

## Get Involved

### Viking Deadline

Friday, February 23rd  
Send all submissions to the editor, Morgan Bryant, at [MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu](mailto:MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu). Remember, anyone can contribute!

### Student Leadership Series

Monday, February 26th  
12:15pm-12:45 LA101  
Speaker: Mrs. Janet Gott, Denison Councilman, former member of the Grayson College Board of Trustees, retired business executive.

### Student and Employee Spirit Day

Every Friday  
Wear your GC attire with blue jeans and celebrate the Viking spirit.

### Student/Employee Wellness Fair

February 5th, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Life Center, 2nd floor

## Clubs & Orgs

### Baptist Student Ministries

Wednesdays, 11:30 -12:15 p.m.  
BSM building

### Clay Club

First Thursdays, 5 - 6 p.m.  
Ceramic Room, Arts & Communications

### Cosmetology Club

Mondays bi-weekly  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m., CTC

### Cultural Diversity Club

First and third Wednesdays  
1 - 2 p.m., Int'l Student Office

### DAAC

Fridays, 12:45 p.m., HS 202

### Delta Phi Delta (Art)

First Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m.  
Design Room  
Arts & Communications

### Dental Assisting Club

Wednesdays, 11:30 - 12 p.m.  
HS 205

### Electrical Technology Club

TBA  
Contact Aimee Flynn  
903-463-8684

### Eta Sigma Delta

First Wednesdays, 2 p.m.  
Culinary Arts Building

### FCA

TBA

### Future Educators

Every other Tuesday  
12:20 - 12:50 p.m., CIS 200

### Gamers Guild

First Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.  
Design Room,  
Arts & Communications

### Grayson Nursing Student Association

Wednesday or Friday  
11:30 a.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

### HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)

Second and fourth Tuesday  
12:20 - 12:45 p.m., LA 108

### History Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.  
LA 207, Liberal Arts

### Honors College Club

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

### HVACR Club

First Thursdays  
5:30 p.m.  
CTC Room 117

### LEA (Criminal Justice)

Tuesdays  
12:30-1:30 p.m.  
Location TBA

### Men of Distinction

Thursdays, 12 - 1 p.m.  
CWL Seminar Room A

# Grayson Professor Discovers Fossils Named in His Honor

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor



Grayson College Professor John Moody discovered the *Squalicorax moodyi* (Cretaceous period, 145-66 million years ago) and the *Anapaulia moodyi* (Devonian period, 419-358 million years ago). Both fossils were named after him.

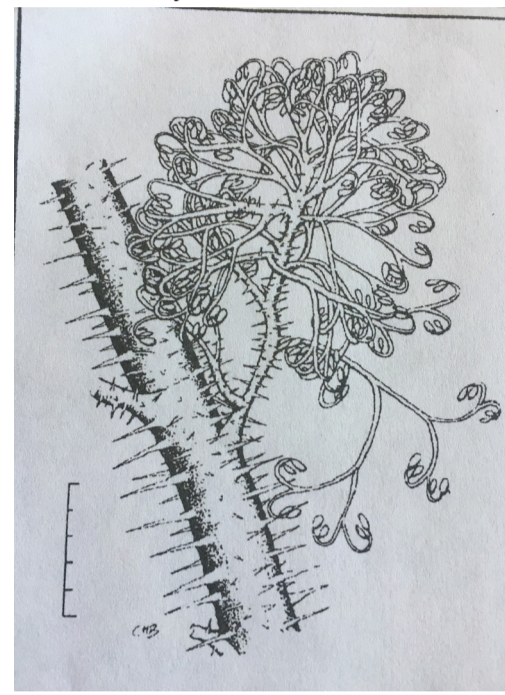
Although known best by his Grayson College writing students as their professor with fourteen published novels, John Moody has also been a lifelong geologist and paleontologist. While working in the petroleum industry in Venezuela over many years, he discovered and explored fossil caches, notably a tar pit rich with fossils from the Pleistocene epoch (2.6 million years ago-11,700 years ago). *Squalicorax moodyi*, a shark species from the Cretaceous period, 145-66 million years ago, and *Anapaulia moodyi*, a Devonian fossil plant from 419-358 million years ago, are named in his honor.

