

# GRAYSON COLLEGE THE VIKING

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Volume V Issue IV

## Holiday Edition

**Sweet Treats Stop**  
3 & 17 December  
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Life Center, 2nd Floor

**December First Friday Connection Breakfast**  
5 December, 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
GC retired colleagues are invited to the December breakfast. Sponsored by Grayson College. Hosted by Student Life. Life Center Community Room

**Student Government Association Meeting**  
Monday, 1 December  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.  
Last meeting of the semester. Student Life Viking Room  
Next meeting: 2 February

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

**Christmas Tree Decorating**  
Tuesday, 2 December, 2 p.m.  
Christmas carols will be sung, led by the GC Music Club. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served. Commons Area (Between Library and Life Center)

**Office Christmas Tree Decorating Contest**  
Contest Period: 1-5 December  
Judging will take place 5 December between 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. The top 3 finishers will be announced by email 8 December.

**BSM Christmas Open House**  
3 December, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Free snacks served. Special music just in time for the holidays.

**Gym & Fitness Center**  
15-19 December, 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Closed Saturday and Sunday  
Will reopen 5 January  
Hours TBA

**Student Life Center**  
15-19 December, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Closed Saturday and Sunday  
Will reopen 5 January  
Hours TBA

**December First Tuesday Connection Breakfast**  
2 December, 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.  
South Campus  
Sponsored by Grayson College. Hosted by the Administrative staff and Student Life.



Rebecca Jones  
Editor

International Week began with a bang Monday, 17 November, with a full-house in attendance (over 40 students and faculty) for a presentation by author and Austin College professor Peter Anderson. Anderson discussed his own background in South Africa under apartheid as well as the ways that history led to liberation movements both in Africa and the United States. The crux of this discussion was dispelling popular misconceptions about the similarities of these movements, achieved simply by comparing political slogans and in detail by contrasting the leadership and historical context of each country.

Tuesday, 18 November showcased another illuminating event, "Taste the World." Held in the BSM, this registration-only event filled up quickly. The crowd enjoyed various samples of South Indian cuisine such as sambar, yogurt, rice and ke-sari for dessert. Cultural Diversity Club Treasurer and resident of southern India Gokul Maniventhan gave an informative presentation about traditional dishes served all over India.

*Continued on page B4*



## GC celebrates cultural

# DIVERSITY

Rebecca Jones

## GC to offer Tibetan Ayurveda Yoga spring 2015

Maria Silén  
Yoga Instructor

Here comes a new chance for you to learn this unique Yoga form. The class meets Tuesday and Thursdays, January 20 - May 12 at 12:30-1:45 p.m.

You can register through CWL; call Lauren Hummert at 903-463-8731 or e-mail lhummert@cwlgcc.org for more information. You will invest \$119 for your health and wellbeing. If you want to receive a grade you register through GC Admission & Advising. You can also check my Facebook page and website, Serene Harvest

- Art of QiGong, Meditation & Yoga, for pictures and information.

Ayurveda means the wisdom of the natural state, the wise way to health. Ayurveda strengthens what is positive, good and beneficial for us. It removes and dissolves negative obstructions in thought, speech, and conduct. Ayur means, "long healthy life." Veda means, "wisdom."

Tibetan Yoga is the confluence of centuries of ancient Indian, Chinese and Tibetan practices. It is a complete practice cycle and is sufficient to achieve and maintain body-mind fitness.

*Continued on page A3*



Maria Silén

## Theatre Department wins awards

Robin Robinson  
Theatre Director

The GC Theatre Department performed ART 21-23 November not only for audiences, but also for two Region 6 Committee members of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Congratulations are in order for these students as well as the production as a whole.

To begin, the GC production of ART itself has been nominated to be considered to perform at the region

Festival held at Angelo State University in February. The department will be notified in late December regarding whether this show will be chosen along with the other shows nominated in the six-state region. This is a huge honor for Grayson to be considered alongside universities and other two year colleges.

The respondents were very complimentary regarding our show.

*Continued on page B1*



Gabe Parker, Dakkota Foster and Holden Webster

## GC early childhood program receives national accreditation

Shelle Cassell  
Marketing Director

Grayson College's Associate of Applied Sciences Child Development Degree Program recently received national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. GC is one of only five institutions in the nation—and the only one in Texas—to garner the achievement this year from NAEYC's Commission on

Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation.

Grayson College's accreditation brings NAEYC's total accredited programs to 162 in 31 states since the association launched the accreditation process in 2006. To earn accreditation, programs participate in a self-study process, collect and submit data and reports and undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers.

*Continued on page A3*

## Inside

National Communication Association conference • A3



Transitioning from soldier to student • B2



# GC honored at Texas Workforce conference

Press Release

*Workforce Solutions Texoma*

Grayson College was honored at the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) 18th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held 19-21 November in Grapevine.

The College received a Partnership Award in recognition of its "work with employers and workers to meet the demands of a global economy by aligning skills with current and future workforce needs." Specifically, Grayson College was recognized for its partnership with the workforce system through Skills Development Fund Grants, Skills for Small Business, College Credit for Heroes, Adult Education and Literacy and the Industry Intern (I2) Program.

Skills Development Fund Grants are awarded to local companies through Community Colleges in order to provide training to workers. Grayson College has been very successful at working with local companies to secure these grants for the region. In a recent twelve month period the college was awarded five such grants. Skills for Small Business is an extension of the Skills Development Fund program that provides training grants to companies with 100 or fewer workers.



L-R: Asa Jessee, Past Workforce Board Chair; Rad Richardson, Grayson College Trustee; Andres Alcantar, Texas Workforce Chair and Commissioner Representing the Public; Dr. Jeremy McMillen, President, Grayson College; Bob Rhoden, Workforce Solutions Texoma; Hope Andrade Texas Workforce Commissioner Representing Employers; Dr. Kimberly Teel, Dean, Grayson College South Campus; Ronny Congleton, Commissioner Representing Labor; Jennifer Morse, Grayson College; and Kate Corder, Grayson College.

