



## Get involved

**Sweet Treats Stop**  
1st Wednesdays  
9:00-10:00 a.m.—2nd floor,  
Student Life Center

**December First Friday Connection Breakfast**  
Friday, December 7  
7:00-9:00 a.m.—Life Center,  
Community Room  
Employees please register when you arrive. Chair neck and back massages provided by Ryan Kelley, LMT. GC retirees will join us.

**December First Thursday Connection Breakfast**  
Thursday, December 6  
8:00-9:00 a.m.—main foyer,  
South Campus

**2nd Annual Holiday Office Decorating Contest**  
Contest period: November 26 -December 10  
Judging December 11, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Winners announced December 11 by email.

**December Late Night Food Event "Finals Week"**  
Monday, December 10  
9:00-10 p.m.—Life Center,  
Food Court  
Breakfast and drink will be served. Complimentary meal provided by Great Western Dining Services. Sponsored by Student Life. Open to students and employees.

**Employee Awards Breakfast and College Update**  
Wednesday, January 16  
7:00-9:00 a.m.—CWL Great Hall and Auditorium

**BSM Welcome Lunch**  
Wednesday, January 23  
11:30-1:00 p.m.—BSM  
Complimentary lunch provided by the BSM. Open to students and employees.

**It's My Life Student Leadership Series**  
4th Monday of each month  
12:15-12:45 p.m.—LAI07  
Community business leaders share leadership philosophy in today's competitive environment. Sponsors: CWL Advisory Board, SGA, Student Life (Cont. pg. 2)

**Intramural/Recreational Sports**  
Team registration: January 22 -February 13, Student Life office.  
Team sport options: 3 on 3 basketball, 4 on 4 flag football, 5 on 5 soccer  
Team registration form, individual player release form, and \$20 team fee required at registration.  
Contact Student Life (903.463.8693) for captains' meeting info, playing days and times.

**Student Government Association**  
Mondays (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month)  
12:15-12:45 p.m.—The HUB

**BSM Luncheon**  
Wednesdays  
11:45-12:30 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

# GC Criminal Justice Assoc. makes strong showing at regional conference

By Mindy Wilson

The American Criminal Justice Association, Lambda Alpha Epsilon, attended its regional conference in San Antonio, Texas November 1-4, 2012, earning the following awards:

**Physical agility:** Mindy Wilson 1<sup>st</sup> place 26-35, Shon Hoaglen 1st 35+, Drew Crocker 3rd place 18-25

**Shooting:** Jacob Britton 1st place lower division, Shon Hoaglen 3rd place lower division individual shooting. Dwayne Barber 1st place professional division, Jim Johnson 2nd place professional. Dwayne Barber overall top shot, team shooting 1st lower division Jacob Britton, Joseph Tyson and Shon Hoaglen, 2nd Place professional division Dwayne Barber, Jim Johnson and Dave Huss, 3rd place lower division Judah Mangrum, Dakota Mitchell and Drew Crocker.

**Academic:** Justin Isom 3rd lower division police administration, Mindy Wilson 3 rd upper division corrections, Dwayne Barber professional division 1 st place criminal law, 2nd place LAE knowledge, 2nd police admin, Dave Huss professional division 3rd place criminal law.



Pictured: (standing) Shon Hoaglen, Justin Isom, Judah Mangrum, Dakota Mitchell, Joseph Tyson, Dave Huss, Jacob Britton, and Suzanna Veal (sitting) Stephanie Childs, Stephanie Garner and Mindy Wilson

## GC Softball "Ties One On" for North Texas Youth Connection

By Mattie McClenny

Southeastern Oklahoma Liaison  
Thursday, September 27, Grayson County's Softball team stepped up to the plate, literally.

A group of seven team members volunteered their evening to work as servers for a fund raising event for North Texas Youth Connections (NTYC).

The event was titled "Tie One On," and the proceeds went to help raise funds for youth who live in the shelter.

Girls tied on aprons and worked that evening to ensure that all guests had an enjoyable evening.

The meal consisted of a

BBQ dinner and music. Coach Theresa Barnett helped secure team members to work the event and is active in giving back to the community.

Mary Anne Book, Development Manager for NTYC, said that the girls were invaluable, and the event was a huge success with their help.

NTYC is an organization that provides emergency housing for runaway and abused youth, family counseling for youth and families, community outreach for the area Safe Program, Youth Advocacy Council, and develops Diversity Conference and Leadership Forum.



From left to right: Rachel Sutton, Raven Gutierrez, Alicia Weber, Apryl Weber, Kiersten Gunderson, Kalee Knight, Tabitha Pavelock

## Student Government community service project nets 37 bags of litter



The Student Government Association community service project held Friday, October 26, 2012, involved litter pickup along FM 691. 32 students and employees participated, representing 11 student clubs and organizations. 37 bags of litter were collected.

Check out

# The Viking

in full color online at

<http://www.grayson.edu/college-info/the-viking.aspx>, including archived earlier editions.

From the Grayson home page, click on "College Info" and then "The Viking."



## Library highlights history, freedom with special election

By Lisa Hebert

Librarian  
The Library held an election for the number one President of all time.

The GC History and Government professors chose their pick for the honor of President of all time.

