



Check out Grayson Theatre's play *Infinite Black Suitcase* on page 4



"How Poor Class Performance Affects Your Financial Aid" on page 3

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Volume VIII, Issue I

Get Involved

Viking Deadlines

Friday, February 17th
Send all submissions to the editor, Anne Dering, at deringa@grayson.edu.

Student Leadership Series

TBA
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.
Community leaders are invited to discuss and share their philosophy on leadership in today's competitive work environment. LA 101

Student and Employee Spirit Day

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

Clubs & Orgs

Baptist Student

Ministries
Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
BSM building

Clay Club

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

Cosmetology Club

Monday's 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
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

Gay Straight Alliance

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
Bridge, Life Center

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)

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

Medical Lab Technology

TBA

Men of Distinction

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

Grayson College Helps Fight Homelessness in Our Community

by Billy Teague

Grayson College Veteran Outreach Specialist

In January, Grayson College proudly participated in a community wide event that spanned across several counties to help those who lack sufficient housing. Each year, in order to receive federal funds and help combat homelessness, every county is eligible to perform a "Point-In-Time" (PIT) count.

During this 24-hour count, homeless persons, whether on the streets or in a shelter, are documented on an app by a counter, and that information is provided to Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Funds can be used for locations to feed and house those who are homeless.

This year, the date set for this PIT count was January 26, and North Texas - including counties of Grayson, Fannin, and Cooke - started counting at 8:00 AM for daytime counts, and from 6:30 PM until about 10:00 PM for a nighttime count.

It was determined from previous assessments of the homeless in our area that the need for food, hygiene and other supplies are in great demand.

Upon hearing of this need for supplies, the Grayson College SVA (Student Veterans Association) at the suggestion of Dr. Regina Organ, immediately sprang into action and began a campaign to collect needed supplies.

On January 11th, collection boxes were set up outside the Veterans Office,



Photo courtesy of Billy Teague

SVA President Rob Medlar & student members discuss how Grayson College can help fight homelessness in our area.

"Funds can be used to feed and house those who are homeless."

the bookstore, and at the front entrance of the college to receive donated items from faculty, staff, and students.

An email, as well, went out to everyone at Grayson College asking for volunteers to count, make donations of supplies, and/or take part in putting together care packages of the donated items in the Veterans HUB on Monday, January 23rd.

As of Friday, January 20th, thanks to the generosity of the caring folks at Grayson College, collections came in at an amazing rate.

Special Thanks to Phyllis Neely,

Donna Pannell, Crystal Wilcoxon, Marlina Reese, Amanda Schroeder, Leon Deutsch, Shalene White, Alvin R. Bailey, Rachel Schroeder, Lisa Hébert, Micheline Chambers, Frances Ryan Haratyk, the Teaching and Learning Department, the Dual Credit Department, IT, and the Library staff. Also, many calls have been received

from the community committing to more donations which is appreciated.

For more information about donating or participating in the fight to eliminate homelessness in our community, contact Billy Teague in the Veterans Office at 903-415-2630 or email teagueb@grayson.edu.



Local Colleges Collaborate for Success



Pictured: Left to Right

Billy Teague, GC; Shelly Menacci, Eastfield College; Heather Hawkins, SNU; David Danner, SNU

by Tommy Ellis, Project Coordinator
Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success

The Veteran Services Office staff from three area colleges convened on January 19 and 20, 2017 at the main campus of Grayson College, for an area-wide collaboration.

These schools were three of the thirteen colleges nationwide that

received Department of Education grants in 2015 for the establishment of Centers of Excellence for Veteran Students Success on each campus.

The three-year grants are designed to increase student veteran outreach/enrollment while improving persistence and graduation/completion rates of those veteran students.

Continued on page 2

Not Church as Usual

by Karina Sanchez
Student

Religion is a hypersensitive topic, which is one of the many reasons people often do not talk about it in social settings. One rationalization for this reticence is that people are afraid of being stereotyped or even judged. We are not perfect, though, so that means that

not all of us are going to comport ourselves in a religious way.

However, many people should, since that is what most people are taught to do: to go around sharing the love of God, no matter which denomination it is.

Most churches declare they will not judge anyone and that their doors are open to the public, predominantly for those who want to learn about God.



