter weather become more extreme, more strain will be placed on our electricity grid, making it more difficult for humans to survive those weather events," explained Lynn. Each year weather events will be intensified to the point that it will be hard to survive and will affect our health, he predicted.

Heatwaves and continuous rain due to climate change are making the farmers concerned about their crops. Many farmers in North Texas do not have a sophisticated irrigation system, so if these unusual weather patterns don't stop, their crops will receive the impact, even more, each year. "We depend on Mother Nature for our crops," said Watson. "Too much rain can cause a huge problem [soil degradation.] The rain causes the good fertilized soil to vanish away, leaving unfertile land."

North Texas temperatures are rising each summer. Mayes noted, "Summer and fall are drying, and that's not good for farmers and ranchers who need to grow things." The increase in precipitation causes temperatures to rise, causing extremely hot weather that is not beneficial for farmers, she explained.

Temperatures have already warmed in North Texas, though not as quickly as in some other parts of the country, noted Mayes. If countries act to curb emissions, the area will continue to experience some warming by the 2030s to 2060s and even more by the end of the 21st Century. The warming will be much more drastic. The number of heatwaves is increasing, but

the biggest concern is that nighttime temperatures are increasing even more. This will affect people who live without air conditioning, bringing them heat illness.

Not only that, but since Texas is transforming into a tropical weather state, it will be dealing with problems like pests and bugs. Since winters aren't cold enough, they will tolerate the temperature and will start multiplying, predicted Mayes.

Sara Borg, a well-known meteorologist from North Texas, said that future generations in North Texas will have to deal with unusual weather events even more. "Future generations in North Texas will have to deal with increasing intensity and frequency of significant weather events. Events such as droughts and wildfires are expect to happen more frequently," said Borg. Future generations will have a harder life due to climate change. They will have to deal with different weather events and intensifying temperatures in all places.

Is North Texas going to have better weather in the upcoming years? The answer is no. Mayes confirmed that the number of heatwaves in North Texas will increase. "Changes are happening at faster rates, and that is likely to continue. It'll probably happen with some rather big and rather noticeable leaps and jumps," predicted Mayes.

The main reason North Texas is having such drastic changes in weather is due to the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, explained Lynn. Human activities are adding too many greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and that is causing huge changes in weather.

But helping the planet by eating less meat, driving and flying less, recycling and turning up the thermostat can help the planet more than one thinks. Mayes said, "No human is perfect. Sometimes we have to fly. Sometimes we really like meat. Sometimes you don't have washable plates handy. Take the steps when you can, most of the time, and it will have an impact." It is still not too late to give up the fight for North Texas.

Editorial Information

The Viking is published by Writer's Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college.

This newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion. Participation in the production of *The Viking* is open to all students, faculty and staff at GC.

The views expressed in *The Viking* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, Writer's Unlimited, Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration or the faculty and staff of Grayson College.

Submissions and corrections may be sent to the editor, Storm Anderson, by email at stnanderson@vikings.grayson.edu.

Campus gun violence: What can we do?

-Audrey Shaw, Student

A commonly suggested solution following school shootings is arming the educational staff. While this may be a possible solution in small schools where the risk is more easily controlled, larger schools often have too many variables for reasonable safety to be assumed.

What preventive actions and preparations can be taken for larger settings such as universities, colleges, and large high schools?

Due to the increasing frequency of active shooting situations in the U.S., more advanced technologies are being developed and brought to the consumer market. However, these products are usually only implemented in schools when they are recommended by local law enforcement or the state and national governments.

The city of Allen, Texas has one of the largest high schools in the nation. Allen High School employs twelve school resource officers (SRO) who are trained by A.L.E.R.R.T. (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training), a program that teaches rapid and effective responses to active shooter situations.

Lieutenant Whitman of Allen Police Department shared the mantra that most departments use in active shooter situations:

"Stop the killing, then stop the dying."

Integrating emergency medical services (EMS) into active shooter responses is critical in being able to manage the devastation caused by the shooter and shut down the threat effectively.

