



Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Volume VIII, Issue II

Get Involved Culinary Arts Students Taste Success

Viking Deadline

Monday, March 20th

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 - 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

Medical Lab Technology

TBA

Men of Distinction

Thursdays, 12 - 1 p.m.

CWL Seminar Room A

Continued on page 2



Photos courtesy of Joanna Bryant
Culinary Arts students (l to r) Diana Larkins, Nick Haas, Savannah Chacon, Sam Hester, and Juan Orocio stand with pride in front of their delicious creations at a competition in Chicago.

Going for Gold!

by Nick Haas
Student

At the beginning of February, several Culinary Department students took a trip to Chicago for the Chef Connect Convention, hosted by the American Culinary Federation.

There were two different groups that traveled to the Windy City.

One group went to compete in the Knowledge Bowl, and the other, the group I traveled with, went to the convention to try our hand at the Culinary Skills challenge.

Once we decided to join the competition, we met twice a week for months in advance, to practice and hone our skills. Not only

did the competition have a knife skills challenge, it also included a cooking challenge.

We met twice a week, for months in advance, to practice and hone our skills.

Along with practicing for the competition, we also had to do a few fundraisers to be able to afford for all the students to attend the convention.

We sold homemade pies for Thanksgiving and homemade candies and hot chocolate around Christmas time.

These fundraisers allowed a total of twelve students to make the trip.

Continued on page 4

Read more articles about the Culinary Arts trip on pages 3 and 8.



Culinary Arts student Juan Orocio creates a delicious dish.



Culinary Arts student Nick Haas takes his work seriously.

Music Student Performs in San Antonio

by David Tercero

Chair of the Music Department

The Grayson College Music Department participated in the 2017 Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention in San Antonio, Texas last month.

TMEA is the largest annual music educators' convention in the United States.

The 2017 TMEA convention was comprised of

lectures and clinics, performances by professional and student groups, and an exhibition of over 500 companies held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas from February 8-11th.

This year the GC Music faculty and Georgia Mulkey, sophomore voice student of Professor Sylvia Rivers, attended the convention and participated in the Texas

Two-Year All State Choir.

Mulkey was one of over 100 students selected to perform with the Two-Year All state Choir from a regional audition held during the fall semester.

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Music student Georgia Mulkey (right) enjoys a recent Music Convention in San Antonio.

Read another article about the Music Department on page 7.



Photos courtesy of David Tercero



(l to r) David Tercero, Tanya Bays, Georgia Mulkey, and Sylvia Rivers

Transferring to Your Four-Year University

by Julia Pletan
Student

“Looking at schools is like shopping for furniture,” Grayson counselor Valerie Ray told students in the most recent Rotaract meeting.

Both Valerie Ray and Gretchen Huff, Grayson Job Placement specialist, presented tips to students about how to navigate the sometimes-tricky waters of the transfer process.

Both Ray and Huff work in Grayson College’s Counseling Department.

Ray is the expert in transfer and Huff in workplace skills.

The two areas overlap as students move from Grayson College to their four-year schools to complete their bachelor’s degrees.

Ray offered six tips for the transferring student.

The first was to find an affordable school. She encouraged students to find their dream school, but then find one that offered a similar program for a cheaper price.

Her next tip was to do their research – even if it seems meaningless.

Even if it’s just a passive glance at a school website, it could make a difference in the decision of where to



Photo courtesy of Jean Sorensen
Counselor Valerie Ray is happy to help Grayson students plan for the future.

campus.

The fifth piece of advice Ray offered was to get an advisor on campus – one who is in the student’s specific program.

[Ray] encouraged students to find their dream school, but then find one that offered a similar program for a cheaper price.

Finally, she pressed that being involved on campus can help students to find their group.

She warned students not to get caught in the “paralysis of analysis.”

There are many schools to choose from, just in Texas alone.

However, a decision must be made, and students must pursue what lies before them, wherever that may be.

Huff provided a resume pamphlet to help students create their personalized resume to submit to colleges when asked.

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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 - 1:00 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 Thursdays
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

Grayson College to Host Trauma Affected Veteran Training to Law Enforcement

by Billy Teague
Veteran Outreach Specialist
GC Veterans Services Office

On March 20th, 21st, and 22nd, the Military Veterans Peer Network (MVPN) and the Veteran Services Office (VSO) of Grayson College will be sponsoring training for local law enforcement who may encounter veterans experiencing a PTSD issue.

This three-day course will

transfer.

Thirdly, Ray emphasized the importance of applying early.

Schools often have a priority application deadline, and if students apply before the deadline, they may have more scholarships available to them.

Visiting the school, Ray said, could also save some money.

In addition to helping students get a feel for what attending the school would be like, some schools will waive the application fee if the student attends an open house that is hosted on

be hosted by the Texoma Regional Police Academy.

This training, known as Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (T COLE) training for Trauma Affected Veterans, will be provided on campus in the CWL and will offer sixteen hours of classroom training on March 20th and 21st and eight hours of scenario training on March 22nd (24 total T COLE credit hours

for local law enforcement officers.)

This course aims to provide a framework for law enforcement officers, jailers, and telecommunicators to give a basic understanding about US military culture, traumas, triggers, stressors, and de-escalation techniques when encountering veterans in crisis. The course is structured around lectures, videos, class dia

logue, role-playing, and hands-on practice, to build student confidence when encountering a US veteran in crisis.

The Trauma Affected Veteran course builds on the crisis intervention training techniques in basic Peace Officer licensing academy. (Source: Texas Veteran Commission and the Lubbock Police Department.)

Continued on page 3



Did you know?

When you show your ID at Chili’s Restaurant in Sherman you’ll receive

10% off your meal!

Offer is good for both students and employees, and for dine-in only. (Excludes all alcoholic beverages.)

Must show your Grayson ID.

Thanks, Chili’s, for supporting Grayson College!



Anne’s Journal: Finding Hope in Despair

by Anne Dering
Editor

Our family was hit with a horrible case of the flu. It started in the end of January with one child.

She woke up one morning - an important morning, really, for it was the morning of the school dance - and she complained of a headache and chills and achiness.

When I saw that she also had a dangerously high fever, I whisked her off to the doctor.

The dreaded F word came out of the doctor’s mouth. “Flu.”

The entire word screams as if it’s both giving me the bird with the “l” in the middle, and cursing me with the “f” and “u” on the ends. Can you see it, too?

Well, my kids have trouble sharing their belongings, but this? This they will share.