### Discovery of *Anapaulia moodyi*

Since Moody had come to intimately know the quarries in the western Venezuelan area through weekend fossil hunts, eventually he was asked to become curator of paleontology for the Museo de Biología de la Universidad del Zulia, and

university paleontologists from around the world consulted with him during their research trips.

During one visit, Chris Berry, a doctoral student, explored a particular area with Moody, an area that Berry's supervising professor from the University of Wales in Cardiff, Dr. Diane Edwards, had seen and visited previously and collected specimens from. Soon after Berry's return home, Moody broke open a rock specimen they had later collected and found a perfectly preserved plant fossil with fertile structures (spore sacks) that could be described in thorough detail—a very atypical find. He immediately packed up the specimen and mailed it to Berry to use in his research.



*Anapaulia moodyi* (from the *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*, 1997)

When Berry published his dissertation, he named the plant in Moody's honor. "Well, I have a plant named after me," Moody recalls thinking. "I hadn't realized all I needed to do was find one, and someone would name it after me."

Many of the plants and fish fossils found in these western Venezuelan caches are similar to those found in New York, no doubt due to the proximity of those areas during that time period.

*Continued on Page 4*

# Grayson College Brings Back Basketball

By Molly Harris, Assistant to Grayson College President

On January 23, the Grayson College Board of Trustees approved the addition of both men's and women's basketball in addition to other programs. "Both the men's and women's basketball programs will begin playing in the fall, and excitement may be an understatement," said GC Athletic Director Michael McBrayer.

With the addition of the two sports also comes a new pep band and cheer squad, which will encourage team spirit and campus pride. An athletic training program will add another pathway for students. These additions align well with the college's strategic plan: Connect, Commit, Complete.

"We Connect students to the right college and career pathways, Commit to building community, and ultimately, support them in Completing their academic and career goals," said GC President Dr. Jeremy McMillen. "As we moved toward this new addition it was vital that we provided the complete experience. Having the teams, band and cheer squad will bring a new energy to the campus for the students, employees, fans and our community."

Grayson's athletic director explained that the most important step going forward is the hiring of the right people. A national search for coaches is already underway, and McBrayer is clear on what he expects. He said, "First of all we want to find an individual who embodies college standards and will uphold our Viking Values through their own actions, their players and their program; second, an individual who will develop a competitive program in the first couple of years; and, third, will provide an exciting brand of basketball that gets everybody's attention."

As GC leaders move toward implementation of the additional programming, McBrayer is sure to look back as well. "This is something we have been discussing for a couple of years, and I could not be more thankful to Dr. McMillen and the entire Board of Trustees for their support and diligence in this process."

For additional information, contact Michael McBrayer (903) 463-8753 or [mcbrayerm@grayson.edu](mailto:mcbrayerm@grayson.edu)

# Meet Grayson Student Veteran: Benjamin Colt Floyd

By Benjamin Colt Floyd, Student

Raised in west Texas, I graduated from high school in Clarendon, Texas, in May of 2001. After playing high school sports all through high school, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship to attend Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma. While there, I was on the football team and had progressed up to the number 2 quarterback position on the team. However, after 1 year at SNU, I decided to end my time at this school and go in a different direction.

I joined the Oklahoma National Guard and reported for boot camp in April 2003. I was assigned to Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry, and it was with this unit that I made my first deployment to Afghanistan (Kabul) in 2011/12. Upon my return to the States, I remained on Active National Guard status and served as an instructor/trainer with the Modern Army Combative Program (MACP). This assignment required that I provide specialized combat training to other guardsmen around the country, including hand-to-hand combat training.