Are you wanting to try out a new church but are scared? Are you looking for a church close to where you live, or where you go to school?

There is a particular church right down the street from Grayson College: Joshua's Crossing, Not Church as Usual.

Joshua's Crossing (JC) began ten years ago with a pastor who had a vision.

Continued on page 3

Where Are They Now?

by Shalene White
Student & Library Aide

Everyone loves a good success story.

Students who attend a small close-knit college like Grayson might wonder how alumni are doing and where their journey is taking them.

This new series in *The Viking* will be focused on just that: seeing how certain alumni are faring after leaving the cozy nest of Grayson College.

Shawna Klassen, our first featured alumnae, who graduated from Grayson College in May 2016.

Klassen started her educational career in the fall of 2013 with the goal of finishing with a double degree in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management.

Things were not always easy for Klassen. There were a few times Klassen had trouble focusing on the big

prizes at the end - her diplomas and eventually a career doing what she loved.

Klassen said that "senioritis" reared its ugly head in her last semester. If it weren't for her awesome professors and instructors, Klassen may have veered off of her educational track.

Chef Joanna Bryant and Chef Rusty Weatherly were both extremely supportive for Klassen. When Klassen needed help, or just a listening ear, both chefs were there for her.

The instructors were also key in keeping her from getting overwhelmed from her grueling schedule.

Klassen said the Culinary Department and its people are still close to her. "The Culinary Arts program was like a family that was learning with me and teaching me all while we were preparing ourselves for the industry," she explained. *Continued on page 3*



Photo courtesy of Shalene White

GC alum Shawna Klassen works as a prep cook for the Dallas Cowboys!

The ABC's of Quality Childcare for College Students

by Kathleen Todd
Student

Grayson College students with young children have a near-insurmountable hurdle when trying to balance school and work and at the same time trying to find quality childcare.

Managing everything at the same time can be extremely challenging. Without assistance, many students find themselves having to leave college.

Childcare is expensive. In most cases, the tuition exceeds the cost of college housing or living expenses. Workforce Solutions Texoma offers child care assistance to help college students.

The funds for the child care assistance are Federal Child Care and Development Funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

These funds make it possible for many Grayson students to continue their college education.

Julie Craig, Contracts Manager for Texoma Workforce Development Board, said, "Research studies have been completed that demonstrate the correlation between high-quality early childhood education/child-care environments and a link to early and continued success in school."

She added, "Selecting a quality center is the first step. Accredited programs (like Texas Rising Star), encourage quality programming."

Area centers are rated by a program called Texas Rising Star. Parents should consider all factors when deciding where to enroll their child.

The Texas Rising Star program provides a star rating



Photo courtesy of Kathleen Todd
Karla Hernandez and her daughter, Giovanna, are all smiles thanks to the childcare services offered by Texoma Workforce Solutions.

system. All centers are evaluated in separate categories: Director and staff qualifications and training, caregiver-child interactions, curriculum, nutrition and indoor/outdoor activities and also parent education and involvement.

According to Craig, "With a two-star rating, the center exceeds minimum licensing requirements in all five categories."

"Three-star means high-quality standards in all five categories and a four-star rating is the highest level. This means this center meets the highest standards of quality in all five categories."

"According to the guidelines of Texas Rising Star, parents should follow the ABC's when choosing a provider.

A – Ask questions of your child's teacher and the director about what is happening in the class.

B – Be at the center whenever you can. Learn about the curriculum and program and activities.

C – Create improvements whenever you can.

"Parents are a very important part of a quality program. Ask how you can help and stay involved in your child's education because it is important to remember that 80% of brain development occurs before age 4."

Grayson College offers a Child Development Associate of Applied Science degree. Dr. Keri Harvey, Department Chair of Business, Technology and Education at Grayson, stated, "The most important thing we can do for our children is

provide them with safe, high-quality care.

A parent should seek a facility that encourages the caregivers to either have a degree or be working towards a higher level of education in early childhood development."

Karla Hernandez, pictured here with her daughter, Giovanna, stated, "I looked a long time for a special place to bring my baby because I took into consideration that the caregiver would be around my baby more than I would."

She also said, "I wanted some place to leave her where they would not just feed her and change her diaper. I was looking for someone who would interact with her."

