



Get involved

Sweet Treats Stop

1st Wednesdays
9:00—10:00 a.m.

2nd Floor—Student Life Center

Student Government Association

Mondays
12:15—12:45 p.m., *The HUB*

Pickup Sand Volleyball

Monday—Friday
12:15 —1:15 p.m.
The "pit" - North side of the gym

Open Gym

Hours posted by Fitness Center door

It's My Life Student Leadership Series

4th Mondays
12:15 — 12:45 p.m., *LA107*

BSM Luncheon

Wednesdays
11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Baptist Student Union

BSM Bible Study

Mondays
12:00—1:00 p.m.
Baptist Student Union

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Tuesdays
6:00 p.m.
Viking Residence Hall Main Lounge

Men of Distinction

Thursdays
12:00-1:00 p.m. — *The HUB*

Sisters of Destiny

Thursdays
1:15-2:15 p.m. - *The HUB*

Phi Theta Kappa

Wednesdays
12:00-1:00 p.m. — *The HUB*

Dental Assisting

Wednesdays
9:00-9:30 a.m. — *The HUB*

Speech Club

Every other Wednesday
3:00-4:00 p.m. — *The HUB*

Writers Unlimited/ Sigma Kappa Delta

2nd & 4th Fridays
12:00-1:00 p.m.
GCC Writing Center

Mu Alpha Theta

Tuesdays
2:00-3:00 p.m. — *The HUB*

Welding Association

Every other Tuesday
12:00-1:00 p.m. — *The HUB*

Cultural Diversity

1st & 3rd Mondays
1:00-2:00 p.m. — *The HUB*

CAGED

Recycled Material Art Exhibit
March 21 to April 19
2nd Floor Gallery
Arts & Communication Center

Fitness Center

Mon.-Fri. 7-8 a.m., 12-2 p.m.
4-8 p.m.

Recreation Center

Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

5 on 5 Soccer

Mondays, 12-1 p.m.

3 on 3 Basketball

Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m.

Art students' sculptures auctioned for Special Olympics

By Steve Davis
Dean, Workforce Education

Three students from the Grayson County College Art Department—Anne Henderson, Kaye Jambor, and Stephanie Shields—with the assistance of welding instructor Alan McAdams, did a fantastic job designing, building and auctioning metal art sculptures for the Special Olympics.

The items were auctioned off last weekend at the Cedar Mill Marina "Arctic Blast" festival. The smaller of the two pieces sold to Cedar Mill Marina for \$500, and the larger sculpture, "Spirit Orbs," was bought for \$2000 by Bob Utter as an anniversary gift to his wife.



Anne Henderson, Kaye Jambor, and Stephanie Shields with their metal art sculptures created for Special Olympics

Theatre students attend Region 6 KCACTF

By Robin Robinson
Director, Drama/Theatre

The Grayson Theatre attended and competed at the Region 6 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival hosted by the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK Feb 21-25.

This festival was attended by one thousand students and faculty from six states: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri.

Grayson had several students competing in different events.

Blake Rice also competed in the Musical Initiative.

Again, these freshman performers held their own and learned how to hone their craft for future performances and received positive feedback from the respondents.

Lori Stewart and Rodney Hudson auditioned for the "ten minute plays" that were chosen to be read and performed, and they were chosen to perform at the festival.

They, along with 30 actors, were chosen to perform these award-winning plays and won these roles from

more. They will find out in March whether they will be hired.

All in all, the department represented GCC in a positive way, and the students made contacts for future work, as well as met four-year-program contacts who were interested in them as transfer students.



GCC Theatre Department at Region 6 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Norman, OK

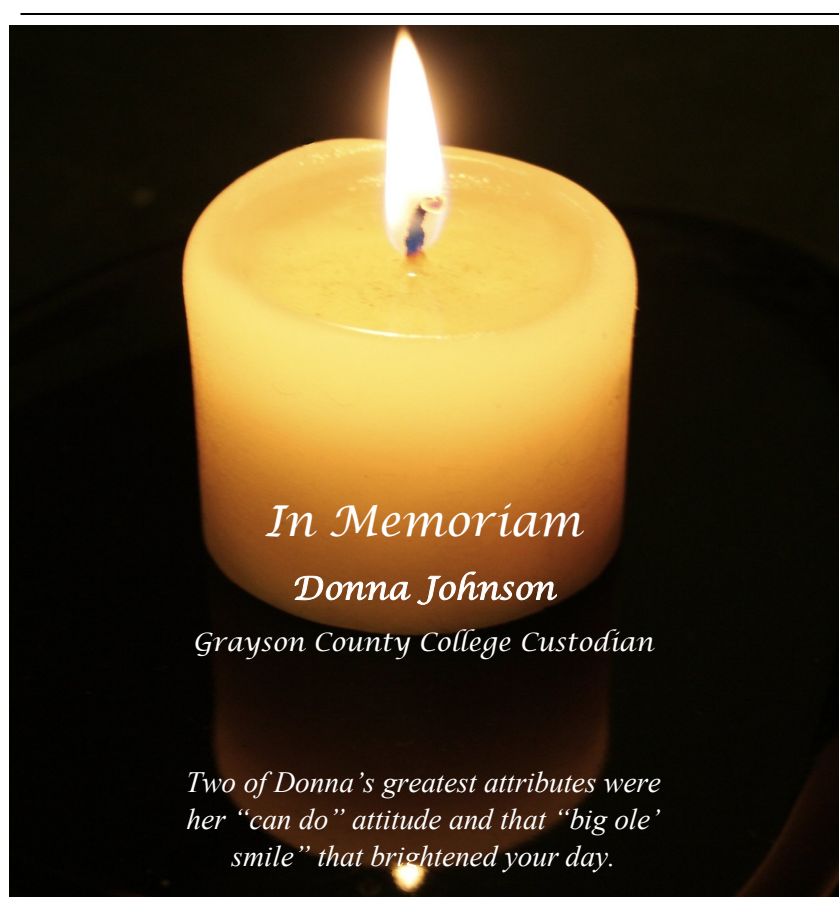
Fabian Garcia brought his light design from *Dead Man's Cell Phone* to present. His display of production shots, along with his lighting plot and research, was presented to Design respondents, and he was given feedback on what worked well and what he stills needs to improve. As a sophomore student competing against graduate students, he held his own, and the judge was very impressed by his talent.