The College Credit for Heroes program allows community colleges to help US Veterans receive accelerated degrees by giving them credit for training they received while in the military. Grayson College helps Veterans receive accelerated credit for machining; industrial machinery mechanic; welding; and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC).

Grayson College has operated the local Adult Education programs for several years. The Texas Workforce Commission recently became the State Agency in charge of those programs, and Grayson College is the local Adult Education and Literacy grant recipient.

The Industry Intern (I2) Program is a partnership between the College, Denison Development Alliance, Denison Education Foundation, Denison Independent School District, Workforce Solutions Texoma and several Denison-area industry partners. Paid internships provide a scholarship for industrial maintenance certification training, as well as a paid job with one of the manufacturing partners. Manufacturing partners include Champion Cooler, Ruiz Foods, Caterpillar, Texoma Industrial Insulation, ACS Manufacturing, Kwikset and Denison Industries.

Jeremy McMillen, Presi-

dent of Grayson College, received the award on behalf of the college and remarked, "I am very proud of this recognition. This symbolizes that Grayson College and the area businesses, school districts and economic development entities are all working together to strengthen our community. I'm sincerely grateful for the Texas Workforce Commission's investment in building our community."

Janie Bates, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions Texoma, said, "We are thrilled to see Grayson College receive this honor. We have enjoyed a long and successful partnership. Through the years, Grayson College has supported the Workforce and Economic Development efforts of the region and has helped countless students receive the education needed for successful careers. It's nice to see their hard work recognized."

The Partnership Award 'highlights the important work of community colleges and other entities integral to providing a skilled workforce' and is given in two categories: Large/Urban, which was given to El Centro College in Dallas, and Small/Rural. ♥

## Database Programming and Reporting in SQL

Deena White

*Computer Science Instructor*

In the spring of 2015 Grayson College will offer ITSE2309.081, a new course in Database Programming and Reporting using SQL. SQL stands for Structured Query Language, and it is a very powerful and diverse language used to create and query databases.

Databases are used in businesses, retail, health care facilities, web sites, education and many other endeavors

that require the collection and analysis of data. You do not have to be a computer programmer to query databases with SQL; anyone who needs to produce reports and statistics from a database can learn and use SQL.

The class will be held on Thursday evenings at 6pm and taught by Mr. Robert Massey. For more information please contact Deena White at [deenawhite@grayson.edu](mailto:deenawhite@grayson.edu). ♥



## WINTER BREAK LIBRARY HOURS



Sun. 12/7 1PM - 8PM  
 Mon 12/8 7:30AM - 9PM  
 Tue. 12/9 7:30AM - 9PM  
 Wed. 12/10 7:30AM - 9PM  
 Thr. 12/11 7:30AM - 8PM  
 Dec. 22 - 26 9AM - 1PM  
 CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY  
 Dec. 29 - Jan. 29AM - 1PM  
 CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY

**Be an Angel...  
Help a Homeless Pet!**

Help an animal without a home this holiday season.

The Red River SPCA cares for homeless cats, dogs, horses and donkeys all year round. Christmas is often their busiest time of year, putting serious pressure on their resources and capacity to feed and shelter the animals in their care.

Your donation will help provide shelter, food and health care.

**Red River SPCA**  
 1215 County Road 140  
 Whitesboro  
 Texas 76273

## Counseling and Advising Office raises money for SPCA



The "SantaPaws" tree set up by the Counseling and Advising Office at GC

*Dear Santa,*  
 Please bring us one of the following items or donate a dollar or more to purchase a bone to hang on our tree.  
 Dog: food, toys, collars/harnesses, leashes, medication (heartworm, flea, etc.), dog crates, doghouse(s)  
 Cat: food, Litter, Toys, Carriers/Crates, Medication (heartworm, flea, etc.)  
 Horse and Donkey: saddles, bridles, shoes, blankets, reins, hay/feed, medicine ♥

Volunteers Needed!

**Grayson Welding Club**

The pond project currently awaits approval by the college's Executive Council. For more information, visit the Grayson Welding Club's Facebook page.

**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](mailto: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.  
 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: 5 December  
 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

# GC represented at National Communication Association conference in Chicago, IL

Brandy Fair  
Honors College Coordinator

On 20 November, Brandy Fair and David Tercero traveled to the “windy city” of Chicago to present at the 100th annual National Communication Association conference. NCA serves the scholars, teachers and practitioners at universities and community colleges across the nation by enabling and supporting their professional interests in research and teaching.

The National Communication Association advances communication as the discipline that studies all forms, modes, media and consequences of communication through humanistic, social scientific and aesthetic inquiry. Dedicated to fostering and promoting free and ethical communication, NCA promotes the widespread appreciation of the importance of communication in public and private life,

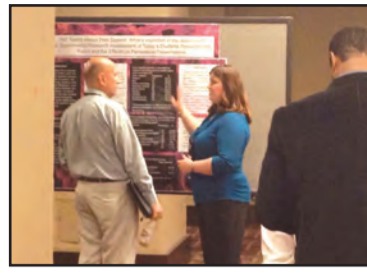
the application of competent communication to improve the quality of human life and relationships and the use of knowledge about communication to solve human problems.

First, Fair presented her research entitled “Hot Topics versus Free Speech: What’s Important in the Classroom? An Experimental Research Assessment of Today’s Students Perceived Hot Topics and the Effects on Persuasive Presentations.” The presentation was part of a scholar-to-scholar session which is an interactive presentation format where participants display their work using creative posters, digital slides and other media with the goal of engaging conversation with other scholars in attendance.

Fair’s research looked at the perspectives of both students and professors concerning what speech topics (if any) should not be used, why students believed in-

structors eliminated certain topics from being used, and the impact on grades when assigning students to complete a persuasive assignment using a “hot” topic.