Dr. Donna Kumler selected Theodore Roosevelt, Dr. Chase Machen- Andrew Jackson, Professor Mary Linder- Abraham Lincoln, Professor Ron Velten-Woodrow Wilson, and Professor Ed Owens-Franklin Roosevelt. Abraham Lincoln won with the most votes cast. Andrew Jackson came in second.

To highlight history, the importance of voting, and the recent national election, an election was also held to determine who the

Grayson College community thought would win the national Presidential race. The GC community voted for President Barak Obama with 78 votes and Governor Mitt Romney following with 67 votes.

The Library and College organized this event to remind our community of the history of our country and of our freedom to exercise our voting privileges. Interesting comments were made on the ballots as there was a place to write why voters selected their candidate.

There were also several write-ins for both races. Overall almost three hundred votes were cast. One student remarked, "This is fun because I am taking history right now, and this fits in with what I am learning."

Professor Linder received a certificate and several other goodies for winning.



Librarian Lisa Hebert (left) presents government professor Mary Linder prizes for nominating Lincoln as best President for winning.

**Sisters of Destiny**  
Wednesdays  
4:00-5:00 p.m. —*The HUB*

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

**Dental Assisting**  
Wednesdays  
1:00-2:00 p.m. —*The HUB*

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

**Writers Unlimited/  
Sigma Kappa Delta**  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays  
12:00-1:00 p.m.—*GC Writing Center (Library, Rm. 110)*

**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**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
1:15-2:15 p.m. —*The HUB*

**The Clay Club**  
Tuesdays  
6:00 -6:30 p.m.—*AC 120*

**Eta Sigma Delta  
(Culinary Honor Society)**  
TBA

**Student Ambassadors**  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month  
7:00 -7:45 a.m.—*Bridge lounge-outside the HUB*

**MAS—Give More-  
Get More**  
Tuesdays  
2:30-3:30 p.m.—*The HUB*

**Delta Phi Delta Art  
Club**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
11:45 a.m.—*AC105*

**Grayson Nursing Stu-  
dent Association**  
Thursdays  
5:00 -6:00 p.m.—*The HUB*

**Psychology Club**  
Tuesdays  
12:15-12:45 p.m. —*CIS 202*

**Paramedic Student  
Association**  
Meetings as needed.  
5:00 p.m. —*HS 215*

**Vocational Student  
Nursing Association**  
Tuesdays  
12:00-1:00 p.m.—*South Cam-  
pus*

**Cosmetology Club**  
Mondays  
3:45 p.m.—*CTC classroom*

**Veterans Student As-  
sociation**  
*Viking Room*  
For meeting information, call  
903.463.8692

**GC Spirit Days**  
Fridays  
Employees wear blue jeans  
and GC shirt.

## GC concerts inspire, delight

By James Dering

Director of Music

The Grayson College Music Program continues its tradition of excellence with another enriching lineup of events in its Fall 2012 Concert Series.

The series began on November 12, with a delightful performance given by the GC Chamber Band, under the direction of Professor Jeremy Stones.

Tonight's program features a joint recital from the brass studio of Professor Jeremy Stones, the

woodwind studio of Professor Inna Staneva, and the drum set studio of Professor John O'Neal. Each instructor will also perform in this diverse and inspiring evening of music.

Six more performances will follow in this semester's concert series.

All GC Music events for this semester will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Cruce Stark Auditorium and will be free and open to the public.

For more information about each event, please visit [www.grayson.edu/music](http://www.grayson.edu/music).

## Hall-o-fest huge success

By Gregg Miles

Director of Student Life

The 2012 Hall-O-Fest was a huge success! The crowd was large and very active.

Forty participants were dressed and competed in the Costume Contest. The contest winners are as follows: **1st Place: Jan Pfeifer, Student Services, "Fallen Angel"; 2nd Place: Meredith Marr, student, "Pink Lady"; and 3rd Place: Devin Abbott, student, "Vampire."**

All of the costumes were colorfully put together and unique, which made the judging difficult.

Kudos are sent to Steve Black, Dianna Crissman and Marsha Starr for giving of their time to judge this event. Each winner received a \$10 gift card to Wal-Mart.

The Pumpkin Decorating or Carving Contest was equally represented with 31 pumpkins being entered. 14 pumpkins were in the carved division and 17 were in the decorated divi-



proudly presents the

### Fall 2012 Concert Schedule

<b>GC Chamber Band</b>	November 12
<b>GC Brass, Woodwind, and Drumset Studios</b>	November 26
<b>GC Singers and Voice Studios</b>	November 27
<b>GC Guitar Ensemble and Guitar Studio</b>	November 29
<b>Strings Studio</b>	November 30
<b>Jazz Piano Studio</b>	December 3
<b>GC Jazz Combo</b>	December 6
<b>Classical Piano Studio</b>	December 11

All events are at 7:00 PM in Cruce Stark Auditorium  
All events are free and open to the public.

sion.

The respective winners are as follows: **Carved Division 1st Place: Radiology, 2nd Place: Financial Aid. Decorated Division: 1st Place: Library, 2nd Place: Arts and**

**Communication. The Best of Show" award goes to the Library.** Each winner received a \$10 gift card to Wal-Mart.

The Photo Booth was very popular with the Hall-O-Fest participants, so popular that Student Life is considering booking it for Springfest in early May.

Thank you' are extended to Great Western Dining Service for preparing the desserts and lemonade.

A Big Thank You goes out to the Maintenance Department for setting up and tearing down the tables and chairs and emptying the trash.