Four theatre majors competed in the Irene Ryan Competition, which involves competing against 200 students from the six state area in acting. Judson Wall and Blake Rice were nominated as Irene Ryan nominees this year, and they took their partners, Wes Hayes and Andrew Steele, to perform

approximately a hundred students who auditioned for this opportunity.

The national chairs of KCACTF playwriting, along with other Region committee members, responded to the playwrights for this event, and our Grayson actors showcased their talents very well.

To conclude the week of workshops, competitions, and show performances, several of our GCC Theatre students applied for summer work with professional theatres who were at the conference to hire students for the summer. Lexi Lehberg, Albanie Knight, Andrew Steele, Skylar Fulton, Fabian Garcia, and Kasy Poindexter interviewed with the Santa Fe Opera, Texas Shakespeare Festival, and many



In Memoriam

Donna Johnson

Grayson County College Custodian

Two of Donna's greatest attributes were her "can do" attitude and that "big ole" smile that brightened your day.

A day in the life of an OB simulation instructor

By Carleen Moore, RN
ADN Professor and OB Instructor

High-fidelity mannequins are my workplace focus one day each week. Teaching nursing students how to care for obstetric patients is my assignment. Armed with pre-set scenarios that play out for students, I enjoy the structure that comes with static laboring situations.

A computer tablet is my way of communicating with the mannequin. It allows me to make minor adjustments in the progress of labor according to the pace of the student group present.

One day the labor scenario was running smoothly. I had carefully delayed the descent of the baby to match the students' pace. After in-depth teaching moments about reading fetal monitoring data, the time to prepare for delivery was at hand.

We were arranging "sterile" supplies for the baby's birth when I lifted the bed sheets and jumped back, gasped, and threw up my hands in response to the unexpected—the baby's head was already born! Suddenly our routine plan unraveled, and we gave undivided attention to the remaining birth process.

It is an enjoyable realization for me that even in the static hum realm of birth stories (simulation style), there are moments of utter astonishment! As for my students -- they will always remember to frequently check under the sheets with patients in labor—even high-fidelity dolls!



This mannequin had a little surprise for Carleen Moore's nursing students

From the Editors' Desks...



Viking Editors Kay Dishner and Marlea Trevino

Some colleges are known for that warm, friendly atmosphere that makes students look forward to coming to campus every day, that special unity that makes them proudly wear their college t-shirts and carry spirals emblazoned with their college logos.

We like to think GCC has that kind of atmosphere, but it takes students, faculty, and staff all pitching in to create it.

Do you have Viking Spirit?

Do you slow down when you turn into the college parking lot, watch out for people walking, and park where you're supposed to?

Do you thank your professor as you leave a class meeting you really enjoyed?

Do you ask a classmate who sits near you where they were and if they're OK when they return to class after being absent? Do you tell them what they missed?

Instead of griping about a professor, do you visit him or her during office hours and calmly explain your frustration?

If you're a smoker, do you toss your cigarette butts in the trash and smoke only where you're supposed to?

Do you look up from your cell phone and pull out your earbuds when you're walking between classes or sitting in the Life Center so you can interact with the people around

you?

Do you attend a GCC play, music event, art show, baseball game, or softball game and then congratulate your classmates who played or performed?

Instead of going to class and then straight home, do you hang out a bit at the Life Center and challenge someone nearby to a game of ping pong or pool?

Do you join someone from one of your classes you see eating in the cafeteria?

Instead of rudely texting in your lap or under a notebook in class, do you turn off your phone when you walk in the door and really pay attention?

Instead of giving your professor lame excuses for not having your work, do you take your seat and resolve to be prepared next time?

It's up to *all* of us—students, faculty, and staff—to show the consideration for each other that *is* the Viking Spirit!

Another welding masterpiece by the GCC art students.



CollegeCentral.com/Grayson and Career Fair get students jobs

By Gretchen Huff
Job Placement Specialist

Did you know Grayson College has an online job board? Students and alumni may view job postings from area employers.

To register, visit www.collegecentral.com/grayson. The site also has vital job search resources, including career advice documents, podcasts, career portfolio and resume builders, and access to a national online job board.

Check it out frequently to view new job opportunities. For questions, contact Gretchen Huff, Job Placement Specialist, huffg@grayson.edu or 903-415-2544.

