



Monday, April 3, 2017

Volume VIII, Issue III

Get Involved

Viking Deadline

Monday, April 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 - 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

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Spring Season Says, "Play Ball!" for Grayson Vikings & Lady Vikings



All baseball photos courtesy of Kyle Morman

Student-athlete Seth Mullis demonstrates his love for the sport at a March game. Onlookers enjoyed the game despite the dreary weather.

Rooting for the Vikings



by Kyle Morman
Staff Writer

The weather was dreary on March 22, and the color of the world reflected a melancholy gray.

Atmospheric conditions seemed particularly cold after such a mild Texas winter.

Initially the drizzle made the camera lens almost impossible to focus, and I was glad to have a sweatshirt in my 4x4.

Fortunately for me, in my late arrival, baseball turned out to be a pitcher's duel.

The first real offensive action I saw was a hit in the fourth, which ultimately led the first of several devastating double-plays by the

Vikings' opponent, Vernon College.

By the end of the fourth, we were statistically up, with two hits to their one and zero errors to their documented two, but neither team was capable of securing a run.

The opponent was unable to make any distinctive offensive way during the 5th, 6th, and 7th innings, and Vernon repelled two of Grayson's offensive attempts in innings 5 and 6 with a double play at first and second.

A failed steal attempt and a caught pop-fly ended the 7th inning for Grayson, and in the top of the 9th, sh--got real.

One of the first pitches of

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Read a great article about a baseball Viking alumnus on page 6.



Student-athlete Tyler Ivey throws a pitch.



Student-athletes Jaycee Grimm (#30) and Jodie Hill warm up before a game.

Behind the Badge: How Grayson College's Campus Police Keep Our Community Safe

by Zachary Crow
Student

Campus Police officers aren't very different from local law enforcement officers.

Although not every college has fully-empowered police officers, Grayson is an exception. "We have fully licensed police officers of the state of Texas, and what many people don't know about us is that we are a

public institution," says Andrew MacPherson, Chief of Police at Grayson College.

"We have countywide jurisdiction, meaning that we respond to calls and services throughout the county and can make arrests outside of the college campus."

Knowing we have fully licensed police officers on campus is a form of security for people of the Grayson

College community.

"They are fully licensed police officers, so I feel safer knowing that they are properly trained," says Marlea Trevino, an English professor at Grayson.

Grayson's Campus Police are trained to protect the campus' staff and students against any potential threat to their safety.

However, crime within the

Grayson community is relatively low due to the student population.

"The students that we get here are typically a ruly bunch, and we don't have any major incidents," Trevino says.

"We don't have a lot of crime on campus, but our Campus Police are great for

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Service Dogs Come to Grayson College

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

Members of the Grayson College Student Veterans Association (SVA) met with some very special guests at their Wednesday, March 1st noon meeting in the Veterans Hub.

Robert Medlar, President of the SVA, welcomed and introduced Paul Richards

and "Trooper" from Sherman and Les Castro and "Pepper" from Plano.

Their impressive canine demonstration showed the many merits of "service dogs" to military veterans who have been declared eligible for canine companions.

Richards, an Army combat veteran and paratrooper with extensive Vietnam

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Photo courtesy of Tommy Ellis.

(L to R) Les Castro with Pepper and Paul Richards with Trooper

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

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

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

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



Photo courtesy of Jeremy McMillen

Spring is here! Dr. Jeremy McMillen beautifully captured this Oklahoma redbud. Photo was taken at Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma.

I Write: A Collage

Contributed by Dr. S. Thompson's INRW Students

by Emefa Adjo Aziale • Melissa Blevins • Sandra Biyo Issombi • Khadka Bogati • Deondra Brickhouse
Jackie Brown • Anna Chesley • Armando Dominguez Murillo • Traycee Flemmings • Micheal Green
John Herold • Bobbi Hood • Rajina Karki • Irene Lujan • Avery Motley • Leah Paveloff • Ashley Stephens
Jenisha Thapaliya • Heather Thompson • Kalea Thompson • Jesus Vasquez

Students

A sunny, beautiful day with blue sky.

