

# ***GCC CULTURAL ARTS SERIES***

## ***FALL - 2010***

WEDNESDAYS 12:30 – 1:30 P.M. CRUCE STARK AUDITORIUM

### **SEPTEMBER 1 *MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN A WORLD OF CHANGE***

Bryan H. Barrows III is a master teacher with twenty-four years of college teaching experience having been twice awarded the NISOD Award for Teaching Excellence. A native Texan, Mr. Barrows has been honored by the Texas House of Representatives and the City of Houston for his humanitarian efforts. This master teacher is also a dedicated news professional who has worked in print, television, and radio. Barrows produced a nationally aired radio program entitled, "Critical Decisions Health Wise" for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and his television show, "Spectrum of the Arts", won two national awards of excellence. Bryan Barrows is a dedicated professional committed to making a difference in the world and believes that our greatest responsibility in life is to make the world a better place through our talents and abilities.

### **SEPTEMBER 8 *WHO'S WATCHING THE GULF OF MEXICO?***

One of the people watching with more than a casual interest is Dr. Gary Jeffress, Professor of Geographic Information Science and Director of the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying Sciences at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, Texas. With 46 stations along the Gulf Coast sending back real time information every six minutes, Dr. Jeffress and his team monitor information including water level data, wind speed and direction, air temperature, water current, salinity, pH, and dissolved oxygen data.

Oil spills, hurricanes preparedness offering information to NASA, manning an offshore platform for the National Weather Service, and a host of environmental studies are all part of the daily activities of Dr. Jeffress.

### **SEPTEMBER 15 *MIKE JACOBS – HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR***

This program is a penetrating presentation by the founder of the Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies. Mike Jacobs was born in the small Polish town of Konin, where the Jewish community dated from 1397. On September 1, 1930, when he was just 14 years old, the Nazi Army invaded Poland. Two months later, the family was packed into a boxcar with 100 others and spent the next three days

and nights with no food or water and nowhere to lie down. His parents, two brothers and two sisters were later murdered in the Treblinka Death Camp. He was transported from one Nazi camp to another in both Poland and Austria, and was finally liberated from Mathausen-Gusen II on May 5, 1945. In a story told without hatred or bitterness, Mr. Jacobs teaches us that when we recognize that freedom comes from within, we are never completely powerless.

#### SEPTEMBER 22 ***RIDERS ON THE ORPHAN TRAIN***

Between 1854 and 1929, over 200,000 orphans and unwanted children of the urban poor from New York City were “placed out” on trains heading west. The train would stop at pre-selected towns where people interested in taking a child would assemble. The children were lined up on a platform where they were inspected, often prodded and poked to determine whether they would be good workers on farms or local businesses. Today, only 150 orphan train riders are still alive nationwide. This presentation by novelist and humanities scholar Alison Moore, and singer/songwriter Phil Lancaster, is intended to help in the eleventh hour effort to keep this unthinkable event from becoming lost as part of our nation’s history.

#### SEPTEMBER 29 ***ALL THAT JAZZ***

Jazz pianist, composer and professor of music, James Dering has returned to his home in the Sherman/Denison area after making his way professionally in the world. Dering spent time playing jazz professionally out of the French Quarter in New Orleans, where he studied piano under Ellis Marsalis, father of famed trumpeter, Wynton Marsalis. His improvisational and composition skills have made him a much sought after musician in the North Texas area, where he returned to head the Music Program at Grayson County College. Dering will present an exciting performance of jazz, showcasing the caliber of performance to be found in the GCC music faculty.

#### OCTOBER 6 ***THREE KEYS TO CULTURE***

Dr. Geffery Grimes has been teaching at the college level since 1967. He is a prolific writer and has received wide acclaim for his innovative instruction and student success. In addition to his academic work, he has spent many years serving as a humanitarian. For more than twenty years, Dr. Grimes worked with supervisors in the Ministry of Education in the Republic of Guatemala. He was rewarded for his effort with a knighthood designation in 1983. From 1953 to December 1996, the Central American country of Guatemala experienced the longest-running civil war in the modern history of Latin America. Fueled by the “Cold War” and fears of “communism” and supported by countries with economic and other interest in the region, the Guatemalan army conducted genocide against

the Maya people, essentially pitting the powers of a “progressive culture” against the less equipped “traditional culture.” In the struggle, more than 250,000 were killed, more than a million left homeless, and more than 660 towns and villages laid waste. “Three Keys to Culture” examines three defining elements of traditional cultures discernible in the Maya communities---- mythology, religion and art---and how powerful elements of the progressive culture used each against the indigenous populations, not only to disrupt them, but to destroy them.

OCTOBER 13 ***ALL SHOOK UP, the musical***

***Inspired by and featuring the songs of ELVIS PRESLEY***

The GCC Theatre department will perform the musical, ***ALL SHOOK UP***, which is a comedy filled with songs by Elvis Presley and loosely based on the plotline of Shakespeare’s, *Twelfth Night*. The story begins in a small town during the 1950’s, as Chad, a hip swiveling; guitar-playing roustabout rides his motorcycle into town. Natalie, a mechanic in town who is looking for love, sees Chad and their worlds collide. This musical will be performed on the renovated Cruce Stark Stage at GCC, and will be full of spectacle and foot stomping music, fun for the whole family. For more information, contact the GCC Theatre department at 903-463-8609 or email [theatre@grayson.edu](mailto:theatre@grayson.edu).