Later at the conference, Fair and Tercero presented at a Great Ideas For Teaching Students (GIFTS) session where professors can come learn about different ideas for instruction in a wide variety of classroom contexts. The session is a “speed dating” format where attendees rotate tables every eight minutes and leave with new teaching ideas that can be used immediately. Fair and Tercero’s concept, entitled Bringing New Light to the Johari Window: Using a Historical Theory in the Present to Branch across Disciplines, looked at how a cross-disciplinary approach could help students better engage with course content. Dr. Tercero incorporated music into explaining the Johari window which is a



Brandy Fair and David Tercero

communication concept examining our knowledge of ourselves, our willingness to share information with others, and what others know about us that we have yet to realize.

Overall it was an amazing experience to be part of the 100th annual National Communication Association conference and to represent Grayson College on a national stage. ♥

**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) or Rebecca Jones (jonesre@grayson.edu). Volunteers for production and writing may also visit The Viking office.

# GC’s early childhood program gains national accreditation

Continued from page B4

The entire process typically takes two years to complete. “Grayson College is doing its part to ensure that highly trained teachers will be ready for the children and families in our community,” said Jeremy McMillen, GC president. “Accreditation not only establishes professional preparation standards to raise the quality of teacher education, but consequently raises the quality of early childhood education

programs like Grayson’s. We hope those interested in serving young children will look to Grayson College for the very best in education and training.”

Students completing this credential are already employed by or are ready for employment in professional child care centers and can transfer to universities to complete a bachelor’s degree.

GC remains accredited for seven years before complet-

ing a renewal process. To earn and retain accreditation, faculty must demonstrate that they collectively respond to their stakeholders, provide intentional learning experiences for their students to obtain the knowledge and skills needed to be effective early childhood educators and continuously assess and reflect on their students’ performance.

“Grayson College and the other accredited programs have demonstrated their

commitment to continuous quality improvement, transparency and public accountability at a critical time when there is increased demand for more early educators with the competencies needed to support young children and their families,” said Marica Cox Mitchell, NAEYC’s director of higher education accreditation and program support.

NAEYC is the professional organization that sets national standards for

programs that prepare early childhood teachers of children from birth to age eight. Founded in 1926, the association has nearly 80,000 members worldwide. NAEYC is the largest advocate for early care and education in the United States.

For more information about Grayson College’s AAS Child Development Degree Program, visit the college’s website at [www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu). ♥

# Ayurveda Yoga offered in the spring

Continued from page B4

It includes self-massage and acupressure, postures, stretching, dynamic movement, breath-work, gestures, mantra recitation, progressive relaxation, and meditative contemplation, to center the practitioner and align body, energy, and mind. Tibetan Yoga hones the practitioner’s faculties and supports the manifestation of natural perfection.

No previous experience or fitness level is required.

There is no competition, no striving, and no ultimate goal to be attained. All can derive benefit from these practices.

Much joy and radiant

health, Maria Silén, Founder: Serene Harvest - Art of QiGong, Meditation & Yoga

Visit: [www.sereneharvest.wordpress.com](http://www.sereneharvest.wordpress.com) / Phone: 903 436 0569

Maria has been teaching Yoga classes and private sessions since 2003 at various places in Grayson County, such as at local gyms, karate schools, wellness centers and most lately at the CWL at GC in addition to yoga studios in McKinney and Dallas Meditation Center. Each year Maria visits Sweden where she also is teaching classes, workshops and private sessions in both Yoga and QiGong.

In the beginning of Maria’s Yoga teaching career she

was teaching Western Hatha Yoga. Later she began to study under Linage holder Tashi Nyima of Dallas and learned the Tibetan Ayurveda Yoga form. She has since been teaching this form that is now offered at Grayson College.

Maria is thrilled to be able to share her passion and knowledge with students and employees at Grayson College and the public in the community. The different kinds of modalities and forms are helping, supporting and harmonizing Maria’s own personal life, so now after almost 20 years of daily practice it is part of her life and life style. “These kinds of exercises are

just too good and beneficial not been shared with others and that was why I decided to become an instructor,” she comments, adding “you can always modify them to the time you have, where you are and your needs for the moment.”

Yoga (and QiGong) enhance the immune system, help us to stay physically fit and healthy while they free us of self-doubts and fears that interfere with our peace of mind. More importantly, they unfold their capacity to manifest self-knowledge and strength towards self-care, radiant health and live a full-er life. ♥



# Should GC install an ATM on campus?

A survey of 80 students, staff and faculty performed by the Future Educators club reveals:

95% of participants agreed that an ATM should be installed though 16.25% of those surveyed said they would have no use for an ATM

insert card and remove quickly

The results are in: an astonishing 95% of students, staff and faculty surveyed by the Future Educators Club agreed that the GC campus needed an ATM for purchases in the library, bookstore, vending machines and at campus events. 16.25% of those surveyed said an ATM would be of no use to them. Could the cost of such a service be recuperated by student use? The college administration will decide.

# Fear the reaper: student debt services raise suspicion

Office of Financial Aid

According to *U.S. News and World Report*, "Student loan consolidation companies are kicking up their efforts to target struggling borrowers." The report maintains that there are promises of student loan forgiveness, lower interest rates and lower monthly payments plastered all over Facebook, prime-time commercials and radio spots. There are more than \$1 trillion in outstanding student loan debt in the United States. It seems that some companies are also targeting borrowers who are having a

hard time paying their student debt directly through the mail, uncannily having accurate information regarding how much the borrower owes.

Grayson College suggests that before a borrower discusses consolidation of debt with a non-governmental agency, they should go directly to the Federal Student Aid site located at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

This site can answer most questions regarding repaying their student loan(s). Just some of the topics include: understanding repayment, repayment options, consolidations options, deferment/

forbearance, forgiveness, cancellation, discharge, understanding default and how to resolve issues.

GC's Office of Financial Aid is also a reliable resource to learn about information on student loan servicers, and the different options available for repayment. For more information contact their office at 903-463-8794 or by email at [financialaid@grayson.edu](mailto:financialaid@grayson.edu) to make an appointment with a counselor.

For more on the article go to: <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/11/14/student-loan-consolidation-cottage-industry-grows-with-targeted-ads>.

