



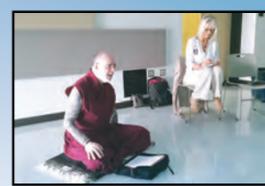
## Honors College 5K

Monies raised fund Relay for Life • Pg. A2



## PTK event at GC

Students study leadership • Pg. B2



## GC offers yoga class

Taught by accredited instructor • Pg. B3

# THE VIKING

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Grayson College

Volume V, Issue III

## Get Involved

**Sweet Treats Stop**  
First and third Wednesdays  
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Life Center, 2nd Floor

**Hump Day "Snack Attack" (New Program)**  
Second and fourth Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Life Center, 2nd Floor

**November First Friday Connection Breakfast**  
The format for this month has changed. Dr. McMillen will be hosting small groups to discuss Achieving The Dream and other topics related to GC. 7 November. The December First Friday Connection will be for all college employees. 5 December, 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Life Center Community Room

**Gym & Fitness Center**  
Monday-Friday  
6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
(ID required)

**Late Night Chili and Soup Event**  
Free to GC students and employees. 12 November  
9:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Life Center Food Court

**Student Leadership Series**  
Monday, 10 November  
Speaker: Doyle Roy\*  
Monday, 24 November  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.  
LA 101 Speaker TBA  
\*Rescheduled from October

**Office Christmas Tree Decorating Contest**  
Limit: 1 tree per office  
Registration: 31 October - 21 November  
Judging: 5 December

**International Week**  
17 - 20 November  
• Monday, 17 November  
Presentation by Austin College Professor Peter Anderson on South Africa. 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**Life Center Viking Room**  
• Tuesday, 18 November:  
"Taste the World," a presentation of Indian and other international cuisines. 12:15 - 1:00 p.m., BSM  
• Thursday, 20 November:  
International Day, featuring tables representing the diversity of home countries of GC international students. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Including a special performance by the Austin College Dance Club at 12 p.m. Life Center, 2nd Floor

**Empty Bowls**  
Thursday, 20 November  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Life Center, 2nd Floor  
Try one of the delicious soups provided by the Culinary Arts students in a handmade bowl from the Clay Club and donate to benefit local children.

**December Late Night Finals Week Breakfast**  
Monday, 8 December  
9:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Life Center Food Court

**Christmas Tree Lighting, Decorating and Caroling Event**  
Tuesday, 2 December, 2 p.m.  
Snacks will be served.

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

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

# Another successful year for 'Just Doo It'

Gretchen Huff  
Job Placement Specialist



Rebecca Jones

On Tuesday, 21 October, GC students, faculty and staff turned out in doo rags and pink to show support for breast cancer awareness. The campus community rallied and raised over \$4,200 to donate to Women Rock, a non-profit organization that provides monetary support to local women fighting breast cancer. Campus breast cancer fighters and survivors were also recognized.

The Future Educators club was recognized for raising the most money (\$1800) and had a catered lunch with President McMillen as their prize. Other campus teams participating were the Culinary Arts & Hospitality Student Group (TIPSS), Student Ambassadors, Radiology Club ("Skelton Krew"), Admissions/Advising, Library, Business Office, Financial Aid, Criminal Justice and Cosmetology.

Continued on page A2



Nick Ellis

Breast cancer survivors like Job Placement Specialist Gretchen Huff and Librarian Lisa Hebert showed their strength by helping to rally the campus and the community for a great cause: financial assistance for local women (and men) battling breast cancer. Women Rock spokesperson Luann Daniel emphasized the need for monthly self-exams.

## Making the transition from warrior to student

Charles B. Crocker  
MSgt, USAF (RET)  
Veterans Benefits Adviser

In 2010, after having served over 20 years in the Air Force, I walked into Grayson College with the intent of beginning a new education. I had already earned a bachelor's degree while on active duty, but found out rather quickly that it is in a subject that is

not sought after by the majority of corporations. My military training was extensive and highly specialized.

Jumping from aircraft and controlling airstrikes against enemy targets does not really equate to anything in the civilian sector outside of military contract jobs. I knew I needed an education in something tangible, and figured that Grayson would be a good place to start since

it is close to home.

Unfortunately, I was not prepared to start that first semester. I had already applied to the school, but never called or looked for any other information until the day I showed up, only to find out I was too late to start that semester.

Even if I had made it in time to register, I hadn't even applied for VA education benefits and had no

idea what I was eligible for. I was however, able to get signed up and ready to go the next semester. I attended exactly one session of one night class and realized it was not going to work out.

I never really discussed my educational plans and schedule with my wife, and hadn't accounted for my part-time job during the day.

Continued on page B3

## Hall-o-Fest: all fun and games this year



Rebecca Jones

Oh, the suspense of giant Jenga! The Music Club hosted this activity and provided music for this spooky event sponsored by Student Life and SGA.

Continued on page B1



## International Week

Gokul Maniventhan  
Treasurer, Cultural Diversity Club

The week of 17 November, 2014 is International Week. There are various events planned by the International Student Office and the Cultural Diversity Club.

On Monday (17 November), author Peter Anderson, an Associate Professor of English from Austin Col-

lege, will be giving a presentation in the Viking Room from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. He will talk about his novel *The Unspeakable*, which deals with issues such as apartheid in South Africa. Anderson will also discuss the difference between South African and American liberation movements and common misconceptions about the two.

Continued on page B4

## Review: The Circle as a Metaphor exhibit

Lisa Hebert  
Librarian

I must let you know I have lived in Europe and have seen and experienced some European art galleries. I remember at 12 seeing the *David*, crowding around to see the *Mona Lisa* (whom I had self proclaimed I was named after), Van Gogh in his own museum, Rembrandt and the list goes on. I have seen

many exhibits in the U.S., from the National Gallery of Art, to Native American works in the Southwest, to the moving Vietnam Wall exhibit.

On this day, those majestic timeless art works took a backseat to the GC exhibit because I was looking at it through the eyes of a breast cancer survivor.

Continued on page B1

# Honors College hosts Halloween-themed 5K

## Paramedic Student Association

1 December  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

## Student Ambassadors

Third Mondays, 12 - 1 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center  
For information on becoming a Student Ambassador, contact Rhonda Marroquin (marroquinr@grayson.edu)

## Men of Distinction

Every Thursday, 12 - 1 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

## Honors College Club

Every Thursday  
12:15 - 1:00 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

## DAAC (Drug & Alcohol Counseling)

First Mondays, 8:30 a.m.  
Health Science 202

## Cosmetology Club

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

## Clay Club

Every Tuesday & Thursday  
5:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
Ceramic Room, Arts & Communications

## Phi Theta Kappa

Every Wednesday  
12:30 - 1:00 p.m. LA 207

## Psychology Club

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

## Delta Phi Delta (Art)

First Tuesdays  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.  
Arts & Communications 105

## LAE (Criminal Justice)

Every Tuesday  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
Location TBA

## Sigma Kappa Delta (English Honor Society) & Writers Unlimited

Second Fridays, 12 - 1 p.m.  
Next meeting: 14 November  
Library 110 (Writing Center)

## Veteran Student Association

First Mondays  
Time TBA  
Veteran's Hub

## Welding Tech Association

First and third Mondays  
12 - 1 p.m.  
Break Room, Career Tech Center

## Cultural Diversity Club

First and third Fridays  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room, Life Center

## Radiology Tech Club

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

## Music Club

Every other Friday  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Band Hall, Arts & Communications

## Science Club

First Fridays, 12:30 p.m.  
Next Meeting: 7 November  
S 107

## Gay Straight Alliance

Every Wednesday  
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. LA 110

## HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)

Every other Thursday  
12:20 p.m.  
Dean's Conference Room, LA Building

## Future Educators

Every other Tuesday  
12:20 - 12:50 p.m. CIS 200  
Next Meeting: 4 November

## TIPPS (Culinary Arts)

First Wednesdays, 3 - 4 p.m.  
691 Restaurant, CA Building

## Eta Sigma Delta (Culinary Honors Society)

First Wednesdays, 2:30 - 3 p.m.  
CA Building

Nate Essin  
Honors College Treasurer,  
Director of Marketing

Last Saturday, 25 October, the GC Honors College hosted their first ever 5K event. The Halloween-themed costume run benefitted Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. Eighty-five people registered to run including Grayson students and staff, local community member, and even participants coming from as far away as Weatherford, Texas.