A.L.E.R.R.T. has a specialized program dubbed A.A.I.R. (Active Attack Integrated Response). A.A.I.R. trains police officers to integrate EMS into active-shooter responses while training the officers in tactical emergency casualty care (AAIR).

Trainings for police, EMS, and school staff are critical to preventing damage and loss of life when discussing active shooter situations.. Anyone can help push these trainings by contacting the local police department and asking if they have considered furthering their training in active shooter response.

Besides training, another effective method of protection is investing in physical technology to protect against the intruder.

Students from Owensville High School, a high school located in Owensville, Missouri, are currently developing an impressive solution in this area of protection ("Samsung: Samsung US"). The students engineered a steel electromagnetic door lock

that works in tandem with a curtain system to cover all windows.

The system is simple; press of a button can activate it! These locks are on the interior of the doorway so that it is harder for the intruder to disable the lock, and the uniform dropping of curtains help disguise which rooms contain people (Griggs).

Another technology that is currently on the market is the Sleeve, sold by Fighting Chance Solutions. The Sleeve is a reinforced metal sleeve that slips over the arm of door closers and prevents the door from opening.

Products like the Sleeve are not alone. Many companies have anti-intruder technologies what employ leverage against handles and door closers. While they may seem like obvious solutions, the technologies are often expensive as they are newer on the market, demand is low due to lack of awareness, and market saturation has yet to fully succeed in cheaping the products.

Another more primitive solution that schools can employ is sprays such as wasp and hornet spray. Some may argue that pepper spray is a better alternative.

Cody Plake, Leonard High School principal, pointed out a major issue with keeping pepper spray

in the classroom: "When pepper spray is used, the entire room has to be evacuated...We then switched to wasp spray...It burns just the same.."

As with most intruder situations, the best line of defense is individual preparedness.

A.L.E.R.R.T. has civilian courses as to how to respond to active-shooter threats. Taking part in active-shooter/intruder simulations can also help individuals gain a better understanding of how to appropriately react.

Jeff Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Leonard I.S.D., emphasized the importance of also using social outreach and inclusion programs such as Start With Hello by the Sandy Hook Foundation to better service our community's mental health and lessen the percentage of people tempted to perpetrate these crimes.

These inclusion programs encourage people to reach out to others despite whether or not there is a pre-existing relationship.

We can push to better educate and train our communities against this threat when we arm ourselves with knowledge and training. The change must come from us as a society as the threat affects us as a society.

Clubs & Organizations Meeting Calendar

CDC to host International Students Day

- Cultural Diversity Club

Monday

Cultural Diversity Club

Second and fourth Monday, 12:50-1:30p.m, Int'l Student Life Office

ASL/Deaf Association

12-1, LA 205

Cosmetology Club

Bi-weekly, 8:30-9:30am, CTC

Delta Phi Delta Art

First Tuesday, Design Room, Arts and Communications

Eta Sigma Delta

First Tuesdays, 3pm, Culinary Arts Building

Tuesday

LEA Criminal Justice 12:30-1:30pm, TBA

TIPPS Culinary Arts

First Tuesdays, 2-3 pm, 691 Restaurant

Writers Unlimited/SKD

Bi-weekly, 12:20-12:50pm, Nightingale Room, Library

Baptist Student Ministries

12pm, BSM Building

Black Print

1pm Nightingale Room, Library

Dental Assisting Club

11:30-12pm, HS 205

Wednesday

HALO Hispanic American Leadership Organization

Bi-weekly, 1-2pm Viking Room

Phi Theta Kappa

12:30-1pm, Viking Room

Student Veterans Association

First and Third Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Veterans Hub

Honors College Club

12:15pm, Viking Room

Psychology Club

12:15-1pm CIS 202

Thursday

Student Government Association

1pm, Viking Room

Science Club

Bi-weekly, 3pm, SCI106

Sisters of Destiny

Second and fourth Thursday, 12:15-1pm, Nightingale Room,

Music Club

Bi-weekly, 10am, Choir Room, Arts and Communications

Friday

Spirit Day!

Wear your Grayson Gear and celebrate your Viking spirit!