Fourteen student clubs and several local agencies provided games and activities for all to enjoy.

Job well done by the SGA for co-sponsoring this annual event with Student Life.

The estimated attendance topped out around 350-400. Fun times were had by all.

Thank you for supporting Student Life!

See p. 6 for Photo Booth revelations!



## South Campus Boo Y'all 2012 spreads the spirit

By Tara Neighbors

Assistant


Gangster, Grapes, Witches, Nun; Rock God, Marilyn, Vampire, Rabbi... the South Campus had them all at their annual Halloween Boo Y'all!

Students, as well as faculty, got into the Halloween spirit and dressed up for the occasion.

All costume contest participants received recognition, and winners picked prizes from an array of goodies.

In addition to the costume contest, students enjoyed delicious, hot Frito chili pie and lined up for South Campus' s famous s 'mores bar, which included Reese's, Mounds, marshmallows, Hershey's chocolate, Graham crackers, and sternos for "authentic" roasting!





### THERE'S A NEW NAME ON CAMPUS!

# GSA

## Grayson Student Ambassador

The Grayson Student Ambassadors have been busy all semester with community events as well as school events. If you would like to become a student ambassador and you meet the qualifications, contact Rhonda Marroquin in the Admissions office or call 903-415-2611.

**Preferred Qualifications:**


- Current student enrolled in at least 6 credit hours
- Effective communication skills
- Interested in developing leadership & public relations skills
- Willing to serve as a college representative
- A 2.75 minimum GPA

**Instructors:** If you would like to nominate someone to become an ambassador, please call.

## All Invited!

### Theatre Department Info Mtg

**Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 6:30pm**  
Black Box Theatre



Information about auditions for the semester, shows, work opportunities, TETA, ACTF and many other things will be covered. Please join us.

**Auditions for the first show of the semester will be Wed, Jan 23.**

For more info contact Robin Robinson, 903-463-8609 or email us at [theatre@grayson.edu](mailto:theatre@grayson.edu)

# Auditions!

Grayson College Theatre  
For Young Audiences Presents

## Treasure Island

Adapted by Phil Willmott  
From the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson

Feb 20, 21, 22 @ 10am & 1pm  
Feb 23 @ 7pm

Tickets \$2  
903-463-8609 theatre@grayson.edu  
Cruce Stark Auditorium  
Arts & Communication Center  
Grayson College

**Wed, Jan 23**  
**6pm**  
**Cruce Stark Aud.**

- Are you free to rehearse Sunday thru Thurs from 6pm-10pm? (Jan 28-Feb19)
- Will you be free to rehearse tech weekend Feb 15-17?
- Are you available to perform Feb 20-22 matinees during the day?
- Yes? Then come audition!

Questions? Call the GCC Theatre Department at 903-463-8609 or email [theatre@grayson.edu](mailto:theatre@grayson.edu)

## Edible Art: Grayson's Culinary Arts program is stirring things up

By Stephen Swenson

Are you a creative person? Do you like food? Have you ever found yourself watching one of the cooking channels and wanted to create a dish the same or similar to that of the chefs on television? One more question: have you thought about a career in culinary arts?

The culinary arts are quickly becoming a sought-after profession, offering many job opportunities such as personal chef, executive chef, catering, restaurateur, consultant, and the list goes on.

Due to multimedia such as television and internet, the ability to satisfy one's interest in cooking has reached farther than ever before. Now the culinary arts are even closer to students here at Grayson College.

The recent addition of a culinary arts program here at Grayson College has presented the option to refine cooking skills for many who had not studied cuisine previously.

Grayson Culinary School offers a two-semester certificate program or a two-year associate's degree with a veritable cornucopia of options leading from either.

Consistently the number of students entering the program has increased since its first semester. Presenting the same curriculum that one would find at a private or specialty school, Grayson College offers the foundation to build a

career upon.

A large portion of people in the food service industry started out and continue to stay within the industry with no formal education. As many of us returning to GC know, no education means less opportunity for advancement in any field.

Many of the students in the program are coming from that perspective, having been employed in food service, some for a large number of years, now having access to a program that can take them to the next level.

One culinary arts student plainly put it, "I have worked in food service for 25 years, everything from school cafeterias to the Olive Garden. I never thought I would have the option to advance much more than that. . . with family, work, and the closest culinary school not being close enough, there was no way." Well, with the addition of the culinary arts program, students have the option for advancement now, and they are taking full advantage of it.

Another student stated, "I've been in kitchens since I was 16. I'm *done* being the employee." That statement was echoed by several other students, with passion and gusto.

It seems as though being a chef in a reputable restaurant isn't good enough for some. They want their own restaurant. "I haven't decided what kind of place I want. I just



Director of Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts Rusty Weatherly checks burners in preparation for GC's Student-run Restaurant's opening

know I want it to be mine," said the same student.

This sentiment carries over to those not in the program as well. Multiple students currently have kitchen jobs, and their coworkers are taking notice of the advantages of not just being a student, but the opportunities after graduating from the program.

Rus Dillon, a line cook at a local hot spot here in Grayson County, never considered further education as an option, let alone in culinary arts. However his tune has changed recently.

Dillon has noticed that one of his coworkers has excelled and advanced quickly within his kitchen, that coworker being a GC culinary student. "This guy was hired on the

spot. After a week he was put in charge when the kitchen manager cuts shift[goes home], just because he is in that cooking class."