Students and Alumni:

Are you looking for a job? www.collegecentral.com/grayson

Employers:

Need to post a job opening? www.collegecentral.com/grayson

"Career Connections," a Career Fair, will be held at Grayson's main campus on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Career Fair is a collaborative effort between Grayson County College, Workforce Solutions Texoma, Southern Oklahoma Workforce Board, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Big Five Community Service, Inc. of Oklahoma.

The Career Fair can be a great opportunity to meet with employers from a variety of organizations and industries. Your primary goal should be to network and gather information that will help you when you apply for a job.

Follow these tips for Career Fair success:

- Plan to visit organizations of most interest first
- Dress as if it were an interview
- Prepare a short "commercial" to introduce yourself
- Display a professional attitude
- Focus on the organization and its opportunities
- Listen to what the employer has to say
- Be respectful of their time
- Thank the employer
- SMILE!



To get maximum results from the Career Fair, prepare in advance. Assistance is available for students in the Career Services office for one-on-one sessions for completing job applications, writing an effective resume, preparing for an interview, and developing job search strategies.

For an appointment, contact Gretchen Huff, Job Placement Specialist, at 903-415-2544 or huffg@grayson.edu. The Career Services office is located on the 2nd floor of the Life Center.



Phi Theta Kappa

New applications due **March 30, 4 p.m.**
to Mary Linder, LA106F

EXHIBIT THIS!

THE MUSEUM COMEDIES
BY LUIGI JANNUZZI

A Fast Paced series of 7 comedic plays and 6 monologues based on 50+ works of Art at the NY Metropolitan Museum of Art.

APRIL 26, 27, 28 @ 7:30PM
APRIL 29 @ 2:30PM

GRAYSON COLLEGE
BLACK BOX THEATRE

Limited Seating. Reservations available at
903-463-8609 theatre@grayson.edu
Tickets: \$3
Free with College ID

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN



Grayson Softball Spring 2012

Month	Date	Opponent	Time	Location
Feb.	15	Trinity Valley Comm. College	1&3	Athens
	18	Northeast Texas Comm. College	1&3	Mt. Pleasant
	22	Texarkana College	1&3	GCC
	24	Temple College Tournament	TBA	Temple
	29	Ranger College	1&3	Ranger
Mar.	3	Hill College	1&3	GCC
	7	Vernon College	1&3	GCC
	10	Weatherford College	1&3	GCC
	12	Cisco College	1&3	GCC
	21	Temple College	1&3	Temple
	24	McLennan Comm. College	1&3	Waco
	28	North Central Texas College	1&3	Gainesville
	31	Ranger College	1&3	GCC
Apr.	4	Hill College	1&3	Hillsboro
	6	Vernon College	1&3	Vernon
	11	Weatherford College	1&3	Weatherford
	14	Cisco College	1&3	Cisco
	21	Temple College	1&3	GCC
	25	McLennan Comm. College	1&3	GCC
May	28	North Central Texas College	1&3	GCC
	6-8	Region V North Tournament	TBA	Texas Women's University



Come support your Lady Vikings!



The softball field is located to the right of the new culinary arts building.

Review of Erin M. Evans' *Brimstone Angels*

By Brenda Witcher
Library Assistant

This novel follows Farideh and Havilar, twin triflings (half devil half human). The sisters are raised by a clanless dragon born Mehan when they are left by the gates of the city at birth. Farideh makes a pact with a devil that Havilar calls. They are forced to leave town when their house explodes in the process.

On the way they meet up with Tam, a priest of Selune, and a boy named Brin. They all set out to the town of Neverwinter, each for their own reasons. Neverwinter was destroyed many years ago and now is being rebuilt. But there are those who want Neverwinter for their own. And the five travelers fall right in to the middle of all of the plots.

Farideh was hoping to control her devil, but now she may need

all he offers to get her and her sister out alive.

Most D&D novels are complicated. Plan on top of plan on top of ...well you get the idea, and *Brimstone Angels* is no different. I liked the novel; it was paced well, and I could follow what was happening without a score card.

The world and character building made the story slow in places but never made me feel like that scene shouldn't have been in the story.

The ending was wrapped up but left room for a many more sequels. I look forward to reading more of Erin M. Evans' work, whether it be Neverwinter or any other world.

The characters and world building are done in such a way that even if a reader had never picked up a Dungeons and Dragons book before, they would be able to enter this world and follow

the adventure. I myself had never heard of Neverwinter and was able to easily follow along.

Brimstone Angels is a Dungeons and Dragons; Forgotten Realms-Neverwinter novel. It was released in 2011 by Wizards of the Coast and retails for \$7.99.