Electrical Technology

Grayson Nursing Student Association

Contact Sophia Dookran
sophiad03@yahoo.com

TBA

Men of Distinction



Students and faculty visit the cultural displays during International Day 2018 (Photo provided by Ana Ferreria)

academic programs. International Education Week events are held at high schools, colleges, universities, embassies, international organizations, businesses, associations, and community organizations.

Grayson College is honored to be a part of this annual activity. The Cultural Diversity club-- made up of exchange, immigrant, and native students-- has hosted International Education events on campus every year.

This year the CDC will again host "International Day" on November 19. International Day allows international students to share food, products, and other items from their home country with other Grayson students. This event attracts hundreds every year and offers everyone a chance to increase their vision of other nations' cultures.

Benefiting the Grayson College Food Pantry...

CANSTRUCTION BUILD WEEK BEGINS NOVEMBER 11... IS YOUR TEAM READY?



Donations of junk food, including soda or energy drinks, are strongly discouraged.

SVA to host One Night in a Cardboard Box

-Wayne Ryon, Financial Aid Advisor

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be homeless?

Grayson College Student Veteran's Association (SVA) will be hosting "One Night in a Cardboard Box," presented by the Homeless Coalition. Registration will begin November 15 at 4:00pm. The event will start at 6:00pm with a guest speaker and end Saturday, November 16 at 6:00am.

GC students and staff are invited to come and spend the night under the bridge in student life. A meal will be provided for dinner by Great Western Services. Events will be conducted throughout the night.

Participants **MAY** bring the following items with them to the event:

- Blankets
 - Sleeping bag
 - Pillow
 - Appropriate clothing
 - Medication
 - Any other necessary items needed
- Participants **MAY NOT** bring:
- Food
 - Blow dryers

-Curling irons

-Any electronics

Cardboard boxes will be provided to participants. Reservations are required to participate in the event due to limited availability.

Deadline for reservations is **November 8**. Participants may register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/49a781a6aa84426941f1d58e4b2de3c>

The SVA will also be collecting items to be distributed to the homeless population during the annual Grayson County Annual point in time homeless census in January.

Acceptable items to donate are toiletries and hygiene products (nail clippers, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, etc.), personal and feminine products (pads, tampons, toothbrush, hair brush, hair products for all hair types, etc.), and other necessities (underwear, socks, gloves, beanies, bras, towels, wash clothes, etc.).

For more information please contact veterans@grayson.edu.

ASL/Deaf Association officially recognized

-Angela Perry, Viking Staff

There was an article in the September issue of *The Viking* written by staff writer Stephen Linn looking for people interested in starting a new club. Happily, his efforts were successful.

The Student Government Association unanimously voted to approve the Grayson College American Sign Language/Deaf Association, meaning it is now an official club!

The purpose of the GC ASL Club is to connect hearing and deaf/hard-of-hearing students. In addition, the club's goal is to give hearing students a place to learn and practice ASL and learn about Deaf Culture.

The club meets every Monday from 12:15-12:50pm in the Liberal Arts Building, room 207. Anyone is welcome to attend no matter their knowledge of ASL.

If you are interested in learning about ASL or Deaf Culture, stop by one of their meetings. Official business begins at 12:15, but they have extra signing practice from 12:00-12:15, so, if you can, feel free to stop by early to get the most out of the meeting.

The main purpose of GC ASL is to bridge the gap between the Deaf and Hearing communities. The first step in doing that is to learn a common language. So no matter how much, or how little American Sign Language you know, consider becoming active in this club.

It will help you communicate with a group of people who are often neglected. It could even be the first step towards establishing a better relationship between the Deaf and Hearing in our community.



Upswing + **GRAYSON COLLEGE**

IMPROVE STUDY HABITS

FREE - ONLINE - INSTANT - 24/7

Start a session instantly or schedule one for later and meet virtually with our tutors. Also, master your writing process in our writing lab or submit an essay for a trained coach to review.

www.grayson.upswing.io

Connect with us!
@upswing.io

New Texas law hopes to curb teen vaping use - Lindsay Dills, Student

The newest way to consume nicotine is through smoking e-cigarettes, with the biggest population of new smokers being teens.