Grayson Honors College is a group of highly motivated students who work to improve their community while also maintaining a high GPA.



Honors College Officer Team (1 to r): Nate Essin, Brandy Fair (coordinator), Tana Pirtle, Brandon Robinson. Not pictured Sidney Baker.

This semester, the Grayson Honors College chose to host a 5K run. The crew began by fundraising and, through knocking on the door of nearly every local business, they were able to gather enough resources to host the event and give out valuable raffle prizes which



Nate Essin

And they're off! The Grayson Honors College team raised over \$1,500 with the "Run For Your Life" 5K, benefiting Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society.

included free food, movie passes, a one-year membership to Anytime Fitness and an Android tablet, just to name a few.

People of all ages walked or ran the 5K. Participants ranged from three years old up to 60 years of age. This author was shocked to note that two boys, only seven years of age, sprinted the entire race and finished with the top ten percent of runners.

After the event, runners and their supporters gathered in the Fitness Center and, while the race results were being tallied up, runners visited various vendor tables representing the various sponsors. Awards were bestowed upon the fastest runners by age and gender.

Then, a costume contest was held. The competition was tough and the crowd had to help judge the many clever costumes ranging from Jesse (the cowgirl in Toy Story), a female Batman and a miniature Superman, to fearsome zombies. After the audience selected their favorite festive costumes, a raffle drawing was held and 21 lucky people left with new loot.

Grayson Honors College's first ever "Run For Your Lives" 5K was a rousing success and planning for next year's event has already begun. The Grayson Honors College raised over \$1,500 for Relay For Life which benefits the American Cancer Society. We are excited to find new ways to benefit their community.

Grayson Honors College would like to extend a big thank you to all of the local businesses and Grayson College employees that supported this event: Aaron's Rental, Albertson's (Sherman and Denison), Anytime Fitness, Avon, Big Dog-Little Dog, Cinemark Sherman, Classic Tans, Dr. Pepper, Firehouse Subs, Fisher, Grayson Grounds Dept., Grayson Maintenance Dept., Grayson Music Dept., Grayson Police, Herald Democrat, Lindsey Glass, Lowe's, MG's, McAlister's Deli, Palio's, Peak Physical Therapy, ProCuts, Sam's Club, Terry's World of Cedar, Thomas Real Estate, Walmart and Zeal. ♥

# 'Just Doo It' rally raises over \$4,200 for Women Rock, promotes local breast cancer awareness

Continued from page A1

One of the favorite events again this year was the 'donations in the bucket' contest. Coins and loose change were collected in buckets with the names of President McMillen, Dean Stanzo, Dean Davis and Chef Joanna Bryant, among others. The winner (or loser) of the pie in the face contest was Chef Bryant. Culinary Arts students had the honor of smashing a whip cream pie in her face.

Community Sponsors in-

cluded Virginia Cook Realtors, Landmark Bank, Chapman Inc. and Great Western Dining.

A special thank you goes to Aaron Thomas for providing the music and GC Maintenance for the event set-up.

'Just Doo It' was another proud moment for Grayson College. The campus rallied together to spread breast cancer awareness, serve our community and make a difference in the lives of others. ♥



Nick Ellis



Rebecca Jones



Rebecca Jones



Rebecca Jones



Nick Ellis



Rebecca Jones

Once again, the 'Just Doo It' rally turned the campus pink in support of breast cancer awareness. Sponsors from all over the community and fundraisers from the GC campus gathered on 21 October to learn more about the history of 'Just Doo It', now four years old, and celebrate the cause. The Future Educators club (bottom right) raised nearly \$2,000 alone.

# VETERANS DAY

~ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ~

Join us under the bridge at Grayson College

Tuesday, November 11, 2014, 1100 - 1300  
Grayson College 6101 Grayson Dr. Denison, TX 75020



- ☛ Priority Registration for Spring Semester
- ◆ Army National Guard presenting colors at 1100
- ◆ Lunch provided by Phi Theta Kappa in the Veteran's HUB at 1200
- ◆ Vendors, Activities & raffle prizes
- ◆ GC staff & faculty Veteran recognition badges available

Come out and see what we are doing for Veterans at Grayson College!

Grayson College VA office  
(903) 415-2615 ☛ Veterans@grayson.edu



HONORING SERVICE & EMPOWERING WARRIORS

# SEALING THE DEAL

Preparing to Impress Employers at Hiring Events

**WORKSHOP DATES FOR VETERANS**  
Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 13:00

**PREPARATION WORKSHOP**  
Red, White and You

- 30 Seconds to Impress an Employer
- Having the right resume for the right employer
- Targeting employers prior to the hiring event
- 10 steps for flourishing at a job fair

Reserve now by email [michael.ribble@tvc.texas.gov](mailto:michael.ribble@tvc.texas.gov)



**RED, WHITE AND YOU HIRING EVENT**  
Thursday, November 13, 2014, 0900 - 1500

Grayson College 6101 Grayson Dr. Denison, TX 75020

**Michael Ribble**  
Veterans Career Advisor  
Reserve now by email - [michael.ribble@tvc.texas.gov](mailto:michael.ribble@tvc.texas.gov)



**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS OF TEXOMA**  
2415 S. Austin Ave Suite 105  
Denison, Texas 75020  
903-463-9997 ext. 654

# STUDENT VETERAN ASSOCIATION

Meeting every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday the month  
12:15 pm in Grayson College Veteran's Hub

**Our mission:**

To serve and support our community, student Veterans and Veteran families attending Grayson College.

**Criteria for Membership:**

Any Student or Faculty of Grayson College who is a Veteran or a dependent using Veteran benefits.

**Get updates on Veteran:**

Activities • Local Resources • Job Fairs •  
College Registration • Veteran Education Benefits



Look for us on Facebook at:  
Grayson College Student Veteran Association  
<https://www.facebook.com/GraysonSVA>



"Honoring Service & Empowering Warriors."  
[veterans@grayson.edu](mailto:veterans@grayson.edu)



# Progress report: Welding Tech Association's service learning project at the pond

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

On Friday, 10 October at 1 p.m. a group began to gather at the pond in the northeast corner of the campus. A sea of smiling faces and Wrangler shirts welcomed members of the administration, faculty and student body to the first open forum discussion on a renovation plan destined to make a splash next semester: the Welding Technology Association's pond clean-up project. Here, the organization revealed a preliminary blueprint for their restoration program and opened the floor for further suggestions.

"We want to start out in the right direction," said club adviser Greg Beckley, "In the technical field we measure twice, cut once." To begin, the group announced their intentions to clear the pond of moss to make it more hospitable for fishing after, of course, reviewing all ecological considerations. Thus, the use of chemical treatments was immediately questioned. Suggestions from the audience included the use of algae-eating fish. This could potentially prolong the cleaning process, but will be necessary to avoid pollution. Though swimming will not be allowed and the pond's fishing policy will be strictly catch and release, the use of chemicals could have other



Rebecca Jones

Welding Technology Association President Kevin Condo and adviser Greg Beckley pressed the need for student and staff volunteers in this immense and very generous project.

far-reaching effects on the land surrounding the body of water.

Other improvements mentioned included picnic tables and possible rock paths. Additional suggestions for improvement included solar floodlighting and playground equipment for visiting children. Discussion turned to the building of a dock and the use of sustainable building materials. The organization examined the possibility of building a fixed dock, but stated that the heavy machinery needed to complete such a task would be difficult to acquire. A floating dock, preferably using a material like Styrofoam as opposed to plastic (which can leech into the water) or aluminum (which can rust), was widely agreed upon but is still under consideration.