At noon I sat in my purple lawn chair, next to a muggy water pond, holding a cheap black fishing pole, waiting to catch the big one.

I asked, "Why do I write?"

I write because of the motion of the clouds.

I write because of the way geese make a V in the sky.

I write so I can focus on getting along with my co-workers.

I write so people can hear what I must say.

I write to get an understanding of life.

I write because of the lion and the lamb.

I write to follow the goals I have set in life.

I write to become a better soldier.

I write to watch the sunset and know that I am watched over when times are rough.

It's 6:00 am. I am cold because it is 18 degrees outside. Sam is shivering as the grass crinkles under his feet. I am back in bed, drifting off to sleep. My mind starts to race. I start writing:

I write ecause I can see the silence around my house.

I write because I like the peace and quiet.

I write because all I want to hear is the sound of my coffee beginning to brew, a sound that breaks the silence.

I write to express my feelings so that I don't wake anyone else in the house. Morning silence is often the only peace I have on a busy day.

In the dark night at Riverwalk in San Antonio where all the Christmas lights were multicolored, I took a small

trip with my husband on a boat around the river.

I put my head on my husband's shoulder and began recounting why I write:

I write to live happily. I write to imagine my future.

I write to test my abilities.

I write to explain my culture.

I write to memorize the good and bad moments.

I write to learn from my mistakes.

I write to face the world with courage.

It is 9:00 am. I am in the Integrated Reading and Writing classroom, sitting at my desk.

I write because Dr. Thompson asked everyone to write.

I write to discover what is deep inside.

I write to conquer the world.

I write for fun.

I write for the homeless.

I write for the prisoner.

I write for the Christian.

I write for the Muslim.

I write for the Jewish.

I write to inspire . . . to remind people how good life is despite its bad sides.

I write at dawn to put down my wildest dreams or most horrible nightmares.

I write to plan my days.

I write to say goodbye.

I write to give a smile.

It is just after 4:00 pm, I got into an argument with my brother. I was feeling frustrated and left his house. I took my stuff, and I was gone.

I write to maintain my anger.

I write because it is a kind of freedom.

I write because my words may one day change the world.

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I have heard it said that winter, too, will pass, that Spring is a sign that Summer is due at last. See, all we have to do is hang on.

-Maya Angelo

Anne's Journal: Spring!



by Anne Dering
Editor

Who else is excited that it's Spring?

The weather is not only warmer, but it seems as though the sun is not teasing us into sunnier days. He's here to stay.

Spring also marks the second half of this semester.

We may have lost an hour of rest a few weekends ago, and we might still be groggy from the rest (or chaotic fun, perhaps?) from our Spring Break, but don't give up yet. It was great to have a week off to rest and spend time with the family.

After a few days of not having a routine, though, it's easy to fall into the rut of sleeping in or be tempted to skip a class or two.

But, as a Viking, we need to remember that these days of kite-flying weather are not meant to keep us from our ultimate goal.

Work harder than before the break to finish this semester on a high note! Follow up with your professors on how to improve your coursework and your grades.

Continue to attend classes

and submit your best work. Remember the prize at the end of your time here at Grayson: achieving a better life.

For me, Spring is bitter-sweet. I do enjoy the breath of fresh air and the sounds and smells that accompany the rebirth of our earth.

Yet, this is also the season of the anniversary when my sister was killed in a car accident.

Twenty-eight years ago, when she was barely sixteen months old, my little sister quietly toddled out the back door while following my father.

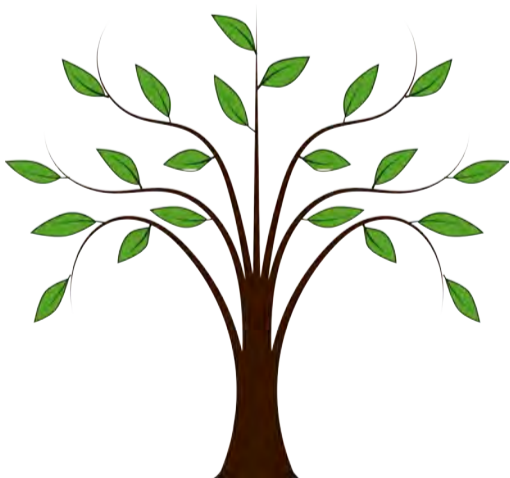
He unknowingly pulled the van out of the garage and struck her.

