



**Service Learning**  
Welding Tech to improve campus • Pg. A3



**Must-see Exhibit**  
The Chair as an Art-form up now • Pg. B1



**Silly Questions**  
Popular stereotypes explained • Pg. B3

# THE VIKING

Friday, September 5, 2014

Grayson College

Volume V, Issue I

## Get Involved

**Sweet Treats Stop**  
Complimentary sweet pastries, snacks and more, provided by Great Western Dining Service. Hosted by Student Life.  
*First and Third Wednesdays 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Life Center, 2nd Floor*

**Hump Day "Snack Attack" (New Program)**  
Complimentary assorted snacks provided by Great Western Dining Service. Hosted by Student Life.  
*Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Life Center, 2nd Floor*

**September First Friday Connection Breakfast**  
*Friday, 5 September 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Life Center, Community Room*  
Employees please register when you arrive. Sponsored by Grayson College and hosted by Student Life.

**4-on-4 Flag Football and 5-on-5 Soccer**  
*Team registration period: 25 August - 11 September Student Life office, 2nd floor of the Life Center*  
Teams needed! For additional information contact Student Life.

**Pick-up Sand Volleyball**  
*Monday - Friday 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. at the "Pit" located behind the BSM*  
The BSM staff will provide the volleyball. Inquire inside.

**Gym & Fitness Center**  
Students and employees are encouraged to use the Gymnasium and Fitness Center. The facilities are open daily to meet your exercise and recreational needs. Hours of operation are listed on the college website and by the Fitness Center door.  
**The Fitness Center has been equipped with 10 new pieces of cardio equipment.**

**Weekend Recreational Opportunities**  
*Beginning 6 & 7 September (8-week pilot program) \*Life Center (Saturdays) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Student usage will determine if weekend hours continue! \*Fitness Center (Sundays) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Student usage will determine if weekend hours continue!*

**Pick-up Dodgeball and Gym Hockey**  
*Every Wednesday from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.*  
Meet at the gym for some exercise and stress reduction. The games are supervised by a Student Life staff member. Athletic shoes are required.

**Karaoke**  
*Thursday, 11 September 11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Life Center Community Room*  
120 minutes of action-packed fun. The first six solo performers will receive a 2014-2015 Student Life t-shirt.

**Fall Fun Dangle & Tailgate**  
*Tuesday, 16 September 11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Life Center east patio, under the Bridge*  
Complimentary heavy tailgate snacks, dessert and drinks. Live or recorded music. Wear your favorite college or pro football team shirt or jersey!

## Get to Know GC Clubs and Organizations

Looking for a place to share your interests? Check out these monthly club meetings or contact an advisor. Each group has something different to offer, but every one promises a host of new opportunities for students who want to get involved.

Expand your college network today!

**Student Government Association**  
First Mondays  
12:15-12:45 p.m.  
Life Center Viking Room

**Cultural Diversity Club**  
First & third Tuesdays  
12 - 1 p.m. South Campus  
Second & fourth Fridays  
12 - 1 p.m. Life Center Conference Room

**Welding Technologies Association**  
First & third Mondays  
12 - 1 p.m.  
CTC Break Room

**Grayson Nursing Student Association**  
Second Wednesdays  
7:45 - 8:45 a.m. Life Center Viking Room

**Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society/Writer's Unlimited**  
Second Fridays 12 p.m.  
Library 110

**LAE (Criminal Justice Club)**  
Every Tuesday  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
Location TBA

**Student Ambassadors**  
First & third Mondays  
12 - 1 p.m. Life Center Viking Room

**Eta Sigma Delta Culinary Arts Honor Society**  
First Wednesdays 2:30 - 3 p.m.  
Culinary Arts Building

**Men of Distinction**  
Every Thursday  
12 - 1 p.m. Life Center Viking Room

**The Clay Club**  
Every Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Ceramic Room, Arts & Communications

**Paramedic Student Association**  
September 4, October 1, December 1: 12 - 1 p.m.  
November 3: 3 - 4 p.m.  
Life Center Viking Room

**TIPPS (Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management)**  
First Wednesdays  
3 - 4 p.m. Culinary Arts  
691 Restaurant

**Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society**  
fordd@grayson.edu

**Future Educators**  
Day & Location TBA  
harveyk@grayson.edu

**HALO (Hispanic American Leadership Organization)**  
mckelvam@grayson.edu

**Psychology Club**  
Every Tuesday  
12:15 - 12:50 p.m.  
CIS 202

**Gay Straight Alliance**  
Every Wednesday  
2:30 - 3 p.m.  
Location TBA

**Veteran Student Association**  
First Mondays  
Time TBA Veteran's HUB

**DAAC (Drugs and Alcohol Counseling)**  
First Mondays  
Time TBA HS 202

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

**Radiology Technology Club**  
The 15th of each month  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
HS 200

**Cosmetology Club**  
First Mondays  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Career Tech Center

**Phi Theta Kappa**  
Every Wednesday  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
LA 107

**Honors College Club**  
Every Thursday  
1 - 2 p.m. Life Center Viking Room

**Care Center (BSM)**  
Bernie Gallagher  
903-463-8798

**Delta Phi Delta Art Club**  
First Wednesdays  
Time TBA Arts & Communications 105

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes**  
gallagherb@grayson.edu

**Sisters of Destiny**  
Contact  
youngm@grayson.edu

**Vocational Student Nursing Association**  
Contact  
mceacherna@grayson.edu

**Electrical Technology Club**  
Dates & Times  
TBA



**Science Club**  
First Fridays  
12:15 p.m. S 107

For contact information go to [www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu). In the "Current Students" menu, click "Student Life" and follow the "Clubs/Organizations" link.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

## CLUB RECOGNITION DAY

A GREAT CHANCE TO MEET AND RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS!

Wednesday, 17 September  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

under the Bridge/along main walkways

### CLUBS:

Please prepare a quarter to half page informational handout and a sign-up sheet

### STUDENTS:

Take time to see what GC clubs and organizations have to offer you!

Coming soon from SGA

HALL-O-FEST 2014  
October 30  
plus

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



Outdoor Screening



**Sweet Treats Stop**

Complimentary sweet pastries, snacks and more, provided by Great Western Dining Service. Hosted by Student Life.

First & third Wednesdays  
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Life Center, 2nd Floor

**September Late Night Food Event - Hamburger Feed**

Tuesday, 9 September  
9:00 - 10:00 p.m. Life Center Food Court

Complimentary burger, tots, dessert and drink provided by Great Western Dining Service. Hosted by Student Life.

**It's My Life Student Leadership Series**

Monday, 22 September  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m. LA 101

The Student Leadership Series meets the fourth Monday of each month. Business leaders share their leadership philosophy in today's competitive environment. Students and employees are invited.

**Foosball, Video Game, Ping Pong, Table Games and 8 Ball Tournaments**

Registration:  
22 September - 3 October  
Register in the Student Life office. Additional tournament information, rules etc. are also available. Students and employees are invited to participate.

**BSM Free Luncheon**

Every Wednesday  
11:45 - 12:30 p.m.  
Baptist Student Union

**BSM Bible Study**

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

**GC Spirit Days**

Fridays  
Employees wear blue jeans and GC shirt.