For more information on the services offered by Texoma Workforce Solutions, please visit their website at www.workforcesolutions.com. They have three convenient office locations, if you would prefer to contact them in person.

1. Grayson County
2415 S. Austin Ave Suite 105
Denison, TX 75020
Telephone: 903-463-9997
Fax: 903-463-3073
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2. Fannin County
1205 E. Sam Rayburn Drive
Bonham, TX 75418
Telephone: 903-640-0222
Fax: 903-640-0052
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

3. Cooke County
900 N. Grand Ave., Suite 103
Gainesville, TX 76240
Telephone: 940-665-1121
Fax: 940-668-2366
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mu Alpha Theta
1st and 3rd Thursdays
1 - 2 p.m.
LA204, Liberal Arts

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

Phi Theta Kappa
Wednesdays
12:30 - 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
2nd and 4th Wednesdays
3 - 4 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

Science Club
First Tuesday of the month
3 p.m.
S 106, Science Building

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

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

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

Veteran 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

Please report incorrect listings to the editor:
Anne Dering
DeringA@Grayson.edu



Local Colleges Collaborate for Success

Continued from page 1

Veteran students comprise a significant portion of the overall total enrollment at all three colleges and thus merit special consideration and attention.

The collaboration of the three schools was hosted by Grayson College's Veteran Services Office, under the direction of Donna King, Director of Financial Aid/Veteran Services.

The colleges represented at this first-ever collaboration of Centers of Excellence for Veteran Students Success were: Shelly Menacci from Eastfield College in Mesquite, Texas; David Danner and Heather Hawkins from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma; and Billy Teague and Tommy Ellis from Grayson College.

Did you know?

When you show your ID at Panera Bread in Sherman, you'll receive a free bagel!

Offer is good for both students and employees, and for dine-in only. Must have your ID. Thanks, Panera, for supporting Grayson College!



Anne's Journal: Beat the Day!



by Anne Dering
Editor

How's your semester so far? Are you attending class regularly? Are you making new friends and re-connecting with old ones? Do you know your professors' names and how to reach them, when needed?

Hopefully, by the time this newspaper prints, you'll be settled into your classes and your routines. You might be looking ahead to the relief that comes in March-Spring Break.

Resist the urge to skip a class or to not complete an assignment. Hold steady in your routines and don't lose traction!

Thanks to my home vinyl business, I'm able to attend quality training offered by the parent company.

One of my favorite business practices that I learned during a recent training event was "Beat The Day!"

The premise of this exercise is to first use a calendar to write down your success of the day.

Be sure to journal something on every date of the calendar.

Then, once a year has passed, compare the two calendars each day.

Look at today's date from the calendar of the previous year, and decide to "Beat the Day!" For example, If I sold \$100 in vinyl a year ago today, then my goal for today would be to aim higher--\$150 in sales.

As students, you too can benefit from this activity. A year ago today, where were you? What kind of grades were you earning? If a year ago today you had failed to turn in two assignments, then "Beat the Day!" by getting your work turned in--ALL of your work.

If this time last year you earned high grades on an exam, then how can you beat that? Look ahead in your course syllabi and see what your learning outcomes should be.

Commit to reading ahead and doing extra work so that you can "Beat the Day!" when the next exam comes around.

We all know we have areas in our lives that need to be improved.

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3-on-3 Team BASKETBALL

- Registration runs from January 17 through February 13.
- Games are played on Thursdays from 12pm-1p.m., in the Gym.
- A minimum of 4 teams is required for the program to make.
- Contact Student Life (second floor) for registration details.



Not Church as Usual

Continued from page 1

She also served with three student ministries, three search teams, and three worship pastor church committees. She was also on the Finance and Board of Directors at a previous church.

Over the past ten years, many pastors have served this church. Despite all the hardships this church endured, its membership has stood together and is stronger than ever. "We wanted to make a difference for this town and continue what we started," stated Melody Peters, another leader at Joshua's Crossing.

The church's main focus was to accept people the way they were no matter what. "We do not discriminate against anyone's sexual orientation, whether they're gay, lesbian, or transsexual. All we want is to share the love of God with them and actually live it out," stated Peters.