What started out with one child missing her big middle school dance turned into one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven people missing school, work, church, and life.

Our home became a medical ward of the walking dead, complete with flu swabs up noses, round-the-clock fever reducers, and the constant hum of the nebulizer.

That one dreaded Saturday morning marked the first day of a month-long case of despair for me.

When I got sick a few days later, and then diagnosed with severe bronchitis, and THEN had to take a trip to the emergency room, I felt like my world was crumbling around me.

I couldn’t see a flicker of hope behind my breathing treatment mask.

When will we all get better? Why are January and February such horrid months this year?

Deep, dark despair surrounded me.

But just as our family fell sick one by one, they also got better, one by one.

Their coughs ended, fevers subsided, they went back to school, their appetites returned, and their cheerful smiles brought them back to the land of the living.

Almost three weeks after the dreaded disease first

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Phi Theta Kappa Spring Enrollment is Here!

In early February, Phi Theta Kappa launched its spring enrollment and mailed invitation letters to all eligible Grayson College students. These letters contain the information needed to accept membership into this prestigious honor society.

Membership affords students access to tremendous programming opportunities and a support system that account for a 92% success rate. Additionally, Phi Theta Kappa members are eligible for nearly \$90 million in scholarship opportunities.

This is not a chance you want to let pass you by – join today!

To learn more about Phi Theta Kappa, please check out our Wednesday meetings from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. in the Viking Room.

Be on the

LOOKOUT

Invitations to join Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society are in the mail!

ptk@grayson.edu



Photo submitted by Anne Dering, from www.pexels.com

Inspire Me; Inspire You: Share an Inspirational Quote

*"Life isn't about finding yourself.
Life is about creating yourself."*

- George Bernard Shaw,
Playwright

Shared by Gretchen Huff,
Career Services/Advising



Addictions Fuel My Future

by Amber Engelke
Student



Recently, I stumbled upon a movement called "Okay to Say," and it sparked my curiosity to learn more.

It was launched by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute and implemented in Texas to help fellow Texans realize they are not alone with mental health issues and to end the stigma that surrounds it.

After logging onto www.okaytosay.org and reading what others had written, I felt normal for once. I realized I wasn't the only one struggling to cope with anxiety.

I was raised by a drug-addicted mother and an alcoholic father, though not at the same time. My parents divorced when I was four, and my three siblings and I lived with our mother in the slums of Dallas.

We were trying to survive each day while she hunted for her fix. We slept on DART buses, under bridges, and if we were lucky, a shelter for the evening. This lifestyle lasted

until I was eight years old, when her custody was revoked because she went to prison.

When my mother went to prison, we were separated from each other and sent to live at Buckner, a children's home, until the custody reverted back to my father.

Now with a new family of nine, life was still hard with my dad, but we had consistent shelter and food, so it was the best living conditions I had ever experienced, except for his drinking problem.

I eventually moved out at the age of sixteen and have been on my own ever since.

My anxiety stems from these experiences of distrust and feeling indifferent for having to keep so many secrets for so long.

One night, I woke up from a nightmare and wrote a poem for all those who are like me. I hope this poem gives someone strength to stand up and speak out, even if it is just to one other person.

In fact, according to the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, 3 out of 4 Texans have a friend or family member who has experienced

a mental health issue.

Also, 88% of Texans agree that stigma surrounding mental health issues needs to be removed.

We can help end this stigma by making it "Okay to Say."

Instead of exuding bitterness, I choose to be grateful for my past. . . .

After being out of high school for ten years, I made the choice to follow my dream to help others, and I am studying to be a registered nurse.

I have been married now for eight years and have two awesome kids, who are six and two.

Instead of exuding bitterness, I choose to be grateful for my past, open-minded and empathetic to others, and careful with my choices.

I look forward to my future and am proud to be living proof that we are not a product of our circumstances.

Children of Addiction

Children of Addiction
Learn at a young age
To be quiet, disappear,
And not get in the way.

by Amber Engelke
Student



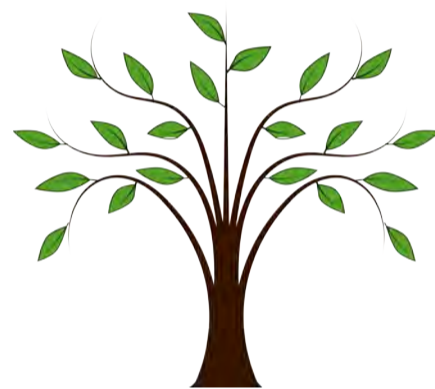
Addiction fuels our pain
And teaches us shame.
We want to break the chain and be forever free.
Daily survival is the key.

We don't want to be bound
Or constantly looking around.
When love is absent for so long,
We just settle for yearning to belong.

Not to worry,
Not to feel different,
Not to be hungry:
Hungry for love. Hungry for stability.
Wanting to make our dreams a possibility.

Addiction won't leave us
When we grow up, but we become pioneers:

Strong-willed, thick-skinned.
People-readers, compassion-givers,
For this struggle we have conquered.
We will not forget.



For more inspiration, be sure to read "Finding Hope in Despair" on page 2.

Our Culinary Competition Journey

by Sam Hester
Student



After four months of hard work, the Grayson College Culinary Arts student team loaded up in one of the Grayson vans on Feb. 1, 2017, heading for Chicago and the Central-Region Student Team Competition for the American Culinary Federation Chicago (Joliet Junior College).

Stopping only a few minutes at a time to stretch legs, get gas, and let Chef Joanna Bryant rest from all the driving she had to do, the team stayed overnight in Wilde-wood, Missouri, then team was back on the road again.

Reaching Chicago mid-day Thursday, checking into the hotel, and having dinner, the team settled in for the night.

With no other college teams wanting to compete at the state level, Grayson College Culinary Arts student team members Captain Nick Haas, Diana Larkin, Juan Orocio, Sam Hester, alongside alternates Savannah Chacón and Carol Staley, competed for the state of Texas. The team was coached by Chef Instructor Joanna Bryant and Asst. Chef Pet (Dallas American Culinary Federation President).

Sacrifice and Preparation

Starting in late September 2016, the team members started practicing for two to three hours twice a week. Juan Orocio of Muenster, Texas, and Sam Hester of Ardmore, Oklahoma, both drive over an hour both ways.

Nick Haas had taken on a new job as Executive Chef in Allen at the Belmont and Diana Larkin

was working 50+ hours a week.

But the team was determined to go to Chicago and bring back a medal.