After getting to know his new coworker, Dillon made the connection. Regardless of how long he had worked there, he was still viewed simply as a line cook, but the new guy was viewed as someone to be placed in charge, someone learning about the business and how to produce a unique product for the masses.

Like many who get into food service, Chef Rusty Weatherly, instructor of culinary arts here at GC, calls his induction into the world of the kitchen "dumb luck." Chef Weatherly worked various positions before his culinary edu-

cation: line cook, management, sous chef, food and beverage.

Weatherly said that after seeking out further education, he "started taking ownership and pride in what he did." Creating a dish is like putting your name on a plate.

Chef Weatherly suggests that students thinking of a life in the culinary world should "learn as much as you can from anyone you can" but added, "it's better to learn in a controlled environment than from the school of hard knocks."

If the idea of creating a life for yourself out of crafting edible art is appealing, consider your options with culinary arts, and consider the Grayson College Culinary Arts Program.

Enjoy  
gourmet  
menus

... at budget prices in GC's Student-run Restaurant.

Reservations for Wednesday and Friday lunch service: 903.415.2605



## GC nursing students have passion for helping people

By Shannon Holder

Do you have a passion for helping people? Are you interested in becoming a registered nurse or know someone who is?

Grayson College has a great nursing program, with a passing rate of 90.52%, accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and the Board of Nursing for the State of Texas. Ashley Smith, Grayson College nursing student, said, "It's a wonderful program, I highly recommend it!"

In order to apply to the nursing program, an interested student must meet the admission requirements.

First the applicant needs to fill out an application to Grayson College and an application to the nursing program.

An additional requirement is to have completed all three pre-requisite courses, including anatomy and physiology I & II, with a grade of C or better. Completion of the math pre-requisite is also required.

Each student may choose to take college algebra or statistics. Either course will be accepted.

There are eight co-requisite courses required. Those do not have to be completed before applying to the program but must be completed before graduation from the nursing program. "I suggest you get all of your co-requisites done before applying to the program; if you don't, your grades in one course or the other will suffer," said Smith.

Next, the applicant will need to complete the Evolve admissions test, which is the test required before entering the program. A score of 75% is needed for admission. If a student does not reach the minimum score of 75%, there is a one-year waiting period before being allowed to re-test.

After the applicant has completed the list of requirements, they must submit all of their paperwork to the nursing program director, located in the science building, before the deadline.

The number of students accepted into the program is limited by classroom space and by qualified faculty availability. Therefore, a selection procedure is used, also known as the point system. It is used to

identify candidates who are the most academically prepared.

Each co-requisite and pre-requisite is assigned a number of points, depending on the letter grade received. "Every year the number of points needed for admission varies, depending on the number of applicants and the average number of points they have earned," stated Christie Hix, Health Science program assistant. If an applicant decides to complete all of their co-requisites before applying to the program, they have a better chance of being accepted.

Once the deadline has passed, the selection process begins. "We strive to send out letters within six weeks of the final deadline," said Hix.

Once students receive their acceptance letter, they will need to attend a mandatory orientation. The date and location of the orientation will be included in the letter.

After enrollment, students should plan to be in class or clinical approximately four days a week. There are 5 hours of lecture, 1-3 hours of lab, and 12-15 hours of clinical per week.

"I think it is very important and helpful to have a study buddy. It helps to keep you both focused and on track," said Sonya Rankin, RN at Wilson N. Jones hospital.

After completing the program, each student is eligible to graduate with an Associate of Applied Science Degree.

Following graduation, the student must then contact the Texas Board of Nursing and apply to take the NCLEX-RN examination. The NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination) is an examination for the licensing of nurses in the United States.

Nursing is an awarding career with huge advancement opportunities. Let Grayson College make your dreams a reality. For more information contact [nursing@grayson.edu](mailto:nursing@grayson.edu).

Saturday College coming Spring 2013!

Take just Friday or just Saturday classes or both. Classes meet 9-11:50 a.m. and 1-3:50 p.m.

7 courses offered!

## GC welding students in demand in oil and gas industry

By Trey Rodriguez

In today's economy, jobs are hard to come by, and people find themselves going back to school because they were laid off from their previous job.

Well, there could be a solution for them. Even with jobs being hard to come by, welders are needed more than ever, and welding could be a possibility for you.

People sometimes tend to shy away from skilled labor because they think of it as being a down grade from a typical professional job.

But Grayson College's welding program is one of the best around this area, and it's also the least expensive. Referring to the other schools in the surrounding regions that offer welding, instructor Alan McAdams says, "We don't really have competition." McAdams has been in this field of work since 1998.

The prices of the area schools that offer welding range from \$15,000 to \$18,000 compared to the average tuition of \$1,751 here at Grayson.

Not only is the price right, but Grayson also has a track record for graduating quality welders to enter the job market.

With such high need for welders in the job market, there won't be as much trou-

ble finding a job once you graduate from college. According to McAdams, "The average age of a welder in the United States right now is 58 years old." As each year goes by, the number of qualified welders continues to shrink, so companies are looking for students to graduate from college and move right into the workforce to take a job.

And there are jobs available everywhere, not only here in Grayson County, but welders are needed all over the country.