As their tag line, to make everyone aware they are not the same as other churches and to make people feel more comfortable, the church chose "Not Church As Usual." "To us, this [tagline] demonstrates a body of Christians that

accept all people as they are," said the current pastor. "We want the Holy Spirit to change them, not for them to start dressing like we do just because we say so, for people to feel more comfortable with JC due to their previous hurt from other churches.

"Despite all the hardships this church endured, its membership has stood together and is stronger than ever."

"As a church, we create an atmosphere of Grace and lack of judgement. This is what 'Not church as usual' means to us," concluded the pastor.

In the end, one's religious choice is one's own, but now there are options close to Grayson students, close to your home, school, and daily activities.

Do you feel like all churches are the same? That they are going to judge you? Try out Joshua's Crossing! Just one Sunday and you'll see the difference.

To learn more about Joshua's Crossing, please visit their facebook page at www.facebook.com/JoshuasCrossingDenison.



KEEP CALM AND COME TO TUTORING

TESTING/TUTORING CENTER (SC115)

TUTORING IS BY APPOINTMENT

CONTACT: hodgej@grayson.edu

Where Are They Now?

Continued from page 1

Klassen fought through all the taxing and tiresome semesters and earned her double degree in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management.

With the help of Culinary Instructor Rusty Weatherly, Klassen is currently a prep cook for the Dallas Cowboys. How cool is that?

Klassen said her new career is not much different from her experience in the Culinary Department. "What I'm experiencing now is very similar, except it's real life," Klassen said.

"It's much more fast paced and the chefs are a lot less patient. Time to buck up."

Congratulations to Shawna Klassen for pursuing her dreams. She is using her talents and education from Grayson out in the real world.



Be sure to grab the March issue of *The Viking* and find out who of our esteemed alumni will be featured in the next edition of "Where Are They Now?"

From the Editor's Desk

by Anne Dering
Editor

The year 2017 has blessed me with an incredible opportunity and a new adventure: editor of *The Viking*! I will still be teaching in the Success Center as an INRW Lab Instructor.

I'm excited and nervous about adding this new role as your newspaper editor here at Grayson College.

When I sent out my request for submissions for this first issue of the new year, I was pleasantly surprised at how the various and diverse areas of our grand campus shared news and updates of what is going on "in their neck of the

woods."

As you read this issue, be proud that the news and articles shared here are the voices of your fellow Vikings.

Check out the list of groups and organizations; take note of when and where they meet.

Join a new group with individuals who have common interests; it's a great way to grow your circle of friends.

Participate in the activities and events around our community.

I hope you will take many opportunities this semester to discover all that Grayson has to offer, and I hope this paper brings both information and insight into our Viking family.

Spring 2017 Games Tournament

Registration runs from
February 6-20
Ping pong
8-Ball



Foosball
Video Games

CONTACT STUDENT LIFE FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS.



Inspire Me; Inspire You:
Share an
Inspirational Quote

2017 Student/Employee Wellness Fair and Blood Drive



February 9, 8 AM - 12 PM
Life Center, 2nd floor

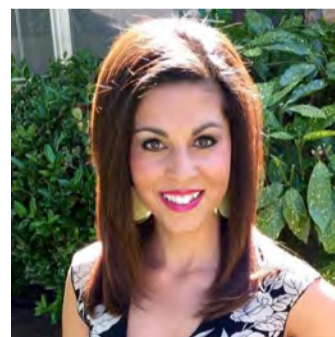
Numerous community agencies and businesses will be present.

The mobile blood bank will be parked on the street, east of the Life Center.

The Wellness Fair is sponsored by Grayson College Health Science Department and Student Life.

"Light yourself on fire with enthusiasm, and people will come from miles around just to watch you burn!"

- Dave Burgess,
Teach Like a Pirate



Shared by Amanda Schroeder, Teaching & Learning Coordinator.

How Poor Class Performance Affects Your Financial Aid

by Mike Klemiuk
Financial Aid Advisor

If you're a student currently enrolled at Grayson, then chances are you have obtained some amount of financial aid to help offset the cost of your continued education.

While this assistance might alleviate the burden of college, it comes with strict expectations for maintaining a good class performance.

Grayson's resident financial aid advisor, Mike Klemiuk, presents a

scenario of a college student to help illustrate the importance of achieving good grades in class.

"I've been attending Grayson College for a couple of semesters working on my General Education Degree. Last fall, my mom passed away, and I had to withdraw from half my classes.