Fundraising was everyone's job in the Culinary Arts program.

The team, and its co-team, which competed in the Knowledge Bowl, professors and students of the Culinary Arts Program, along with T.I.P.S.S. President Charles White and Assistant President Billy Robinson and Eta Sigma Delta, held fundraisers such as pie sales during Thanksgiving and fudge sales during Christmas.

Reba Ranch House donated money for the trip, and the Garde Manger (fall semester) class made canapés to help raise money for the trip.

Stiff Competition

Back to the competition, Thursday arrived with the team getting up early to run errands to pick up needed goods that would not travel, having difficulties finding a lot of items on the menu and getting a little bit more stressed than needed.

Reaching Joliet Junior College, they unloaded the van, packed supplies up the building elevator, and unloaded tubes of equipment in the prep kitchen.

Finally, the team had a moment to relax before the opening ceremony.

The competition opening ceremony began around 2:30 p.m.

Team Captain Haas drew placement for the team, picking Texas to go fourth.

As team four, the team was placed in front of the window where spectators could look in.

If you think the team was nervous at first, imagine how they felt when people were looking in on them only feet away!

Larkin (Pastry) started the team strong, followed by Orocio (Knife Skills), Haas (Fish Butchery) and Hester (Chicken Butchery).

The team competition was over in 7 minutes with members taking away 1.5 points from each skill yet still with a chance to earn a medal!

The team resumed competition on Day Two, starting off with a few bumps that morning.

The team went in with a fight, only to fall short of earning a medal by a few points.

Inspiration for Next Year

Knowing the other schools had been practicing together for a year or better, while the Grayson team had been practicing for only four months, it put an even bigger spark into next year's returning team member Diana Larkin.

With the help of Chef Bryant, Larkin is already in the process of putting together next year's team.

You are not
alone.

You have
worth.

Your past does
not define you.

Grayson College to Host Trauma Affected Veteran Training to Law Enforcement

Charles Holcomb, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 973, Sherman, called the VSO and asked if the college would be interested in providing this training. Mr. Holcomb stated, "I feel this training would be beneficial to keep everyone safe, especially our police officers and veterans."

Billy Teague, with the VSO, contacted Penny Poolaw, MVPN Coordinator with the Texoma Community Center, who was preparing to attend this training in Collin County, and asked if she could assist in making this course possible on campus.

Mrs. Poolaw began coordinating with Brad Blankenship, Director of the Texoma Regional Police Academy on campus, Howard Day, Grayson College Adjunct Professor, Army Veteran, and Tom Bean Chief of Police, who will be teaching the course.

This three-day course will be provided at no charge to all local law enforcement from Grayson, Fannin, and Cooke Counties, as well as to Bryan County, Oklahoma officers.

For more information, please contact Penny Poolaw at 903-267-0166 or email at ppoolaw@texomacc.org.

Grayson College Career Services

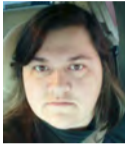
Assistance is available for:
 resume writing, cover letters, completing job applications, interview preparation, developing job search strategies & more!

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

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



Pillar of Gratitude



by Shalene White
 Staff Writer & Library Aide



Photo courtesy of Anne Dering
 Lisa Hébert's smile brings joy to those she serves.

Most students are terrified when they're starting college. It's a scary step for some people due to its being in the chasm of the unknown.

Taking the step into the college world is even scarier for a non-traditional college student.

I graduated high school in 1990. Yes, I know that is before most of the Grayson student population was even born, and, yes, I know I'm old.

However, I decided to go back to school despite being out of the academic world for twenty-four years. I

student, one who thought she wasn't good enough to be going back to school at the age of 42.

What Hébert saw was someone

Lisa Hébert always pushed me to do my best and work at the top of my potential.

was terrified.

"Would I be smart enough?"

"Would I be able to keep up with the class load?"

Along with starting my college journey, I also decided to try my hand at a work-study position.

I was fortunate enough to get a job in the Grayson College Library and meet one of the most interesting and amazing women I've ever known.

When I arrived at her office to interview, we hit it off immediately.

Then came the time to start working at the library. This afforded me the chance to get to know her even more.

Lisa Hébert, director of the Grayson College Library, always sees the best in people.

In the beginning of my college journey, I saw an unsure, timid

completely different. She saw a strong, able, and intelligent woman.

She always pushed me to do my best and work at the top of my potential.

Because of her gentle, yet stern push into the college kaleidoscope, I am now in Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society.

Also, instead of only going after an associates degree, I am now double majoring and pursuing a Masters in English and Journalism.

Thank you, Lisa, for seeing in me what I would have never noticed on my own!

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.

What is Unitarian Universalism?

by Megan Hutchinson
 I-Lab Instructor

Most people have never heard about this denomination, despite its long history.

Unitarians came out of the Protestant Reformation in Europe and developed in 16th-century Romania.

Universalists rose in popularity in the New World in the late 1700s with their belief that all people are deserving of salvation.

This belief was considered extremely liberal at the time, and the church has maintained that liberal bent to this day.

These two denominations united in 1961 to become the Unitarian Universalists (UU).

Over time, the organization opened its doors to all manner of faith practices, in keeping with the Universal principle of salvation for all.

While Unitarianism began as a Christian denomination and some UUs identify as Christians today, most would refer to themselves as Humanists or a number of other designations.

The local UU church, Red River Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 515 N. Burnett Ave. Denison, Texas, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Originally begun in Sherman in the Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church, they have moved to a century-old home in Denison as the primary worship center.

The facility has plenty of parking and has recently been renovated.

They accept members from every walk of life.

UUs have no one creed, for to

do so would exclude some people from their practices.

UUs practice love and acceptance, inviting Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jews, agnostics, atheists, and Pagans to worship.

The services are not god-centered, but instead preach the value of being a good person in this world.

Each UU has a different relationship with the god they worship, or with none at all.

What you believe is not as important as the spiritual journey of discovery you take to get there.

If you are not sure of your spiritual beliefs or are questioning, this is an excellent source of inspiration for your own spiritual journey.

Visitors and members have the opportunity to explore many different paths to spirituality and choose the one that is right for them. Church services mirror many aspects of a traditional church service, while maintaining unique differences in each congregation.

UUs follow seven core principles that apply to every person, regardless of their persuasion:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Continued on page 8

Transferring to Your Four-Year University

Continued from page 2

Students were encouraged to attend the events hosted by Grayson College that provide opportunities to discover more about the transfer opportunities around the area.