## Got Food?

Sadly, not everyone is able to answer "yes" to this question. In Texas, the food insecurity rate is **18%**, which is the **third highest** in the nation.

Our Phi Theta Kappa Chapter wants to help combat food insecurity on campus by opening a food pantry for Grayson College students.

### We Need Your Help!

Please bring your nonperishable food items to the second floor of the Life Center on **Wednesday, December 3** from **11AM to 1PM**. We will be using all donations to help directly the students on this campus who are facing issues with food insecurity. We are accepting all nonperishable food items and are hoping to have a fully stocked pantry for this holiday season.



**Suggested food items:**  
 - canned meats  
 - canned vegetables  
 - canned soups  
 - canned fruit  
 - instant noodle packets  
 - instant rice  
 - instant oatmeal  
 - instant ramen  
 - instant mac & cheese  
 - instant spaghetti  
 - instant mashed potatoes  
 - instant gravy  
 - instant pancake mix  
 - instant waffle mix  
 - instant french fries  
 - instant onion rings  
 - instant bread crumbs  
 - instant taco mix  
 - instant pizza mix  
 - instant spaghetti sauce  
 - instant chili  
 - instant soup mix  
 - instant gravy mix  
 - instant dressing mix  
 - instant salad mix  
 - instant dressing mix  
 - instant salad mix

If you have any questions or need us to pick up a large donation, please contact the chapter advisor:

Professor Mary Linder  
 Office: LA 106F  
 Phone: 903.463.8616  
 Email: [linderm@grayson.edu](mailto:linderm@grayson.edu)



# "It's never too late"

Charles Leslie  
 Enrollment Advisor

I am an enrollment advisor and I see many different age groups of students. When a nontraditional student comes in, as I begin to talk to them I'm always trying to reduce their fear and anxiety of coming back to school. A nontraditional student is one who did not come to college right out of high school. They may have started a job or a family right out of high school.

The makeup of our student population is: 16% are under 18; 44% are 18-24; 35% are 25-49 and 5% are 50 or older. This fall 2014 25 of this group (50 and older) are FTIC, or first time in college. (Thank you Debbie Smarr for the data!)

Sharon Dray, who is 64 years of age, is a student that I had the opportunity to advise. She has never been in college before. Sharon was an administrator for 30 years at a motorcycle road-racing company and got laid off. She wanted to do something different and start a new career; she decided to get an



Enrollment Advisor Charles Leslie meets students from all walks of life

AAS in CADD, Computer Aided Drafting and Design. Sharon told me, "You can't stop. You got to keep going. Your circumstances do not define who you are; it just defines where you're at."

As I spoke with her about the program and the requirements, Sharon was very positive and open to learn the steps to apply. I told her that she had to take the TSI test (the college placement test). She had no hesitation; she just wanted to know when she could take the test. Sharon passed all but math (Elementary Algebra and

Functions; Intermediate Algebra and Functions; Geometry and Measurement; and Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability).

I've seen high school students and thirty year old students not pass either! But Sharon was placed in three hours of remedial math because of her high placement. She is in the fast-track, eight-week class. I've checked on her, she is doing well, passing math, and will start her CADD Classes in spring 2015. You see, it's never too late! ♥

## PTK service projects

Correspondence from Mary Linder, PTK Advisor:

"First, we are working on a food drive. We are collecting non-perishable food items to help us establish a food pantry on our campus. If we are able to sustain our food pantry for six months, we can then apply to the North Texas Food Bank to be a recognized food pantry and receive food items from them.

This is a huge undertaking, but one that we feel is important. Food insecurity is a very real issue that many of our students face, which is just one more barrier to their success. We want to help remove this barrier. We are holding our collection day on Wednesday, 3 December from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second floor of the Life Center. Please consider donating to this cause.

"Our other project is our annual Toys for Tots campaign. We have placed boxes in the Administra-

tion Building, LA Building, Library and in the Veterans Hub in the Life Center. Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy and dropping it off in one of our collection boxes. Boxes will remain available through 11 December. In true Phi Theta Kappa fashion, our officers have entered a Toys for Tots collection competition with the Phi Theta Kappa Chapter at Weatherford College to see which chapter can collect the most toys.

Help us demonstrate Grayson College's commitment to service by donating to this drive and helping us to spread the word. We are a community drop-off location so anyone in the community can contribute to our toy drive.

Thanks again for your continued support of our students in Phi Theta Kappa and their service projects. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

**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-Tr: 8 AM - 8 PM  
 F: 8 AM - 4 PM

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

## CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS December 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>

**Life Center 8AM - 4PM**  
**Fitness Center 6AM - 6PM**

## Bookstore December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8 AM - 6 PM	2 8 AM - 6 PM	3 8 AM - 6 PM	4 8 AM - 6 PM	5 10 AM - 3 PM	6 CLOSED
7 CLOSED	8 8 AM - 6 PM	9 8 AM - 6 PM	10 8 AM - 6 PM	11 8 AM - 6 PM	12 10 AM - 3 PM	13 CLOSED
14 CLOSED	15 8 AM - 6 PM	16 8 AM - 6 PM	17 8 AM - 6 PM	18 8 AM - 6 PM	19 10 AM - 3 PM	20 CLOSED
21 CLOSED	22 10 AM - 2 PM	23 10 AM - 2 PM	24 10 AM - 2 PM	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED
28 CLOSED	29 10 AM - 2 PM	30 10 AM - 2 PM	31 10 AM - 2 PM			

## January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 CLOSED	2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED
4 CLOSED	5 8 AM - 6 PM	6 8 AM - 6 PM	7 8 AM - 6 PM	8 8 AM - 6 PM	9 10 AM - 3 PM	10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED	12 8 AM - 6 PM	13 8 AM - 6 PM	14 8 AM - 6 PM	15 8 AM - 6 PM	16 10 AM - 3 PM	17 9 AM - 4 PM
18 10 AM - 3 PM	19 CLOSED	20 8 AM - 7 PM	21 8 AM - 7 PM	22 8 AM - 7 PM	23 8 AM - 6 PM	24 CLOSED
25 CLOSED	26 8 AM - 6 PM	27 8 AM - 6 PM	28 8 AM - 6 PM	29 8 AM - 6 PM	30 10 AM - 3 PM	31