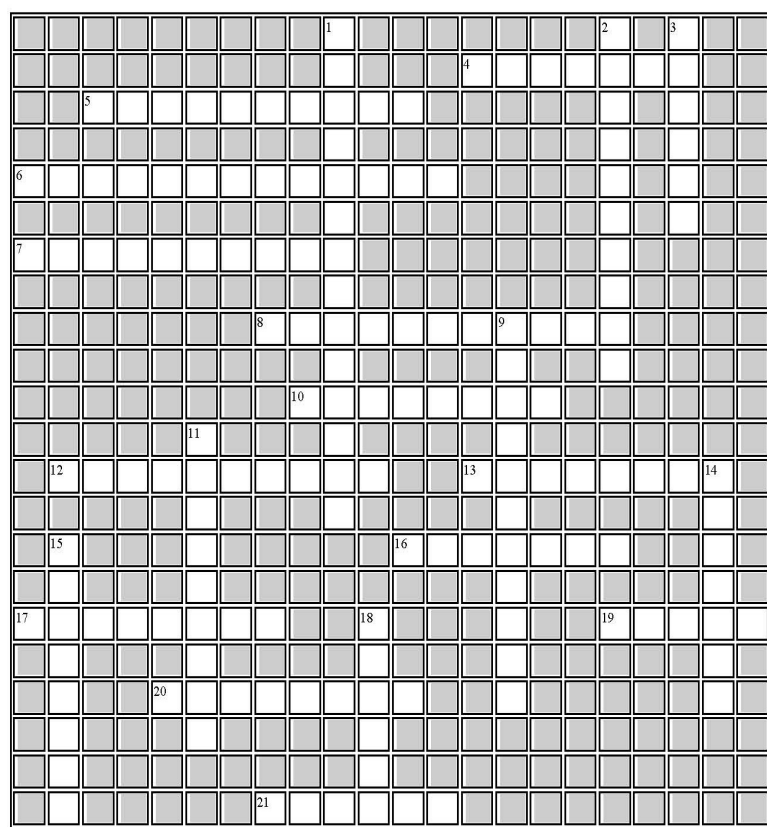
Support

Viking Baseball

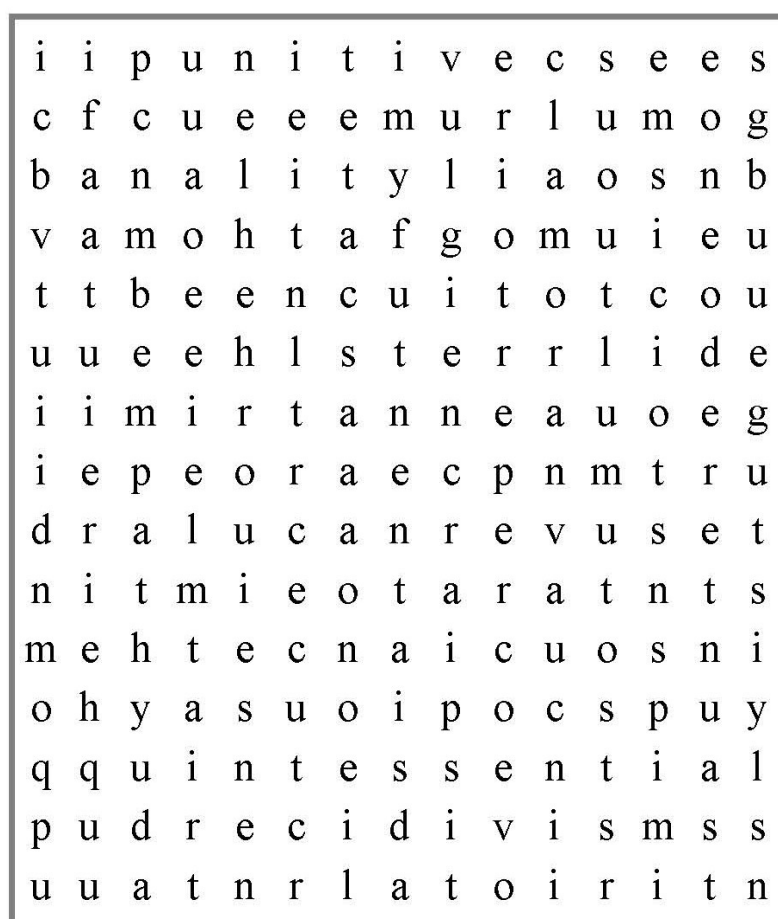
Date	Opponent	Time	Location
Mar. 10	Eastern Oklahoma St.	12 noon	Wilburton, OK
Mar. 14	Cisco	1 p.m.	Cisco, TX
Mar. 17	Cisco	1 p.m.	Dub Hayes Field
Mar. 19	Northlake	2 pm.	Dallas, TX
Mar. 21	North Central	1 p.m.	Dub Hayes Field
Mar. 24	North Central	1 p.m.	Gainesville, TX
Mar. 26	Murray St.	2 p.m.	Tishomingo, OK
Mar. 28	Temple	1 p.m.	Dub Hayes Field
Mar. 31	Temple	3 p.m.	Temple, TX



The following puzzles use words from our English 1301 text *The Prentice Hall Reader*, Chapter 2. Use the list of words in the "Word Search" below to complete the "Crossword Puzzle."



- | | |
|---|---|
| 4. bizarre | 1. concerning the concentrated essence of a thing |
| 5. stock of special skills or offerings | 2. relapse into improper behavior |
| 6. embarrassing | 3. loud noise |
| 7. wild and noisy | 9. indifference |
| 8. unexpected departures from the normal | 11. strolled |
| 10. philosophical position of being indifferent to pain or pleasure | 14. ability to share in and truly understand emotions of others |
| 12. everyday language | 15. triviality |
| 13. punishing | 18. understand thoroughly |
| 16. very plentiful | |
| 17. something avoided at all costs | |
| 19. enthusiastic appreciation | |
| 20. persistence | |
| 21. was full of | |



- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------|
| aberrations | fathom | sauntered |
| anathema | gusto | stoicism |
| banality | insouciance | surreal |
| clamor | punitive | teemed |
| copious | quintessential | tenacity |
| disconcerting | recidivism | tumultuous |
| empathy | repertoire | vernacular |

The zone-in zone is waiting for you

By Nate Essin

The clacking of pool balls begs to drown out the sound of pop music piping out of the loudspeakers.