Gary Shannon, another welding teacher here at Grayson, who has been in this line of work since 1970, says that there are companies around this area looking for welders. Mueller Construction, Caterpillar, Weber Aircraft, and Cooper B Line are just some of these companies. But maybe you don't want to stay in Grayson for a job.

Both McAdams and Shannon say that most of the work welders are needed for is found in the oil and gas industry.

"I guess you could say energy is driving the industry more than anything else right now," says McAdams. There are more nuclear power plants being built in this country than ever before, and those are not the only jobs that are waiting to be filled. All up and down the coast there is work for welders because of the oil industry.

"I've been down to the coast. It's been a few years, but there's a lot of oil industry down there," says Shannon. It's not only the jobs working on the rigs or power plants that need to be filled, but also workers are needed to build products for the industry.

The average hourly wage for a welder is almost \$20 (BLS.gov), and with all the work needed right now, one could put a lot of hours in.

Jack Stark, a student in his first year in the welding program, is looking at welding to be his career when he graduates. "I like to do stuff with my hands. I like to build stuff. And there's a big growing industry for welders," says Stark.

But becoming a welder is no easy task. The work is challenging, and the teachers will not accept anything less than what one is capable of doing. But if you can overcome the difficulties, there could possibly be a career waiting for you when you get out of school.



Welding student Jack Stark searches for the right rods to weld with

There are also many ways to help you pay for the tuition if money is an issue.

Some general scholarships that anyone can apply for are the Pell grant and the Grayson Foundation, which gave out a half a million dollars in scholarships last year.

There are also three degree-specific scholarships that are offered for welding. The Welding Association, which is a Grayson student club, raises money and pays for 1 or 2 scholarships per year. Another one is offered through the company of Caterpillar, which pays out \$1,250 per year.

Also McAdams offers a scholarship. "I offer one personally through my pay," says McAdams. "I hand out anywhere between \$500 to \$1,000." So that being said, there are many ways to help you as a student pay for your school.

Talk to the welding instructors if you have any question, or stop by the welding center some time to check it out.



What's a "hybrid" class?

50% of course meets face to face  
50% of course is online.  
Learn both ways and maximize your semester!



Welding instructor Alan McAdams grades students' lab work

# Baptist Student Ministries not just for Baptists

By Lacey Walker

The Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) is not just for Baptist students, but someone from any religious or non-religious background is welcome.



Shelby Duncan and Josh Burton joke around at a Wednesday lunch

The BSM was started with students meeting on campus. The Grace Baptist Trust Corporation (GBCT) helped get the

organization started by having the local churches help. The GBCT organization helps Christian college students meet together.

Churches in Grayson County raised money to build a building for Christians to meet in at Grayson College. The building has been standing since 1969, and it is located between the campus police building and the gym.

The teachers who run the organization are Bernie Gallagher and Gregory (Josh) Burton. Gallagher joined a long time ago when he was a youth pastor and wanted to help college students, so he applied at the college.

Burton started with the group with the growth of international students at Grayson, and he became involved when he attended this college, becoming the Co-director.

Gallagher's duties are planning the activities, gathering with the leadership team, and spending time counseling, and he

teaches a few world religion classes.

Burton's duties are coordinating Wednesday luncheon, marketing cooperation, and planning international activities.

Emmanuel Ambendet, a Grayson student who is from the Congo, attends the BSM events and thinks that the leadership team is doing a good job. "Leadership is doing a good job and especially Josh; he is really nice," says Ambendet.

The presidents of the BSM are Shelby Duncan and Joel Marsh, both GC students. They became the presidents when they were selected by peers and the BSM directors. "Our jobs are to plan events, pray over the campus and students, and help out students," says Duncan.

Every Monday at noon that school is in session, there is a lunch and a Bible study for anyone interested. Most of the people who show up are the regulars who are involved in most



President Shelby Duncan and Co-director Josh Burton invite everyone to BSM activities

of the events that the BSM plans.

"At the luncheon all ages come, but most are the traditional college age, which is ages 18-20, and they have a Christian background," says Gallagher. Anyone is welcome to come and join, and it's free.

Caleb Stephens, a freshman at GC, says he has been attending every function they have had since the fall semester started. "I get involved with the BSM activities, and why I do it is because the Lord told me so," says Stephens.

On every Wednesday that school is in session, there is a campus lunch open to all from 11:45 to 1:00 p.m. Usually a local church provides the meal, a guest speaker gives a brief inspiration message, and a musical guest entertains. Many different people show up. Duncan says, "All types ranging from Christian to atheist attend."

The directors don't just help Christians; they help anyone whom they can. "I work with a lot of Muslims and even some of the atheists. We help them as well because that is our attitude on life. We are even generous with gas money, listening to people such as when a family member dies, or heart-ache. We are frontline for the people who need help, and we are always willing to do it," says Burton.

Ambendet goes to the BSM every Wednesday to eat. "I come for the food, to talk about Jesus, learn how to be a good Christian, and I get to meet new people," says Ambendet. He learned about the BSM through international teachers telling him about it. "I learned from Mr. Bread talking about the BSM, and Josh comes over too. The BSM also organizes trips for us to take," he adds.

What the BSM can do for you is shape you and your future. "It gave me social activities, new friends, and a good future," says Burton. Burton was involved at the BSM as a student about ten years ago. It helped him in socializing with people, and he met friends whom he still talks to today.

He also helped with the Bible lesson, which made him realize that he wanted to be a preacher, which he began pursuing about two years ago.