The recent University Transfer Day, hosted in the Student Life Center, was a great success, with twenty-two schools represented for students to preview.

Rotaract meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. in the Viking Room next to GC Perks.

For more information on Rotaract, contact the faculty sponsor, Jean Sorensen, either through email: SorensenJ@grayson.edu, or by calling her office phone: 903-466-8660.

The next meeting will be on March 23rd and will feature tips from Alvin Bailey on time management. All students are welcome.

Going for Gold!

Continued from page 1

After weeks of preparation, the time flew by; before we knew it, it was time to make the trek to Chicago.

Our group, the cooking competitors, had to be there before the Knowledge Bowl students because the cooking part of the competition happened earlier in the week.

Leaving on a Wednesday morning, and taking our time to get to Chicago, we arrived on Thursday night.

We didn't have much time to see the sights at first because Friday started the competition.

There was a team meeting at which everybody introduced themselves and set the rules.

While our group was the only team representing the state of Texas, there were units from the central and western regions of the United States.

We were engaged in two grueling days of competition. Our team was less than two points from bringing a medal back to Texas.

was over, we were able to attend different seminars to teach us various techniques in cooking.

The Knowledge Bowl crew made it into town just a few days after us, and they rocked the competition.

They earned a silver medal; I guess that means they're some pretty "smart cookies."

The Knowledge Bowl had more teams that were representing Texas.

El Centro College, located in Dallas, also won a medal, and Chef Mark Schneider, the ACF Dallas Chapter president of the Texas Chef Association, was presented with the Educator of the Year award.

The state of Texas was represented well: the teams won a total of 3 medals to bring back.

Even though our team didn't place in the cooking competition, we learned many new things.

We took notes and brought all these new ideas home to start training and bring home the gold medal next year!

Advisory Council Plans Vet Activities



Photo courtesy of Marlina Reese
 (l to r) Admiral Retz, Steve Davis, Donna King (standing), Tommy Ellis, Billy Teague, Charles Connor, Penny Poolaw, Charles Holcomb and Michael Ribble.

by Tommy Ellis
 Project Coordinator
 for Veteran Student
 Success

Programs, activities, and funding for the many Grayson College veteran students require an enormous amount of behind-the-scenes planning and organization.

One of the veteran student advisory bodies that provides for such planning, direction and support for student veterans here at Grayson College met recently, Wednesday, February 15, 2017, in The Viking Room.

This group, the Veterans Advisory Council (VAC), met to discuss and evaluate past veterans activities and to plan for others to be

scheduled during the balance of this calendar year.

Meeting every two months, the council is comprised not only of key GC personnel, but representatives from the community, as well, who are all strong advocates of and for veterans services.

Community representatives work tirelessly and often times with little fanfare to ensure the availability and success of events and activities that benefit the entire veteran student population.

At this meeting, members were updated on several past veteran-related activities, from the Point-In-Time Homeless Count to the issues of student veterans dealing with financial difficulties.

Upcoming student veteran events to be held on the Grayson College main campus will include everything from a Student Veterans Office (VSO) Open House and Town Hall meeting and hosting a first-ever north Texas Veterans Symposium, to hosting a Veterans EXPO in September, and even a special Veterans Day ceremony in November honoring disabled veterans.

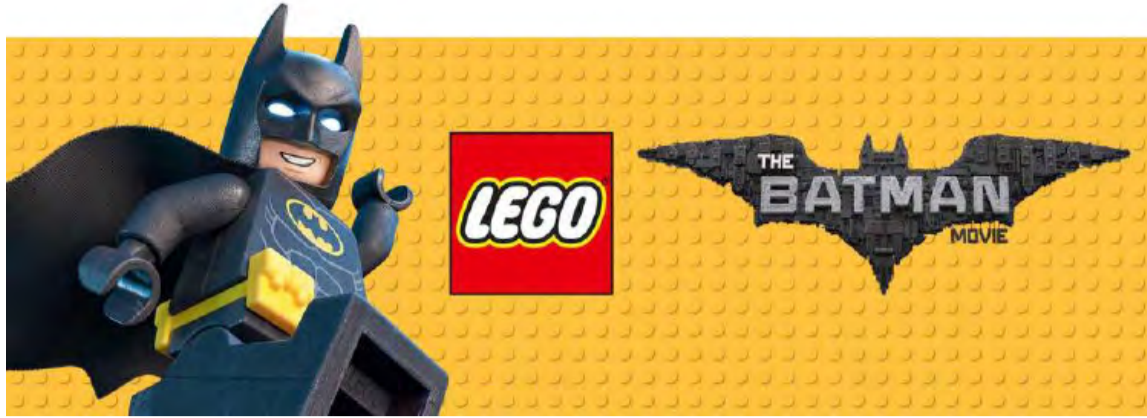
Additionally, for the first time ever at Grayson College, a formal military ball is being considered for later in the year.

The Veteran Services Office (VSO) of Grayson College is located on the Bridge

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Lego Batman[®]: Grow Up and Have Some Fun

by Zachary Pletan
Student/Staff Writer



Batman, in his modern cinematic incarnation, has a problem.

Or rather, two problems. The first is that alter ego Bruce Wayne exists in a state of arrested development.

He is a grown man who dresses like a bat to punch criminals because he has not gotten over the death of his parents—an event that, by the time of 2016's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, has easily taken place thirty years in Bruce's past.

Batman's other big problem is that somewhere along the line, he stopped having fun.

This is not exactly, concretely verifiable, but think for a moment on the most-“fun” Batman characters since Christopher Nolan

The Lego Batman Movie[®] represents the first attempt since *Batman Begins* to make Batman move on with life, love, and family.

started with *Batman Begins*. I'm guessing your answers are the Joker's manic delight in chaos in *The Dark Knight* and Bane's instantly memeable, vaguely Welsh incomprehensibility in *The Dark Knight Rises*.

Batman was given a chance to be cool in *Batman v Superman*, with some of the character's best costuming and action ever put to

screen, but weak writing, fickle motivation, and an unbroken grimness throughout meant that he came across as murderous, paranoid, and psychotic instead.

Into this bubble of dark machismo burst *The Lego Movie*[®]. In this 2014 outing, Batman's unmitigated darkness and refusal to grow up are the punchline, sung—

literally—loud and clear in “Untitled Self-Portrait.”

Its opening scream, “Darkness, no parents,” compares Batman to a Goth kid (or at least the stereotype thereof), someone who exudes darkness to avoid shining a light onto the intensity of their problems.