# New library print management system saves students time and money while reducing waste

Andrew Smith  
Librarian

The library is proud to announce the availability of a new print management system in our computer lab. This system, from GoPrint Systems, Inc., was instituted over the summer in recognition of the library lab's heavy usage and printing demand, as well as the desire to save time and reduce waste.

The key function of the print management system is its ability to let users send multiple print jobs to a queue where the prints are only released upon the student paying for and retrieving them at the print release station. Users can see exactly how many pages they are printing, as well as how much they need to pay in order to get their prints.

Not only is this setup more convenient, it will also help to reduce waste as well as offer more security, accountability and autonomy for users.

Previously, the printers were located behind the circulation desk, where students would often have to wait in line to retrieve and pay for their print jobs. Having to sort through multiple print jobs was often a cum-

bersome process for both students and library staff. This new system alleviates the problems of the previous setup, and allows library staff to assist students and faculty with their information needs. A survey conducted by the library during the Spring 2014 semester showed student support for such a system being put into place.

For convenience, each workstation has step-by-step instructions on how to use the GoPrint client, and the print release station likewise features directions on releasing prints.

Following are the many benefits we have already seen this system have on the computer lab, its users and library staff.

**Convenience**

Users can send multiple print jobs before having to retrieve them, as well as not have to sort through several other print jobs just to find their own. Another feature we are looking to add at a later time is mobile printing, where users could send print jobs to the queue from their own laptop or other mobile device!

**Economy**

Users only pay for what they need or want. Any print jobs left in the queue simply expire after a certain amount of time, with no outstanding financial obligation for the user. The library will likewise be able to save money on the expense of paper and toner (not to mention reducing waste!), since only released prints are what will be utilizing those resources.

**Security**

Users can print documents containing private information without worrying about others seeing that information. This is possible since only the user can pay for and release their own print jobs.

**Accountability**

Users are aware of how much they are printing since they won't be able to obtain prints without paying for them.

Previously, users would sometimes print large documents without realizing it, when they only needed a portion of the file. The print management system shows the cost of the print job and allows the user to cancel and re-send the print job with modified parameters (e.g., a selected page range or mul-

multiple slides per page) so that they aren't printing anything unnecessarily.

**Autonomy**

Users can pick up their prints at their leisure without worrying about someone else walking off with them or having to interrupt their work every time they print something. They can simply go to the release station to retrieve all their prints and be done.

Although we know there will be a bit of a learning curve explaining the new system to users, we are excited about the benefits articulated above. At this time, the library computer lab is serving as a "beta test" location for potential campus-wide expansion of this system.

Among other benefits, this means that the user would be able to send a print to another printer location on campus to pick up later, as well as utilize a stored account that could be tied to their user ID/student ID. (At this time, the system only accepts bills or coins for payment.) There is a lot of potential for growth with this product, but for the time being we are very excited to introduce this new system to users, and are happy to help with any questions you have.

**Print Management**

## How it Works

- 1. User sends print job as they normally would - 'File, Print' or 'Ctrl-p'**
- 2. User creates and then logs in to their GoPrint account**
- 3. User then sees a list of their print job(s), which they may then select and send to the printer queue**  
(User may also cancel any print job at this time)
- 4. User goes to the release station, selects their user ID from the touch screen monitor, and follows the on-screen prompts to select and pay for their prints**

Veterans, now that the new semester is upon us, it's time to check out what the Veterans office at Grayson College has to offer. Whether you need some help navigating your education benefits or just want a quiet place to study, the Veterans Office can help. The Veterans Hub is a great place to hang out with other Veterans between classes or to get ready for that upcoming test.



We're also looking forward to an exciting year in the Student Veteran Association. We're going to be holding meetings soon and hope to have a lot of great activities this school year, so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Contact the Veterans office at 903-415-2615, or email [veterans@grayson.edu](mailto:veterans@grayson.edu)

## ATTENTION VETERANS!

THE GRAYSON COLLEGE VETERAN'S OFFICE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

- Academic Advising
- VA Educational Benefits
- Connect to other Veterans

**Check out the Veteran's Hub!**

**UPCOMING SPEAKERS:**

Sept 4 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Gretchen Huff, GC Career Services

Sept 9 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Ken Farmer, a former Marine with expert knowledge of firearms and horseback riding  
Celebrated actor (*Silverado*, *Friday Night Lights*, "Walker: Texas Ranger," and more)  
Author of *Black Eagle Force: Eye of the Storm*, winner of 2012 North Texas Festival book award

**LOCATED ON THE BRIDGE**

## QUESTIONS?

**PLEASE CALL 903-415-2615**

OR EMAIL  
[VETERANS@GRAYSON.EDU](mailto:VETERANS@GRAYSON.EDU)

## Small steps to creating a healthier campus environment

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

America is in the midst of a much-needed "Green" movement, a heightened state of environmental consciousness popularized by climate science and 'all natural' merchandizing. Yet Americans still pump billions of pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere each year. Numbers can be intimidating; many feel that as only one voice, they have no control over their environmental situation. However, organization at the campus/local level is a very real power that individuals possess and can take advantage of to begin making a difference.

After studying and sur-

veying the Grayson College campus, I've come up with a few ideas about how we can all make a greater effort to rescue Earth's fragile environment.

The first, which is already underway, is a motion to remove Styrofoam cups and containers from campus dining services. *Why remove Styrofoam? Is it not recyclable?* Many forms of Styrofoam are in fact recyclable. The problem with using such materials is that the facilities for recycling them simply do not exist in this area. Neither Denison nor Sherman can process these items, so until a sorting solution is proposed to properly dispose of them, I believe that replacement with

sustainable, non-bleached paper is the most viable solution.

Diane Radcliff, GC Food Services Director, has assured me that this issue is indeed on her radar. It is possible (but not certain) that changing to a new material, be it paper or plastic, will result in a slight increase in expense per meal. *Is it worth it?* Considering the fact that Styrofoam products in landfills will never degrade and may prove toxic to the land they pollute, I would say yes.

Another issue plaguing this campus is automobile emissions from the vast multitude of commuters. Of course it is wise to carpool, but GC being a largely commuter-based school, it

seems there are few other options for decreasing these types of emissions. From my perspective, since we can not control the outpouring of greenhouse gases caused by a student's commute to school, we can at least try to regulate automobile emissions at school. According to EPA.gov, idling even light-duty cars and trucks can emit between 6.19 and 8.12 grams of CO (carbon monoxide) per minute. Heavy duty and diesel vehicles are apt to release even more. These figures may seem insignificant, but when multiplied by the large number of regular perpetrators on campus, the results may be surprising.

It is therefore my proposal

that GC add to or reform its policies regarding idling cars in the parking lot. If we are perceived as an environmentally-friendly campus, our actions and policies must reflect our commitment.

If you were able to read this article with a clear conscience, I applaud you for your service to the planet--as Carl Sagan put it, "the only home we've ever known." If not, I beseech you to make a positive change. Participating in the monthly litter pick-ups on campus is a great way to start. If you will not do these things for yourself, I urge you to consider your fellow man and the future generations whose survival will depend on it. ♥

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

# Welding Tech Association shows commitment to service learning with pond improvement project



Rebecca Jones

For many, this small body of water has long been an eyesore. The Welding Technologies Association hopes to make the space more hospitable to students and guests by clearing the water of extraneous algae and the surrounding shores of dense foliage. The addition of picnic tables and walking paths will make the area feel much like a park.