Days later, when my family was making her final arrangements, the weather was perfect.

I remember longing to wish my sister back so we could be playing dress up instead of my trying on black dresses to wear to her funeral.

On the day of her funeral, the sun was out, shining brightly; the skies were the perfect shade of blue.

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Did you know?

When you show your ID at Mooyah's in Sherman you'll receive

10% off your meal!

Offer is good for both students and employees, and for dine-in, drive-thru, or call in orders only.

Must have your ID.

Thanks, Mooyah, for supporting Grayson College!



BURGERS • FRIES • SHAKES

Service Dogs Come to Grayson College

Continued from page 1

experience, uses Trooper as a service dog to help maintain balance and for support when rising from a sitting position.

Trooper is a four-year-old cross between a White German Shepherd and a Blue Merle Collie.

He is trained to be a low-key dog to fit with Richard's personality and not only provides balance and stability, but unconditional love and companionship as well.

A retired U. S. Marshal, Richards is quite active in the local community and relies on Trooper to accompany him to all of his appointments, meetings, and activities.

Les Castro uses his seven-year-old Black German Shepherd in many areas of the Faithful Friend Ministry, where they work with troubled and incarcerated youth.

Pepper, a high-energy dog, has been trained to be an effective member of the ministry while maintaining her guard dog abilities as well.

Both Richards and Castro are experienced and respected canine trainers and work extremely hard for many hours getting a dog ready for a veteran.

Veterans may need service dogs for a va-

riety of conditions ranging from nervousness and PTSD to hearing loss or partial immobility.

Often, it is the company and companionship of a trained and certified service dog that allows a veteran to attend movies, shop in stores, attend classes, or just cope with life and life's issues.

Due to the extensive time and cost to get a suitable dog ready for service, often times the price of the dog simply becomes too great for a veteran-in-need.

Additionally, the trained dog and the veteran have to be 100% compatible in every way possible.

Both Richards and Castro have options available to ease the financial burden for any veteran who really needs and wants a service dog.

Any veteran experiencing issues that could possibly be lessened by having a service dog is encouraged to stop by the Grayson College Veteran Services Office to get additional information and details.

The Veteran Services Office is on the 2nd Floor on the Bridge, next to GC Perks, or call 903.463.8692 for additional information.

Grayson College Hosted 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 sponsored training for local law enforcement, who may encounter a veteran experiencing a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder issue.

This training, known as TCOLE Training 4067 Trauma-Affected Veterans, was provided on campus in the Center for Workplace Learning and offered sixteen hours of classroom training and eight hours of scenario training.

All participants were awarded 24 TCOLE (Texas

Commission on Law Enforcement) credit hours.

Billy Teague, Veteran Outreach Specialist for the Grayson College VSO, welcomed all the participants on Monday morning, March 20th with opening remarks.

Teague, a veteran of the Marine Corps and Army, and former law enforcement officer, discussed how PTSD had personally touched his life and the actions he took to address it, like receiving counseling and going to nursing school.

He added that the VSO is here to assist veterans wanting to pursue an education and help change their lives.

Howard Day, Grayson

College Adjunct Professor, Army and Combat Veteran, and Tom Bean Chief of Police, who himself has experienced combat PTSD, opened the training and was assisted by Penny Poolaw, MVPN Coordinator with the Texoma Community Center.

This three-day course was 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 on local resources for PTSD, please contact Penny Poolaw with the MVPN at 903-267-0166 or email at ppoolaw@texomacc.org.

Photo courtesy of Billy Teague

Howard Day speaks to a classroom of law enforcement officers last month.



An Era That Won't Be Forgotten

by Rolanda Bryant
VSO Administrative Assistant

Recently, I was flipping through the TV channels looking for something to watch. I always go to the TCM channel and this time, they were hosting "31 Days of Oscar."