Then in 2011/12, I was once again deployed to Afghanistan as part of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry. We were sent to COP-Najil (combat outpost) in Laghman Province, which provided a considerable amount of military action. During this assignment, I suffered leg injuries and head trauma that ultimately led to my being transferred to Brooks Army Hospital for nine months of rehabilitation and then to Durant, Oklahoma, to receive the care that I needed. (This assignment to COP-Najir was also where the "helmet-cam" footage was taken that was later used in the *Citizen Soldier* docu-drama movie.)

After completing rehab for my injuries, I was employed in Oklahoma for almost five years as a Certified Instructor/Trainer for Simply Safe, a Drug, Alcohol, DNA Testing service. During this time, a California-based movie company, Strong-Eagle Media, had acquired the helmet camera footage from my unit's military operations at COP-Najil to create a documentary movie.



Benjamin Floyd talking with audience at the Grayson College screening to *Citizen Soldier*. Photo courtesy of Tommy Ellis

*Continued on Page 2*

**Music Club**

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

**Phi Theta Kappa**

Wednesdays  
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

**Psychology Club**

Tuesdays, 12:15 - 12:50 p.m.  
CIS 202

**Radiology Tech Club**

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

**Rotaract**

Wednesdays  
3 - 4 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

**Science Club**

1st and 3rd Fridays  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
S 106, Science Building

**Student Government Association**

First Mondays  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center  
Next Meeting: February 5th

**Sigma Kappa Delta & Writers Unlimited**

Every other Thursday  
12:20 - 12:50 p.m.  
Study Room 3, Library

**Sisters of Destiny**

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.  
Conference Room, Life Center

**Student Ambassadors**

Third Mondays, 12 - 1 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

**Student Veterans Association (SVA)**

1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
Veterans' Hub (2nd floor of  
Life Center) 12 - 1:00 p.m.

**TIPPS (Culinary Arts)**

First Thursdays, 3 - 4:00 p.m.  
691 Restaurant, Culinary Arts

**Veteran Nursing Student Association**

First Mondays, 12 p.m.  
South Campus Skills Lab

**Vocational Nursing Student Association**

First and third Wednesdays,  
12 - 1 p.m.  
Veteran's Hub, Life Center

**Welding Technologies Association**

First and third Tuesdays,  
12 - 1 p.m. CTC Break Room  
First and third Tuesdays,  
12 - 1 p.m. South Campus

**Writers Unlimited**

Every other Tuesday  
12:15-12:45 p.m.  
Study Room 5

Please report incorrect listings to the editor:  
Morgan Bryant  
MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu.

Continued from Page 1, Meet Grayson Student Veteran: Benjamin Colt Floyd

The movie, Citizen Soldier, was developed from this raw military combat footage. Several of the soldiers from my unit, including me, were recruited to be featured in the film as well as to aid in its production and ultimately in its marketing. I am proud to say the movie has been very successful in its purpose to deliver to the viewer a true picture of combat in Afghanistan and what the American soldier had to deal with in combat and still deals with here at home, the after-effects of combat. The award-winning movie has been featured and screened all over the country including my hometown of Clarendon, here at Grayson College and even in New York and California. It even won at the Sundance Film Festival for best Independent Documentary in 2015.

Currently, I am employed at Kelso Technologies, a Canadian company with facilities in Bonham. As a member of the production team, I'm engaged in welding, fabricating

and assembling our products that are used world-wide by the train industry. Because of my desire to stay with this fantastic company, I am studying Business Administration here at Grayson College so that I, too, can progress and grow within the company. My formal education at Grayson is financed by VA Chapter 31 and will be followed by my attendance at either SOSU or Texas A & M/Commerce. I definitely plan to earn my Bachelor's Degree and possible even a Master's Degree.

While a student here at Grayson, I am also a member of the Student Veterans Association and assisted in the club's first raffle-fundraiser last fall. I expect to again be involved with this year's club fund-raiser as well. This past November, I was even honored as the month's Texoma Hero recipient.