A large pond rests nearly undisturbed in the northeast corner of the campus. Many students may even be as yet unaware of its existence. Besides the occasional duck sighting, the pond has few residents and even fewer visitors. Greg Beckley, club advisor, and the Welding Technologies Association would like to change that.

"I get tired of driving in every morning and seeing it in the same shape," Beckley said. The college's new Service Learning initiative, a program that aims to incorporate volunteering and community service into the classroom, was the perfect catalyst for this environmentally-friendly proposal. "The students in the welding program are capable of gathering equipment/ideas, drawing up blueprints and building," said Beckley, and, over the course of this school year, they and other campus volunteers will begin to clear and beautify the pond.

Steps in the improvement project will include dragging the pond to remove old debris; cedar trees will be used to replace/replicate fish habitat. Welding students are also expected to remove the majority of the underbrush which currently makes the north side of the pond inaccessible. Beckley hopes that the creation of beaten paths will encourage more students to visit this side of campus, whether for exercise or leisure. The club also plans to erect picnic tables and treat the water's overgrowth of algae.

Another of the club's goals for this project is to increase wildlife diversity by adding new species of fish to the

pond. A new floating dock will also give students, staff and faculty a chance to fish, though a policy has not yet been determined for release/removal.

Beckley stated that his overall expectations for the project are high, both for community and learning outcomes. "When we leave here," he said, "we would like to see the pond not only looking good, but being used."

The club still has quite a bit of planning to do before they announce a working schedule, but volunteers from across campus are welcome to dig in on work days.

BBQ is likely on the menu.

This is a big year for the GC welding department: new faculty and new technology means new opportunities for student advancement. A state-funded grant allowed the department to install eight brand new VR-TEX virtual welding machines in GC labs on the Denison and Van Alstyne campuses. These allow students to safely practice their skills and even win prizes like valuable welding equipment for top scores. The new virtual machines also enable faculty to quickly assess student progress and dispatch this data to the state.

"Service learning is not just volunteering," said Leon Deutsch, Director of Teaching and Learning at GC, it connects learning outcomes with hands-on service experience to help students understand their responsibility to the community. When service and course credit meet, everyone wins. ♥

to help students understand their responsibility to the community. When service and course credit meet, everyone wins. ♥



Rebecca Jones

Each time the student finished a weld, Professor Beckley was able to view the finished product on the screen and provide pointers about how he could improve his technique

## Keep the Conversation Going

Have an idea about how the college could be more environmentally friendly?

Contact the Viking to share your opinion!

jonesre@grayson.edu



Save the Date...  
"Just Doo It"  
October 21, 2014

Campus-wide breast cancer awareness rally

Ideas are available for student groups.  
Call Gretchen Huff  
x2544 or huffg@grayson.edu

## Hurricane Creek Rotary Club presents: Casino Night 27 Sept, South Campus

Clay Lewis  
Student

The Hurricane Creek Rotary Club's annual Casino Night will be held on Saturday, 27 September 2014, at the Grayson College South Campus (1455 West Van Alstyne Parkway) from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event is open to all above the age of eighteen, and the ticket price will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and water. Alcohol will be provided responsibly through the use of a limited number of "drink" tickets per attendee.

Tickets are available now from any Rotarian or by calling 972-924-2870. Ticket prices are \$50 per ticket or \$75 per couple.

The event will offer casino games including, blackjack, roulette, Texas Hold'em and craps. Along with the casino games, a silent auction will be held, with the proceeds going towards the Rotary's charity donations and volunteer work.

At the end of the night, you can exchange your casino chip winnings for tickets to enter a drawing. Several

large prizes will go home with the lucky winners. Last year's prizes included trips, iPads, a large flat-screen television, a camera and an Apple TV device. According to Ann Goade, who attended last year's event, attendees can look forward to "visiting with friends, [the] silent auction, [great] food, [and fun] games." Last year, Goade won a two-night stay at Choctaw Casino in Durant, Oklahoma, at the end of the night.



If your company would like to sponsor this great event, there are two levels of sponsorships. The "High-Roller"-level sponsorship costs \$500 and provides the company with four tickets to

the event and advertising on Facebook and at the event. The "Dealer"-level sponsorship includes two tickets to the event and advertising on Facebook. For more information, please see the event page on Facebook.

The event proceeds will fund Hurricane Creek Rotary's donations to charitable organizations and relief efforts internationally. Locally, the Rotary club at Hurricane Creek serves the cities of Howe, Van Alstyne, and Anna. Funds will also be used to fund the Rotary's volunteer work in our area. The funds from Casino Night will provide \$1000 scholarships to graduating students from each of those city's high schools, \$500 awards to each school district's Teacher of the Year and the Rotary club selects students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, or RYLA, leadership camp in Midlothian, Texas.

Also, as Rhonda Lewis, current member and former club president, explained, the Hurricane Creek Rotary Club has also donated to local and international

projects, such as the Rehabilitation Center in Grayson County, the Freshwater Project, the Rotary Stove Project and the Rotary Literacy Project.

Lewis described Rotary as the world's first volunteer service organization, being founded in 1905. The Rotary clubs are non-religious, non-partisan and open to every race, culture and creed. The twenty-five members of Hurricane Creek Rotary Club meet each Thursday at noon at the Hurricane Creek Country Club in Anna, Texas.

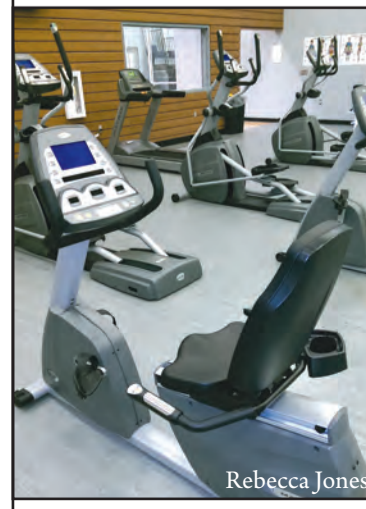
Rotary clubs all over the world support community projects at home and abroad through local fundraising. Kim Teel, Rotary member and former Rotary president, reports that the Casino Night is the club's only fundraiser. In the past, the club has also held golf tournaments. Cherry's Casino Parties will be providing the games for the event, and Grayson College's Culinary Arts Program will cater the event. ♥

Check it out!



Rebecca Jones

THE FITNESS CENTER HAS BEEN EQUIPPED WITH 10 NEW PIECES OF CARDIO EQUIPMENT!



Rebecca Jones

# The Writing Center Presents

## 20-Minute Flash Classes

**What is a "Flash Class"?** Flash classes are part of a specially designed curriculum of college writing topics, tailored to meet the needs of GC students. Face-to-face sessions take just 20 minutes, while the online videos provide a comprehensive lesson in less than ten!