# Arts & Inspiration

December 4, 2014

## GC proudly acquires two Petrof pianos through grants; faculty surprised



Marlea Trevino  
*Viking Sponsor*

On 13 November, GC was presented with two Petrof grand pianos, made possible through the generosity of Roger Sanders, Thelma Braun & the Bocklett Family Foundation and The Oliver Dewey Mayor Foundation. Grayson is the second college in the nation to have such instruments from the Czech Republic. Full-time Grayson piano instructor and accompanist Tatiana Bays played on pianos like these throughout her training in Ukraine. According to Grayson Director of Music David Tercero, with the addition of the Petrofs, Grayson's "level of pianos, facilities, and instruction is now on par if not ahead of any other program in the state."

Early in his first semester as interim program director, Tercero determined that

Grayson should make it a priority to upgrade its pianos, especially in view of the fact that many of its home-schooled students had studied piano seriously for years before enrolling at Grayson. When the Arts and Communications building was constructed, there were no instruments allotted for the music department. As a consequence, Grayson students have been playing on a "hodgepodge" of pianos.

As he began researching piano purchases, Tercero invited one of the top piano companies, Steinway, to the campus to determine whether Grayson could qualify as a candidate for an "all-Steinway" school, for which the music facilities would have to meet certain standards, such as having no leaks in the roof, appropriate safety provisions in place and appropriate sound capabilities. Steinway appraised

Grayson's existing 13 pianos at \$3,250 total (from \$0-\$750), with only one in "good" condition. According to Grayson Grant Writer Janis Thompson, during a recent audit of the 10 pianos used for instruction at Grayson, 2 no longer function and 7 are in poor condition. If Grayson wishes to attract serious music students, it must invest in pianos. "Four-year universities have become more selective in the recruitment of music students, focusing primarily on those students who have had access to the best equipment for instruction, practice and performance," says Thompson.

After hearing the Petrofs played during a piano research trip, when compared to Steinways, Yamahas, Baldwins, and many others, Bays and Tercero were convinced that the Petrofs would be the superior instruments for Grayson's program. Tercero confirmed his inclination by talking with the head of the piano department at Eastern Kentucky University, whose program had purchased 7 Petrofs in 2011, and learned that they were very pleased with the instruments' performance. Through the dealer Eastern Kentucky had used, Tercero was able to secure a discount on two grand Petrof pianos.

The 5-foot Petrof baby grand is valued at approximately \$40,000, and the 9-foot grand at \$112,000, making it the "largest single purchase the music department will make over the next 60 years," according to Tercero. Shipping costs added to the purchase price, as did a "damp chaser," which creates a cloud of humidity around the piano to maintain a consistent level of moisture. When the Arts and Communications building was constructed, it included a room for a 9-foot grand piano and will be used in the Cruce Stark Auditorium.

*Continued on page B4*

## ART earns awards

*Continued from page A1*

In addition to the production itself, individual students were also acknowledged with the prestigious "Meritorious Achievement Award" for their participation. This award was given to Dakkota Foster for "Acting," to Chris Hendrik for "Sound Composition and Design" and to Bryce Dansby for "Lighting Design." This award represents an artist who has "gone beyond the call of duty and achieved excellence."

The Meritorious Achievement Award is frequently only given to one, at the most two, individuals from a specific production. Often time there is no MA award given. Therefore this is a tremendous honor to have three of our students be acknowledged in this way. The design students, along with the Stage Manager AJ Johnston will compete as individuals at the Region Festival.

Finally, the three actors in ART were also awarded the "Irene Ryan Nomination" for excellence in acting. Dakkota Foster, Gabe Parker

and Holden Webster will compete with acting partners at the Region Festival.

Pia Wyatt from Northwestern State University in Louisiana and Fabrice Conte from the University of Oklahoma were the Committee members who gave these awards and they also gave a response/critique to the GC theatre company following Sunday's show. The GC Theatre department appreciates their time and comments about the show. It was an educational event, which is part of the mission of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and our students learned a lot from these two theatre artists. ♥



### MALE AND FEMALE MODELS NEEDED FOR 2015 LIFE DRAWING CLASS

Class meets Tuesday and Thursdays, weekly, 9:30am to 12:20pm, AC 118

Call for four (4) models, two females and two males. Two shifts scheduled for each class; 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Models will alternate with each other. \$20 per hour. No experience needed. Models will be posing in the nude. Sessions begin Thursday, January 22.

Contact Information  
Professor Steve O. Black  
Office: AC108C  
Office phone#: (903) 463-8662  
E-Mail: blackst@grayson.edu



## A view from the top

Tony Stanzo  
*Dean of Academic Instruction*

This was a week of extremes for me. I won the GC pingpong tournament and lost the Plano Table Tennis Club tournament. Lost spectacularly, I should say, because it could very well be that I was the worst player there. Although I won two matches out of four, both of them by only two points, I lost to a 12-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy. I had played in this tournament five times in the past and this was the first time I ever won a match. In the last tournament I won my very first game.

If ever there's a case of clawing one's way to the bottom, this has gotta be it.



So how do I reconcile these two events and their seemingly contradictory results? And what does it feel like to lose to a 12-year-old girl? I've been playing table tennis seriously for over 12 years now, longer than this girl has been alive. She didn't just beat me, she decimated me--won three straight games with roughly twice as many points as I scored.

I started playing as a (ahem) mature adult, far beyond those halcyon days of youth where we are as malleable as soft clay. My bones are more brittle, my joints more calcified (sometimes painfully so), my reflexes more tentative and, sadly, my brain more inflexible. And my technique is contaminated by years of garage pingpong. The kids at this

club all have coaches and many of them have Olympic aspirations. Ninety-five percent of their time with the sport is spent drilling forehand and backhand shots. They are bundles of pure technique. I, on the other hand, have enough technique to beat most garage players but not nearly enough to compete with these kids.