To combat this new trend of vaping, many states have enacted laws to change the age at which citizens can buy e-cigarettes and other nicotine products. This summer, Texas passed a bill that raises the legal age for buying nicotine and tobacco products to 21.

After hearing about this new law, pulmonologist Dr. Edward Jackson said he “completely support[s]” it. Jackson, from the Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas, has worked as a physician for 22 years and specifically as a pulmonologist (lung specialist) for the past 19 years.

The growing trend of vaping greatly concerns Dr. Jackson, and he noted that there aren’t many studies yet to prove the safety of vaping. He does feel that younger smokers will face worse effects than adults because their lungs aren’t fully developed.

He explained that just as society learned with tobacco cigarettes, studies need 20 or more years of data to see diseases such as COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) or cancer develop.

E-cigarettes haven’t been around long enough for researchers to determine what the long-term effects could be. Dr. Jackson has treated four patients within the past month with VAPI (vaping associated

pulmonary injury), two of them in their late teens. These patients all had to be hospitalized. While he has not seen any fatalities yet, he worries that “it’s just a matter of time until I see someone die from this.”

In a September survey of 124 Leonard High School teens conducted for this article, 56% of respondents admitted to having tried vaping at least once. Thirty-six percent of the survey respondents reported having 10 or more people in their lives who vape.

When asked how often they themselves vape, though, 85% reported that they never vape, which seems to contradict the 56% who admitted to trying it at least once.

Only 8% admitted to owning a vape, with half of those saying they got it from a friend. The others got it from a parent or bought it from a store, despite being under the legal age to purchase one at the time.

Those who responded to the LHS survey were mostly in favor of the new law. Comments like “the law was overdue” and “I think it’s a good way to prevent some teenagers from using it” showed that these young people believe the law is appropriate. However, other respondents feel the law does not make sense because teens will “find a way to buy [vaping products] and smoke anyway.”

LHS student John*, 16 years old, started smoking early at age 11 and shifted to vaping a little later. “I grew up watching my grandparents

smoking, and then I saw it at school, so I thought it would be cool to start,” he explained. John does not like the new law and feels that bans on vaping won’t work.

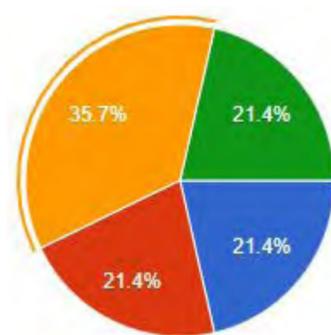
However, Timothy*, 18, stated that “I think that [the new law] is a good idea. It bothers me when I see young teens trying to sell vapes on Snapchat [and other social media platforms].” Timothy started vaping early in high school.

Timothy’s mother, Mary*, worries that history will repeat itself. She noted that the terrible long-term effects of smoking were unknown for decades, and she fears the same will be true of vaping. “I think we don’t even have any idea what’s in vaping or in the vape products, and I wonder if in 10 years we are going to be looking back and thinking it was one of the biggest mistakes we ever made,” she pondered.

Some adults are predictably happy with this change in the legal age to purchase e-cigarettes. LHS principal Cody Plake thinks the law makes sense. “I think it’s great that young people—students—are not going to be allowed to have [e-cigarettes]. . . It’s never good to inhale a chemical into your body,” he stated.

Plake is unsure as to how the school will fully discipline students found with vaping products. There are currently penalties ranging from in-school suspension to alternative school placement, but the school policy will have to be written to align with the new law.

While LHS resource officer Brian Scott agrees with this law, he is not



● 1-4
● 5-8
● 10 or more
● None of my friends vape

LHS Vaping Survey 2019: How many people do you know vape?

sure it will be effective. Scott knows that he may end up writing students tickets, similarly to when he finds them with tobacco cigarettes.

He feels the new law will be somewhat of a deterrent to smoking and vaping but stated, “[N]o law has ever kept somebody from doing something they really wanted to do. Is it helpful? Yes. Is it going to be 100% effective? Not even close.”