Classes will take place in the Writing Center (Library 110) at the dates and times listed below:

Week	Dates	12:30 – 12:50 p.m.	3:00 – 3:20 p.m.
3	9/8-9/11	Essay Pre-Planning	Essay Planning
4	9/15-9/18	Developing the Essay	Parts of the Essay
5	9/22-9/25	Titles and Thesis Statements	Grammar and Mechanics
6	9/29-10/2	MLA Style Basics	APA Style Basics
7	10/6-10/9	Narration, Description, Process Analysis	Compare and Contrast
8	10/13-10/16	Cause and Effect, Classification, Definition, Exemplification	Argument
9	10/20-10/23	Research I	Research II
10	10/27-10/30	Other Essay Formats	Resumes
11	11/3-11/6	Cover Letters	Correspondence
12	11/10-11/13	Proposals	Reports
13	11/17-11/20	Chicago Style Basics	CSE Style Basics

New! Visit our website for more information: [www.writingcenter2.wix.com/gcwritingcenter](http://www.writingcenter2.wix.com/gcwritingcenter)

## GC offers new T-STEM scholarships

Shelle Cassell  
Marketing Director

Classes are under way at Grayson College, but new scholarships are available. Up to 53 GC students could receive financial assistance, thanks to a grant the college received for the second year in a row from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Awarded for its Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (T-STEM) Challenge Scholarship, the college expects to allot up to \$2,500 per qualifying student for the 2014-2015 academic year.

"T-STEM Challenge Scholarships are merit scholarships based on past and continued student performance in specific instructional programs," said Janis Thompson, grant writer and program development specialist at the Grayson College Foundation. "Students can apply the funds toward tuition, fees, necessary textbooks and classroom supplies."

Some of the fields included in this scholarship opportunity are: biology; chemistry; computer science and

information systems, computer maintenance and networking technology, and computer network administration; dental assisting; drafting and design/CAD; electrician; emergency medical technology; engineering; geology; heating, air conditioning and refrigeration technology; mathematics; medical laboratory technology; physics; and radiologic technology.

To qualify, applicants must have a 3.0+ GPA on all math and science courses on their high school transcripts (or equivalent on GED scores) and be a self-declared major in one of the qualified T-STEM programs at Grayson College. They also must agree to work no more than 15 hours a week in their chosen instructional program area or related field, or for a business participating in the T-STEM program. All applicants, unless exempt, must have a statement on file that he or she is registered with the Selective Service System.

"These scholarships assist Grayson College's full-time students of any age who are majoring in any of the T-STEM instructional programs," said Tina Dod-

son, director of annual giving for the GC Foundation. "Recipients must complete at least 80% of all semester credit hours to retain his/her T-STEM scholarship for the following semester."

Established by the 82nd Texas Legislature, the T-STEM Challenge Scholarship Grant Program provides Texas public community and technical colleges with grants for merit-based scholarships for qualifying, high-achieving students. Participating colleges like Grayson develop partnerships with local business and industry to identify local employment needs in T-STEM occupations and develop part-time employment opportunities for T-STEM scholarship recipients.

For more information about the T-STEM Challenge Scholarship or to complete the scholarship application, go to [www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu) and click on "Extended Scholarship Opportunity for STEM Students" under News & Announcements, or contact Dodson at 903-463-8716 or [dodsont@grayson.edu](mailto:dodsont@grayson.edu).

## Important changes in financial aid that may affect you

Michelle Flores  
Financial Aid

When you are around a game long enough, you learn to understand that nothing stays the same forever. Basic economics teaches us that goods and services are constantly changing and evolving around us to fit the supply, demand and needs of a population. This can be no truer for the world of Financial Aid. If you have been, or know somebody who has been attending school for a couple of years, you understand that from year to year, systems change to accommodate growing student populations and technological demands while trying to keep within budgetary restraints. As the new school year is upon us, we in the Office of Financial Aid wanted to touch on some of the key changes that have taken place for this school year.

### IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA:

The days of having to dig out the ole tax returns and dust them off have come and gone. With a simple click, students and parents can have their tax information from the previous year automatically loaded into the FAFSA saving time, effort and frustration. Availability of this feature will depend on the timing of when your taxes were filed and when you are completing the FAFSA.

### Get IRS Tax Transcripts

The Office of Financial Aid is required by Federal Regulations to accept only an IRS Tax Return Transcript when one is required in the FAFSA verification process. They've at least made it a simple issue by developing a special site for individuals to go to to request one. The transcript comes in a PDF format (make sure to turn off your pop-up blockers). The individual can save the file to their computer, print or email it to the Office of Financial Aid! No more signed 1040s!

### Attendance Rules

Did you know that your attendance can affect your financial aid? Sometimes, a student's attendance can change the amount of aid that they are eligible for.

In the event that eligibility has to be recalculated or adjusted for any reason, the following will be considered as "attendance:" physical class attendance where there is a direct interaction between the instructor and the student, submission of an academic assignment, completion of an examination, interactive tutorial, or computer assisted instruction, participation of a study group assigned by the school, participation of an online discussion about academic matters or initiation of contact with an instructor to ask a question about an academic matter.

### Retaking passed classes

If a student is retaking a course that they have previously passed, it will count towards their financial aid eligibility for one more time. After the student has taken the previously passed course for a second time, regardless of the grade received they will no longer be able to count this class towards their eligibility. This applies to students trying to replace a C or a B with an A.

Previously passed courses can only be repeated once and count towards your enrollment. The courses that are most frequently retaken are A&P Lab and Microbiology. For example, if you have received a passing grade (B, C, D) but wish to retake it to make a higher grade (an A), you get one more try with it counting towards your enrollment regardless of if you do better or worse.

### Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

In order for a student to be eligible for Federal Student Aid, he/she must be making Satisfactory Academic Progress. SAP takes a look at a number of things:

1. The student attempted over 150% of the length of a program or previously earned a degree or certificate
2. CUMULATIVE GPA must be 2.0 or above and
3. Completion rate must be at least 67% of courses attempted for the year. SAP is monitored at the end of each semester for students not on probation. Students will be allowed ONE Warning per semester, with the exception of those who complete their program or have taken more than 150% of credit hours to complete their program (they are placed directly on financial aid suspension).

If you are placed on Warning and aren't able to make SAP the next semester you're enrolled, you will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension and must file an appeal. An appeal must document mitigating circumstances that prevented the student from making SAP. Such circumstances include: death in the immediate family, injury or illness of the student or other special circumstances. Acceptable circumstances do not include: feeling overwhelmed, conflict with instructor, changes in work schedule, withdrawing to avoid a bad grade or not being aware of SAP policy. Students' appeals go to a committee for approval or denial.

As always, students with questions or concerns can contact the Office of Financial Aid directly by phone (903)463-8794, by email at [financialaid@grayson.edu](mailto:financialaid@grayson.edu) or you can use GC's Live Chat to connect with a live person. Office hours are Mon-Tues: 8am-6pm and Wed-Fri: 8am-4pm. Students are encouraged to check their Campus Connect frequently to monitor the status of their financial aid.

## Peer Tutoring is located in the Testing Center (SC 115)

Tutors are trained and CRLA certified

Tutoring is scheduled by appointment. Sessions are one hour per week.

Tutoring Center hours:  
M/W/TR 8 AM - 8 PM  
T/F 8 AM - 4 PM

To request a tutor come by or contact Jeffri Johnson Hodge at [hodgej@grayson.edu](mailto:hodgej@grayson.edu).



## BSM Fall Activities

**Wednesday Noon Luncheons:** GC students as well as faculty/staff are invited to the BSM Wednesday Luncheons held throughout the semester. We begin serving the meal, provided by area churches, at 11:50 a.m., followed by a brief program featuring music and speakers from area churches and/or the GC community. There is no charge for this event.

**Noon Time Bible Studies:** Bible study groups will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday during the semester.

**Thursday Night Gathering:** The BSM building will be open on Thursday evenings during the semester for a variety of events including worship, recreation, and small groups.