So how does it feel to lose to the young girl? Exhilarating! She is standing on my shoulders that much closer to the top just as I'm standing on the shoulders of the ones I beat. Each of us has a place in supporting the pyramid that places one person as the Olympic champion. Without all of us, the pyramid collapses. The view is breathtaking from up here. ♥

# The benefits of living in a digital society

Christina Francis  
*Student*

Digital connections today have evolved the way we communicate immensely. In the pre-Internet days, people would have to communicate mostly through face-to-face conversation letters, or on the telephone. Today, we have the luxury of the Internet, where meetings can be held through a computer screen and cultures worldwide can be shared in an instant. Communicating is easier than it has ever been with today's technology. From helping people spread the word about their business to simply connecting with their loved ones online, digital communication has been a major influence on today's generation.

Human connectivity has reached a new level with the creation of the Internet. As discussed in one of her speeches, Sherry Turkle says technology is redefining human connection. Digital connectivity plays a large role in the lives of people who lack the time to spend with others. For example, a person who is highly devoted to their job may spend endless hours working to complete their job in the most efficient manner possible. This leaves them working so much that it leaves little time to go visit with their family or friends. Technology today allows such a person to be able to see and talk to them within minutes over a phone or computer screen. Now, that person can continue to do their job while

also not missing out on socializing with people. Boosting a company's sales, the Internet adds on to another way to purchase or advertise clothes, food, or even electronics. Stores and advertisements online reel customers in to want to buy their products. The items can also be purchased online which provide the luxury of being able to be in the comfort of one's home while shopping. Shopping online boosts sales tremendously and helps out people when they can't find the item they are looking for at one of their local stores. People have different ways of wanting to do things. While one may prefer shopping physically in person, others may choose the option of online shopping which is always



available.

As some choose to shop online, others choose to do research. One could research for hours, discovering new things constantly. Yes, the Internet can be addictive for many people, but if people learn self-control and set limitations for themselves, the Internet is bound to extend our mind's knowledge

and be a positive impact on us more than a negative. According to Steven Pinker in "Mind Over Mass Media," "Yes, the constant arrival of information packets can be distracting or addictive, especially to people with attention deficit disorder. But distraction is not a new phenomenon."

*To be continued in February*

## Making the transition from warrior to student

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

Last month, Mr. Crocker told The Viking about his own rocky start in higher education and gave a few tips for veterans trying to make the transition. These included 1) figuring out what you want to do, 2) learning and understanding your benefits and 3) communicating efficiently.

4. You are your own best advocate. We in the Veterans Affairs office are here to help you get through school. Unfortunately, we do not know what you do not know. In other words, if you have a question or need help, please do not be afraid to ask. Let us know what you need, what we can do to help you.

We can put you into contact with just about any service that you may need. We can help you to understand what benefits you may be eligible for and how best to

use them. We want you to be as successful as possible, and the best way to do that is to let us know how we can help.

5. Relax! Many veterans are moving from the world they understand and feel comfortable in, into a whole new lifestyle and environment they haven't been a part of since high school. While going to college can be stressful, it doesn't have to keep you up at night.

You will likely experience some culture shock. This is especially true if you just got out of the military and were recently deployed. Keep in mind, a lot of our students are straight out of high school and many of them have no experience with the military outside of video games and movies. Show them that veterans are people too, and they don't need to be afraid of talking to us. Also take some time to check out the Veterans Hub in the Student Life Center. The Hub is a special place

*Continued from November*

set aside for our veterans and dependents to relax and study. It is a great place to meet and interact with other veterans, away from the general student populace.

6. Finally, follow up with your advisor after each semester. Check to see what classes you still need to complete your degree and to make sure you're still on track. Don't wait for the day before the semester starts to register for classes, do it as soon as possible to make sure you get what you need. If you need to change classes or get into a new degree plan we can make that happen.

We sincerely hope that you find this information helpful and we look forward to helping each and every veteran to reach your academic goals. Please feel free to contact Grayson College Veterans Affairs at (903)415-2615 or veterans@grayson.edu with any questions or concerns. ♥

Grayson College Theatre for Young Audiences Presents

**Cinderella Confidential**  
By Eric Coble

A reworking of the Cinderella story for the Media Age!

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

CRUCE STARK AUD  
\$2 Adults  
\$1 Students  
Free with GC ID  
903-463-8609  
theatre@grayson.edu

THEATRE  
Grayson College

## Auditions! Tuesday, 20 January 7 p.m., Cruce Stark

Are you free to rehearse Thursday - Sunday from 6 - 10 p.m. (22 Jan - 18 Feb)? Will you be free to rehearse tech weekend 13 - 15 Feb? Are you available to perform 18-20 February matinees during the day with curtain at 10 a.m.? 21 Feb at 7 p.m.? If yes, then come audition!

Questions? Call 903-463-8609/e-mail theatre@grayson.edu

## Cosmetology holds "Princess Day," accepts charitable donations



The GC Cosmetology Department, in support of local food pantries and toy drives in our area, held a "Princess Day" on 8 November 2014. Twenty-five cosmetology students, along with instructors, worked with 89 young ladies, ages four to twelve, to assist them in becoming "princesses" for a day. This also included a photo of each princess for them to have as a memento of their day. Donations for the food pantries and toy drives were collected with seven large boxes of food items and one large box of toys obtained for our area. Thanks to all who participated and used their skills and generosity to make this a huge success. - Shellie Gaskins, Student

# SIX NINETY-ONE

## GC'S STUDENT-RUN RESTAURANT

Reservations for Wednesday and Friday lunch service:  
903.415.2605

*Gourmet menus*

*budget-friendly prices*

# Criminal Justice club fares well at Region II conference

Ressa Smith  
*Criminal Justice Club President*

On Thursday, 6 November 2014, GC students Halona Todd and I traveled to Denton, Texas, to attend the ACJA Region II Regional Conference. We represented the Criminal Justice Club Lambda Chi chapter. At this conference we competed in several different events. These events were firearms, physical agility, crime scene and five written exams.