Officers of the Welding Technology Association

(WTA) cited the concerns of GC maintenance staff over upkeep. Maintenance staff also expressed apprehension about flooding and drainage after heavy rains, but were reassured by WTA President Kevin Condo's construction expertise. As representatives of the Student Government Association, Science Club President Krishnia Seely and I pledged our assistance to gather volunteers from around the campus to help clean and maintain the pond upon completion.

A clean-up committee is presently being assembled to help with the efforts of the WTA. Clean-up days will be scheduled shortly, accompanied by food and refreshments for volunteers. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact Greg Beckley at [beckleyg@grayson.edu](mailto:beckleyg@grayson.edu) for more information. ♥

# Addressing the threat of rape on college campuses

Audra Talley  
Student

There is a 20-25% chance a woman is raped on a college campus, according to *The Washington Post*. The numbers keep going up each year. Rape seems to be more common at big universities than a community or junior colleges, but students and faculty need to be aware of the fact that it can happen at any campus and have reliable procedures in place that they can follow.

One of the major things that faculty should have with the student body is a trusting and confiding relationship. It is important that students talk to a teacher or the campus police and report any suspicious activity.

Officer Lorenzo, one of the Campus Police officers at Grayson College in Denison, said that it is better for a student witness to tell someone that they think something suspicious might have happened. It is better to report than to say nothing.

In addition, if a student believes that someone is acting in an inappropriate way, it is also better for them to report the activity. Otherwise it'd be too late. To have a trusting relationship means

that they feel comfortable talking to whomever it may concern. According to Lorenzo, the police and the student body do not always have a trusting relationship.

"Honestly no, the students think of us as security guards and do not realize that we have the same position as any other cop," he explained. Students need to know that there is a campus police station right next to the dormitories and that they are there to help and are capable of taking action.

Students need to be aware of the phone numbers available to call if they are ever in an emergency. Lorenzo said that there is a duty cell phone that all police officers have on campus when on duty. He stated that most likely that police officer will have that phone on him and will be available to take calls day and night. That number is (903)-814-3343.

Sydni Henderson, a student here at Grayson College who lives in the dorms, stated that she had no idea that there was a duty cell phone. She said that she was aware of the campus police, and she does feel safe here in the dorms and on the grounds, but she feels that the campus police or faculty

should make it clearer that there is a direct contact to get ahold of the campus police other than 911.



In the last five years there have been no rapes or accusations of sexual assault at Grayson College. \*Dylan Grant, a student at Grayson College living in the dorms, stated that, "I have no concerns on my floor. We all know each other pretty well." If he overheard someone talking about a sexual assault or knew of someone who had committed the crime, he would come forward and tell the police. He said, "It does not matter if it was one of my friends; I feel that if anything like this was to happen, I would hope I come forward about it."

The campus Police follows a specific procedure if any-

one were to report a case of rape. Lorenzo commented that they would talk to the victim, find out all the information that the victim has to tell, and after that, they would check the security cameras and take witness statements, if any. They would get in contact with the women's shelter. They would then take the victim to the hospital to get a rape kit if she had not already taken a shower, and take the clothes from the crime scene to be processed.

All in all, be careful of your surroundings. Lorenzo recommended to the students, "be aware of your surroundings, if you can use the buddy system, and be sure to walk where there is light if possible." If feeling unsafe just give the campus police a call, and they are there to help for any situations.

While Grayson College is a pretty safe campus, it is best to be prepared. Rape cases are not rare, and even though they happen more on a bigger campus and a university, they can also occur here at Grayson College. Just being aware of where you are and who you are around can help a lot. ♥



Tiffany Flanagan, realizing that many of the South Campus students are unable to participate in the yearly "Just Doo It" fight for the cure set up a mini-celebration. She developed games and gave candy as prizes in the lobby of the main building of the south campus. Thanks Tiffany for the work and dedication you have shown for the women in our area. You rock!

**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:Marlea.Trevino@grayson.edu) or [Rebecca Jones \(jonesre@grayson.edu\)](mailto:Rebecca.Jones@grayson.edu). Volunteers for production and writing may also visit The Viking office.

**Job Fair: Thursday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Grayson College Gym, 9am-3pm**



Join the Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions Texoma, Grayson College and partners for the statewide job fair, designed to connect Texas veterans, spouses and other job seekers with area employers.

**GRAYSON STUDENTS & THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED!**

Registered employers as of 10/27:

- Alan Ritchey, Inc. • Alorica • America's Car Mart • Capio Partners
- Cardinal FG Durant • Caterpillar Global Mining, LLC • Champion Cooler
- Dialog Direct • Fastenal • Fisher Controls/Emerson Process Management
- Kwik Chek Food Stores/McCraw Oil Company • Lone Star Reel Corporation
- Loralab Manufacturing • Snelling Staffing
- TAPS Texoma Area Paratransit Systems • Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Trans Cable International • Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Volt Workforce Solutions • West Asset Management

**2014 Office Christmas Tree Decorating Contest**



The Office of Student Life promotes campus spirit and encourages student employee interaction through activities and annual special events. The Christmas Tree Office Decorating Contest allows GC employees to celebrate the coming Christmas season by turning their respective offices into a festive environment for students and fellow colleagues to enjoy.



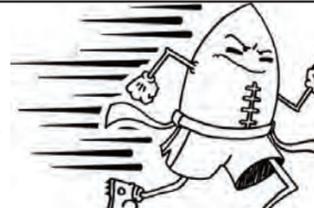
**\*1 Christmas Tree Entry Per Office**

\*Registration Period: October 31-November 21, 2014  
\*Contest Period: December 1-December 5, 2014  
\*Judging Will Take Place December 5 between 10am-12pm  
\*Winners will be announced by email December 8

\*Detailed contest information is available by calling the Office of Student Life 903 463-8693.

**Congratulations to 4 on 4 flag football champions: The TDs**

Ray Jones, Codie Johnson, Walter Smith, Vaughn Thomas, Stephen Smith, Carson McClure, Damian Smith and Dedrix Wilson



# Veterans: get the benefits you deserve!

Shelley Brauer  
Student

*"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."*  
-George Washington

says, "If you don't know anything about the [veterans] benefits, how do you know what questions to ask [of education personnel]?" The Veterans' Benefit Advisor of Grayson College, Charles Crocker, emphasizes that there are multiple education benefits afforded to our veterans: the Hazlewood Act, the Post 9/11 GI Bill, as well

ward their Montgomery GI Bill. However, even for veterans who decided against making the contribution, there are still ways to receive an education. Using the Hazlewood Act is an excellent way to boost veterans' education, says Petty.

In addition to covering tuition and fees, both GI Bills offer other benefits. Depending on which Chapter (or part of each program) a veteran applies for and receives, veterans can receive living and book stipends as well.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determines a veteran's eligibility for funding based on their length of service. Veterans can visit the VA's website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to obtain information on the programs as well as access to the application process. The VA offers veterans the ability to keep track of their application on a secure webpage through the internet at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov).

Crocker clarifies that once the veteran has completed the application online, they will receive notification of approval in the mail, specifically a certification explaining which benefits have been afforded to them. The veteran can then take that certification to the VA office at Grayson College, where Crocker and his team will

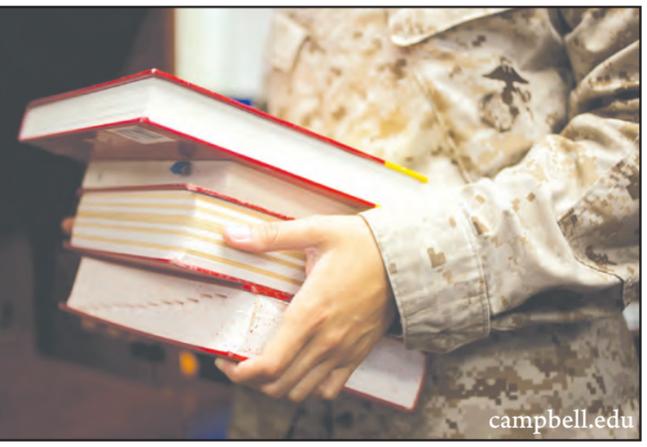
handle certifying to the VA that the student is enrolled in school. If a veteran receives a disapproval of benefits in the mail, the letter will include the reason as well as how to process the appeal.