I wound up making "D's" in the others. I've been an "ok" student earning mostly "C's" with a couple of "B's." I got a warning letter last semester and now I was just emailed a letter explaining that I am on 'Financial Aid Suspension.'

I don't know what to do! I really want to go to school this semester but now I'm afraid I can't get financial aid. What can I do?" - Chris V.

When you receive federal or state financial aid, federal guidelines require that you make real and measurable progress toward your degree in order to continue to receive federal or state financial aid.

This requirement is called Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). So...How do I keep my eligibility for Financial Aid?

1. Complete 67% of all classes at-

tempted. (This is your pace.)

2. Maintain an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher.

3. Complete your degree/certificate within the 150% timeframe (i.e. an associate degree of 60 credit hours must be completed within 90 credit hours.)

4. Become familiar with the Grayson College Office of Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

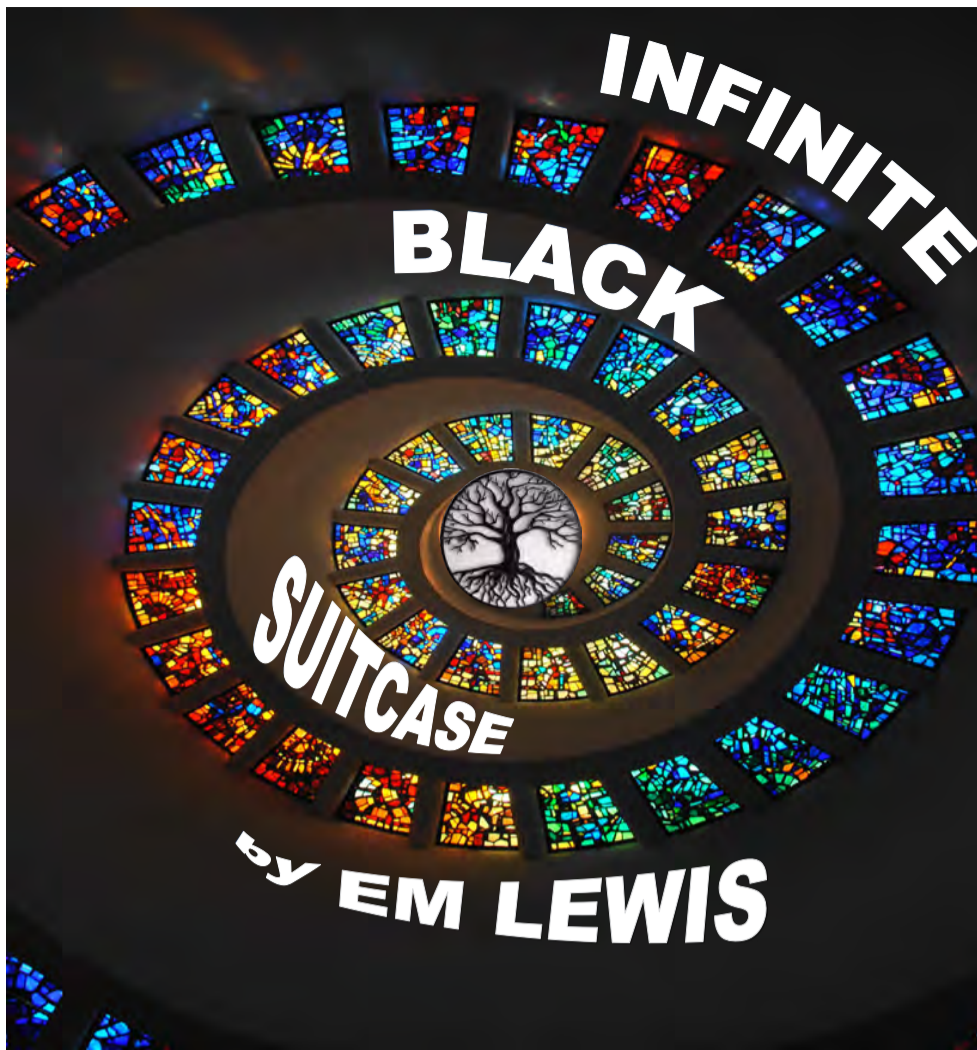
So what can Chris V. do? There are two available avenues for Chris V for regaining eligibility for financial aid.