Currently, I am working fulltime for Kelso Technologies and going to college, I am still proudly involved with various aspects of promoting Citizen

Soldier. In fact, plans are currently underway to do another movie screening at Grayson College's South Campus in conjunction with a scholarship fundraiser later this spring. Additionally, I am active with several other veteran-related organizations. I am affiliated with Giving Back Foundation, where wounded veterans are offered no-cost outdoor (fishing and hunting) experiences to aid in their recovery and rehabilitation efforts. I'm a member of the local American Legion, Post 29, the VFW in Clarendon, and the local chapter of the Order of the Purple Heart Foundation.

Even though I am extremely busy with school, work and Citizen Soldier, I was recently married and I am now helping raise four kids. Regardless of how busy I think I am, I will always have the time, energy and desire to provide whatever help and assistance I can to my veteran brothers and sisters.

# Grayson College Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	# Games	Time
2/5	Navarro	Dub Hayes Field	9	2:00
2/9	Northwest FL.	Sam Houston St.	9	6:00
2/10	Chipola	Lamar Univ.	9	9:00 a.m.
2/10	Howard	U. of Houston	9	6:00
2/11	Baton Rouge	San Jac	9	9:00 a.m.
2/14	Murray St.	Dub Hayes Field	9	2:00
2/16	Galveston	Dub Hayes Field	9	2:00
2/17	Galveston	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	12:00
2/19	Navarro	Corsicana, TX	9	2:00
2/22	Northeast TX	Mt. Pleasant, TX	9	3:00
2/24	Northeast TX	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	12:00
2/26	San Jac	Sam Houston St.	9	4:00
3/2	Howard	Dub Hayes Field	9	2:00
3/3	Howard	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	12:00
3/7	Vernon	Vernon, TX	7/9	12:00
3/10	Vernon Dub	Hayes Field	7/9	12:00
3/14	NCTC Dub	Hayes Field	7/9	1:00
3/17	NCTC	Gainesville, TX	7/9	1:00
3/19	Murray St.	Tishomingo, OK	9	5:00
3/21	Temple	Temple, TX	7/9	1:00
3/24	Temple	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	1:00
3/26	Paris	Paris, TX	9	2:00
3/28	Cisco	Cisco, TX	7/9	1:00
3/30	Cisco	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	1:00
4/2	San Jac	TCU	9	4:00
4/11	Ranger	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	1:00
4/14	Ranger	Ranger, TX	7/9	1:00
4/16	Murray St.	Dub Hayes Field	9	2:00
4/18	Hill	Hillsboro, TX	7/9	1:00
4/21	Hill	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	1:00
4/23	Murray St.	Tishomingo, OK	9	5:00
4/25	McLennan	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	1:00
4/28	McLennan	Waco, TX	7/9	1:00
4/30	Paris	Dub Hayes Field	9	2:00
5/2	Weatherford	Weatherford, TX	7/9	1:00
5/5	Weatherford	Dub Hayes Field	7/9	1:00
5/11	Regional Tourn.	Grand Prairie, TX	TBA	TBA
5/26	JUCO World Series	Grand Junction, CO	TBA	TBA

**English Word of the Month: Boustrophedon (n)**  
[Boo-struh-fee-don]  
Definition:  
Writing that is right-to left and left-to-right on alternating lines.

**German Word of the Month: Redner (n)**  
[Red-ner]  
Definition:  
A speaker or orator, also known as a *Sprecher*

**Italian Word of the Month: Bieco (adj)**  
[Bee-ay-co]  
Definition:  
Grim or sinister

## HELPING STUDENTS FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

When many students hear the word "scholarship," they mistakenly think it's something reserved only for a select few. Here's how students can discover the billions of dollars in scholarships available for individuals just like them.

### 1. Complete the FAFSA

Like many other types of aid, a lot of scholarships require a completed FAFSA as part of their application requirements. Visit [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) to get the process started. For Spring and Summer 2018 you must complete the 2017-18 FAFSA. For Fall 2018 you must complete the 2018-19 FAFSA.

### 2. Secure Letters of Recommendation

A good word from the right source can go a long way in helping students stand out from the crowd when applying for scholarships. Approach teachers, coaches, employers, and advisors for a letter of recommendation at least a month before the application deadline—and be sure to include clear instructions on what's required.