In addition to the programs being offered to veterans to assist in gaining higher education, they may still qualify for civilian financial aid, such as the Pell grant. But the veterans' programs will not interfere with their other civilian benefits, says Crocker.

Officer Petty also details another benefit for those veterans who are 35-60 years old called the VRep (Veterans Reemployment Program), a program designed

to certify veterans in high-demand careers. It offers them education as well as a living stipend.

Crocker emphasizes that getting the word out to veterans about these different programs will increase the percentage of veterans who use their benefits. "I would encourage any veteran to contact me or their county's representative," says Petty to those veterans still questioning where to begin their journey to higher education. Petty's office is located in the Grayson County Courthouse in Sherman, Texas and can be contacted by calling 903-813-4254 or emailing [pettyj@co.grayson.tx.us](mailto:pettyj@co.grayson.tx.us).



The state of Texas is home to the largest number of veterans in the United States. Approximately 11,000 veterans currently reside in Grayson County according to Jimmy Petty, retired officer and currently the Veteran's representative for Grayson County. These veterans range in age, war time served and gender.

Applying for education benefits is a confusing and sometimes frustrating process for these veterans. Rick Henderson, a local veteran attending Grayson College,

as the Montgomery GI Bill. The Hazlewood Act is a special program for those who joined the military right here in the state of Texas. According to Petty, it covers the cost for veterans for up to 150 educational hours of tuition and fees in a Texas public college or university. Texas has one of the highest rates of its residents joining the military.

Henderson clarifies that in the 1980s, members of the military had the choice of paying \$100 a month, which the military would match to-

## HAZLEWOOD EXEMPTION

**Hazlewood applications can now be processed by the Veterans Affairs Office**

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**Monday - Tuesday, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm**  
**Wednesday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

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**Grayson College VA office**  
**(903) 415-2615** ✉ **Veterans@grayson.edu**  
**6101 Grayson Dr. Denison, TX 75020**

## Graduating in December?

### WHEN IT'S TIME TO REPAY

**RULE OF THUMB**  
YOUR PAYMENTS SHOULD NOT EXCEED

# 8%

OF YOUR TOTAL INCOME

ESTIMATE YOUR PAYMENTS USING THE REPAYMENT ESTIMATOR AT [STUDENTAID.GOV/REPAYMENT-ESTIMATOR](http://STUDENTAID.GOV/REPAYMENT-ESTIMATOR)

**WHAT TO WEIGH**  
WHEN SELECTING A REPAYMENT PLAN

LOWER PAYMENT  
SMALLER MONTHLY PAYMENTS RESULT IN PAYING MORE INTEREST OVER TIME

## EXPLORE YOUR FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT OPTIONS

**GRADUATED**  
GRADUAL INCREASES IN LOAN PAYMENT

**FIXED**  
SAME PAYMENT FOR LIFE OF LOAN

**INCOME-DRIVEN**  
PAYMENTS BASED ON INCOME NOT JUST LOAN DEBT

### HOW TO CHOOSE A PLAN

**GRADUATED OR EXTENDED-GRADUATED PLANS**

MY INCOME IS LOW, BUT IT SHOULD INCREASE GRADUALLY

**STANDARD OR EXTENDED PLANS**

I PREFER A FIXED PAYMENT

**INCOME-DRIVEN PLANS**

MY INCOME IS LOW RELATIVE TO MY DEBT OR I'M NOT SURE WHAT MY INCOME WILL BE

### AMOUNT OF TIME TO REPAY

**10 YEAR PERIOD**

**10-YEAR REPAYMENT PERIOD:**

- AVAILABLE FOR ANY LOAN
- DECREASES TOTAL INTEREST PAID, BUT INCREASES MONTHLY PAYMENT COMPARED TO 25-YEAR REPAYMENT PERIOD

**25 YEAR PERIOD**

**25-YEAR REPAYMENT PERIOD:**

- MAY BE AVAILABLE IF YOUR LOAN BALANCE EXCEEDS \$30,000
- DECREASES MONTHLY PAYMENT BUT INCREASES THE TOTAL INTEREST PAID COMPARED TO 10-YEAR REPAYMENT PERIOD

LONGER REPAYMENT PERIODS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CONSOLIDATION LOANS

**PAY AS YOU EARN**

**20 YEAR** ANY REMAINING BALANCE IS FORGIVEN AFTER 20 YEARS

**INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT**

**25 YEAR** ANY REMAINING BALANCE IS FORGIVEN AFTER 25 YEARS

**INCOME-CONTINGENT REPAYMENT**

**25 YEAR** ANY REMAINING BALANCE IS FORGIVEN AFTER 25 YEARS

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR REPAYMENT PLAN AT ANY TIME BY CONTACTING YOUR FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN SERVICER. NOT ALL LOANS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ALL REPAYMENT PLANS. TO LEARN MORE, GO TO [STUDENTAID.GOV/REPAY](http://STUDENTAID.GOV/REPAY)

Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of THE AMERICAN MIND™

## Attention future IT professionals:

**The CompTIA A+ and Network+ Certification Exams and You**  
*"The CompTIA Network+ certification is the sign of a qualified networking professional."*

**Where do I begin?**

By now you know that industry leaders like HP, Dell, Xerox and more, require CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications for their technicians, but did you know that you could complete your exams right here on the Grayson College campus? Getting started is easy.

- ◆ **Step 1: Purchase a CompTIA A+ and/or Network+ Exam voucher**  
*Be sure to purchase the correct voucher, labeled "A+" or "Network+"*  
Visit [certification.comptia.org](http://certification.comptia.org). Mouse over "Get Certified [+]" and in the drop-down menu, click "CompTIA A+" or "Network+." In the "Get Started Now" module located on the right side of the page, click "Pay for the test." You will be redirected to the CompTIA Store. The current price of the A+ exam is \$188 USD and the Network+ exam is \$269 USD. A voucher is valid for one year (twelve months).
- ◆ **Step 2: Schedule Your Test**  
*The test can be completed at the GC Testing Center on the Main Campus.*  
Through Pearson Vue, your examination can be scheduled online. Visit their website, [www.vue.com](http://www.vue.com). Click the "Test Taker Services" tab at the top of your screen. In the "Select your category" menu, choose "Information Technology (IT)" and in the "Select your program" menu, choose "CompTIA." You must register or sign in to schedule, reschedule or cancel an exam. Test start times begin at 8:15 a.m. and occur at 15-minute intervals until 2:15 p.m. Testing dates are listed below. For dates after January 2015, check the schedule 30-40 days before you want to schedule your exam.

November 11, 2014 November 25, 2014	November 18, 2014 December 2, 2014 December 16, 2014
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**Other testing centers include:**

North Central Texas College IT Career Connection 1400 N Corinth Pkwy, Suite 102 Corinth, Texas 76208	Cityon Systems, INC 4120 W. Spring Creek Pkwy. Plano, Texas 75024 Ext: 234	Business Communication Solutions 520 Central Pkwy. East Suite 117 Plano, Texas 75074
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- ◆ **Step 3: Make Sure You are Prepared!**  
These 90-minute exams will include both multiple choice and problem solving questions. The grading scale for each goes to 900, with passing scores on the A+ exams at 675 and 700. To pass the Network+ exam you must score a 720. Prep classes are available at Grayson College. Study materials are also available through the CompTIA website (click "Buy study materials" in the "Get Started Now" module on the appropriate test page). These include study guides, flash cards and even practice exams. *Good luck!*

**Grayson College Career Services**

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

*Preparation can make the difference in YOU getting the job!*

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

Explore your repayment options; contact your loan servicer for more information. Find your loan servicer information on [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov).