The people involved at BSM make anyone comfortable, and they will not turn anyone away. This group loves everyone.

So next Wednesday, when they are having lunch, stop by and see what is going on, no matter what your religious background is. Christian students, try attending the Bible study on Mondays, and see what they do. Won't you try something new?

## His Way (notes from a journey)

"...and the government shall be upon His shoulders..."—Isaiah 9:6

By Kay Dishner

The Ship of State left the harbor this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012.

We are now launched into the next four years of voyaging to a safe and secure harbor of fiscal success in renewing our now-struggling economy and near-extinct middle class, the hearts of both our country and our economy.

Our Captain again takes the helm and sets our path through the waters of storm and war in a world in which every country and kingdom is struggling to right their own Ship of State to find berth and harbor and set a right path through these changing times and troubling issues on a far larger scale than any have ever faced in past centuries.

All of our leaders are faced with a changing world in a new century that

is presenting problems and solutions never before faced and conquered.

And NOW, as the laboring, thinking, planning begin anew in our country, the United States of America Ship of State will learn and change and meet the needs to keep plowing through the waves of terror and famine and failing economies, straight to the warm and calm waters of balance and strength, to once again re-shape our country and our world into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

It is morning in America, and if the day holds problems, it also holds solutions to whatever impedes our forward thrust to overcoming and enjoying our place in the New World that is emerging.

Onward Christian soldiers! We have far to go before we sleep, for our families and for our world.

### An End

Though standing, still sitting  
In stagnant space  
Sleeping shells  
The human race

Save the whales  
Spare some change  
Scratch the earth  
The dust remains

To fill a hole  
And make another  
Let's save a tree  
And kill your brother

Don't stand so close  
'Cause they might see  
Let's cage the people  
Let the dogs run free

—David Harman

## Poets' Corner

### Who I Am

The world's weight on my shoulders  
But it's never enough  
Taking the burdens of others  
This road's getting rough

Not sure I can do it  
Hold it together, try to heal  
Trembling, can you see it?  
My shakes, are they real?

What's my drug of choice?  
It's this baggage you see  
Handcuffed and shackled  
I have swallowed the key

I'd let you take some  
If I knew how to stop  
I'd leave some behind  
But just can't let it drop

This baggage you see  
Can no longer be freed  
Now bound to my flesh  
This baggage is me

—Jamie Wagoner

## A story of spiritual poverty

By Patrick Schaab

Monsters stood at the gate. Old lives, crucified, rose from the grave.

A shadowy specter stepped into my view and asked with a voice full of taunt, "He swore that the kingdom of heaven belonged to those whose righteousness surpassed that of the most religious and most spiritual. He promised that the pure in heart would see God. So why can't you see Him, or even feel His presence?"

In the secret sanctity of my mind, I turned and faced the ghost of my past standing with brazen arrogance.

The phantom smirked with sick satisfaction at my silence. "Do you feel it: the fear that perhaps you're not good enough?"

Lurking in the shadows around every corner, my personal demons cackled with evil glee.

With fists clenched in guilt, I turned and ran into my past, a place full of mist and mystery. Clawing desperately through the fog of memories, I sought for the one memory I knew would bring me comfort.

There it lay, like a single ray of golden light in a land of shadows. I reached out and grasped it and held it close to my heart, where I re-lived those days in July of 2010.

I discovered myself

standing on the shores of Lake Texoma, underneath the pavilion that housed the scores of students who had gathered for the camp.

Standing at a distance from the crowd, I wondered about my purpose for attending. It made little sense, considering how everyone thought of me as the "strong, Christian boy" who always attended church and stayed out of trouble.

I agreed with their assessment that I tried to live a good enough life to please God, but no one knew why. My past held dark secrets I kept locked up in the vaults of my heart, but for which of these sins did God choose to ignore me?

In my darkest hours, I would call out to this Christian God, hoping and praying that He would rescue me from my circumstances. Never once did He acknowledge my presence or assist me in my troubles.

I felt abandoned, so I worked to live a good Christian life that might attract His attention to my pleas for help.

Instead, I entered camp with a hard heart towards God and an even harder mask towards other people.

So long as I acted the part of the "strong, Christian boy," memorized Bible verses, and contributed the right answers in small groups, no one would

know about my life or my dark secrets.

For months prior, I had chiseled this mask from my anger at God. I tried to live for Him, and yet He seemed to expect even more than what I could manage. Others called it "godly living," but I only wished that this God was real enough to show some compassion.

Every day at the camp, I took long walks on the hiking trails in the woods, enjoying the silence of nature around me. To the trees and singing birds, I recited Ephesians 6:12-17 as I practiced for the memory-verse challenge at the end of camp.

Perhaps God was listening, and I could impress Him enough to make Him reveal Himself.

I mentally scoffed at the idea as I started 1 Peter 2:9-12. Everyone at camp claimed God desired a personal relationship with us, but how could they expect me to believe that?

If God was as personal as they asserted, then where did He reside that I couldn't feel His presence? Why couldn't I hear His voice when others testified that He can communicate with anyone?

1 Peter 1:13-16 sprang from my lips as I reasserted my view of God in my mind. He was a cold, cruel God who lived far away beyond the reach of my comprehension and who only expected me to live

**Editor's Note:** The purpose of this page is to provide inspiration to the GC community. The editor welcomes inspirational writing of all types, representing any or no faith backgrounds.