### 3. Write a Unique Essay

A traditional part of the scholarship application, a written essay is a chance to shine a spotlight on an applicant's unique situation. Take something interesting from your background and make it stand out. For example, have you had to overcome adversity in their life? Were you motivated by an awesome occurrence? Be sure to recommend having your drafts edited by a teacher or parent before submitting.

### 4. Have All Documents Handy

Be aware of the documents they may need to complete their applications, such as high school transcripts, and have both hard and electronic copies on hand. If not readily available, these documents may take some time to get, so it's a good idea to get them in order early in the process.

### 5. Look Locally

Be sure to look for any local scholarship opportunities in your school's financial aid office. Check with area civic organizations, churches, and other philanthropic groups to see what's available.

### 6. Utilize Online Scholarship Searches

There are a variety of websites available featuring extensive lists of scholarships. Some examples you can check out to aid in your search:

- **Cappex** ([cappex.com](http://cappex.com))
- **The College Board** ([bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search))
- **College Greenlight** ([collegreenlight.com](http://collegreenlight.com))
- **FastWeb** ([fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com))
- **Niche** ([colleges.niche.com](http://colleges.niche.com))
- **Red Kite** ([myredkite.com](http://myredkite.com))
- **Scholarship America** ([scholarshipamerica.org](http://scholarshipamerica.org))
- **Scholarship Monkey** ([scholarshipmonkey.com](http://scholarshipmonkey.com))

# Apply Now For Grayson College Foundation Scholarships

By Cynthia Perez, Executive Assistant to Grayson College Foundation Director

## Poem by Michael McMan

There it was,  
There it went,  
A breath of fresh air  
Heaven sent.

*Let's forget it all,  
But say we didn't.  
Go ahead and keep  
Our emotions hidden.*

*You weren't the first,  
You're not the last.  
Honey, I'm afraid  
The past has passed.*

At the end of the day,  
We stopped where we started  
Different directions  
We both darted

*Let's forget it all,  
But say we didn't.  
Go ahead and keep  
Our emotions hidden.*

*You weren't the first  
You're not the last.  
Honey, I'm afraid  
The past has passed.*

Every dog  
has his day.  
Until then,  
I'll sit and stay

*You weren't the first,  
You're not the last.  
Honey, I'm afraid  
The past has passed.*

*Let's forget it all,  
But say we didn't.  
Go ahead and keep  
Our emotions hidden.*

Blow me a kiss,  
Wave me farewell  
Where will we be?  
Tomorrow will tell.

The Grayson College Foundation provides scholarship opportunities to Grayson College students through endowments, annual scholarships and grants from outside funding sources. Foundation scholarships are based on several factors, which include academic performance, leadership, community service, extracurricular activities, financial need and college major.

During the 2017/2018 academic year, the Grayson College Foundation awarded over \$500,000 in scholarship support to students attending Grayson College. We are now accepting applications for the 2018/2019 academic year.

Foundation scholarships range in value from \$250 to \$2,000 annually and are available to full-time and part-time students attending Grayson College. Scholarships are awarded in the spring for the following academic year and are divided equally between each long semester (Fall/Spring).

**To apply for a 2018-2019 academic scholarship through the Grayson College Foundation, complete the online scholarship application and upload the required documents (letter of recommendation, student essay and current transcript) by the priority deadline – March 20, 2018**

To submit a scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year, visit [www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu), select:

- > Admission & Aid
- > Scholarships
- > Go - Apply for Scholarship

The Grayson College Foundation Office is located on the east side of the main campus. A private road access to our office is located between the white water tower and Dub Hayes Field, home of the Vikings baseball team. Office hours are 8:00 am – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Any questions related to the 2018-2019 scholarship application should be directed to Cindy at [foundation@grayson.edu](mailto:foundation@grayson.edu).

## Are You an Aspiring Writer?

- Want to read and discuss literature—old and new?
- Want to workshop your own writing with others?
- Want to contribute to our college newspaper, The Viking?
- Want to participate in adult literacy service projects?
- Want to attend author lectures, plays, and the Dallas Poetry Slam?