## New requirements for student loan borrowers

Did you receive a student loan while attending Grayson College? If so, please remember, whether you are transferring, leaving GC for the workforce or dropping below 6 credit hours you must complete Student Loan Exit Counseling. What's New? Beginning Fall 2014 student borrowers must complete Student Loan Exit Counseling through the Office of Financial Aid. You will be contacted for your mandatory Exit Counseling appointment within the next few weeks.

## SPRING 2015

REGISTRATION  
NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

VETERANS REGISTRATION  
NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

# Photo of the Month



Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Languages Department Mary Yetta McKelva took this lovely panoramic at Río Celeste, Costa Rica. "All of the land from the brown to the blue, is clear, translucent water from two rivers," McKelva said. "Volcanic chemical water and the light from the sun causes the changes in color." Each summer, McKelva takes students to Costa Rica to study abroad and learn the language and culture.

GRAYSON COLLEGE  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

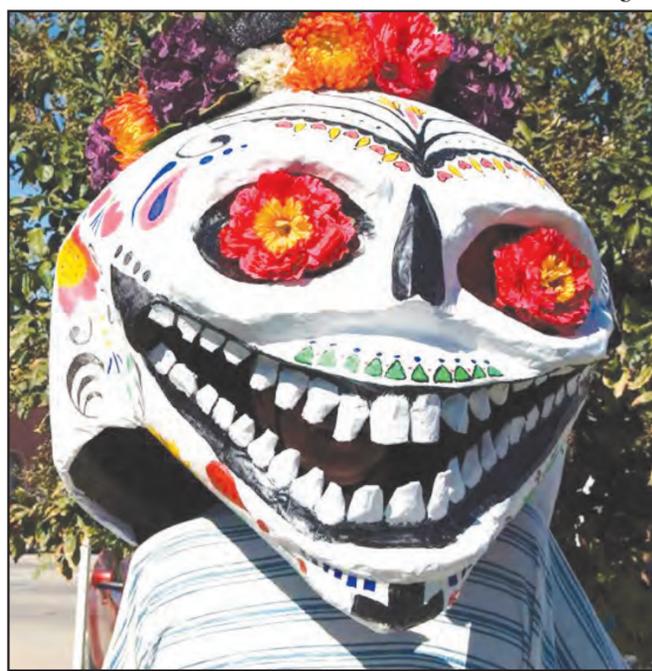
**2014 Fall Concerts and Recital**

Nov. 19th, 7:30pm	Austin College Concert Band Director, Bob Archer
Nov. 25th, 7:00pm	GC Music Department Concert Program Director, Dr. David R. Tercero
Dec. 2nd, 7:00pm	GC Piano Department Recital Piano Professor, Tatiana Bays

All concerts and recitals will be held in the Cruce Stark Auditorium and are free to the public.  
Main Campus 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison, Texas 75020

GraysonCollegeMusicClub 
 @GCMusicClub

## Dia de los Muertos parade on Main St. features giant puppets crafted by GC students and faculty



Professor Steve Black and art students took part in workshops hosted by the GC Visual Arts Department to create giant puppets. The puppets 'marched' in the *Dia de los Muertos* parade, part of the *Dia de los Muertos* Festival, 1 Nov in Denison, Texas. Participants included Joey Spindle, Wesley Miller, Jayton Hawkins, Kevin Berry, Samantha Stanek, Whitney Hunter, Angela Sobol, Gabriel Rendon, Dustin Williams, Stacey Miller, Paula Martin, Cassidy Rand, Antwon Craddock, Jenna Martin, Kristine Templeton, Lisa Ayad, Eligha Ledford, Lindsay Mathis, Michelle Tumbry, Cody Seabolt and more.

## Theatre Dept. presents ART

Robin Robinson  
Theatre Director

The Theatre department will present the Tony Award winning play *ART*, written by Yasmina Reza and translated by Christopher Hampton, in the Black Box Theatre 21 and 22 Nov at 7:30 p.m. and 23 Nov at 2:30 p.m.

*ART* is a play that challenges the audience to consider what the value of "art" really is to people. Is it based on a monetary amount or is the emotional attachment just as valuable? The play opens with one of the three characters telling the audience his friend has just spent \$200,000 on a painting and how the character cannot grasp anyone spending that amount of money on a

painting.

In addition to the discussion of art and its place in society, this play also delves into defining friendship. The play has three male characters, who have all been friends for several years. They are all professionals, and the introduction of this painting into their lives acts as a catalyst to challenge their friendship and force them to decide how each character will react to this event.

The three actors who will perform in this play are GC Theatre majors. Gabriel Parker III, a sophomore theatre major from Bonham will portray "Serge," the character who buys the painting. Dakkota Foster, a sophomore from Deni-

son, will portray "Marc," the character who cannot tolerate his friend's choice. Holden Webster, a freshman from Denison will try to keep the peace as he plays "Yvan," the friend caught in the middle.



Theatre Dept.  
Continued on page B3

## Hall-o-Fest 2014



Rebecca Jones  
Costume contest winners Lauren Burchett and the Village People.



Rebecca Jones



Rebecca Jones



Jo Bell

Attendance was high at the annual Hall-o-Fest celebration. Fifteen clubs, fourteen agencies and two recruiting outfits set up booths with activities ranging from guessing the weight of a giant pumpkin to a skeleton ring toss. Pumpkin carving/decorating contest winners were the Kavity Killers, Brett Hall, Joseph Guyton and Monica Reed.

## The Circle as a Metaphor: a survivor's point of view

Continued from page A1

From the moment I walked in the 2nd Floor Gallery, I felt it. I felt it in my whole being, from what I was seeing with my eyes. The feelings were to me universal in scope. They represented life and death. Hope and despair.

The first piece of art work I gazed upon was created by Vivienne Pitts. The colors in circle motion drew me in and I was mesmerized from then, until I looked at the last piece, created by Loretta Riales, her piece being titled "Hope Springs Out of Darkness." I savored the textures, the materials, the different genres of the pieces. I could see the collection as

a whole story told, from the beginning of time to the future with our lives being described by the pieces of art.

Each individual piece is created with an understanding of some point in the life of a cancer patient: survivor, warrior, caregiver and someone who has fought hard, but ultimately lost their battle. Things such as feelings, struggles, hopes, desires, anger, loss of self, embarrassment, worry and love, to name a few things that you go through in your experience with cancer.

I enjoyed every piece and each piece brought a moment of reflection and joy to me. A few examples of some of my feelings from

the works follow.

The artwork created by Steve Black, entitled "ID#273430/2013," gave me the sense of how cancer impacts all, no discrimination for race, creed, color, age, religion or country of birth. His second piece, entitled "ID#306920," further brought attention that men and women both suffer this attack by cancer.

Jerome Noel's piece, entitled "Mamm Co 12.5," captured my recollection of mammograms and various others testing devices with his knives sharpened into the bull's-eye circle of his work.

Donna Fitch Adams' piece, "TBS 25M," evoked a feeling

of cancer playing with your life, like a game of chance, marbles, and how we are all struggling to get out the door and away from cancer.

Matthew Freeman's art captured my attention with his vibrant use of color and tattoo effects. I was called back to the days they had to tattoo my body so they could get the radiation treatments right.

Dana Repotta paid homage to Julia, a victim of cancer, with her piece titled "Do You Know My Friend Julia?" How many friends and family members have lost their battle? I remembered my own losses of loved ones.

I realize that I experienced this exhibit through my

eyes, the eyes of a survivor. Tears clouded my vision as I left the exhibit; I was moved. How could the artists know me, know my path?

This collection is not just for cancer survivors, you only have to be a survivor of life to understand the excellence of each piece of work in this collection. How all these different artists managed not only to tell my story, but others' stories as well is phenomenal. Take the opportunity to not only enjoy the beautiful artistic talent of the creators of these works, but to enjoy the beauty of life. ♥

# Softball team offers a good showing in the preseason

Rachel Morgan  
Student

The softball team here at Grayson College has made a remarkable start in their fall season. This year, we added two new coaching staff members, Sarah Lankford and Katie Lenderman, former players for Grayson College. They definitely know how to show us the ropes.