Similarly, in love interest-Wyldstyle's conflict between chasing surface-level “cool

ness” and simply embracing one's self, Batman's perpetual grimdark aesthetic represents the one-dimensionality she needs to leave behind.

Building on this criticism, *The Lego Batman Movie*[®] represents the first attempt since *Batman Begins* to make Batman move on with life, love, and family.

Even more honestly than *The Lego Movie*[®], it looks at Batman's issues, suggesting that his deepest fear is to have relationships again, especially given that he cannot guarantee anyone's protection as he fights his rogues gallery.

However, the movie also forces Batman to look inward and realize that family is what he—like anyone—needs the most.

Continued on page 6

March 2017 Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
3/4	Howard College	Big Spring, TX	11:00
	Midland College	Big Spring, TX	3:00
3/8	* McLennan College	Waco, TX	12:00
3/11	* McLennan College	Dub Hayes Field	12:00
3/15	* Weatherford College	Weatherford, TX	1:00
3/18	* Weatherford College	Dub Hayes Field	1:00
3/20	Navarro College	Dub Hayes Field	2:00
3/22	* Vernon College	Dub Hayes Field	1:00
3/25	* Vernon College	Vernon, TX	1:00
3/29	* North Central Texas College	Dub Hayes Field	1:00

March 2017 Softball Schedule

Wed, 3/1/17	1:00 PM	@ Weatherford	Weatherford, TX
Wed, 3/1/17	3:00 PM	@ Weatherford	Weatherford, TX
Sat, 3/4/17	1:00 PM	@ Seminole State	Seminole, OK
Sat, 3/4/17	3:00 PM	@ Seminole State	Seminole, OK
Wed, 3/8/17	1:00 PM	McLennan	Denison, TX
Wed, 3/8/17	3:00 PM	McLennan	Denison, TX
Sat, 3/11/17	1:00 PM	@ Ranger	Ranger, TX
Sat, 3/11/17	3:00 PM	@ Ranger	Ranger, TX
Wed, 3/15/17	1:00 PM	Vernon	Denison, TX
Wed, 3/15/17	3:00 PM	Vernon	Denison, TX
Sat, 3/18/17	1:00 PM	@ Cisco	Cisco, TX
Sat, 3/18/17	3:00 PM	@ Cisco	Cisco, TX
Wed, 3/22/17	1:00 PM	Temple	Denison, TX
Wed, 3/22/17	3:00 PM	Temple	Denison, TX
Sat, 3/25/17	1:00 PM	@ NCTC	Gainesville, TX

Come out and support our Athletics Program!

To see the full schedule of all athletic events for Grayson College, please go to <http://grayson.edu/athletics/index.html>

Scholarship Money Available - Priority Deadline March 21, 2017

The Grayson College Foundation Scholarship Program is funded from tax-deductible contributions made by individuals (community members, Grayson Alumni, Grayson faculty and staff), local businesses, organizations and charitable foundations.

Grayson College Foundation scholarships are available to Grayson College students who meet the admission and financial aid requirements of the College.

The basic eligibility criteria are a minimum 2.5 GPA and at least minimum part-time enrollment; full-time enrollment preferred. Annual award amounts are determined based on these criteria.

To apply, complete and return the scholarship application along with the required documents (listed on the application) to the Office of Financial Aid by the priority deadline, March 21, 2017. Applications can be found in the Office of Financial Aid.

The scholarship application and the application process is found on the college's website under the Admission & Aid tab and from the Foundation tab. Scholarships will be awarded in April and recipients will be notified by mail by May 31st.



Ruiz Foods is offering scholarship assistance to current high school seniors, as well as current GC students who plan to continue their education at a 4 year university. Find out more at <http://www.ruiz4kids.org>.

Anne's Journal: Finding Hope in Despair

Continued from page 2

intruded into our house, our middle schooler announced that another area school was hosting a middle school dance.

She was hopeful that she'd be well enough to go.

“Hope.” I like that word. Really, I love that word.

The “H” stands tall with promise. The “o” and “p” are so open and inviting.

The “e” seems to reach out and silently pull me in.

What possibilities and potential can come from that four-letter word!

My daughter became well and happy. Watching her dance with her classmates gave my heart hope.

The flu has now retreated from our home.

We all are diving back into our routines and engaging in the joys that life offers us.

Hope is the best medicine for despair.

I have hope that we are healed.

Hope is the best medicine for despair.

I have hope that the season of Spring will bring abundant health to our family.

I have hope.

If you're facing despair in your life, find that glimmer of hope and hold on to it. Whatever you're going through will pass, and hope will be waiting for you!

Six Ninety-One Review: Lavish Lunch

by Charlotte Huckestein
Student/Staff Writer

Recently, I was able to visit our on-campus restaurant for a meal.

Six Ninety-One, the student-run restaurant, delivered once again with a lavish lunch that my guest and I thoroughly enjoyed.

Located on Grayson Campus, behind the dorms, Six Ninety-One Restaurant is a must-try for those who would like to sample quality dishes, at an affordable price.

The menu changes weekly, which means there is always something new and delicious to delight your taste buds.

Six Ninety-One is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Reservations can be made by contacting Joanna Bryant at BryantJ@grayson.edu.

Six Ninety-One Restaurant operates by allowing you to select three courses (appetizer, main course, and dessert).

For the appetizer, my guest and I chose the mushroom soup. This dish was particularly creamy, filled with flavorful spices, and topped with crunchy croutons.

Not too hot and not too cold, this dish was a perfect

blend of textures. It was also devoured too quickly to say much more.

I was surprised with the versatility of the chefs at Six Ninety-One who were able to surprise me with yet another special main course selection.

This time, I chose a dish that was explained to me as “duck pizza.” I have never tasted anything like it, but it was absolutely delicious!

The meat was especially tender with a brisket-like texture wrapped in a calzone-type bread.

The dish was then sprinkled with crisp, stringy onion rings for a light, crispy finish.

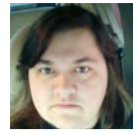
Continued on page 6



Photos courtesy of Charlotte Huckestein



Black History Month Has Local Ties



by Shalene White
Staff Writer & Library Aide

Most people know something about Black History Month, whether it be what they see on television what they've researched. Most scholars believe that Black History Week started in the 1920s but evolved into a month-long celebration in 1976.