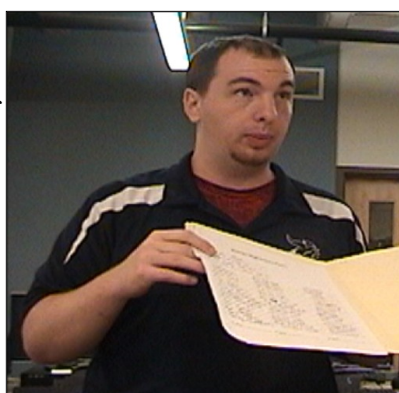
In the background, a television can be heard, sending a message to all who will listen. Laptop keyboards chatter away, taking messages from those who wear headphones.

The metallic ring of a Foosball table erupts with cheers. A ping-pong ball whizzes past, and voices from the recreational side of the center crash over the building.

Distant gunfire is heard from a Playstation, players huddled together, giving one another advice.

You have just stepped into the magical social center of Grayson County College known as the "Student Life Center."

The Life Center is an area where students leave the humdrum of the campus and enter an exciting, sociable world that encourages them to make friends and participate in rec-



Life Center employee Josh Roberts

reational activities together.

The Life Center also issues ID cards to new students. Students can apply for a new card or request one be reissued at the main desk.

Josh Roberts, a criminal justice major, is currently employed at the Life Center. He commented, "Most of the people up here are pretty open to talk to anybody."

Roberts helps to organize the Life Center's tournaments, an intriguing service that pits random opponents together with the game of their choice for a championship t-shirt.

Almost like a dating ser-

vice, participants leave their contact information with Josh and their preferred activity (video games, pool, Foosball, or ping-pong).

Roberts will then call the participants and set a date convenient for both of them. When the participants meet to compete, they have an opportunity to challenge each other in a sport that they both enjoy and a chance to get to know one another.

The sign-up sheet is located at the main desk in the Life Center.

The Life Center study area contains countless tables complete with open Wi-Fi and power outlets to plug in laptops, tablets or whatever one's choice of electronic study or entertainment device may be.

James Nickels, Life Center frequenter, describes it as "a kind of nesting place. You come here, set down your laptop, plug it in, plug in your headphones, put them on your head and zone in."

The TV room has a large wall to block sound from the recreational area. The TV room contains large comfortable couches (useful for resting or spreading homework out and getting it done.)

In the video game room, X-Box 360s and Playstation 3s are home to many top game titles. Students from all over the campus gather to engage in friendly competition.

The Student Life Center has life, but it is missing *your* life. Emma Zuver, a GCC student studying in the Life Center, quipped, "There is no

such thing as luck, only opportunities." The Student Life Center, its many activities, and potential new friends are opportunities waiting to happen. Stop by some time.

Say "hi" to Roberts, Zuver, and Nickels. They will show you around, introduce you to others, sign you up for a tournament, and introduce you to the "fine culture" known as the Student Life Center.

Student Life Center Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Weekends closed



Emma Zuver and James Nickels take a study break in the Life Center

More personal counseling available to students

By Elyse Schein

Practicum Student Counselor

Many of you have visited the Office of Educational Opportunity for Career and Academic Advising in the Administration Building.

The staff of the Grayson College Counseling Center includes Licensed Professional Counselors and Student Practicum Counselors.

All of our staff are generalists and see students with a variety of issues.

Starting this semester, the Advising Center has partnered with local Counseling Practicum Students, making more personal counseling available to students.

Under the supervision of Barbara Malone, Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor with 19 years' counseling experience, four new Practicum Student Counselors have begun collaborating with

the center, seeing clients on a regular basis.

"We're pleased to extend our counseling services to students, especially right before midterms," says Malone, adding, "it takes courage to address problem areas and examine painful feelings. Entering counseling is taking the first step in resolving difficulties."

Practicum Student Counselors Angela Copeland and Elyse Schein are currently pursuing their Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from SOSU, while John Trader, from Texas A & M University-Commerce, brings his background in clinical psychology, and Ann Sullivan is in the DAAC program pursuing Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling Certification.

All four students plan on pursuing licensure and becoming Licensed Professional Counselors.

This is an ideal exchange

for Practicum Student Counselors, who are able to apply the counseling techniques and theories they learn in their Masters Programs in a practical setting.

GCC students can benefit from the Practicum Student Counselors' enthusiasm for the field of counseling and passion for therapeutic listening.

Counseling is a chance to talk confidentially with someone who can help you learn coping skills and new ways of looking at situations.

Some students benefit from one or two sessions of problem-solving, while some concerns may warrant multiple counseling sessions.

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

- Anxiety
- Stress
- Substance abuse
- Problems with eating and body image
- Relationship problems
- Academic performance
- Adapting to college life

All counseling sessions are confidential, just between you and your counselor, who will not disclose personal information shared during your sessions with professors or parents.

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

Our counselors:

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

Our Practicum Student Counselors are here for you. Currently registered students can come to the Grayson College Counseling Center to schedule an appointment.

At the first appointment, the counselor and student will decide together what type of counseling will be most beneficial.

Students requiring immediate help can be seen on an emergency basis on the same day.

Sometimes all you need is a safe, caring place to talk: 903.463.8730.