This fall we have set many high records for the spring; beating South Eastern Oklahoma State at the beginning

set the tone for the rest of our preseason. Many parents in the stands have made comments stating, "this is the best team we have seen in years." Comments like that are what is going to motivate us to continuously work hard.

"This year is such an eye opener compared to last, we have so much more enthusiasm and support," said Sophomore Jordan Gundersen. Our team has stuck together through the mistakes, the glory moments and the harsh training. "Through

the blood, sweat and tears I wouldn't want it any other way," sophomore Mallory Smith.

We are looking to be in great shape for conference this year, but we will not let up on the hard work. Coach Lankford remarks, "we will be champions. As long as [the girls] don't give up what is rightfully theirs." With that being said, our Lady Vikings are going to give our conference a run for their money. ♥



Nick Ellis



Rachel Morgan



Nick Ellis



Nick Ellis



Nick Ellis



Nick Ellis

It is not unusual to see the baseball and softball players supporting each other at games. Conference play begins early next year. The GC Viking baseball and softball teams wrapped up the preseason with an alumni game Saturday, 8 November.

By Yasmina Reza

# ART

Translated by Christopher Hampton

*Winner of the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play. Winner of the 1996 Olivier Award for Best Comedy. "...wildly funny, naughtily provocative..."—NY Post*

*A comedy about friendship and the value of "art".*

GRAYSON COLLEGE

AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

903-463-8609

theatre@grayson.edu

Reservations recommended

Mature Audiences due to language.

THEATRE  
Grayson College

November 21 - 22 @ 7:30pm November 23 @ 2:30pm

Black Box Theatre Free with GC I.D. \$3

# GC hosts PTK Texas Region Leadership Conference

Tiffany Moser  
PTK Member

Grayson College hosted Phi Theta Kappa's Texas Region Leadership Conference the second weekend in October. This was my first regional event with Phi Theta Kappa and I had no idea what I had signed up for when I arrived Friday afternoon.

## Welcome to GC

Friday started out as a welcome to Grayson campus, home of Omicron Psi. We got to hear Grayson's President Jeremy McMillen speak about his support for Phi Theta Kappa here on our campus. That weekend we also got to hear from guest speakers Cliff Wood (former Texas Region Coordinator), Jo Marshall (president of Somerset Community College and Vice Chair of Phi Theta Kappa Board of Trustees), Jennifer Blalock (Phi Theta Kappa Chief Student Support Officer and Director of CollegeFish.org), Jerry Coats (Dean of Liberal Arts, Tarrant County College, Southeast Campus) and Justin Jones-Fosu (speaker and author) on leadership and their experiences.

## Leadership

Everyone was split up into different groups with people not from their school. In these groups we had five classes that went in-depth on the eleven chapters of Phi Theta Kappa's Leadership Cohort book. Even though they try to direct the lessons towards what a student can do in Phi Theta Kappa, these skills are those that can be used in any leadership role. I myself learned a lot about what a leader is and skills that I can use to better my leadership positions.

Some characteristics of a good leader are listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, stewardship, commitment to growth of the people, building communities, ethical, humorous, humble and servant. Intellect is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge to skills; it comes from experience and reading. The best leader is one who is invisible.

In Phi Theta Kappa we are attending a two year institution; everyone's goal should be to graduate and move on. In our leadership roles at school we are planting the seeds; when we leave what will happen to those seeds? Will they grow new leaders or will the followers fade away? Part of being a leader is doing the right thing even when no one is watching and being the same leader even through challenges.

## Setting Goals

Leaders should model the way by example, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act and encourage the heart. Every leader should develop their own personal vision and set goals for themselves. When making goals do not make BHAG (Big Harry Audacious Goals), but make goals SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time efficient) and REAL (Reachable, Explicit, Attractive, Length conscience) goals. A dream that is never acted upon is a nightmare in disguise. When you are having a bad day remember someone else might be having an even worse day and would love to have your bad day instead. Justin Jones-Fosu said "Don't be just like anyone, be better than everyone, by being the only you. Take

positive qualities of others and incorporate those, but do not be exactly like them."

## More to Learn

Along with leadership classes we chose two elective classes that would go more in depth on different subjects. The two that I chose were Phi Theta Kappa's Five Star Competitive Edge and Phi Theta Kappa's Honors in Action. Five Star Competitive Edge is a way to work on the soft skills needed for jobs. It will set the student apart from the crowd by going the extra mile. Anyone involved in Phi Theta Kappa can easily reach level five star by

community service project, write about all their experiences as a chapter and turn it in.

## Networking

Even though it may seem like all we did that weekend was learn, take classes, and listen to speakers we also had some fun. We got to meet people from all over Texas and make personal connections with them. Some people we had already come in to contact with through the online cohort class and this gave us the opportunity to see in person the people we have been reading and sharing personal leadership sto-

pus all weekend was a variety of university recruiters from all over Texas.

Some who were five star complete received their pin. When we had free time we could work on five star in the computer lab and earn a ticket to a drawing for our chapter to win the Leadership book. One chapter won four times and after their second book gave their tickets up for someone else to win. When our chapter won we already had a book, so we gave it to a chapter in need of one. On the last day people who had won Phi Theta Kappa scholarships were recognized.



PTK

Back (l to r): Director of Committees Michael Moore, President Brandon Robinson, Marc-Aurele Akibode, Michaela Bledsoe, Vice President of Special Projects Elizabeth Taylor, alum-ni Jesus Sosa, Public Relations Officer Rory Larkin and Nate Essin. Front: Advisor/District 2 Coordinator Mary Linder, PTK Assoc. Regional Coordinator Molly Harris, Secretary Jana Henderson, Tiffany Moser, alumni George Melchor, Lauren Quintanilla, First Vice President Tana Pirtle and Regional Coordinator Debbra Esparza.

being active, writing down the experiences and turning them in to the five star website working through the five levels. Honors in Action is another way to get involved with Phi Theta Kappa, the college and the community. Every year Phi Theta Kappa students pick a topic out of the Honors in Action Handbook, do research, create a

ries with. The theme of the weekend was Harry Potter and regional did a wonderful job of incorporating that into our activities. Friday night we watched the first Harry Potter movie, Saturday night we dressed up as characters and had a Yule Ball. Not only did we make connections with other members, but also on cam-

Despite the less than five hours of sleep we received for two nights in a row it was well worth it. There is nothing that can describe the personal feelings attached to this weekend. All I have to say is I can't wait for International Nerd Nation in San Antonio, Texas next semester. ♥

# New welding program on the south campus growing

Giancarlo Gutierrez  
*Student*

Last year, Grayson College's Van Alstyne campus opened up a new facility and program that could define the future and growth of what could be a successful career for college students who want to learn a new skill that is in high demand in the economy, and that's the Welding Technology program.

Regarding the Welding Department's plans for improving the welding technology on south campus, Alan McAdams, a welding instructor for Grayson College said since it's "...brand new we don't know what to improve yet, but we want to build on dual-credit, and that will be the future number of enrollments."

"...As the program increases we will see by the data and it could possibly grow five years from now," McAdams said regarding whether there are going to be any changes in the facility

for more space for students and welding machines.

Although the shop itself may seem smaller and less spacious in capacity compared to the one on the main campus in Denison, students (mostly in the Van



New welding facility serving GC students at south campus in Van Alstyne, Texas.

Alstyne area) drive to gain education and experience with working with the welding machines and the skills they need to know.

As far as students gaining more skills and proper training, McMillen said the

"...school received a grant during the summer for virtual machines...bought four for the shop and another four for the road." Hopefully with these virtual machines, students can get proper training on how a welding

in the near future, McMillen said, as "...popularity and the growth continues to grow, the demand will go up...we asked to expand the shop, but it was too expensive...there's no immediate plan right now, but I don't see why there couldn't be later on...the more the students ask for needs we try to meet the need for them...we listen to our students."