Sherman resident Deborah Barrax shared that her grandmother was Irene Morgan. At first, the name didn't resonate with Hébert. After speaking with Barrax, and finding out that she was referring to THE Irene Morgan in the Morgan v the Commonwealth



photos courtesy of Shalene White

Morgan receiving the Presidential Citizens Medal from Bill Clinton in 2001.

Young school children of Virginia, Hébert decided to learn about Rosa Parks and to showcase Morgan in the

The Grayson College Library's annual Black History Month display hits a little closer to home this year than normally.

her refusal to give up her bus seat to a white person, certainly a famous day in history.

What some people don't know is that 11 years before the fateful date for Rosa Parks, another local African-American woman refused to unseat herself for the convenience of a white person.

Irene Morgan was the plaintiff in the Supreme Court case Morgan v. the Commonwealth of Virginia and also the precursor of the Freedom Riders.

The Grayson College Library's annual Black History Month display hits a little closer to home this year than normally.

In a conversation with Lisa Hébert, director of the Grayson College Library,

display. Hébert asked Barrax to loan the library display any memorabilia that she might have of her grandmother, which was quite a bit.

Hébert also introduced Barrax to Charles Leslie, Grayson's African-American Initiative Coordinator, who is in charge of Grayson's Black History Month celebration.

Even though Barrax doesn't like the idea of public speaking, she put her fears aside to do a presentation at the event on February 23rd.

This anecdote just goes to show that all it takes is for one person to get the cog in motion. Eventually, it'll turn into a well-oiled machine and take on a life of its own.

*Mark Your Calendars:
Spring Break is
March 13th - March 17th!*

Lego Batman[®]: Grow Up and Have Some Fun

Continued from page 5

Lego Batman[®] is not all deep introspection, however. If "darkness, no parents" represented Batman's inability to grow up, it was at least as much a love letter to his inherent silliness.

Lego Batman[®] leans into this as well. From the goofiness of a (digitally-created) stop-motion LEGO[®] feature film, to Robin's ripping the pants off of Batman's Reggae Man costume to create his signature look, to an action climax at once idiotically goofy and jaw-droppingly awesome, Lego[®] Batman loves Batman.

It recognizes that "Batman doesn't live in Bruce Wayne's basement—Bruce Wayne lives in Batman's attic."

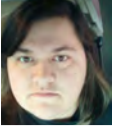
It is at once a roast, a love letter, and a fresh take on who Batman is and what he can be.

The Lego Batman Movie suggests that all Batman really needs to do is a) grow up, and b) have some fun, and it delivers on both those fronts.

There were two six-year-old boys behind me the night I saw it, giggling their butts off in delight at the humor and the spectacle and the sheer awesomeness that Batman has finally been allowed to be.

I hope they heard me in front of them, cheering as hard as they, and that in fifteen years, they'll be able to look back and laugh with the same intensity we all did that night.

Where Are They Now?



by Shalene White
Staff Writer & Library Aide

By now, you may have noticed that *The Viking* has started a new article series. "Where Are They Now?" is intended to follow the lives of Grayson alumni. This issue will be showcasing Shelby Via.

Even though Via was a student at Grayson College for two years, she actually started her college career while still attending Denison High School as a dual credit student. Being a dual credit student has become increasingly popular in Grayson County because it allows students to start working on their future by taking college-level courses while still attending high school.

Via earned her Associates of Science in General Studies degree last May, and is still trucking along the path towards her future.

She is currently at the University of Texas at Dallas and is majoring in Biomedical Engineering – a degree plan that she has not waived from since she started college.

Like most college students, there have been times when Via has wanted to just

throw her hands up and quit out of frustration.

However, she remained diligent about achieving her goals because the thought of forsaking her dreams to be a Biomedical Engineer was worse than the exasperation she felt from the countless hours of studying and test taking.

[My professors at Grayson] have helped me recognize how resilient and influential I can be.



Via is very thankful for the support that she has received from the Phi Theta Kappa Advisers at Grayson.

"I would love to thank Professor Mary Linder, George Melchor, and Dr. Molly Harris," Via said.

"They have helped me recognize how resilient and influential I can be. I would not be the person I am today without their wisdom and disposition for student success."

Also, Via said she is appreciative of her past and current opportunities.

"Grayson is an astonishing college that has immensely prepared me for a four-year university," Via said.

"The University of Texas at Dallas is magnificent and extremely focused on the success of the student population."

Six Ninety-One Review: Lavish Lunch

Continued from page 5

My guest ordered the cod dish. The plate held grilled cod drizzled in a cream sauce atop asparagus links.

My guest also noted this dish was excellent for the time of year and scarcity of fish-serving restaurants in our area.

The dessert choices were the Bow Tie Cake and S'mores Cheesecake.

The Bow Tie cake was layered with chocolate cake, chocolate mousse, white chocolate cream, and vanilla cake.

Together these flavors erupted in a symphony of tastes that were rich in both flavor and texture.

The S'mores Cheesecake was something completely new.

This dish was composed of a crumbly pie crust, soft cheesecake, and a melted marshmallow on top.

If that does not have your mouth watering, I don't know what will!

Once more, the chefs at Six Ninety-One have displayed their fantastic capabilities



and potential.

I encourage all those interested to make a reservation as soon as possible.

I know I am already looking forward to my next visit.



The Shears Club members (cosmetology students) encourage all to come visit them in the salon for all your hair, nail, and skin needs. Also, they will have a sack lunch event on **Thursday, March 23rd**. The club will be taking pre-orders now. Lunch will be pulled a pork sandwich, chips, and a drink for \$5. **For more information on prices of the services offered, to make reservations, and to pre-order your sack lunch, call 903-463-8744.**

Touring the Music Department

by Kyle Morman
Student/Staff Writer

I have always dreamt of being a famous musician, but I found those dreams to be irrational to pursue, especially after having children.

Yesterday, though, as Dr. David Tercero gave me a tour of the music facility and the music program on the Grayson College campus, the desire to rekindle my musical aspirations was set aflame.

The entire building is a Pandora's Box of surprises and delightful subtleties.

Initially, walking around or near the music facility was intimidating, and the only time I had ever set foot inside the area before meeting Dr. T. was for a graduation ceremony.

I figured, "Heck, I'm not majoring in music; I have no purpose over there."

The ecstasy felt after finding out how incorrect that assumption could be was so palpable that I almost considered changing my major... had I not already invested several years and an incredible amount of heartache in the pursuit of an electrical engineering degree.

As I entered through the double doors of the Arts and Communications building, surrounded by visual arts displays, the voices of the choir could be heard echoing in unison down the hallways.