These avenues consist of the fol-

lowing: Paying on your own. While remaining within the 150% completion rate of your degree/certificate you must raise your cumulative GPA to a 2.0 while successfully completing a minimum of 67% of all courses you attempt.

Appeal process: Students who have faced mitigating circumstances may appeal the suspension of their financial aid with appropriate documentation. If the appeal is approved the student will have the opportunity to receive financial aid while attending

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February 24-25 at 7:30 pm

February 26 at 2:00 pm

Arts and Communication Center—Black Box Theatre

903.463.8609 theatre@grayson.edu

Warning—Mature content and strong language



Pillar of Gratitude

by Anne Dering
Editor

Last year, Dr. Jeremy McMillen, the college president, shared his thoughts toward building the Grayson community. In his President's Note to the college, he shared that we must utilize "the core values we wish to bring to the table in our decisions, actions, and interactions within and throughout the college.

These include: balance, clarity, gratitude, teamwork, service, and trust." He continued his address with these uplifting words, "Our goal is to be our genuine selves, to encourage gratitude for the strengths of each other, and to allow our gifts to have immediate power in the world we experience today while shaping in others the ability to live in a purposeful, grounded manner that



A sculpture of a roadrunner that was repaired by the Welding Lab.

"encourage gratitude for the strengths of each other. . . ."

- Dr. Jeremy McMillen,
President

unleashes extraordinary commitment to our mission."

I was moved by the idea to spread gratitude out into our college, especially to overcome the negative energy in the world today.

In the next few issues, I'd like to share letters of thanks from one member of the Viking family to another.

Do you wish to recognize a colleague, student, or even a department for demonstrating the high standards of excellence that embody Grayson College? Send your nominations to The Viking editor, Anne Dering via email at deringa@grayson.edu.

Below is our first recognition. John Moody, Professor of Integrated Reading and Writing, shares how a minor repair saved a major family heirloom.

"I would like to send out a cordial thanks to the faculty and students of the Grayson College Welding Program. I own a unique piece of art that recently required a repair.

The piece is an artist's conception of a roadrunner, (pictured on the left) and was made using old railroad spikes and pieces of construction reinforcement bar.

It was a gift from my parents more than twenty years ago, and since both of them are no longer here, I consider the artwork special.

Back in December, I discovered that this metal sculpture in my backyard had broken. A few days after I discovered the problem, I carried the pieces to the welding lab on the north campus to see if it could be repaired.

They took care of it within a few minutes while I waited, and now it is back to normal, as the photo shows. I very much appreciate their generous efforts."

A Christmas Miracle

by Billy Teague
Veteran Outreach Specialist

It was the winter of 2006, and I was working as a hospice consultant. My job took me into many nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the North Texas area.

At one of the nursing homes, the activities director approached me around the first of December and asked "Will you be our Santa this year?"

Having never been a Santa and not quite sure if this was something I could successfully do, I first declined. She explained that she had the suit, beard, and wig and thought I would do a great job.

I went home and tried the suit on. It felt natural and I began to perfect my "ho-ho-ing" in preparation of the big Christmas party.

The day finally came, and I showed up as the big jolly guy in red. I entered shouting "Ho-ho-ho! Merry Christmas!"

I went around and shook every hand in the room. I handed out gifts from under the Christmas tree.



Billy Teague dressed up as Santa and witnessed a Christmas Miracle.

I was asked if I could make the rounds and hand out gifts throughout the nursing home to the bedfast residents.

I gladly accepted the request and met with staff on the first of several halls.

Accompanied by a couple of staff members, I delivered all the wrapped gifts.

When I thought I was finished, and had successfully pulled off being Santa, I looked down the hall and noticed I was being summoned to a room where there were about six or seven staff members waiting outside the door.

When I approached, I was handed a new large baby doll and ask to give it to the resident who was in bed by the window. I walked in and observed a sweet elderly woman lying peacefully asleep and holding a baby doll in each arm.

I gently leaned down, patted her on her arm and softly said "ho-ho-ho, Merry Christmas."

She opened her eyes and with a look of disbelief, I called her by name and said, "You've been a good girl this year, so Santa brought you a new baby doll and Santa loves you."