### Come join Writers Unlimited/Sigma Kappa Delta!

We meet every other Tuesday, Study Room 5 in the library, 12:15-12:45 p.m., starting Tuesday, January 30.

#### Contact:

**Dr. Marlea Treviño, [TrevinoM@grayson.edu](mailto:TrevinoM@grayson.edu) (Main Campus, LA105C)**

**Dr. Richard Davis, [DavisRe@grayson.edu](mailto:DavisRe@grayson.edu) (South Campus, SA113)**

“If a story is in you, it has to come out.” ----William Faulkner

## Remembering A King

By Cassandra Garcia, The Viking Assistant Editor

On January 15, 2018, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was celebrated nationwide. For Austin College, an incredible breakfast was held at Mabee Hall in his honor, and those of us from Grayson College were invited along for the ride.

The President of Austin College himself, Steven O'Day, welcomed us to the breakfast, which was followed by the Pledge and 4-Way Test presented by Grayson College Rotaract Vice President, Cheyanne Connor; the Rotaract sponsor, Dr. Jean Sorensen; and Austin College Rotaract Officer, Megan Chui.

Soon after, student speaker James Wyche delivered a very touching speech about Dr. King's life and all that he faced. Many attendees found Mr. Wyche's words to be extremely informative, as we were taught the life story of the man we would never get to personally know. Afterwards, the Sherman Federated Choir stirred the attendees' emotions further with two very powerful songs, which made way for keynote speaker, Kim Andrews. The most impactful and encouraging words of the morning were given by Mrs. Andrews, an author and hard-working woman.

Dr. King did more than try to gain equal rights for all. According to her, "He is passing us the baton of life," meaning the changes we can make everyday. Mrs. Andrews believes we cannot let the baton sit on the floor, we must pick it up and make a difference. In her view, it is our job to keep this world progressing in equality, and we must always try to do the right thing. She points out doing the right thing is not always easy, but it is a task we must appoint ourselves with every day. Overall, this speech set the bar for the expectations we all hold ourselves to and held justice to Dr.

King's life and legacy.

With a few closing segments, one given by NAACP member Ronnie Boyd regarding the scholarship given in Dr. King's honor, and the last given by Grayson Rotary President Jim Walker, the breakfast was a complete success. Grayson College attendees, including President Jeremy McMillen, expressed great enthusiasm and thanks for being invited. Austin College delivered a fantastic celebration, and Grayson College hopes to be invited once again next year.



Sherman Rotary and Grayson Rotaract Attendees: (L-R) Grayson Secretary Cassandra Garcia, Sherman President Tom Gregg, Sherman Rotary Member Deborah Boring, Grayson Vice President Cheyanne Connor, Sherman President Elect Eric Ross

## Upcoming Student Events:

### Late Night Burgers & Fries

February 5th, 9 p.m.-10 p.m., Cafeteria  
Complimentary meal provided by Great Western Dining Service

### Karaoke

February 5th, 11a.m.-1p.m.  
Life Center community Room

### Spring Games Tourney

Registration: February 5-19th  
Student Life office

Students and employees are invited to participate Video games, 8 ball, foosball and ping pong.

## Apply For New Grayson Foundation Association Scholarship!

Grayson College Faculty President, Virginia Thompson, is proud to announce that the Grayson College Faculty Association has established an Endowed Scholarship through the Grayson Foundation.

The Grayson College Faculty Association Scholarship will be awarded to deserving students based on character, academic ability, and financial need.

The Grayson Foundation accepts applications for ALL scholarships through the application process located online at [grayson.edu](http://grayson.edu).

Complete the scholarship application (new and renewal applicants) each academic award year and return the application and requested documents to the Office of Financial Aid. Complete applications received on or before the priority deadline of March 15 will be considered first.