Write for  
**The Viking!**

Submit articles, flyers (jpeg format), poems, cartoons, and photos with captions to  
[TrevinoM@grayson.edu](mailto:TrevinoM@grayson.edu).

Next deadline:  
**Mon., Jan. 21, 2013**

## GC combats financial aid fraud

By Jeff Scott

Financial Aid Counselor

What is financial aid fraud? Financial aid fraud is the misrepresentation of information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to gain eligibility for aid that a student would not otherwise have. This can be done by either students or parents.

Typically those who attempt to commit fraud under-report their financial information on the FAFSA. By under-reporting or entirely not reporting income, assets, number of children in college, their own enrollment, and/or marital status, perpetrators hope to gain eligibility for student aid.

In the past, parents or students might have provided doctored tax returns in order to verify their claims on the FAFSA; however, due to new regulations, tax returns are no longer accepted for verification. The Department of Education now requires Tax Return Transcripts, which can be requested only from the IRS, be used to verify information on the FAFSA.

Falsifying any information on the FAFSA is fraud, and if you receive aid based on false information, you will have to pay it back.

By providing false information on the FAFSA, a federal document, you may be fined up to \$20,000. and serve

time in prison or both.

A common misconception about financial aid fraud concerns what students spend their disbursements, refunds, on. Although it is not highly regarded, students can use the funds from their disbursements as they see fit as long as they stay in school and continue to meet the requirements to remain eligible for aid.

Those who apply for and receive aid with no intention of ever attending school are committing fraud. This type of fraud is usually carried out by targeting online programs and institutions as there are few to no in-person meetings. Most institutions combat this by setting strict attendance criteria and by having a required in-person orientation.

Abusing federal financial aid not only impacts those who commit it but could also negatively affect how it is administered. As previously mentioned, the Department of Education has already put in place measures to combat fraud that unfortunately require more steps by honest students and their parents.

Anyone suspecting fraud, waste, or abuse involving U.S. Department of Education funds or programs should direct their concerns to the Office of Inspector General at 1-800-MIS-USED (647-8733). To print a hardcopy and mail or email a complaint or to learn more, please visit the Office of Inspector General's site at [www.ed.gov/org](http://www.ed.gov/org).

## GC clubs offer leadership and friendship opportunities

By Kasey Britt

Have you ever wondered if there is a place for you at Grayson, a place where students with interests similar to yours gather and build friendships, a place that serves as a second home between classes while on campus for you to relax and unwind?

You're in luck. Grayson has a spot designed just for you that serves this purpose and many others: the Student Life Center.

The Student Life Center is open to any current Grayson student, and all you need is your student ID card and you're in. It is located at the center of campus.

You can reach it by going through the bookstore and going upstairs or going through the cafeteria and upstairs again. The center is open Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday it is closed.

Not only is the center a fun place to spend time, but it is also the origin or "Hub," as the students of Grayson refer to it, of the twenty-eight different clubs Grayson offers students like yourselves.

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the Life Center's benefits because it was designed and built with you in mind.

If you have explored all the different clubs at Grayson and you still feel there is nothing that suits you, you and fellow classmates with similar interests can start one.

If you are interested in forming a club, talk to the Director of Student Life, Gregg Miles, so he can give you

more information and the paperwork to establish your new club.

Being involved throughout your



Director of Student Life, Gregg Miles

college experience can have several benefits for you. "Participation in college extracurricular activities enriches students' educational experiences. Students who participate in college extracurricular activities tend to be more involved, interact more with fellow students, and have experiences (socially and educationally) outside the classroom that are beneficial," says psychology professor and club sponsor Carla Fanning.

For this very reason, every club at Grayson welcomes anyone to come and participate with them. There are no restrictions keeping you from coming, so just because you're a cosmetology major doesn't mean you can't come and enjoy what the Psychology Club has to offer.

Grayson student Breann Wilburn says, "I'm undecided in my field, and being able to go to different clubs

## Grayson College Foundation seeks scholarship applicants

By Jeff Scott

Financial Aid Counselor

The pressure is on. You know you are going to college but don't know how you can afford it. Thankfully the federal and state governments offer aid to students in need.

Although these grants are great if you receive them, what if you need more money to cover your costs and would like to avoid taking out Direct Loans? Did you know that more opportunities exist in the form of scholarships offered through the Grayson College Foundation?

The Grayson College Foundation exists to seek financial support to strengthen and expand the College's academic and technical programs. They accomplish this through gifts and grants given to them outside the normal tax-based funding.

The Grayson College Foundation is responsible for awarding these funds to students based on the specific requirements of the scholarship. Any students interested in a scholarship offered by the Grayson College Foundation need to apply.

To apply, you must fill out and return the Grayson College Scholarship Application, along with an essay and one letter of recommendation.

When you apply, you will also need to attach your transcripts from high school or college or turn in your GED certificate.

Your essay should consist of your

without having to be majoring in that field has helped a lot. It gives me a perspective of what I might be doing if I choose that certain career path."

The clubs of Grayson hope to do just this by providing insight into each subject that the clubs are based upon. Bringing students together with like desires, giving them something to look forward to throughout their busy week, and teaching them how to be leaders are just a few perks of the Student Life programs.

"If you lead or learn how to lead, those are life skills that you take into the workforce," says Miles. Any student at Grayson can take something away from being involved even if it's just a friendship or an important reference for a future job.