For more information concerning how you can get involved in BSM, please stop by our building (open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.), visit our webpage at [graysonbsm.com](http://graysonbsm.com), email us at [bsm6101@airmail.net](mailto:bsm6101@airmail.net), or call us at 903-463-8798/903-465-2207. All students on campus are welcome to participate in BSM activities regardless of religious preference.

**Editorial Information:** The Viking is published by Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college. Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff at Grayson College. The newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion, and views expressed in The Viking do not necessarily reflect the policy of Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration or the faculty and staff at Grayson College. Material for publication may be submitted to The Viking office (LA105E) or through email to Marlea Trevino ([TrevinoM@grayson.edu](mailto:TrevinoM@grayson.edu)) or Rebecca Jones ([jonesre@grayson.edu](mailto:jonesre@grayson.edu)). Volunteers for production and writing may also visit The Viking office.

### Are you job searching?



Register for Grayson College's online job board at [www.collegecentral.com/grayson](http://www.collegecentral.com/grayson).

Students and alumni may view job postings from area employers. Remember to check it out frequently to view new opportunities!

Questions: Contact Gretchen Huff, Job Placement Specialist, [huffg@grayson.edu](mailto:huffg@grayson.edu) or 903-415-2544.

# September Photo of the Month



Rick Lynn, Professor of Environmental Geology, submitted the above photos (only two of thousands), taken this summer while on a family vacation. The photo above was recorded at Norris Basin in Yellowstone National Park. The photo at right was captured in Little Wild Horse Canyon at the Goblin Valley State Park in Utah, U.S. Lynn used a Nikon D50 100 DSLR camera.



## Grayson Theatre repeats GPAC

AJ Johnston  
Gabe Parker  
GC Theatre Majors

This past summer Grayson College hosted a Performing Arts Camp for the second year in a row. This camp was held from 8 June - 22 June. During this two-week intensive theatre camp a mixture of 40 students from all across the state came together to



Students and staff GPAC 2014

do what theatre students do best - to put together three wonderful shows!

During these two weeks campers also attended workshop classes designed to

help them hone their skills in acting, singing, dancing, and more.

The shows that were produced this year included "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, "Vinegar Tom" by Caryl Churchill, and "K" adapted by Craig Hertel. "Vinegar Tom" and "K" were performed in Cruce Stark and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was performed in the Black Box theatre. Each show produced had a wonderful team of directors and stage managers, diverse cast and their own crew working lights, sound and backstage.

Although the time limit of two weeks seems like a rush of art, it all came together

with much needed help from everyone committed to these shows. Tenna Matthews served as Tech Director and Lighting designer. Thea Albert designed each set and all costumes. Grayson students Jordan Moore, Gabriel Parker, AJ Johnston, Holden Webster and Bryce Dansby were staff members along with high school technicians and high school directors. The end product was gorgeous!

Campers this year got to work with many award winning directors and teachers including but not limited to Craig Hertel, Gloria McLuckie, Scott Tipton, Amy Jordan, Jon Skupin and many others. Each director created beautiful shows which flashed their wisdom of theatre.

Gloria McLuckie created "A Midsummer Night's

Dream" with the image of dreams. The actors wore pajamas and carried pillows, and along with the painted floor and beautiful fabric



A Midsummer Night's Dream

flying from the ceiling the audience felt like they were viewing a dream.

Craig Hertel adapted his

play "K" from a radio play he had once heard. This new play was filled with questions and surprises. The actors wore modern clothing and the set was painted blue. The audience was left speechless by the play.

Scott Tipton produced "Vinegar Tom" with the thought of witches in his head. This story is about a community that is terrorized by witch craft and terror! The play was set in the 17th century.

The ending results were phenomenal and filled with beauty! The directors were impressed by what their cast and crew had done in just a matter of two weeks, but all good things must come to an end. Tears and love were given to every student as they were sent home with more knowledge of theatre learned from GPAC. ♥

## The Chair as an Artform

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

Truly an expression of each artist, participants in this show were asked to use the concept, image or actual form of a chair to create a work of art. Located in 2nd Floor Gallery in the Arts and Communication Center, this show is certain to surprise its viewers.

*The Chair as an Artform* exhibit features 26 works of art by 16 artists including: Donna Finch Adams, Deeya Bains, Steve O. Black, Arlene Cason, Matthew Freeman, Brandon Gabbert, Shelley Tate Garner, Lynn Karam, Mary Karam, Christian McGowan, Nitia Musico, Michael Musico, Jerome Noel, Mary Rixen, Joey Spindle and Marie Van Arsdale. A reception will be held Saturday, 6 September from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The works in this exhibit vary greatly in size and complexity; despite their similar inspiration, each artist gave their own sharply contrasted views on the subject. Through their use of lines, as in the sophisticated photography of Mary Van Arsdale, or color, as in Mary Karam's painted seat, we can interpret the artist's relationship to the object itself. How did they treat the chair? Did they batter it, like Steve O. Black's "Martyr" (bottom right)? Or give it a makeover, like Brandon Gabbert's "Tonatiuh" (bottom left)?

The show will be up until 25 September. *The Circle as a Metaphor*, a breast cancer awareness show, will follow 29 September - 26 October.



Rebecca Jones




Rebecca Jones



Rebecca Jones

Top: "Cut the Kids in Half," by Jerome Noel. Bottom left: "Tonatiuh," by Brandon Gabbert. Bottom right: "Martyr," by Steve O. Black.


# GODSPELL



Conceived and Originally Directed by JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK  
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ  
Originally Produced on the New York Stage by EDAGR LANSBURY/STUART DUNCAN/JOSEPH BERUH

Oct 23 @ 10am & 7:30pm \* Oct 24 & 25 @ 7:30pm \* Oct 26 @ 2:30pm

CRUCE STARK AUD  
903-463-8609 theatre@grayson.edu  
Tickets: \$5



## His Way: Notes from a Journey "His Thoughts"

Kay Dishner  
Writing Center  
Coordinator

"For as the heavens are higher than Earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9)

Most of us never get beyond the acts of God to see the ways of God. Nor, do we get beyond the words of God to hear the thoughts of God. His ways and His thoughts are what are behind His acts and His words.

God will show you what you look for, and He will tell you what you listen for. If all you ever look at are the acts

of God, then that is all that you will ever see. But, if you will look for His way ... you will find it.



If all you listen for are His words, then that is what you will hear... words. But, if you seek to know His thoughts, He

will share them with you and bless your life with knowledge and wisdom, the keys to life with contentment.

If we will seek to know the ways and thoughts of God, He will share His heart with us and we will know Him as Friend. ♥

# PTK update: Summer fun and Fall returns

## PTK Officers

Hello Everyone! Welcome back to a new Fall term at Grayson College. Your Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Chapter, Omicron Psi, has had an extremely enriching summer setting up for the amazing year to come. We elected new officers at the end of the Spring term and traveled to Weatherford College in June for a joint chapter Officer Orientation.

Also in June, Professor Mary Linder, chapter advisor, and Tana Pirtle, First Vice President, attended the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Institute and heard amazing speakers such as Dr. Nina Tandon, who spoke about biomedical engineering, and oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle.

Chapter officers traveled to Georgetown in July for the Texas Honors Institute to hear from a Holocaust survivor and two Tuskegee Airmen. These events broadened our horizons and prepared us for a successful year to come.