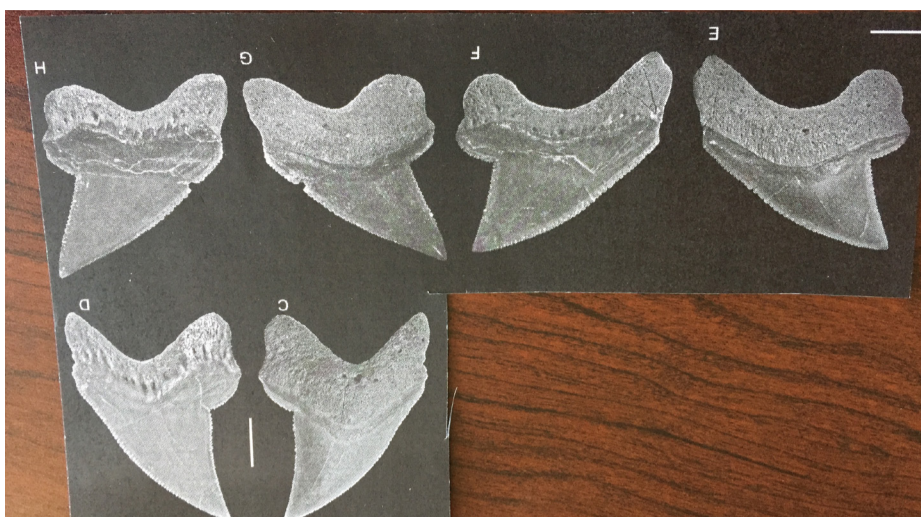
The Grayson faculty is proud to support the students by giving to various scholarships through the Grayson Foundation. The faculty is dedicated to supporting scholarships through payroll deductions and monetary donations to the Foundation.

**ALL students are encouraged to apply!**

Continued from Page 1, Grayson Professor Discovers Fossils Named in His Honor

**Discovery of *Squalicorax moodyi***

Many of the fossils Moody found in western Venezuela were fish remains, sometimes fragmentary, but in beds with many fossils. Since sharks lose their teeth when they feed, he found many shark teeth in these same beds in the La Luna Formation.



*Squalicorax moodyi* (from *Cretaceous Research*, 2018)

In studying the collection of fossils Moody had gifted to the university museum, one researcher, Jorge Carrillo Briceno, discovered a species that differed from those previously known. “I have a surprise for you,” Moody recalls Briceno telling him when he conveyed the news. The species fossils were limited to just that area but might be found in other locations.

**Discovery of a Venezuelan tar pit with fossils from Pleistocene epoch**

The petroleum industry had known about the Inciarte tar pit a long time—for at least 400 years, people had been talking about the location but hadn’t explored or reported on it. Moody found the first fossils discovered in Venezuela from a tar pit. Over 150 species of animals have been found in just 2 cubic meters. The entire tar pit is about 1 kilometer long and ½ a kilometer wide and contains millions of fossils. One of the university students working with Moody at the time went on to discover an even older tar pit and to become a renowned paleontologist for the Venezuelan government’s equivalent of the National Science Institute.

**Connection to writing**

In his novels, Moody frequently alludes to his fossil exploration, for example in *Fossil Excavation on Kanos IV*, to create background. In *Into the Center of the Shadow*, a Catholic priest loses some treasure in a cave, and one of the characters in *Searching for Jennifer* pays someone to take him into the Venezuelan mountains. In one of his novels, cave explorers are talking about a fossil they’ve found and suggest, “We can take it to the university. They have a Yankee in the museum,” a reference to Moody’s own tenure as curator at the Museo de Biología.

In addition to his work on novels, Moody has authored over 50 scientific and education papers, mainly on paleontology, including newsletter contributions on Venezuelan research and fossil localities.

As a Professor of Developmental Reading and Writing at Grayson throughout the last 13 years, Moody has incorporated his diverse interests into his teaching, inspiring his students to be life-long learners.

# FOREVER GI BILL: Student Veterans Receive Good News

By Tommy Ellis, Project Coordinator for Veteran Student Success

The fifteen-year time table of past GI Bills (use it or lose it) has now been eliminated. The Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” was recently signed by President Trump. Basically, it means that military veterans separating from the service after January 1, 2013, are allowed to use their benefits ANY TIME during their lifetimes.