While the safety of vaping is still unclear, the law in Texas is settled. With the exception of those who had already turned 18 prior to September 1, 2019, no person under the age of 21 will be allowed to purchase e-cigarettes or other tobacco/nicotine products. But no one is sure whether this will work to curb the growing trend of vaping.

New developments in orthopedic surgery - William Marshall, Student

It’s a cold day in Colorado. Your family decided to go skiing for Spring Break. You haven’t been since you were a child, but you think you can figure it out again in a few runs.

While on the first slope, you start excellently, but you gain too much speed and wipe out in the middle of the run. When you fell, you heard a pop in your knee, and now you can’t get up. You’re going to need the help of an orthopedic specialist, a doctor who corrects tears or deformities of bone or muscle and replaces arthritic joints.

Orthopedics was created in the late seventies, but the procedures performed on subjects at that time were not perfected and therefore caused the patient immense pain. Dr. Richard Jelsma started medical school a few years after this new field of medicine was created.

Dr. Richard Jelsma, a Sherman, Texas orthopedic surgeon, attended medical school and residency at Columbia University in New York, a school known to have one of the best medical programs in the country. Dr. Jelsma specialized in knee and shoulder orthopedic replacements and surgeries. He has taken care of multiple local high school and college athletes with orthopedic problems and has performed a multitude of arthroscopic surgeries and total joint replacements on patients who had arthritic knee or shoulder joints.

During the eighties and nineties, very few doctors attempted to do shoulder arthroscopy. However, by the time Dr. Jelsma finished residency, shoulder and knee arthroscopy were a standard procedure and were being used frequently. “Since then,” Dr. Jelsma stated, “I have gone to completely doing all of my surgeries arthroscopically, which is a minimally-invasive surgery for the shoulder.” Dr. Jelsma explained that the only procedure that must be an open procedure is a total joint replacement or a complex fracture.

“Between the last ten to fifteen years, the biggest advancement [to orthopedics] has been arthroscopic hip surgery,” continued Dr. Jelsma. During the eighties and nineties, nothing could be done arthroscopically on the hip. Dr. Jelsma stated, “Now a large number of conditions can be treated arthroscopically in the hip, also the elbow and the wrist and ankle.”

Materials used for orthopedics have also changed since the creation of orthopedics, which in turn has dramatically increased the longevity of total joint replacements. Surgeons started using more durable and longer-lasting materials compared to the materials used during the eighties and nineties. When Dr. Winston Marshall, an interventional cardiologist in McKinney, Texas, completely tore his quadricep tendon in an accident, his orthopedic surgeon used a type of dissolvable mesh to fasten the muscle back to the bone. The procedure was permanent because it caused the tissue to regrow onto the bone.

Orthopedic surgeries have become less invasive, which has decreased patient pain. With the new arthroscopic surgeries, there has been less dissection and less cutting through tissue planes, resulting in less scarring and pain post-operation. Dr. Jelsma elaborated, “Total joint replacements still have to be done as an open procedure, but you can almost consider it a mini open procedure compared to a completely open procedure when I was in residency.”

Dr. Jelsma explained that orthobiologics, an attempt to regrow cartilage and tendons that have been torn or damaged, has significantly changed orthopedics. “That is one of the fastest-growing areas in orthopedics now. That’s going to continue to evolve over the next 25 years,” predicted Dr. Jelsma. Stem cells have also shown some promising signs for tendon and muscle regrowth, but are still unproven. Dr. Jelsma stated that positive studies have taken some of the patient’s own healthy, adult cartilage cells and cultured them and reimplanted the cells into the ruptured or torn cartilage to heal the tendons.

Mrs. Cynthia Foster, a Gunter High School engineering teacher, had two hip replacements: one that went horribly wrong and one that went splendidly. The initial hip replacement surgery on the left hip went as planned but took a sudden turn after a few months. Her son, Matthew, noticed that she was bleeding excessively. The doctors found a hematoma, a collection of blood outside of the blood vessel, near the surgery site. Foster went back to check on the hematoma and found out that she had developed an infection. The initial replacement was then removed, and a new one was put in by another doctor.