Know before you borrow

By Brent Archer

Financial Aid Officer

Almost everyone is aware of the current economic situation of the country and how this has affected employment rates, mortgage rates, and other financial situations that families are facing.

Did you know that student loan debt has now passed credit card debt in terms of financial burden on families?

The Wall Street Journal reported that student loan debt for 2011 was at an all-time high at an average of \$22,900 per student. They estimate this to be an increase of 8% over 2010 and almost a 50% increase over the last 10 years.

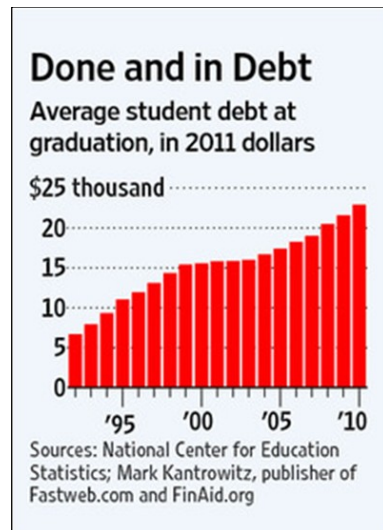
Student loans are an investment in the future, but as you enter the job market after graduation, have you considered the payments that you will be making on the loans that you have taken out? Do you know how much loan debt you are currently in?

There are a number of resources and opportunities that are available for you to help manage your debt and keep it from hanging over your head too heavily, for too long.

Beginning on July 1 of 2012, the interest rate on undergraduate subsidized loans

will rise from 3.4% to 6.8%. That's double!

Taking into account the average amount of debt of \$22,900, at the previous 3.4%



rate, students would pay a monthly amount of \$225.38 a month for a grand total of \$27,045 over the length of repayment.

With the new rate of 6.8%, students with the average loan debt will be looking at monthly payments of \$263.53 and a final total of \$31,623!

That means that with interest and principle, students under the new interest rate will be paying an extra \$8,723 (under the standard repayment plan).

Curious how much your payments will be? Visit

www.direct.ed.gov to see repayment calculators and to get an idea of what your monthly payment will look like.

On October 25, 2011, President Obama introduced a number of proposals to help students manage their debt:

"Know Before You Owe."

The Department of Education is partnering with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to create a universal form for institutions that outlines the terms and conditions of their repayment and what monthly payments and final amounts will look like. It will have a consistent look and feel like that we have seen with credit cards.

"Pay As You Earn" Program. This is an "income contingent" program under which student loan payments are capped at 10% of discretionary income as opposed to the previous 15% cap. Under this program, students will also see their loans forgiven after 20 years whereas it was 25 years in the past.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness. A student's outstanding balance of principle and accrued interest will be forgiven after the borrower makes 120 monthly payments if they are employed full time for a public service organization (teachers, areas of national need, public service, nurses,

etc).

Special Direct Consolidation Loan Program. Available for borrowers with commercial FFELP and Federal loans and allows students to avoid split-servicing (make one payment to a single servicer). Incentives to consolidate: Interest rate reduction, same repayment terms, eligibility for Public Service Forgiveness.

Repaying your student loans can be a burden that you have to bear for the next 10-25 years. Sometimes, it can be a challenge to leverage these payments and other financial responsibilities that

you and your family have.

Knowing your rights and responsibilities as a borrower, becoming aware of how much you borrow, having a realistic idea of what to expect from repayment, and knowing what options are available to you can make this investment in your future a safe one.

Always be aware of how much you are borrowing and how it will affect you once you begin repayment.

Visit www.direct.ed.gov, www.nslsds.ed.gov, or contact your Financial Aid Counselor for more information on changes to the direct loan program.

Need Money for School?

Now's the time to complete your 2012-2013 FAFSA!

- Filing online is quick and easy!
- Sign electronically with your FAFSA PIN
- Use IRS Data Retrieval to speed up processing
- Check your status & make changes online!

Scholarship applications available at Grayson College Office of Financial Aid!

Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your **2012-2013** FAFSA.

Complete it before April 1st to receive maximum eligibility!

Grayson School Code: 003570
Office of Financial Aid
Mon-Tues: 8am-6pm
Wed-Fri: 8am-4pm
Phone: 903.463.8794
Fax: 903.463.3908

financialaid@grayson.edu

Forum on The future you will help build after graduation

Bill Joy, a co-founder of Sun Microsystems and a developer of computer languages such as UNIX and JAVA, urges his readers to slow the pace of software and hardware development. On the other hand, Bill Gates, now the second-richest person in the world, founder of Microsoft and philanthropist, argues that the next thirty years will bring robots to every home and improve our lives. Below students consider the future they will help build after graduation.

As students at Grayson County College, many of us will be entering professions in which we will be contributing to the continued advancement of technology and science. It is important, as we begin to develop a sense of ourselves and our goals as professionals, that we remember to maintain a sense of caution and humility.

Scientists and inventors often suffer from what neuroscience has identified as "optimism bias" – the tendency to think that the future will be much better than the past. Obviously, sometimes this is true, and imagining a better future is what keeps people trying to develop new things, but it can also lead us into making hasty and ill-considered decisions.

A scientist who suffers from optimism bias may fail to take precautions to prevent possible harm or rush a new drug or invention to market without doing enough testing because he or she is convinced that despite the evidence of many other failures in the past, this time, everything will go well.