I am a huge fan of that channel because they show movies in their entirety with no commercials or cuts.

At this time they were showing *It's A Hard Day's Night* featuring the Beatles.

For those of you in the know, this picture was made in 1964, at the height of Beatlemania, and was directed by Richard Lester.

When it first came out, my best friend and I went to see it at the Rialto Theater in downtown Denison.

We went with a bunch of other female companions and were screaming in the theater, just like the girls in the movie.

I was a mere child of eleven and fell in love - that's what my friend and I kept saying anyway - with Paul McCartney.

It was filmed in black and white, but we didn't care.

All the songs they sang in the movie and on the album were absolutely fabulous to those two giddy girls back then, and, for me at least, they still are.

As I watched that movie on TCM now, it was like being a kid again.

What a wonderful time that was to live in!



The movie is a comedy. The storyline is silly.

It is basically about the lives the band members were actually living, with a little fiction thrown in.

A lot of screaming girls followed them around, and Paul's grandfather kept getting in trouble (that was the fiction).

All of this went on while the band was trying to get ready for an appearance on a television show.

We were just mesmerized by these four guys and the beautiful music they wrote.

John Lennon wrote the title song in one day! That's amazing!

And by the way, that's where George Harrison met his first wife, the fashion model Patti Boyd.

She was an extra in the film. And for those who haven't seen it, I do highly recommend it, not for its story, but for all the great music that came out of that era.

The Beatles to me were great songwriters and musicians.

Today a lot of their music from so long ago is still heard on commercials and classic rock stations.

I'm so glad I lived through that time and can still listen to all the music the Beatles wrote and enjoy it over and over again.

If I were to rate this movie on a scale from 1 - 10, it would get a perfect score.

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).

Anne's Journal: Spring!

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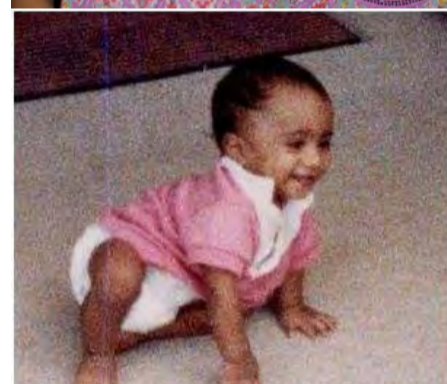
The slight breeze picked up the delicate scent of the lilies. Now, years later, the sun, the sky, the flowers, all still remind me of that tragic time.

But I push past the sadness and remember that these elements were also all there in the happy days of her short life.

The sun warmed our faces the day my sister and I danced on the lawn. The sky was just as blue and perfect the afternoon she and I walked hand in hand down our street.

The smell of blooming flowers tickled our noses and made us both giggle the morning we went shopping for her Easter dress.

Of course, I long for a reality in which I can enjoy this Spring with her. Instead, I look to my own daughters, each of whom resembles her in some way, and I am renewed and refreshed that we are given another Spring to enjoy together.



*Photo courtesy of Anne Dering
My smart and funny daughters (photo above was taken a few years ago) remind me of my dear sister (left).*



The Life of an EMT/Paramedic

by Kelsee Nelson
Student

In the 1960's, emergency medical care was much different than it is today.

A community's funeral home transported emergency victims, and patients didn't start receiving care until they arrived at the hospital.

According to an article in *Prehospital Emergency Care* 10th edition, the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council published a report called the "Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society" that highlighted the number of deaths and injuries related to traffic crashes in the United States.

It also identified "severe deficiencies in the delivery of prehospital care in the United States and made recommendations intended to change ambulance systems, training requirements, and the provision of prehospital care."

Everything that EMT/Paramedics know about how to

treat a patient before he or she reaches the hospital came out of practices used in wars fought in Korean, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

"It often surprises people when they are told what the EMS system used to be like," says Cory McMorris, a current student at Grayson County College enrolled in EMT/Paramedic classes.

McMorris continues, "It's crazy to think that when this started there was more deaths caused by car accidents than on the battlefield in the war."

All the knowledge that the students learn to become this profession in the EMT/Paramedic program comes from the data that came from the wars.