Omicron Psi's first chapter event of the semester will be to host the annual Constitution Day Celebration. The event, which is open to the public, will be held on September 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the CWL Auditorium. Dr. Chase Machen and Professor Linder will once again lead the event. If previous years are any indication, the event is sure not only to be educational, but a lot of fun as well. Make plans to attend this event!

When it comes to The Phi

Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Texas stays true to its history and does it bigger than the rest. Grayson College has the privilege of hosting this year's Texas Leadership Conference, a conference that will play host to over 400 fellow Texan Phi Theta Kappans. Omicron Psi, the faculty and staff of Grayson College and our community is ecstatic about the chance to host this prestigious event and show all of Texas what we have to offer.

We hope that you will be joining us for all of our fun-filled activities, service and fellowship this Fall semester. Omicron Psi will host our weekly fellowship time at 12:00 p.m. followed by our weekly meetings at 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday

in Room 207 in the Liberal Arts Building. Grab a free lunch from our friends over at the BSM and join us each week!



Omicron Psi is thrilled to be back on campus and back in a new semester so let's have some fun and good times as we count down our way to our Fall Induction! Be watching for your invitation to join this amazing society. ♥

**Library Fall Hours**  
**MAIN CAMPUS**  
 Sunday 1-5  
 Monday 7:45-8:00  
 Tuesday 7:45-6:00  
 Wednesday 7:45-6:00  
 Thursday 7:45-8:00  
 Friday 8:00-4:00  
**SOUTH CAMPUS**  
 Monday 11:00-2:00  
 Tuesday 5:00-8:00  
 Wednesday 11:00-2:00  
 Thursday 11:00-2:00

# Sigma Kappa Delta

## English Honor Society

Requirements to Join: minimum 3.0 GPA, one course in English or Literature (grade of "B" or better), minimum 12 credit hours

**W/U**  
**Writers Unlimited**  
 The club regularly attends plays, writing conferences, lectures from local and national authors and more!  
 • Get feedback  
 • Bring a friend!  
 On 4 October, SKD members will travel to Austin College for the first Herald Democrat Writer's Conference from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Get Involved with THE VIKING**  
 Grayson College's Student Newspaper

- Write Articles
- Take Photos
- Get Published

The Viking is an ongoing service project to the college, published by Sigma Kappa Delta and Writers Unlimited

Want more information? Visit the Writing Center (Lib 110) or contact Richard Davis (davisre@grayson.edu) or Marlea Trevino (trevinom@grayson.edu).

# A new look on campus

Beverly Harwell  
 Student

Walking the campus at Grayson College, it is not just the fresh faces of high school graduates that can be seen. Mixed into the crowd were the faces of an entirely new group of college students. Seen on college campuses now are students who are attempting to receive a high school equivalent, students still in high school and even college graduates furthering their degrees.

Telena Christie was on campus in July verifying that her transcript had been forwarded to ECU. Christie was one of many being assisted by GC's helpful administrative personnel. "As a single mother in my 30s, I am now in nursing school, bettering my future for myself and my children," said Christie.

Is it difficult to attend college and balance a family life? Christie's response was the same as GC student Dori

Kirk's and other students': "You have to find the balance and look for a support group."

Many students rely on family and friends to work out schedules dealing with children at home. Even without jobs, finding the time to study with children at home can pose a problem. Kirk stated, "I have learned to work my study time around my girls' school schedule, and during exam times, my mother watches them for me so I can study."

Coordinating a job, family and school is the hardest challenge for many Grayson students. Christie, a night nurse's aide at TMC, has managed to do all three. Others stated that they often go directly to GC from work, then follow it with a night of family responsibility.

Not all students are attending college full-time, some only attend classes part-time. Juanita Smith, a female student in her sixties

who is enrolled in just one course, said "I'm just starting with one class to see how I do."

College was a choice that many did not have in the past. Many empty-nesters are enrolling in college for the first time, others continuing with a degree started years ago.

With children grown and time on their hands, people of both sexes now have the extra money and free time they lacked in the past. Many agree it has given them time to look back on what their dreams have been. It is not uncommon now to see parents and current high school graduates enrolling in college at the same time.

Age is never a reason not to continue with an education. This is apparent on campus, as you see students of both sexes, all ages and all nationalities helping each other. ♥

# A letter from the Editor

Rebecca Jones  
 Editor

Welcome back students, staff and faculty to a brand new semester at GC. The word on everyone's lips still seems to be 'summer,' so to begin I will tell you a little about mine.

Some people don't call eight a.m. 'early.' Those people are insane. Three days a week, I awoke with the sun before seven a.m. to travel to GC and the Writing Center to work on a special curriculum of writing topics that could be covered in 20 minutes or less.

We call our product a "Flash Class" and its comprehensive contents are compiled into a series of Powerpoint presentations that can be viewed as videos with commentary or downloaded directly from our website. An accompanying worksheet tests viewer comprehension. As a member of the staff who worked tirelessly to log details about each topic, build a website from the ground up and assist in the creation of each video, I have every hope that this new facet of the Writing Center's already-bountiful services will truly help students looking for assistance with writing projects.

Always a go-getter, last spring I threw my hat in the ring for an office in Student Government. In June, I was formally named President, and, since then, have sought to create and incentivise programs that I believe will

benefit students, staff, faculty and the campus as a whole. As part of a commitment to the school's new environmentally friendly outlook, SGA will hold monthly litter pick-ups, endeavor to remove styrofoam and non-recyclables from campus and attempt to reform school policies regarding idling cars.



SGA also wants to encourage campus clubs and organizations to join forces for special events. We will hold our first annual "Club Recognition Day" 17 September from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. to promote club awareness and involvement.

This summer I also followed my love of history and community service to the Sherman Museum, where I was fortunate to acquire a position on the Board. The museum often hosts speakers and other educational events, and exhibits like "Dino Days" are a big draw for adults and kids alike.

On 27 September, the Sherman Museum will hold its second annual "History Comes Alive" tour at Westhill Cemetery in Sher-

man, Texas. Actors (including me!) will portray men and women from throughout the history of Grayson County at their gravesites. Volunteers are needed to set up and lead tours, so let me know if you would like to help.

But that isn't all! In one final burst of energy, I managed to spend my final weeks of summer vacation in lovely Colorado climbing mountains, camping in remote forests and secretly worrying a lot about bears. For me, the experience was transcendental.

How did you spend your summer? What did you learn from it? How do you think Grayson could improve its environmental policies? Share your stories with the viking: send to jonesre@grayson.edu. ♥



Rebecca Jones  
 GC faculty and staff took the "Ice Bucket Challenge" for a great cause 3 September. The softball team was only too happy to dump a dozen gallons of water on these men and women in the name of ALS and other charitable donations.

**Join SGA**  
**Thursday, 18 September**  
**from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**for our monthly**  
**litter pick-up campaign**  
 Help keep our school clean and safe for all!

Meet us at the BSM!

Interested in writing, editing or photography? Contact Rebecca Jones ([jonesre@grayson.edu](mailto:jonesre@grayson.edu)) for more information

# JOIN THE VIKING

## Do the positives of the clothing industry outweigh the negatives?

Kristin Alexander  
*Student*

Oftentimes monumental issues here in America—such as sanitary restrooms, meal breaks and labor laws—are not viewed by the same standards in other third-world countries. This is rather understandable given the wealth of America compared to other less fortunate countries, nevertheless, if we partake in the “prosperity” that these companies provide for our businesses, should we not also be concerned for those that are giving us this prosperity?