She continued to stare at me with the largest, most curious, and most beautiful eyes I've ever seen. I snuggled in the new baby doll under her arm and said, "Now, you be good and I will see you Christmas Eve."

As I stood up, I heard a faint voice say, "Santa Claus?" The staff who



Grayson Honors College Meetings!

Come join the Grayson Honors College. Meetings held every Thursday in the Viking Room from 12:15pm-1:00pm. We are giving away free prizes to those who attend meetings. We have guest speakers, college survival tips, games, and more information on how to get involved with the Grayson Honors College. For more information about our weekly meetings, please check out our Facebook page: Grayson Honors College. Everyone is welcome!

How Poor Class Performance Affects Your Financial Aid

Continued from page 3

classes as long as they adhere to the stipulations of the appeal.

So what is an Appeal? The appeal process is for a student who fails to maintain SAP to petition the school for a reconsideration of eligibility to receive federal Title IV funds.

Students who have faced mitigating circumstances may appeal the suspension of their financial aid.

Mitigating circumstances are generally beyond the student's control and may include:

- A death in the *immediate* family
- Injury or illness of the student
- Other special circumstances.

Mitigating circumstances DO NOT include:

- Student felt overwhelmed
- Student changed work schedule
- Student did not like the instructor
- Student had a conflict with the instructor
- Student did not understand college
- Student wasn't ready or mature enough
- Death or illness of a friend or relative not in immediate family
- Withdrew or stopped attending to avoid a bad grade
- Student states, "Nobody told me that would affect me."

Remember, only you are in control of how you respond to the situations that life throws at you. The outcome of your time here at Grayson depends on the work you put into your studies. Do your best.

Please contact the Office of Financial Aid with any questions you might have regarding your Financial Aid eligibility at financialaid@grayson.edu.

Anne's Journal: Beat the Day!

Continued from page 2

Whether you have a personal goal, an academic goal, or a career goal, write it down. If you haven't achieved those goals yet, it doesn't mean you can't. It just means you haven't. . . yet!

The word "yet" is a powerful, three-letter word. So much hope and potential fill those simple letters.

No matter how you ended the year 2016, that year does not define you. Who you are, who you can still be, all you can achieve is up to you.

The word "yet" is a powerful, three-letter word. So much hope and potential fill those simple letters.

Continue to beat each and every day at Grayson, and know that the best version of you is yet to come.



Wednesday Noon Luncheons: GC students, as well as faculty/staff, are invited to the BSM Wednesday Luncheons held throughout the semester. We plan to serve the meal, provided by area churches, at 11:30 a.m. and at 12:15 p.m., followed by a brief program featuring music and speakers from area churches and/or the GC community. There is no charge for this event.

Noon Time Bible Studies: Bible study groups will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday, from 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m., throughout the semester. Lunch is provided.

Thursday Evening Bible Study: An additional Bible study group will be meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is provided. The BSM building is located between the Sports & Recreation Center and the Campus Police buildings.

For more information concerning how you can get involved in BSM, please stop by our building. We are open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. You can also email us at bsm6101@airmail.net, or call us at 903-463-8798 or 903-465-2207. All students on campus are welcome to participate in BSM activities regardless of religious preference. Please visit our web page at www.graysonbsm.com.

were watching from the door gasped, and several smiled in delight.

I replied to her and said, "Yes, I am Santa Claus." She then asked again. Each time she became more excited, "Santa Claus? Santa Claus!" I wished her a Merry Christmas and departed the room.

Once out in the hallway, I ask the staff, "What is going on? How much time has she been given to live?" One of the nurses spoke up and explained that they all wanted to see if she would react to Santa visiting her. "You see," the nurse said, "she came here two years ago and since that time, she has been a *total assist*.

We feed her, bathe her, dress her *and not one time has she ever*

uttered a single sound.

We were told she couldn't speak when she came here. And now look at her. She is very alert and saying 'Santa Claus' over and over."

Needless to say, there were many tears in that hallway outside the resident's room.

I have seen Christmas miracles on The Hallmark Channel and on other TV shows. I have read about them in books and stories.

To be a part of one is a Blessing that will cherish forever.

I hope you and your family had a blessed Christmas this past December.

I also hope that you, too, enjoy a Christmas miracle at least once in your life.