College students also frequently suffer from optimism bias. How many times have you waited until the last day to complete an assignment, comfortable in the idea that this time you will be able to write an "A" paper in a day, despite the fact that papers you have waited to write until the last minute in the past have not turned out so well?

We easily fail to take into account the fact that there may be unforeseen problems, such as a printer that runs out of ink or a failure of our internet connection, or even the failure of our own bodies, which insist on getting sick, just when we most need to concentrate.

Just as successful students develop strategies to help them overcome the downfalls of optimism bias, so we should remember to incorporate these strategies into our future professional lives. Reflecting on failures, we can build safeguards into our lives to protect the future of our world, while still continuing to make new and wonderful contributions.

Laura McMeley

Technology of 2012 has shaped the way that people communicate with one another. We correspond with friends via instant messenger. Families would prefer to text rather than talk face to face, and Facebook informs us when our friends' birthdays are approaching.

These things can be good. In a world in which society is demanding more and more of us, technology is almost necessary to help us succeed. For example, if Facebook has not informed me of my friend's birthday, I may remember too late to purchase a present, or I may forget altogether.

However, we mustn't forget the appeal of non-technical, intimate contact. There's nothing quite like gathering around the dinner table, eating dishes prepared with love, and discussing the issues and challenges of the day. There's something special about getting a handwritten note from a friend, folded creatively, written in their favorite color, and signed with a backhand so familiar, you could recognize it anywhere.

Let us not forget to add personal touches to our otherwise cold, unfamiliar style of communication. In other words, it's okay to search for the perfect gift online. Just don't forget to sign the card.

Lindsey Holder

Imagine a visit to the doctor's office where they tell you that you have an infection and need an antibiotic. The doctor pulls out a pocket-sized computer and enters your prescription. Within seconds you have the medicine flowing through your veins. Science fiction? Not at all. Advances in Medicine and Technology will soon allow you to have an under skin pharmacy at your need. According to their web site, MicroCHIPS, Inc. is pioneering intelligent implanted devices designed to improve the health of millions of people with chronic conditions that require careful monitoring and precise therapy. Recently, a study was done that delivered a drug that helps treat osteoporosis, a degenerative bone disease that thins and weakens the bone. Traditionally the drug has to be administered by a daily shot. The results were very successful and a promising future lies ahead.

Yates, Barbara. "MicroCHIPS Announces Clinical Results for First Successful Human Trial of Implantable, Wireless Microchip Drug Delivery Device." *MicroCHIPS*. MicroCHIPS, Inc., 16 Feb. 2012. Web. 24 Feb. 2012.

Mason Keels

states that "last year over \$4,500 in scholarships were awarded to students taking part in the rodeo." That's getting paid, yo! Beckley says that "this year's Welding Rodeo will be even bigger."

The College's Art Department is involved as well. Steve Black, Fine Arts Chair, is a judge for the rodeo. "I was asked to be a judge last year," states Black, "and I'll be doing it again this year."

Black also helped give a workshop in December for the high school teams competing in the rodeo. The purpose of the workshop, says Black, "dealt with freedom in artistic expression." Black says, "We also discussed team project ideas and themes for the rodeo."

It is Black's hope that the "collaboration between the Welding and Arts Departments will expand into both programs being able to offer students courses that bring the worlds of welding and art together" and "that the Welding Rodeo has created a greater awareness here at the campus of using welding as an art medium." According to Black, "We currently

have students from the Art Department taking classes in welding."

There are also students from last year's rodeo taking classes here at Grayson as well.

Brandon Clark and his Denison High School teammates participated in the Welding Rodeo last year. Clark says, "It was fun doing it [the rodeo]." Clark won 1st Place in the Individual Welding Skills Competition.

His team's entry in the rodeo earned him and his teammates scholarship moneys of \$250 each. For winning first in the Individual Skills Competition, Clark received a welder's tool kit and a welding helmet. That beats a crummy ole' t-shirt any day.

Clark plans to become a welder. When asked what it was like to participate in last year's rodeo, Clark said, "Having the rodeo at the campus helped me to decide that taking welding at Grayson was what I wanted to do."

Being a part of the welding rodeo has also helped his job prospects. Clark says that "last year, a representative from Caterpillar gave me his card." Then Clark added, "But I still have to finish high school before I start worrying about all that."

This year's Welding Rodeo coincides with Spring Fest here at the main campus. The band Willie Kick-it will be performing live that day.

Matheson Gas, a local welding supply company, plans to feed 450



Welding student getting into the Rodeo spirit

people the Friday of the event. Weatherly and Tyson Foods will be helping to make sure that all in attendance have enough to eat.

So get your (welding) boots on, and make plans to attend the

2nd Annual Welding Rodeo at Grayson County College.

Welding Rodeo coming to town

By Gary Cluck

Have you ever been to a welding rodeo? If not, don't miss your chance! Grayson County College will be holding its 2nd Annual Welding Rodeo on May 4, 2012.

"This thing has really started to take-off," says Greg Beckley, an instructor in the Grayson Welding Department. "Lots of local businesses have begun to pledge their support."

Beckley says, "The rodeo involves welding teams from local high schools that come out and demonstrate their welding skills and compete for prizes and scholarship money." This year, over 20 area high schools will have teams participating in the Welding Rodeo.

"The benefit of getting these different groups together from around the community goes beyond that of the groups involved," says Beckley. "It brings what will hopefully be future students and their families to the campus and lets them experience what it's like here."