Since the demand for welding is high around the area, McAdams said, "...manufacturing is coming back to Texas and the natural gas is booming...natural gas increases the need for welders because coal is dramatically more expensive than natural gas...the higher the demand for welders in the industry, the higher the enrollment at Grayson College welding technology."

Commentating on his first time attending welding classes in the new campus over the summer, Grayson College student and an experienced welder outside of school, Douglas Hansen

said, "...I really enjoyed the layout of the shop...the new welding machines are top notch...and the teacher couldn't have done a better job of preparing me for real-life welding situations."

Some welding students prefer going back and forth between south and main campus because of the drive difference depending on where they live. "...I prefer south campus because of the machines; however, main campus is easier to drive to, [for me]," says Hansen.

Even though the south campus facility has been open for almost a year now, it has welcomed a lot of new students to the program and helped meet the need for welders in the area. The program will grow in the years to come as the demand for welders increases. Soon enough we'll see a growth in the area of Grayson County and more buildings being built around. But for now south campus meets the requirements for welding students and the community. ♥

## Students to perform award-winning play

*Continued from page B1*

"This play is a wonderful play," states Robin Robinson, the director and GC Theatre Professor. "It is a play that makes the audience laugh as well as contemplate what true friendship is and how 'art' can affect us personally." Since this will be performed in the Black Box theatre, the audience will experience an intimate environment, as the theatre only seats 90 people.

ART is also entered as a participating entry in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Two respondents will attend the Sunday performance and respond to the cast and crew following the matinee performance.

Reservations are recommended for this play since seating is limited. There is some profanity in this play, so mature audiences are recommended. Tickets are \$3 or free for GC Students and Staff. For more info, contact the GC Theatre department at theatre@grayson.edu or 903-463-8609. Running time is approximately 90 minutes without an intermission. ♥

## Transitioning back to civilian life

*Continued from page A1*

I had to drop my classes in what would have been my second semester. The third time around I was ready and able to start classes and finally did everything necessary to finish my degree. The moral of my story is to be prepared, don't give up, and when things don't work out as planned, come up with a new plan. As many veterans know, the best laid plans often do not survive first contact with the enemy.

I also know that while my circumstances seemed difficult to me at the time, many other veterans are going through much more than I ever was. So I thought it would be a good idea to pass along my story, along with some tips and information in the hopes that it will help other veterans successfully navigate the transition from warfighter to college student. The good news is that thousands of veterans have done this before you and you can do it too.

Here are six tips I would like to offer to help you make your own transition.

1. **First and foremost, figure out what you want to do with your life.** Maybe you want to become a welder, or work in an office, or go into nursing. Do some research into fields that may interest you and look into what programs can help you to accomplish your goals. Grayson College has a number of counselling and other programs that can help you figure this out. It is also a good idea to talk to people already

working in the field you're interested in so you can gain some real-world perspective into the industry.

2. **Learn and understand your benefits.** There are a number of different VA education programs such as the various GI Bills, there are a variety of federal and state funding options, as well as scholarships that you may be eligible for. Never assume that you don't qualify for something, ask the question to find out for sure. In some cases, you may be eligible for more than one benefit, AND you can often use them together. Take some time to research on your own, and talk with the Grayson College Veterans Affairs and Financial Aid offices. We are here to help you.

3. **Communicate!** Don't just show up to class and leave as soon as it is over. Participate and interact with your classmates, ask questions and participate in discussions. If you are having trouble with the subjects in your class, talk to your professor about it. I can guarantee you that every professor at Grayson wants you to succeed, but sometimes you have speak up to let them know you need help. There are also a number of programs on campus to help you with your courses. There are math and writing hubs as well as tutoring programs available. You can even get help from many of these resources if you're only taking online courses.

*To be continued in the December issue*

machine would work as far as getting the proper angle, travel speed, long arc and short arc length of the wire.

Expanding the south campus facility would be ideal but regarding whether that would be a possible plan

## Sigma Kappa Delta/Writers Unlimited attend Herald Democrat writing conference

Marlea Trevino  
*Viking Sponsor*

Twelve Grayson faculty, staff and students attended the day-long, first annual Herald Democrat Writers Conference at Austin College on 4 October. Faculty members Marlea Treviño, Kay Dishner, Amanda Like, and Lisa Hebert headed up the group that included students Rebecca Jones, Misty Hebert, David Harmon, Aaron Kaiserman, Marc Akibode, Tiffany Moser and Emily Flanders.

Conference goers heard established pet writer Amy Shojai present on how to take one's writing from "accidental to intentional" as she discussed her own writing career that she had had to "reinvent" multiple times as the economy, delivery mediums and people's writing tastes changed over the years.

Memoir writer Jerry Lincecum spoke about how to record personal fam-

ily stories using a custom interview technique and a "Memory Book."

Co-writers Kay Ellington and Barbara Brannon led their session's audience through key elements of inspiration, foundation, character, outlining, framing and

to create memorable characters, and Cindy Baker Burnett explained how writers can "tur[n] the mundane into the hilarious." For those at the conference looking for agents, Leticia Gomez clarified exactly what agents do and how writers can secure



The group had lunch with Austin College alum and New York Times best-selling author Deborah Crombie.

finishing that they refined in writing their novel, *The Paragraph Ranch*.

Mystery novelist Marion Moore Hill discussed how

one. During lunch, New York Times best-selling author Deborah Crombie discussed her writing journey. ♥

## GC to offer Ayurveda yoga class with accredited instructor

Rebecca Jones  
*Editor*

To many in the West, the practice of yoga brings to mind feats of flexibility and physical exertion (or, for some, simply a reason to buy some of those trendy yoga pants all the girls wear these days). This popular, commercialized form of yoga is "very divorced from its principles," however, said Buddhist monk and teacher of Ayurvedic yoga Tashi Nyima.



Nyima and Silén

Nyima began practicing Ayurveda yoga over 40 years ago in India. He has taught the form for around fifteen. One of his advanced students, Maria Silén, now offers a course in Ayurveda yoga through GC and the CWL. On Tuesday, 28 October, Nyima visited the GC campus to speak with the yoga class. Silén, who is also a tutor in the Writing Center, began studying un-

der Nyima at the Dharma Academy of Suddha Yoga in 2008. "These teachings have improved my life at all levels," she said.

"Ayurveda is the science of health," Nyima said, "ayur-actually means long life and -veda means wisdom." In general, the practice of this form of yoga is meant to help restore unity between the student and his or her environment. In a deeper sense, though, it is related to the establishment of harmony in a practitioner's mind, body and breath. "Generally, particularly in the West," Nyima said, "our body is here, our mind is somewhere else and our emotions are jumping all over the place...This is not a good recipe for a constructive life."

One of the most important things that Ayurveda can teach is a better understanding of how our minds and bodies work and, more specifically, how they work together. This realization can, according to Nyima, equate to power. Mental and physical awareness can help us free ourselves from dependence on physicians and medical institutions. "Modern medicine is all about

adjusting you to...a norm established on the basis of people who are not you," Nyima said, but Ayurveda, and likewise Buddhism, emphasize radical individuality.

Sheila Abbott, a student in the yoga class at GC, said that the principles of Ayurvedic yoga are useful to her in everyday life. Recently, after arriving at the scene of a nine-car pileup in Melissa, Texas, a panic-stricken Abbott recalled the teachings of her yoga course. "As soon as I became calm," she said, "I saw an exit to leave all of the congestion...It is just like [Nyima] said...like a snow globe: when you get agitated you can't focus on what's inside. But when you sit it down and all the snow falls to the ground, you can see things clearly."

Silén's Spring 2015 Ayurveda yoga class will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Registration is available for GC students through the Advising Office or Campus Connect. Non-students may also register through the CWL. To learn more, contact the instructor, Maria Silén, at silenm@grayson.edu. ♥

# Diversity at our doorstep

Dana J. Kermanian  
Learning Frameworks  
Professor

One of the most rewarding experiences students can have in college is to be exposed to different cultures. In fact, when I was a college student I had several opportunities to travel to various countries and meet people from different cultural backgrounds. However, here at Grayson College we do not even need to purchase an airplane ticket to experience cultural diversity.