A military veteran will now have the flexibility to pursue a higher education at his/her pace and on their individual time-tables. Some may choose to attend college after their children are raised or after retiring from a current career. Previously, they would not be able to have this freedom and keep their benefits. Now, they can do just that.

This important change has active military and recently discharged veterans celebrating everywhere. Now, they have the freedom and the flexibility to use their earned educational benefits at a time of their choosing.

Additionally, the new legislation has made further improvements with Purple Heart Equity, benefits for reservists, expansion of the Yellow Ribbon Program and even providing needed help with the restoration of lost benefits. Even additional assistance is available for those veterans pursuing STEM degrees and are in danger of losing benefits before completion of the degree. All in all, the new GI Educational bill is making drastic improvements to enable veteran students with their educational pursuits.

It’s been almost 75 years since the first GI Bill was passed in 1944 to enable veterans to return to college to better prepare for various careers. Many did just that. By the thousands, tens of thousands and millions, men and women of WWII left the military for college campuses all across America. In fact, by 1947 over half (50% or more) of many campus student bodies were veterans. This trend continued for many, many years.

Education and training were critical to rebuilding the country and the economy after the drainage of WWII.

After leaving the military, veterans were given 15 years to claim their college benefits. The needs of the country and the industrial landscape required that veterans hurry back to school, get trained and then get to work. This period is referred to as the “Golden Age of Capitalism” and resulted in the explosive and unparalleled economic growth and prosperity for our nation.



Craig Greenwood and Marlina Reese, Benefit Advisors for GC explaining the new Forever GI Bill to Kevin Fuquay, GC student veteran.

For additional information on how the Forever GI Bill and its changes can benefit veterans and/or their dependents, please stop by the Veteran Students Office (VSO) and speak with one of the veteran advisors on staff. The VSO is located on the 2nd Floor of the Student Life Center (next to GC Perks) on Grayson College’s Main Campus.

## Disclaimer

**Editorial Information:**

Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta publish *The Viking* as an ongoing service project to the college.

All students, faculty and staff at GC can participate in producing *The Viking*. This newspaper is 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 GC.

Submit material for publication through email to **Morgan Bryant at MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu.**

## Grayson College Softball February Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	Site
Fri, 2/2/18	1:00 PM	Texas College	Denison, TX
Fri, 2/2/18	3:00 PM	Texas College	Denison, TX
Sun, 2/4/18	1:00 PM	Indian Hills	Denison, TX
Sun, 2/4/18	3:00 PM	Indian Hills	Denison, TX
Wed, 2/7/18	1:00 PM	Kilgore College	Kilgore, TX
Wed, 2/7/18	3:00 PM	Kilgore College	Kilgore, TX
Fri, 2/9/18	1:00 PM	Paris Junior College	Denison, TX
Fri, 2/9/18	3:00 PM	Paris Junior College	Denison, TX
Mon, 2/12/18	1:00 PM	Texas College	Tyler, TX
Mon, 2/12/18	3:00 PM	Texas College	Tyler, TX
Wed, 2/14/18	12:00 PM	NETC	Denison, TX
Wed, 2/14/18	2:00 PM	NETC	Denison, TX
Sat, 2/17/18	1:00 PM	NETC	Mount Pleasant, TX
Sat, 2/17/18	3:00 PM	NETC	Mount Pleasant, TX
Mon, 2/19/18	1:00 PM	Connors State	Denison, TX
Mon, 2/19/18	3:00 PM	Connors State	Denison, TX
Wed, 2/21/18	1:00 PM	Kilgore	Denison, TX
Wed, 2/21/18	3:00 PM	Kilgore	Denison, TX
Fri, 2/23/18	1:00 PM	Paris Junior College	Paris, TX
Fri, 2/23/18	3:00 PM	Paris Junior College	Paris, TX
Wed, 2/28/18	3:00 PM	Weatherford College	Denison, TX