During any pause or intermission, I could hear the professor jovially commenting, and after the class had genuinely responded, there was an immediate sense of comfort, like family at home.

I continued traveling down the hallways, past the seemingly countless oversized private practice rooms, down the double-slanted handicap slope, then past a wall of upcoming events including local concerts, recitals at the college, and information about other miscellaneous club-related activities.

After I greeted Dr. Tercero, he showed me a lot of the special amenities available to anyone interested in taking music courses at Grayson.

The word "impressed" falls dramatically short of the feeling imbued after finishing the tour. Behind the locked doors, awaiting those who demand knowledge and beauty, in the vaults of Grayson, lie \$100,000+ in percussion instruments and pianos alone.

The extent of the music professors' abilities transcends eight masters and two doctorate degrees.

Plus, therein lies a recording studio to rival that of Abbey Road, Motown, and Sun Studio in California. If you have any desire to follow any musical passion, this is the place to do it!

Find all the particulars about Grayson's music program in the programs and majors tab of the Grayson College website, in the "music" link, which displays everything from teacher contact information to scholarship opportunities and even video links (under upcoming events) to concerts and recitals.

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Disclaimer

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 GC.

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 GC. Material for publication may be submitted through email to Anne Dering (DeringA@grayson.edu).

Editor' Note: *In the February issue of The Viking, I inadvertently omitted two paragraphs from the article about Joshua's Crossing. The missing paragraphs are printed below. I apologize for the error. - AD*

The church where he was serving at that time did not have a similar vision. The Lord called him to begin another church, where members loved and accepted all people. After the original pastor moved on, "other people of the church continued the vision," declared Cynthia Boatwright*, who is today one of the strongest leaders at JC, and a person whose opinion is respected by other JC members.

Boatwright has been there at the church from the start. In the past, she has been nominated by the congregation for 37 years to serve on two pastor church committees.

The Boonies Tracker

by Hunnington Sloan
Student/Staff Writer

Editor's Note: *Due to mature language, reader discretion is advised for this story. Also, this is the first part of an ongoing serial story. -AD*

A tall shadow stretches out far across the dunes of a vast desert.

A lone figure stands at the peak of the tallest dune with the sun behind its back. Clad in white hemp robes, she finds the sun's fiery force is dampened, easing the heat to a light annoyance.

For a few moments, looking over the long expansive emptiness, she scans beyond where its shadow ends.

Short and tall cacti dot the ground below.

Here she knows could harbor the hardened creatures of this land, creatures she is here for.

With a leap, she descends the great dune, sand parting at the her feet, allowing her to slide with ease down the sloping dune.

In a puff of sand, she finds herself in the looming shadow of the dune she had stood upon mere moments ago, reaching for her hood and mask.

She removes her head gear to get a better look in the slightly dimmed surroundings then kneels to the ground for better comfort as she removes and places the pack she carried.

Rummaging through the pack, she perks up as she pulls out a dulled silver canteen and drinks deeply from it.

Sitting on her pack now, she takes time to reflect, gathering her strength and wits for what she knows will be happening soon: her task at hand.

While keeping the canteen in her left hand, she pulls out next a small leather-bound journal with the words "Tracker Amani A."

"Okay, one old basilisk to find," she announces aloud to the silent dunes.

Staring out towards the next dune, she mumbles, "...Now where is it hiding?" and flips the pages of the journal.

Clasping the journal close, Amani springs up. The hair on the back of her neck prickles straight up.

She feels the wind around her begin to die down. With deft hands, she replaces the items in her pack.

From under her robed waist, Amani pulls forth a long, slender blade, slightly hooked at the end.

Soon, all sound leaves the world.

Amani stands concentrated with her eyes closed in thought.

She can feel pressure build behind her, where she had slid down from the top of the slope.

In an explosion of sand and senses, a massive scaled beast burst forth with a great roar.

All tension leaves Amani as she turns her body to the beast, her blade poised to slash into the monstrous beast, yelling out her own battle cry to match the fury of the beast. . .

"F--- this noise, dude!"

My hand shoots away from my doodle-covered notebook in shock as the real-world floods back around me.

The classroom is silent aside from Sheba slamming her palms into the wooden desk, arguing

"shove it."

Instead, I just shrug again apathetically and saunter out of the classroom after Sheba.

The hallways don't stir as Sheba and I make our way out of the building, even with all her hell raising.

Either no one dares to involve themselves or doesn't really care to.

I look over to her to see how mad Sheba really is.

"So, why the big production?" I ask as we round the stairs.

"Dude, you need to first start actually paying attention instead of being stuck in your head with your stories," she playfully pushes me, nearly making me trip over my feet.

"I just can't even start to believe that pr---.

How is it that he can say, "There isn't any need for more refugees" to a high school history class, topping it off, WHILE TALKING ABOUT NAZI F---ING GERMANY!"

Sheba demands, slamming open the exit door with her frustration fueling her every step.

The wind whips us in the face, harassing us as we march out to the parking lot.

"Well, didn't Roosevelt or whoever was President at the time refuse refugees as well?"

I ask with a hopeful hint of sarcasm to calm her a bit as we reach Sheba's worn-down LeSabre.

She lets out a snort as she grabs her door handle.

"F--- you Sebastian, smart a---... You never pay any attention in history. F---! Why is it that this is the only close parking spot out here in the boonies?"

Sheba slams her door and tosses her bag into the cluttered back seat of the LeSabre.

I slide into the front passenger seat and pull out my notebook, taking a quick second to find where I had left off in the story.

"Well I can give at least give props to Professor Green in one regard. I get to write more often in there than in any other class," I say, trailing off into intense focus while trying to figure out where to take the story next.

"Finishing up that story you've been messing with since last summer?" she asks.

"Yeah. Want to give it a read and see if anything needs a quick edit," I respond excitedly.

Sheba starts up the engine and cranks into gear, "Yeah, but after we actually get some f---ing food. I'm too grumpy to start thinking about editing."

Stay tuned. The saga will continue in the April issue of The Viking. Special thanks to author Hunnington Sloan for contributing his work.



Photo used with permission from www.more-sky.com

with Professor Green, pushing herself up in a huff of frustration. She looks down at me as she stands up.

"Yo, did you hear me? Quit your note scratching and let's get some grub," she commands, grabbing her bag and starting for the door.

"Sit back down this instant, Miss Sanford!" warns Professor Green, red in the face.