OCTOBER 20 ***THE CHICKASAW INDIAN NATION, THEIR PAST, THEIR CULTURE, THEIR HERITAGE, THE FUTURE***

The Chickasaw Indians are considered to be one of the five Civilized Tribes and first made contact with Europeans (white man) Hernando de Soto in 1540. They were later forced to leave their native land and become part of the “Great Removal” as they were forced to travel the “Trail of Tears” to their new territory in the area now known as Oklahoma. Today’s speaker is Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham, the Administrator of the Division of History and Culture for the Chickasaw Nation. In addition to her Administrative duties at the Chickasaw Nation, she serves as a tenured Associate Professor at Oklahoma State University. She is the author of *Listening to Our Grandmothers’ Stories: The Bloomfield Academy of Chickasaw Females, 1885-1949* which was selected as a winner of the American Book Award, as well as the North American Indian Prose Award. In addition to her writings, she currently serves as the editor of *American Indian Quarterly Journal*.

OCTOBER 27 ***THE BRAVE AND THE FREE as told by Mike Boettcher***  
***\*CNN’s Former Chief Terrorism Correspondent \*Recently Embedded in Iraq & Afghanistan \* Awarded 4 Emmy’s for Journalism Excellence***

Mike Boettcher has been on-location covering nearly every major war, revolution, and terrorist attack of the last 30 years. He was kidnapped and threatened with execution in El Salvador in 1985. Twenty years later, he survived a suicide bomber attack and a roadside bombing in Baghdad. He led NBC's investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing and was one of three journalists to speak to Timothy McVeigh in prison. He functioned as the chief correspondent for CNN's investigation unit for five years. He was one of a small group of reporters embedded with U.S. Special Forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom and with the United States Marines covering operation Desert Storm in 1991. Attendees will hear untold stories of real American heroes and learn how our troops need our help and how we can come together to help them.

NOVEMBER 3 ***IT'S A MUSICAL SHOWCASE!!***

The Grayson College Music Program presents the college's musical Showcase, a variety-filled event including all four of the college's musical ensembles. Featured will be the GCC Guitar Ensemble, directed by Dr. David Tercero, the GCC Singers Choir, directed by Ms. Amye Derix, the GCC Chamber Ensemble, directed by Jeremy Stones, and the GCC Jazz Combo, directed by Mr. James Dering. The concert reflects the significant growth of the music program in recent years with the addition of new faculty, new courses, and new facilities. It also serves to kick off the concert series presented each semester by the Music Program. Don't miss this unique event filled with great music and the opportunity to learn about future concerts.

NOVEMBER 10 ***ONE MAN, ONE VIOLIN AND ONE REMARKABLE PROGRAM – JACK GLATZER, INTERNATIONAL VIOLINIST***

We many times think of the great musicians being born in some far away exotic place, leading a strange childhood and having no life except for their music. Today, our program is presented by Mr. Jack Glatzer, who was born in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from James Madison High School and led a very normal childhood. He began studying the violin at the age of five and performed as a soloist with the Dallas Symphony at age fourteen and three years later performed with the National Symphony as the winner of the nations most prestigious violin competition. He then attended Yale University earning a bachelor's degree summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in history. Glatzer, a Rhodes Scholar, subsequently earned a degree, with honors, in history from Oxford University. His career has taken him to over fifty countries, and he has performed in some of the most prestigious venues, such as the Sydney Opera House, the Hong Kong Arts Center, St. Martin's in the Fields, London and the Nation Arts Centre in Ottawa. This summer he performed all the Caprices of Paganini to full houses at the renowned

Cambridge Summer Music Festival. Some of these same pieces by Paganini, along with the Bach 3<sup>rd</sup> Partita will make up portions of today's program.

NOVEMBER 17 ***OUR TOWN, the Pulitzer Prize Winning Play written by THORTON WILDER***

**OUR TOWN** is one of the most frequently staged American plays and therefore the GCC Theatre department will open the brand new Black Box Theatre with this production. It is an unconventional work, in that it has no scenery or props except for tables, chairs, ladders, and a few other objects. **Our Town** is a favorite at many playhouses mainly because its setting and characters are so much like ordinary towns around the United States and the rest of the world. Also, it has the one ingredient necessary for a literary work to become great: universality. This will be an exciting production of this masterpiece. For more information contact the GCC Theatre department at 903-463-8609 or email [theatre@grayson.edu](mailto:theatre@grayson.edu)

NOVEMBER 24 ***NO PROGRAM***

DECEMBER 1 ***JUMPIN' JUBILEE & ANTEBELLUM BUTTERNUTS***

College Humanities Professor Paul Benson analyzes the American Jubilee and the period following it up to the American War. This period between 1826 and 1861 is one of the most fascinating in American history. Many of the defining moments in our history are to be found during this period. Who were the butternuts? Did Communists found the Republican Party? Who was the hero of America's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? What famous Free Masons' Widow married the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith? And who invented Santa's reindeer? Any guesses? All will be revealed in this whimsical presentation.