On our campus we have a Cultural Diversity club that is sponsored by the International Student Advisor, Brad McClenny. This group consists of a combination of International and American students. One of their primary objectives is to promote cultural awareness within our local community and on the campus. In fact, they have been invited to various public schools and social services programs to teach students important multi-cultural lessons.

On a related note, one interesting new feature in our new Learning Frameworks textbook is that the chapter on Interdependence, or building mutually supportive relationships, highlights important lessons about di-

versity and relating to people with cultural differences.

Specifically, the text discusses the difference between collectivistic cultures that tend to have a "We/Our" orientation, versus individualistic cultures that tend to have an "I/Me" orientation. To further highlight important lessons on culture in my class, I invited the Cultural Diversity club to make cultural awareness presentations.

In fact, students from Benin, Gabon and India helped breakdown common misconceptions we Americans may have about their cultures while also imparting important cultural lessons. The students definitely gave us perspective. For example, if you think Dallas traffic is out of control then you may not want to try driving in India.

The students also shared their misconceptions about America before arriving here. Many of them thought that they would become rich, have a nice car and live in a place that looks a lot more like New York City, and a lot less like the Sherman/Denison metropolis. However, the biggest piece of advice the students imparted was for American students not to take the amazing educational opportunities they

have been given for granted.

My favorite story that was shared was from a student from Benin. She told a very impactful story that dates back to the days of the slave trade. She mentioned that in Benin there is a monument on the beach called the Gateway of No Return that signifies the path that slaves would take when they were forced to leave their homeland. Additionally, just before passing through the Gateway, slaves were required to walk around a tree named the Tree of Forgetfulness several times. This tree was said to have powers to help slaves forget their language, culture, families and anything that reminded them of their homeland. Once they passed through the Gateway of No Return their old lives were lost forever.

Undoubtedly, there are many significant lessons we can learn from people that come from different cultural experiences. This is just a glimpse of what we learned just by extending an invitation to the Cultural Diversity club to join us in the classroom. My hope is that others will do the same and embrace the diversity that is right at our very doorstep. ♥



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# "Home, away from home" cooking at College Street Diner

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

After just over two years in business, the College Street Diner in Sherman, Texas, still entertains a wide variety of regulars and new faces. With a menu like theirs, filled with their particular brand of "home, away from home, cooking," it is easy to see why the College Street Diner continues to garner attention.

Owners Garret and Becky Blomstedt originally opened up shop to sell canned goods from their personal garden, but, as Becky mentioned, the canning business (affectionately called "Sealed to Perfection") soon took a back burner to the popularity of their made-to-order menu and catering services. Server and Austin College student Stephanie Montanez recalled that she was drawn to the restaurant by its atmosphere. The restaurant is so hospitable, she said, "it

feels just like you're sitting at home."

Despite the evidence to the contrary, such as the homey décor and books on topics like canning and coin collecting, this is not your grandma's kitchen. The Blomstedts' budget-friendly menu favors the Southern-fried, with tasty appetizers like fried pickles and jalapeños and entrees like the popular chicken-fried steak and chicken strips. Portions are large enough for even the hungriest teenager to leave with a full stomach.



Last week I tried the Monday special: chicken-fried chicken with gravy, two sides and Texas toast for only \$6.99. This meal could feed two comfortably. A huge chicken breast, cov-

ered with a crispy breading and College Street's signature blend of spices, can be accompanied by handfuls of crunchy steak fries, a bowlful of steamed vegetables or any other of their handmade sides. The staff is courteous and never forgets to ask if you've left room for dessert.

College Street Diner has food to fit any mood, from meals like smoked sausage or sliced brisket and sides to fully customizable hamburgers starting at \$2.89. "We also offer custom smoking for parties or other occasions," Becky said, a service rendered for only \$.99 per pound. Thanks to increased interest among the GC community, College Street Diner now offers a 10% discount to students with a valid GC student ID. This hidden gem is located at 900 N Broughton St. in Sherman, Texas. Their hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday. ♥

# Int'l Week coming soon

Continued from page A1

On Tuesday (18 November) the Baptist Student Ministry will be hosting "Taste of the World: India" from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. International student Gokul Maniventhan will be explaining about Indian culture and food. There will be a selection of food from India. This is a signup only event. Signup forms will be at International Student Office.

On Thursday (20 November), tables will be set up on the Bridge from 11:00 a.m. on with various countries being represented. American students will have an opportunity to get to know the home countries of many GC international students.

Austin College's KangaRaas dance team will be performing a fragment of their

routine for the upcoming competition season, along with conducting an interactive session with some students from the Montessori Academy of North Texas in Grayson County. KangaRaas is Austin College's premiere cultural dance team founded in 2011.

The team prides itself on being multicultural. This year two of the team's members are from Grayson College.

There will be a five-on-five soccer game at 3 p.m. outside the Gym. Signup forms are available at International Student Office.

If you have any questions regarding any of the events please contact Brad McClenny at [mcclennyb@grayson.edu](mailto:mcclennyb@grayson.edu) or at International Student Office. ♥

# Beninese student shares her culture with peers

Karine M. Zohoun  
Student

We are students from all over the globe. We grew up abroad and decided to come to the United States to study. As part of an initiative of the Cultural Diversity Club (CDC), I decided to present my country to my learning framework classmates with the agreement of our teacher Mrs. Dana Kermanian. The goal was to share our cultures with Americans.

I am Beninese. Benin is a small West African country bordered by Togo to the west, by Nigeria to the east and by Burkina Faso and Niger to the north. Most people I talk to do not know where Benin is, and I do not feel offended because I admit, it is a small country that is not particularly known.

As an African, I hear a lot of myths or thoughts about our life styles. I have to say, *no Africa is not a country.*

Despite the fact that there is a South African language called "Afrikaans," *all Africans do not speak African.* My country is frankly really different from America. It is a country that is still working on its development. One can notice the poor conditions of some roads and infrastructure, the health issues, the longstanding corruption.



However, Benin definitely has its beauty through the wild life Pendjari Park in North Benin, its lake village in the South and Dantokpa, which is the biggest market in the West African sub region. Benin is a very hospitable country character-

ized by its rich and complex traditional culture. At first I wanted to present only the things that I found beautiful in Benin, but then I realized that in real life, nothing is all beautiful, it is all those flaws that makes our countries special.

I then decided to be completely honestly and show everything I thought was important to know. I had some apprehension and I was really nervous. Will they like my presentation? What will they think about my country? I thought most of them would not be interested and would not come since they knew in advance that I was going to present my country. I was agreeably surprised to see most of them that day and even more glad that they were paying close attention and looked pretty interested by what I was presenting.

At the end of my presentation, it was time for ques-

tions. I was pleased to receive questions because it was the occasion for me to clarify some shadowy points that they had, and remember things that I forgot to include in my presentation. One wanted to know if we had the same holidays as in the U.S. We do celebrate Christmas and Valentine's Day, but we do not celebrate Thanksgiving or Halloween. However we have our cultural celebrations such as the Yam Feast and the Gaani festival.

Another wanted to know if we had fast food like McDonald, Burger King and such. No, we do not have those types of fast food. We have plenty of restaurants: Italian, Spanish, and Chinese you name it, but we are not used to eating burgers, pizzas, tacos or wraps. We mostly eat at home. The only times you eat outside are when you eat at school, there are those women that

cook hot whole meals such as rice and beans, rice or maize cake, cassava, yam or even some times pasta.

Someone I met wanted to know if we had TVs. We do have TV and several have cable. People mostly have their own cars or bikes for transportation since we do not have a well-established public transportation system. Mostly, one can notice that individuals have their own bikes, buses or taxis, and help people move around, within towns or even between countries.

Overall, it was an exciting experience. I really appreciated having the occasion to share and show the similarities and differences between my country and the United States. I hope that my classmates learned new things and enjoyed this virtual trip to Benin. I will gladly be their guide if one day they want to travel and discover Benin. ♥