The lightly packed room is still timidly looking first to Professor Green, then Sheba, and finally me. Sheba scowls.

"Well dude, what's keeping you? Pack up your sh-- and let's quit this garbage fire."

I feel everyone's stare and the heated glare of Professor Green.

At this point, all I can do is shrug and stand up.

Gently putting away my notebook, I sling my backpack over my shoulder and leave my chair out as I stroll up to the front of the class next to Sheba.

"Mr. Delicroux, you too? Sit down now, or you'll be written up and expelled along with Miss Sanford!" Professor Green threatens, two inches from me now.

I read disappointment in his face. In the back of my head, I play out tossing him the bird and kicking the door open while telling him to

Touring the Music Department

Continued from page 7

This particular foray into the unknown was astonishing to me.

I feel now a combination of disappointment that I was not involved in such a seemingly stellar program before turning in my transfer applications and fervor to promote this hidden gem, to exploit the

great investment made by the college for the pleasure of any student with the diligence to learn and evolve.

Again, if you enjoy music, let these people mold your brain into an object of beauty. I wish I could have in the time I was here.

photos courtesy of Kyle Morman



The technology (left) and the instruments (above) are among the best in Grayson County.



Music Student Performs in San Antonio

Continued from page 1

Grayson College was among 24 two-year colleges from around the state represented in the choir. The repertoire for the concert consisted of wide variety of genres and composers including Monteverdi, Mozart, Schubert, Vaughan Williams, Davisson, and Brumfield.

In preparation for the concert, the students participated in ten intense rehearsals over four days at the convention with the guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Richard Bjella, Director of Choral Studies at Texas Tech University.

The week was capped off with the Texas Two-Year All-State Choir Concert held at the convention center in the Stars at Night Ballroom on Saturday, February 11th at 7:30 pm.



Rehearsal before the concert.

What is Unitarian Universalism?

Continued from page 4

7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

*from uua.org

These are the guiding principles by which UUs live their lives.

They are gathered from many different religious sources and are universal. UUs do not discriminate

based on race, gender, gender identity, sexuality, creed, color, or anything else.

For more information, please visit uua.org or the local UU church website at rruu.org.

If you would like to stop in to find out more, Adult Forum is Sunday at 10 a.m. and Service is at 11:15 a.m.. Stay after for "Conversations and Calories"!

Culinary Knowledge Bowl

by Lauren Aleman
Student

The Baron H. Garland Knowledge Bowl is a distinguished competition of culinary knowledge.

It has been an honor to be a part of the Grayson College team this year. I have never been involved in a competition like this before, so I was very nervous.

My teammates and I spent the last nine months preparing with mock games, books, thousands of flashcards, and studying--a lot of studying! We took our flashcards and books with us to Chicago and crammed in as much studying as possible before and during the competition.

The first day of the competition was an exam; each team member's score was averaged together for that team's "seeding," or placement, in the next day's matches.

Our team seeded seventh, which meant that we would face the team who seeded second for our first round.

This was a first-time experience for all but one of our team members, so the first game was more about feeling out the competition and trying not to be nervous.

Our second round went much better. We accumulated over 300 points and left the game area confident that we had won a medal.

After the games, we enjoyed the educational classes available through the American Culinary Federation.

This was an interesting experience not only filled with education on choc-



[Photo courtesy of Joanna Bryant] Pictured (l to r) Chef Mark Schneider, President of State of Texas Chef's Association; Joanna Bryant, Tiffany Hedgecock, Lori Ahhaity, Pablo Soto, Lauren Aleman, Sarah Dilling, Chef Pete Nolasco, President of the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Chef's Association, and Rusty Weatherly.

olate sculpting, sorbet mathematics and menu costing (to name a few), but also a great opportunity for networking.

I spoke to and shook hands with distinguished chefs such as Mark Schneider (CEC, CCE, ACE, ACF member, president of the Texas Chefs Association and Educator Of The Year), Pete Nolasco (owner of Pete's Catering and Ice Sculptures, director of the TCA), Adam Lambert (culinary career coach), and Scott Green (chocolate sculptor).

It is very exciting to look back and remember how the Grayson College team went into Chicago as an unknown school, yet we walked out with our heads high and silver medals shining. I can't wait to do it again next year!



The Culinary Arts Cooking Team enjoyed the gala event.

Pictured (l to r) Chef Mark Schneider, President of State of Texas Chef's Association; Joanna Bryant, Juan Orocio, Nick Haas, Savannah Chacon, Sam Hester, Diana Larkins, and Chef Pete Nolasco, President of the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Chef's Association.

Advisory Council Plans Vet Activities

Continued from page 4

next to GC Perks and houses the Center of Excellence for Veteran Students Success. Under the direction of Donna King, Director of Financial Aid/Veteran services, the Center of Excellence is made possible and financed by a 2015 Department of Education Grant that is one of only thirteen nationwide.

As such, new and innovative methods for veterans-related programs, activities and services are made possible.

With over 200 military veterans now attending Grayson College and with the

number expected to climb, a great deal of effort is being expended to ensure that when former military members arrive on campus, they find all the infrastructure in place to ensure that their college experience is a successful one.

VAC members attending this meeting were: Bill Retz (Navy Admiral, Ret.), Steve Davis, Donna King, Craig Greenwood, Tommy Ellis and Billy Teague (all of GC), Charles Connor (Navy/Texas Veterans Commission), Penny Poolaw (Army/Texoma Community Center), Charles Holcomb

(Army/ President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 973), Michael Ribble (Air Force/Texas Workforce Commission), Frank Budra (Air Force/Mayor, City of Pottsboro) and Paul Richards (Army/U.S. Marshal, Ret.)

Active members unable to attend were: Louella Williams (Pres. TEFCU), Paul Chandler (Army/Fannin County Veteran Service Officer), Larry Harding (American Legion Post 62) and Randy Truxal (Exec. Director, Grayson College Foundation).

Mark your calendars:
Eat at Chipotle in Sherman
on Friday, March 3rd
from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM.
50% of proceeds will be
donated to
Phi Theta Kappa,
Omicron Psi Chapter

CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Phi Theta Kappa, Omicron Psi Chapter. Come in to the Chipotle at **875 Northcreek Dr.** in Sherman on **Friday, March 3rd** between **11:00am** and **10:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Phi Theta Kappa, Omicron Psi Chapter.



If placing an order online during your fundraiser, please note you must choose the pay-in-store option and inform our cashier of your participation before paying. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.