The regional competition began on the morning of Friday 7 November with firearms and physical agility. Todd stood by as I competed in the physical agility course; she cheered me on



Ressa Smith and Halona Todd

to not give up and to finish. I finished the course with a time of 5:13, and that is with a one minute penalty for passing on the wall.

After completing this event, we traveled back to Best West Premier Crown

Hotel, where the rest of the events were being held, to complete the five written tests in the subjects of LAE knowledge, police management, criminal law, juvenile justice and corrections. After the tests were finished it

was a free time night.

Saturday was the crime scene competition. Each team of three was set to their turns at a specific time. Halona and I, along with our third team member from the Arkansas chapter, Sonny Ganaway, were scheduled from 1 p.m. We couldn't thank him enough for stepping in and helping us out. After we finished the crime scene there was a business meeting followed by a banquet. The Region II President, Dave Redford, got up and said a few things. Then he began reading off the winners for each level and event. We were classified on the lower class level of competition. They began with

physical agility. First it was the female age group, 18 to 25. Next it was 26 to 35, my age bracket, where I brought home first place.

Next they announced the crime scene for our division. We received second place in that event. When we heard them call our group, Halona and I were in shock. After this, they went on to the written exams. Halona received second in juvenile justice and third in criminal law. I received third in police management.

It was great meeting new friends and being able to compete in events representing Grayson College. We are looking forward to Nationals in March. ♥

## Spring softball preview

Rachel Morgan  
*Student*

With the fall season now ended, we gathered all of our recorded stats to see what we have to work with for conference in spring. Some of our stats include our record standing at 10-4-1 total. Our offense came up a little shy at some points but rounded up about 60 runs earned during those 15 games. Our pitchers stood tall on the mound and led the defense behind them earning 36 strikeouts, endless pop ups and groundouts. On the bases, we produced 23 walks, 79 singles, 15 doubles, 3 triples, 4 home runs and 17 hit by pitches.

Not too shabby, but we need to at least plan to aim for double that for conference. Our coaches and team decided to come up with weekly goals in order to get closer to the ultimate goal of leading our conference and having a team GPA of a 3.0. Some of these goals include, "hold me accountable to hitting 3 times a week outside of practice." - Logan Pennartz, Marlee Boyd and Jocelyn Ward. Another was to "study an extra 30 minutes more than regular." - Chel-

sea Whitlock. Most of our goals are attainable, but some of the long-term ones are to beat our conference-standing champions such as McLennan Junior College.

Some of our plans consist of Christmas break workouts, and practice plans to make sure we are still on our game and do not get caught slipping when season comes. Our coaches really believe we are going to excel this upcoming season compared to previous ones. As a team, we want to work as hard as possible to prove to our coaches that we want it just as badly as they do.

Some of our practices will change to challenge us and will probably consist of a lot more mental drills. The game is 90% mental and 10% physical so there is a need for a mental challenge to prepare us. With our goals, practice plans and support, we should be more than ready for spring.

After Christmas break of course, it will be difficult to bounce back from all of the food and hanging out, but a real team has the mental capability to make that happen, and that will be us. Come out and support the team this spring. ♥

## Do you like being outdoors, appreciate everything green, or want to make our campus eco-friendlier?

The Science Club is joining with the TIPPS/Culinary Arts Club to enhance the gardens around the Culinary Arts building. The project will begin the week after finals and carry on throughout the spring semester. There will be vegetables, fruits, and herbs along with some edible flowers. Volunteers are currently needed. No gardening experience necessary, just bring enthusiasm and don't be afraid to get a little dirty! The project will be discussed in further detail at the next Science Club meeting, first Friday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in room 107 of the Science Building.

## Finding our way to success

Kay Dishner  
*Writing Center Coordinator*



The road to success takes different turns for each of us, but there are three basic steps to accomplishing success at any point of our lives. These include time management, goal setting and work ethic. Rightly applied, these basic steps can serve as the criteria for success in any of our endeavors, as well as a way to keep check and control on the road to the success we are seeking.

No one ever sets out to fail at what they are attempting, but if we do not plan to succeed, then we will fail for lack of a plan. Someone once said, "a man without a plan is powerless," and the

powerlessness will stop our forward motion on the road to success. So, it becomes essential to begin to take control of our future by using our time wisely, setting goals to accomplish responsibilities and focusing time and attention in a work ethic that will enable the accomplishment of our goals.

First of all, is there a plan operating in your life? Are there goals you have set to accomplish? Are you working the plan to accomplish your goals? And finally, are you managing your time to insure cognition and execution of your plans and dreams? Maybe it is time for a "success check-up" to evaluate the forward movement of our plans and goals.

Since the life we are living

and the hours we are keeping are a reflection of the tomorrow we will be living, everyone owes it to themselves to check into their life on a regular basis to evaluate the outcomes of our endeavors. So how are you managing your time? Is it a matter of fighting the clock every day, trying to get it all done, or have you given in to the idea that failure is acceptable so you can forget it? We all have the same 24 hours a day breakdown and use to accomplish all that we want and need to do. By dividing time into the increments necessary to accomplish daily goals and responsibilities, we free ourselves from the tyranny of the urgent.