The month of April marked the anniversary of the Rana Plaza clothing factory collapse—an event that killed roughly 1,129 people. The collapse brought to light the numerous compromises that many clothing factory managers had made regarding worker safety. Since the catastrophe, several U.S. companies have questioned whether the clothing factories in Bangladesh are truly beneficial to the community and the workers. And so, this article is part of a series that



looks to discuss whether or not the price of the clothing factories are worth the cost of the workers.

Even though there are many benefits to the clothing factories, there are also many downsides. Oftentimes safety is compromised in order to make quotas and gain larger profit. Taimur Faruk Tusher, a national daily news reporter in Dhaka, Bangladesh, states that there are many reasons for factory owners to neglect a suitable working environment. He says, “There are many competitor[s] of Bangladeshi garment... So Bangladeshi garment owners are trying to supply their prod-

ucts in a low cost rate for the buyers. For this factory owners are not interested in ensur[ing] working environment or workers wage.” He also explains how factory owners will do anything to have an abnormal profit turnover, and that they are willing to take whatever costs—even if it is the life of a worker—to ensure that profit.

Rob Alexander, the Health & Safety Maintenance Manager at the Kwickset plant in North Texas, deals everyday with ensuring that safety regulations are in place so that his workers are protected. He says: “Every year here in America, around 4,000

people die in the workplace. This is the number of fatalities based on about 100 million workers. So if you take that original four thousand and split it up between the 100 million workers, it would mean that for 100,000 workers, 3 people would die. “However, in Bangladesh, there are a supposed 62,000 fatalities every year—and even this is old data. This means that basically, for every 100,000 employees in Bangladesh, 11 of them are going to die.”

The safety regulations set in place in Bangladesh do not sufficiently protect workers lives. The rate alone of work-related deaths in Bangladesh to deaths in America is almost four times as many. So, the question that differentiates these two countries is—how much is a life worth?

Alexander continues, “More people work in America than in Bangladesh, and you would think the higher fatality rate would be in the country with more people. But even if we were to move the exact same jobs that are being done in Bangladesh to

here in America, the fatality rate would still be lower than in Bangladesh.”

The clothing factories in Bangladesh are very important. Often, they will provide immeasurable benefits to the workers in the community, and the community itself. However, at present, there are still many steps that have to be taken in order to ensure worker safety.

Stephanie Mexia, a former Grayson student who visited Bangladesh to teach English, states that there are many instances of clothing factories that are not positive. She says, “There are stories of places that are wretched and [I have heard] stories of basic slave labor.... Third world countries, Bangladesh included, need a step up in the information generation. Where all first world countries have already had an ‘Industrial Revolution,’ and have moved on through technology towards the Information Generation, third world countries have not really had this stepping stone...any factory should respect their employees, and treat them accordingly.”

## Student Life Annual Picnic



Rebecca Jones



Rebecca Jones

This year’s opening picnic allowed students to soar to new heights! Culinary Arts provided fresh cookies, while Willy Kickit provided live music. Students cheered on their peers as many took the challenge: climbing a rock wall over two stories tall.



Rebecca Jones

## “Do you live with lions?” and other popular misconceptions about Africa

Estelle Houndanou  
*Kokou, Student*

People often say that there are no stupid questions. But when a person travels abroad from a continent like Africa, often considered “under-developed” when compared to the most powerful country in the world, he or she may be asked odd questions that reveal strange assumptions about this continent. As an international student from Benin in the United States, I could never imagine some of the questions I was asked by some American students at Grayson College.

Grayson College educates many international students from different countries and even different continents of the world. There are students here from Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and North America, but African students are especially well represented. Responding to an informal survey of some African students at Grayson about their experience with American students in our college, Kekeli Eklou, from Togo, said, “Where is Africa?” was the first unbelievable question she got from one American student at the college. Her reaction was, “Really? ‘Where is Africa?’”

Like her, I was surprised that in 2014 with internet, television and all the technologies U.S. citizens can access that a student can ask such a question, and I wondered what teachers were teaching students here in high school when back in my African country of Benin, I had to learn that there are five continents in the world. And that of those five

continents, Africa is one. In fact, Africa is not a country but a continent made up of fifty-six countries, and at Grayson, eight of those fifty-six are represented in the international student population.

This semester, Grayson educates students from different countries of Africa such as Benin (3), Burundi (2), Cameroon (1), Congo Brazzaville (2), Gabon (7), Kenya (2), Nigeria (1) and Togo (2).

Of course, many American GC students know that Africa is a continent. But these students may believe other stereotypes about it. I remember when I had just come to Grayson College, one student asked me a bunch of questions after I told him that I am from Benin, a country in West Africa. “Really? Do you live with lions? Do you live in trees?” he asked excitedly. I was so offended that day because coming from Africa does not mean that we live like monkeys in trees. But now, those kinds of questions make me smile because I understand that a lot of people here do not know the real Africa.

Africa is not all a jungle filled with wild animals. Africa is made up of beachside, grassy, mountainous and urban landscapes. Most people live in houses like in America, maybe not as beautiful as some houses here but definitely not in trees. In fact, the first time I ever saw lions was here in the Dallas Zoo! It is true that there are a lot of animals in different countries in Africa, but they are in wildlife parks, and people have to pay a lot of money to

see them.

Another theory that Grayson students sometimes have has to do with our language. American students are often surprised when they hear that we are from Africa, but we speak French. As Muguisha Nitunga, a student from Burundi, reports, “Do you guys speak African?” was one of the questions a Grayson student asked her. We do not speak “African” because “African” is not a language. Most citizens of African countries speak French or English, according to their colonizers. There are some African countries where Spanish is spoken. Besides European languages, there are an estimated 2,000 different languages or dialects spoken in Africa.

There are many other puzzling questions students here ask about Africa. A lot of students think that all children are dying of hunger there. No, no and NO! Africa is like America with poor and rich people.

It is sad to say that all those stereotypes about Africa are not only held by students at Grayson College but by students in many other developed countries as well. Talking with some friends in France, Canada, Belgium and other countries, we students from Africa have to deal with such questions every single day all over the world.

Africa is not defined by either jungles or poverty, and it is not hopeless. But it is a beautiful continent, rich in cultural diversities with an economy that is growing very quickly.



Rebecca Jones

Michael Rains, whose story was published serially in the Viking last year, stopped by the Writing Center to show off his lovely children. Read his articles in the Viking archives on Grayson.edu.

**SGA** Meetings held on the first Monday of each month

student government association

“Students Leading Students”

Student club and organization members are invited as well as all students. SGA is the voice of students at GC. 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. Viking Room

**SIX NINETY-ONE** GC'S STUDENT-RUN RESTAURANT

Gourmet menus

budget-friendly prices

Reservations for Wednesday and Friday lunch service: 903.415.2605

# GC students learn about the language and culture of Costa Rica



Eleven students completed a four-week study abroad program in Costa Rica. Students experienced culture first-hand and increased their proficiency in Spanish while living with Costa Rican families and attending a language school.