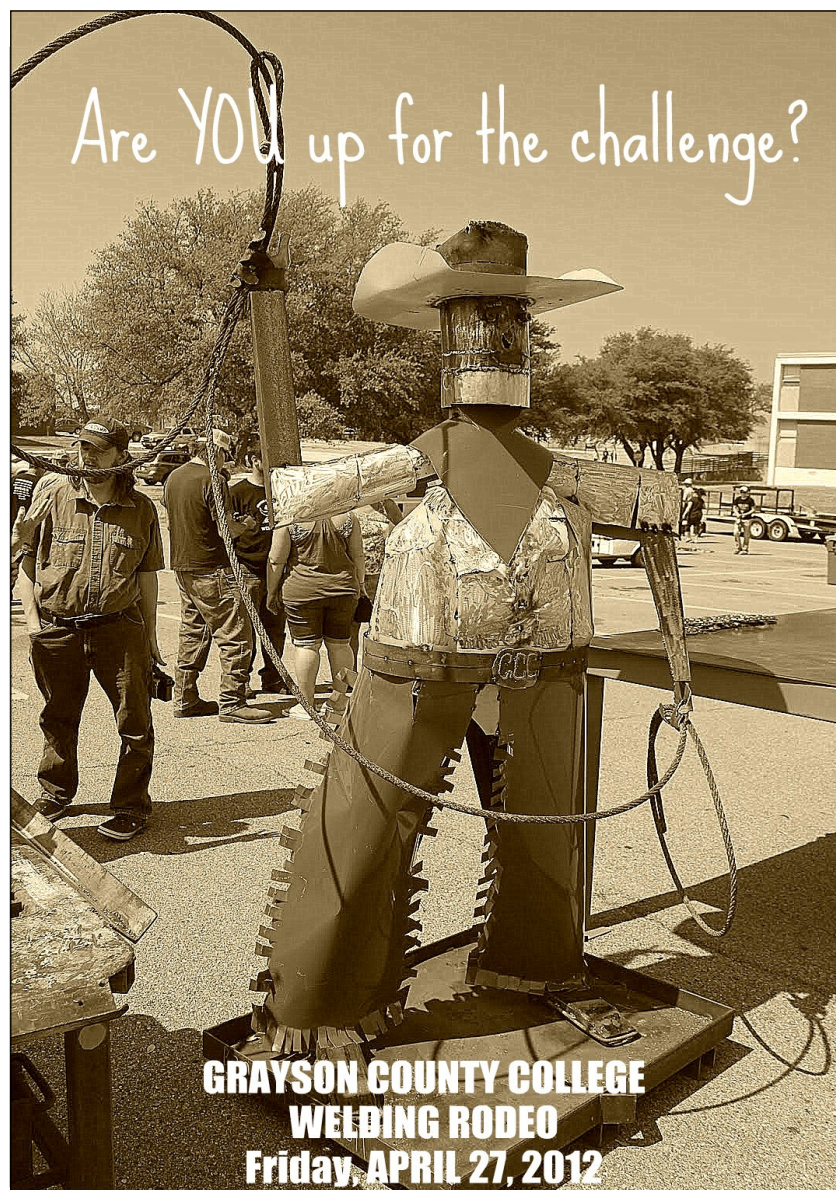
Local manufacturers come to the campus as well, not only to meet with prospective employees, but to help to enrich the community by supporting a worthwhile effort that's also a really great time.

Other businesses and organizations have also gotten involved. "Tyson foods will be helping to cater the event," states Beckley, "and Rusty [Weatherly] from the Hospitality and Culinary Arts Department will be making burgers for dinner for all in attendance."

And "Arts" involvement in the rodeo won't be just of the culinary variety either. The National Endowment for the Arts pledges money to help support and promote the Welding Rodeo. Beckley



"Viking Welder" Trophies will be handed out to the top rodeo contestants



Theatre Department's *Romeo and Juliet* captivates audiences



Judson Wall as Romeo and Jessica Huffstetter as the Nurse



Judson Wall and Rebecca Carter in the title roles

GCC student publishes novel

By Brenda Witcher
Library Assistant

Sierra Peterman has recently had her first book published, *Dawn of the Vampire*. Her book has been picked up for sale by Booksamillion.com and Amazon.com.

Peterman considers herself a native Texan and was raised in Sherman, having moved around a little before settling there. She is currently a student at Grayson County College.

Her hobbies include writing, reading, singing and creating her own role playing games with her friends. She likes to read authors Rick Riordan, Charlaine Harris and anything about vampires and mythology.

Peterman wrote the book in eighth grade based on the adventures of her friends and herself. She wrote throughout high school but finds it harder to find time to write now that she is in college.

She looked into self-publishing and traditional publishing companies and found Publish America. Although she submitted her manuscript once before she was eighteen, she had to be eighteen to sign a contract. She is currently working on the sequel to *Dawn of the Vampire*.

To any aspiring writers, she would suggest to "look, around, stay open, and notice detail."

Dawn of the Vampire was released in September of 2011 and can be purchased at Books A Million.com and Amazon.com. Contact Sierra Peterman at dramagur1973@aol.com.



Fabian Garcia as Paris, Dillon Wooten as Capulet, and Kasy Poindexter as Lady Capulet



Noah Scheibmeir as Mercutio, Wes Hayes as Benvolio, and Judson Wall as Romeo



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