“The physical therapy was tough for the first hip because the right hip was still bad, and I had tubes,” explained Foster. “I had a Hemovac Drainage System (to keep surgery site infection free), two of them, attached to my hip for a month or more.”

The second replacement surgery on the right hip had no complications. Foster explained that physical therapy went perfectly. “Recovery process was great! Nothing went wrong... I went from the hospital (five-day stay) to the rehab place. I stayed there for nine days. Great place and a great way to start physical therapy,” she stated.

Physical therapy has dramatically improved the postoperative process. Dr. Jelsma explained, “[During my medical training,] people would get an anterior cruciate ligament, or ACL, repair and would be in a cast from 4 to 6 weeks... Today, the surgery has become advanced enough... that you can start immediate range of motion and walking and physical therapy the next day.” Throughout years of orthopedic surgeries, the patients have shown better results if they start physical therapy as soon as possible to heal faster and gain their strength back.

YOUR WORK? IN THIS PAPER? IT'S MORE LIKELY THAN YOU THINK!

Who can submit: Any student, faculty or staff member of Grayson College can contribute.

What can be submitted: We accept original non-fiction and fiction stories, poems, prose, captioned photos and comics.

How: Submit your work to our editor, **Storm Anderson**, at stnanderson@viking.grayson.edu.

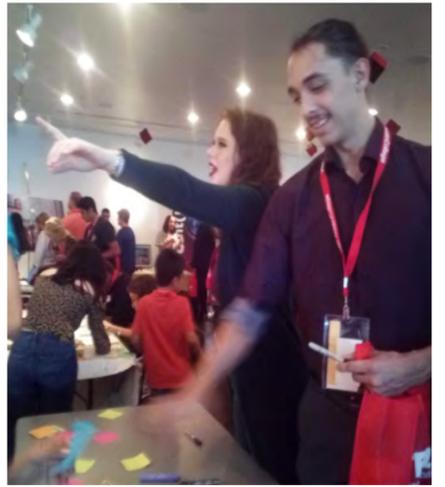
NEXT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15



Above Left: Grayson Student Body President Zayla Pope (left) poses with Senator Makayla Hill. (photo by Dr. Jean Sorensen)



Above Center: Grayson nursing student Shay Evans works the crowd during TEDxAustin College on September 28. (photo by Sophia Dookran)



Above Right: Grayson music students Ellie Evans and Preston Hammond try out a booth at TEDxAustin College on September 28. (photo provided by Grayson Music Club)



Above: Winners of the 2019 Hallofest Costume contest pose for photos on October 31. (photo by OL Kelly)



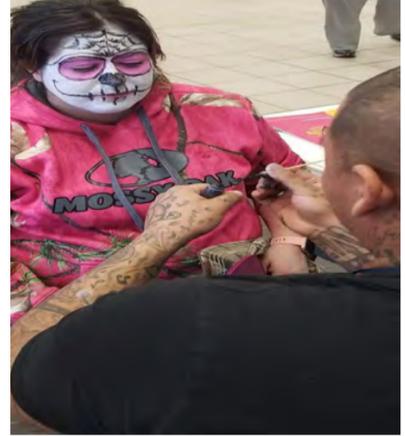
Above: Honors Students Rosario Labrada and Ben Lind pause for a photo break at Hallo-Hoops on October 29 (photo provided by editor)



Below: Archer Lightfoot and Stephen Linn of the ASL/Deaf Association pass out treats during Hallo-Hoops on October 29 (photo provided by editor)



Above: Student Life department poses with Pumpkin decorating entries. (photo by editor)
Left: Student Veterans offered students a full smores' bar during Hallofest. (photo by editor)
Right: HALO provided face painting for students during Hallofest. (photo by OL Kelly)



Above: Students face off in annual Hallofest Costume Contest (photo by editor)



Above: Student clubs offered Trick-or-Treaters various goods during Hallofest. (photo by Liu Chi Cong)
Left: The Cultural Diversity Club was one of many organizations to participate in this year's Hallofest. (photo by editor)

THIS IS
America

November 19 @ 3pm
Library Foyer, Life Center



Hosted by Phi Theta Kappa