*To be continued in February*

### Grayson College Office **CHRISTMAS TREE** Decorating Contest

JUDGING STARTS  
**DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
10AM - 12PM

Participating Offices:

Library	Student Life
Arts & Humanities	CWL
Admissions & Records	Culinary Arts
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid
Electrical Technology (South Campus)	Top 3 finishers will be announced on December 8 <sup>th</sup>
Business & Computer Technology	

Come check out our  
**Christmas Trees**



### Spring 2015 Honors Courses

COURSE ID	COURSE TITLE
-----	
CHEM-1412 .HRS 14/2S	GEN CHEM 2 HONORS
CHEM-2425 .HRS 14/2S	ORGANIC CHEM 2 HONOR
COSC-1301 .HRS 14/2S	COMPUTER SCI HONORS
DRAM-1310 .HRS 14/2S	INTRO THEATRE HONORS
ENGL-1302 .HRS 14/2S	COMPOSITION 2 HONORS
GEOL-1403 .HRS 14/2S	PHY GEOLOGY HONORS
GOVT-2306 .HRS 14/2S	TEXAS GOVT HONORS
HIST-1302 .HRS 14/2S	US HISTORY 2 HONORS
HIST-2322 .HRS 14/2S	WORLD CIVIL 2 HONORS
MATH-2413 .HRS 14/2S	CALCULUS 1 HONORS
MUSI-2312 .HRS 14/2S	MUSIC THEORY 4 HONOR
PSYC-2301 .HRS 14/2S	GENERAL PSYCH HONORS
SPCH-1321 .HRS 14/2S	BUS & PROF COM HONOR

## Theatre Department Information Meeting

**Tuesday, Jan 20 at 6:30pm**  
Black Box Theatre inside Arts & Communication Center

*All Welcome!*

*We will discuss auditions, productions for Spring 2015, and much more.*

*Auditions for Cinderella Confidential will follow this meeting.*

# International Week

Continued from page A1

The week rounded out Thursday, 20 November with International Day upstairs in the Student Life Center. Tables representing the various diverse cultures of GC students lined the floor. Students from Burundi, Gabon, Cameroon, Benin, Vietnam, Venezuela, Ukraine, Columbia, Mexico, Burma, Bangladesh, India, South Korea, Laos, Togo and Mauritania manned booths, showing examples of traditional dress, currency and even food in their home

countries. Students from the Montessori school were escorted from table to table to learn about each culture.

At noon, a special dance presentation from the Austin College dance team KangaRaas wowed the crowd with a spectacular performance. The team then reached out to the children to teach them a few moves. Empty Bowls, a charitable event hosted by the Clay Club and Culinary Arts, coincided with International Day and contributed to the large crowd that gathered. ♥



Rebecca Jones



David Hall

# Photo of the Month



This photo, taken by student Gokul Maniventhan, represents an osmosis simulation experiment conducted in a Grayson College classroom.

# Petrof pianos invigorate Grayson's music program

Continued from page B1

The 5-foot will be housed in the band hall and used in the Auditorium, the Black Box Theater, and the atrium. Piano trucks will allow the pianos to be moved where needed.

Prior to this purchase, Grayson was limited as to which artists it could bring in for concerts. Now, with the Petrofs, Grayson owns instruments that "no one

else has," giving its program a high-quality presence, unique for a two-year school, according to Terce-ro. The Denison Performing Arts Piano Competition that Grayson hosts annually will now have concert-quality instruments to use, and Grayson can offer state-wide community college competitions. ♥



Rebecca Jones

# International student adjusts to life in America

Hassan Saleem Student

When Sasha Nadeem started the process of applying to schools in the United States, she never thought about whether America would be a welcoming place for a young Muslim student. She had read articles that talked about the diverse America and the melting pot in America. She had conversations with friends who were already studying at American institutions; such as Southern Methodist University they reassured her that there was nothing for her to worry about language and cultural barriers. Jack Wilson told her some American students do not welcome Muslim students studying here and ignore them. This is an example of being prejudiced in America, but prejudice occurs all over the world. It is the same in Pakistan towards American students.

Muslims are very different from Christians. Like Jews, Muslims are not supposed to eat pork and can only eat Halal meat. Halal meat is meat slaughtered or prepared in the manner specified by Islamic law. Muslims do not drink alcohol at all. They also pray five times a day between sunrise and late evening and must be cleaned and showered before each prayer.

If you are studying in the States right now, look around and see if your campus is warm and welcoming to Muslim students. Is there an Islamic center or a mosque? How about even just a small prayer room? Does your cafeteria know that Muslims do not eat pork? How many special dishes for Muslims do they make for every meal? Let me help you by mentioning some food that contains pork: pepperoni pizza, sausage, hot dogs, ham.

Yes, America is a very di-

verse country, but not everywhere. Small towns are not as diverse as the big cities. There is no Islamic center in Denison; there is only a small mosque that is far from campus. There is not any place for Halal food in the city. Grayson College Cafeteria does not have food that caters to the Muslim eating palate. Nadeem's friend Wilson can easily eat any food in the cafeteria.

Grayson was very welcoming to Nadeem as a Muslim student. Staff and students were delightful and sympathetic. Grayson had only two Muslims on the faculty and three Muslim students at the time she started last semester. So even though students were very nice to her, it was also very hard to adjust to this new environment. Grayson students, teachers, and staff have little knowledge of Islam and Muslims, and she did not feel comfortable praying in on campus. As a result, she

found it hard keeping up with her prayers. She has lots of American friends, and Nadeem always asks them about their religion because Muslim people also believe in Jesus. Nadeem wants to know what the difference in both religions is. It is really helpful to understand about other religions.

It was quite shocking to know college students are drinking. Significant numbers of college students expect one to drink or get drunk and equate drinking with having fun. Nadeem never had problems explaining to people why she does not drink alcohol or order soft drinks while attending parties, but it did create some tensions. It was also irritating to her that some people insisted that she should try eating pepperoni or ham, especially when there was no other meat option.

Different food is not the only problem for Nadeem,

Writing in the English language is very difficult for someone from another country. However, for Wilson it is his native language, so he has little difficulty. It is easy for Wilson, but when Nadeem wrote an essay, she had lots of problems with grammar. Homework is difficult for foreign students because limited English makes working alone very difficult. All of them mostly need help with grammar and complete sentences. Nadeem was grateful to Wilson for sending her to the Writing Lab because she did not know about the resource.

Although there are many differences between Christian culture and Muslim culture, such as religious practices, language barriers, and food, Muslims are still able to receive a quality education at Grayson College. ♥

Grayson College

History Club

INTERESTED IN HISTORY?

MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 3:30 P.M. LA 107