If you want to learn more about the clubs Grayson has to offer, go online to the "Program and Classes" tab on the Grayson website and click on "Student Life." Here you will see which activities are occurring each week; information about each club, such as times and location of their meetings; and which different activities the Student Life Center has waiting for you.

There's no excuse not to get involved because Grayson's opportunities are endless! No student should say that there is nothing here at Grayson for them because if you do a little digging, you are sure to find something for you. If you still can't find what you're looking for, you can start your own club because there are bound to be students with the same mindset as you.

career and educational goals and how you plan to achieve them and a personal statement such as your financial resources or extenuating financial circumstance, familial status and so on. Mention awards and honors you have received and any community or school activities.

A list of available scholarships is kept on the Grayson College Foundations website at [www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu) → Alumni - Foundation → Scholarships → Scholarship List.

You do not have to select a particular scholarship as the Foundation can match you to the best fit. Besides the list of Grayson College Foundation scholarships, you may find other opportunities at

[www.collegeforalltexas.com](http://www.collegeforalltexas.com), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), and [www.aie.org](http://www.aie.org).

Of course, the websites mentioned are not the only opportunities available but a mere selection of what the Financial Aid Office at Grayson College sees most.

The Financial Aid Office strongly encourages you to actively seek as many scholarships as you can. The best thing to remember when looking for scholarships is that they are funds awarded to you that, in most cases, do not have to be paid back and can be received up to your cost of attendance.

Beware of scholarship scams! Two key rules to follow while searching for scholarships are:

1. If you have to give money to receive money, it might be a scam and
2. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Do not provide your bank account numbers, credit card information, or social security number over the phone or by email to any unsolicited offers. If this happens hang up/ do not respond and bring copies of anything that company has given you to the Financial Aid Office at Grayson College.

If and when you are awarded a scholarship, remember that many are based on merit, skill, unique characteristics or membership in organizations and may require that you maintain a certain number of hours to keep your award.

If your particular scholarship permits, you may request reimbursement of any remaining funds for a given semester by completing and returning a Request for Reimbursement. This form can be found at [www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu) → Financial Aid → All Forms or by visiting the Financial Aid Office in the Administration Building on the main campus.

Not all scholarships may allow you to receive a reimbursement of unused funds, while those that do may require receipts to verify the money was used for approved costs. Pay particular attention to your award letter as it will indicate the specific terms of your scholarship.

As always, if you have any questions, please stop by the Financial Aid Office, call us at 903-463-8794, or send an email to [financialaid@grayson.edu](mailto:financialaid@grayson.edu).

**Personal counseling**  
**Grayson Counseling Center 903.463.8730**

**Math Hub Schedule**  
**Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.**  
**Fri. 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Nov. 3, Dec. 1, and Dec. 8 only)**  
**Room 113 Success Center**



Dayna Ford, Coordinator

**Writing Center**  
**Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**  
**Fri. 8 a.m.-12 noon**  
*Bring a copy of your assignment so the tutor can help you better!*  
**Room 110 Library**



Kay Dishner, Director

**Need a job?**  
**Need an employee?**  
[www.collegecentral.com/grayson](http://www.collegecentral.com/grayson)

**Planning your transition from student to professional? GC Career Services can help.**  
**(2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Life Center)**

**Assistance is available for: resume writing, cover letters, completing job applications, interview preparation, developing job search strategies, job leads & more!**

For an appointment: contact Gretchen Huff, Job Placement Specialist, 903-415-2544, [huffg@grayson.edu](mailto:huffg@grayson.edu)

# Secrets of the Hall-O-Fest Photo Booth revealed. . .



## Spiritual poverty (cont. from p. 4)

A crack appeared on the wall of stone surrounding my heart, and suddenly a massive tidal wave broke through. I gasped, feeling exposed and alone, before a surreal presence that seemed to fill the room. Every defense and every view of God I possessed disintegrated as I heard within my heart an enormous shout that seemed to ask, "Can you see me now?" I kept my head bowed as tears flowed from my eyes, and waves of sadness mixed with joy ripped through my mind. Heavy loads held together with chains seemed to fall from my shoulders, and I felt a warm embrace unlike any other. And I cried. Oh, how I cried. I released the warm ray of light and let it fly into the mist

of time. Turning around, I found the ghosts of my past haunting my steps. The same cackling shadowy specter faced me boldly, surrounded by my personal demons. "Well?" he inquired, "Where is your God now?" I faced the phantoms and whispered, "He's here, for He promised that He remains near to those who call on Him in truth. And I know I can never live a good enough life to please Him, but He promised that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those living in spiritual poverty. He freed me from the heavy load of religion and guilt so that I can live for Him and carry the light load He promised me." The monsters at the gate, as well as old lives I had crucified, joined the ghosts of my past as they retreated into the shadows of the secret sanctity of my mind. Yet looking back, I can still glimpse the prowling eyes as they haunt my every step.



## Creative Writing (ENGL 2307)

Are you bored with run-of-the-mill classes from "professors" who are tired of their own outworn slogans and obsolete dogmas? If so, creative writing may be for you. In ENGL 2307, we will work on crafting short stories and poems. We will also explore the genres of fiction and poetry and delve into the nature of creativity itself. Due to the nature of some of the subject matter, this course is recommended only for mature adults.