1: Front to back, bottom left: Olivia Melton, Caroline Hanson, Kelsey Boyd, Kendra Cook, Summer Tate, Erika Benavides, Ashley Bowden, Allyson Weber, Daniel Lucas, Graham Gilvar (not pictured: Anna McGowen). 2: Brave ones ready to zip line in the cloud forest, despite the rain. Daniel Lucas, Graham Gilvar, Kelsey Boyd, Ashley Bowden, Caroline Hanson, Summer Tate, Anna McGowen, Olivia Melton. 3: Hike along the Rio Celeste River to the waterfall. 4: Students taking part in cultural activities. (Photo credit: Mary Yetta McKelva)

# Recrutez moi! I need a job: economic hardship for international students in America

Estelle Houndanou  
Kokou, Student

Traveling abroad after obtaining their high school diploma has always been the desire of many students. The United States is most often chosen among many other countries by international students. Each year, different universities and colleges enroll international students from different continents. Grayson College educates students from Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and North America.

Leaving family and friends behind, these students in search of a better education face no easy task. Each country has its challenges for the visitor or the student. As international students at GC from Africa face many difficulties. For those who do not know, international students with an F-1 Visa do not have the right to work off campus, which is the biggest difficulty international Af-

rican students at Grayson have is the jobs problem.

Most of the international students' parents make a lot of sacrifices to pay their children's tuition here because, as international students, the government law does not allow them to work off campus. Working on campus is the only way for international students to work legally in the United States. If they work off campus, they can lose their status and can be sent back home.

However, Grayson College does not give a lot of on-campus job opportunities to those students. It is true that some international students are working as tutors in the Math Hub, but they must have an "A" in the subject they tutor. Others work in the office of Bradley McClenny, who is the International Student Advisor at Grayson. But the jobs problem still is a huge one because not all the international students are eligible to tutor, and McClenny cannot

employ all these students due to his budget. Working as a tutor or as a desk assistant helps them pay only their phone bills and nothing else. International students need a job that can help them at least to buy their food and clothes so they will not always have to call their parents to ask for money. In fact, for most of those students' parents, sending money from Africa is not easy because of the burden of the exchange rate.

Another challenge for Grayson international students from Africa is that they don't always feel comfortable casually exchanging ideas with American students at Grayson. The language barrier can be the problem, but as Nadia Moussadji, a Grayson student from Gabon said, she would like to be more in contact with American students so she can practice her English but also share her culture with others.

Talking about culture,

there is a Cultural Diversity Club at Grayson College. But are there any American students in that club? No, there is not even one. Most of the club members are international from Africa and Spain. The purpose of that club is to give the chance to students from different backgrounds to share their cultures.

Unfortunately, Grayson international students do not really have the chance outside of class to socialize with students other than their own friends from Africa who speak the same language they do.

The transportation is another problem for those international students who do not have a car. The TAPS bus is doing as much as possible to get students around the area, but still, not having a car is a handicap to them. As Jordan Nze Mba, student from Gabon said, "Since we are not allowed to work off campus, saving money in order to buy a car is out of the picture." Here comes

again the job issue.

Grayson may not give a lot of campus job opportunities to international students, but it is important to acknowledge that studying at Grayson College has its benefits. International students may not have a job on campus that will help them to pay their tuition or buy a car, but they do not pay as much as other students pay at other colleges and universities for their education.

Bradley McClenny characterized this situation as "a fact of give and take." Students at Grayson have to pay about \$5,000 per year while others have to pay \$15,000 per year at some Texas universities. Looked at this way, the jobs problem seems insignificant, yet it greatly affects international students' ability to attend college, build their experience resume, as well as share their culture with American college students. ♥

# Grayson Nursing Department donates medical supplies to Uganda, Africa

Charles Leslie  
Admissions

I was on a mission trip this summer to Uganda, Africa, for two weeks. It was a team of five. We do visit the hospitals when we go and share the Gospel, pray for the sick and take medical supplies. This time I was talking to Shirley Greenway, RN and Lorinda Wall, RN and they said they would donate some medical supplies.

After they finished clearing out the closet we were able to take four duffel bags of medical supplies. Dr. David who we met was able to help take care of one of our team members with a foot infection. We told him that

we brought medical supplies from the college where I work.

He and Arron helped divide the medical supplies. Dr. David is a General Practitioner at the Busolwe Hospital. Some medical supplies went to a clinic where another doctor sees over 100 patients in a day. We went there and found mostly mothers and babies waiting to see the the doctor. Many of the children were sick with fever and the flu.

The team and I are very grateful to Grayson's Nursing Department for the supplies that will go so far in their health care system to help many people. ♥

## HISTORY comes ALIVE

### West Hill Cemetery

Saturday, September 27, 2014

#### The Sherman Museum

*a walking tour fundraiser*

Tour tickets will be sold for small groups at staggered start times, first tour group at 9:30 am, last tour group at 3:30pm

Knowledgeable docents will lead groups (encounters with historic figures are a distinct possibility)

**Tickets must be purchased in advance & are available at**

**Sherman Museum 301 S. Walnut, 903.893.7623**

**Touch of Class Antique Mall 118 W. Lamar**

*purchase online! TheShermanMuseum.org*

\$20 adults | \$15 museum members | \$10 students with ID | FREE children 12 and under

Johnson Burks Supply

Roberts Decorator Supply, Inc.

Great Texas People - Great Texas Bank  
AMERICAN BANK OF TEXAS

BANK OF TEXAS

GOtaps!

ALC  
ADAMI, LINDSEY & COMPANY, L.L.P.

FrameTeam  
the art of picture framing

ACME  
www.acmeautopartsnline.com

BRAKEBILL  
VETERINARY  
HOSPITAL

Texas Health  
Presbyterian Hospital - WNJ

Love Monument Co.  
Monuments that Endure for Ages  
est. 1902

SHERMAN  
301 S. Walnut  
MUSEUM

Herald Democrat  
Waldo Funeral Home

Special thanks to  
Thelma Black Foundation  
Chapman, Inc.  
Touch of Class Antique Mall

## History Comes Alive Volunteer Form

To participate as a volunteer or docent, please detach and fill out this form.

Return to Rebecca Jones (Lib 110) by 19 September.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tele. Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of Availability: Friday, September 26: \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, September 27: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grayson College Theatre Season 2014-15**  
Celebrates Passion! 903-463-8609 theatre@grayson.edu

**GODSPELL**

Nov 21-23 @ 7:30pm  
Nov 23 @ 2:30pm

Black Box Theatre Tickets \$5 Free with Student ID

**Nov 21-23, 2014 Black Box Theatre**  
Tony Award Winning Play. A comedy about male friendship and the definition of "ART".  
(Mature audiences due to language)

**ART**

Nov 21-23 @ 7:30pm  
Nov 23 @ 2:30pm

Black Box Theatre Tickets \$5 Free with Student ID

**Oct 23-26, 2014 CRUCE STARK**  
A rock musical based on St. Matthew and the teachings of Jesus. Music by Stephen Schwartz

**10 MINUTE PLAYS**

April 30-May 2, 2015  
Black Box Theatre  
Short plays that are student produced!

**Feb 18-20, 2015 CRUCE STARK**  
A reworking of Cinderella for the media! Fun for all ages!

**Cinderella Confidential**

Feb 18-20 @ 10am  
Feb 21 @ 7pm

CRUCE STARK AUD  
Tickets \$5  
903-463-8609  
theatre@grayson.edu