"I did not know until I was in the program that I would learn things that happened in history," McMorris explains.

Not only does an EMT/Paramedic offer pre-hospital

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Read a great article on page 4 about a service project you or your department can do and give back to our community.



Student-athlete Desiray Sausedia is ready for the opponent's pitch..

Rooting for the Vikings

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the inning gave the Vernon Chaparrals (or "Chaps" as the uniform displayed) a jarring solo home run.

After a scoreless 8 innings, I felt the classic sports-induced knot in my throat as the top of the 9th continued.

After one or two more hair-raising pitches, the top half of the inning was swept up in the same manner as the rest of the game.

Once again, and for the last time, the Vikings would take the offensive.

Four double plays lost us several opportunities to score.

So, when the first few pitches led to a single for Grayson in the bottom of the 9th, I was not as jumpy as I had been earlier in the game.

But, when a hit batter and four balls led to 2 walks and bases loaded, I will admit that I was gripping the camera, waiting for the trademark home run that makes baseball America's pastime.

In an unconventional manner, a wild pitch was thrown, and home plate and first base were stolen, tying up the game, once again leaving the bases loaded.

After another awkward set of pitches, another Grayson batter was walked, and the game was won after the man on third strolled home.

Turning my attention to the Lady Vikings softball game against Temple, I entered the field to find our girls down by 6 runs, and shortly thereafter, a two-run homer by Temple ended what appeared to be a bleak 3rd inning.

The Temple girls seemed vicious. Unlike the pitching duel that the baseball diamond was having, the softball field was locked in more of a mental battle, and the cheers and jeers of the rowdy Leopards seemed like they got inside the heads of the quiet and focused Vikings.

But, after trailing 14-0, the final inning may have sparked a potential comeback for the Grayson girls.

With bases loaded, a clean crack brought the first of our girls home, once again, leaving the bases loaded.

But with 2 outs, the effort was too little, too late, and a strikeout would end the game amidst the excitement.

I had a great time regardless.
Go Vikings!

The Sisters of Destiny Give Back

by Shalene White
Staff Writer & Library Aide

On February 18, 2017, students from the Nursing Program and Welding Program joined Sisters of Destiny to serve the community by packing sack lunches to be given to over 100 homeless and low-income residents in Sherman.

The Grand Central Station manager, Ben Merrill, directed their service in the warehouse used by this non-profit organization to store food and supplies when the packing was done.

One of two licensed food managers is on duty every day.

This much-needed program has over 150 trained food handlers licensed by Grayson County Health Department.

Over 200 volunteers have worked in the kitchen through the years that it has been open.

It is a 501C-3 organization and has a tax identification number.

Grand Central Station serves approximately 130-150 area residents per

Grand Central Station serves approximately 130-150 area residents per day with food prepared from scratch by the volunteers.

Debi Martinez, secretary of the Sisters of Destiny, has been working with Grand Central Station for over two years and is providing the chance for clubs or individuals to make a difference.

Local churches and Austin College students/faculty presently volunteer hours to this organization.

Martinez said volunteer hours are vital to the survival of this facility. "Giving a few hours a month is a small price for such a wonderful service to our community," said Martinez.

Grand Central Station (GCS) is the dining facility located at 110 Throckmorton in Sherman, Texas. This soup kitchen first opened on October 11, 2010 and has served 118,096 meals as of April 2015 with 32,854 volunteer hours.

In late 2012, GCS was able to hire Ben Merrill as the Dining Car Manager.

The rest of the workers are all volunteers, many regular teams being from churches and businesses in the community.

The exception is the daily presence of two paid workers from Experience Works, a local organization that hires the older population who want to continue training and working.

day with food prepared from scratch by the volunteers.

It is a happy place where people can come and spend the morning. There is much socializing by visitors as they also help one another.

The organization is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. and serves lunch 11-1 p.m., closing after cleanup.

Saturdays it opens at 9:30 a.m. and serves brownbag lunches from 9:30 a.m. until the 280 bags are gone.

These sack lunches can be picked up and taken or eaten at Grand Central Station until 11 a.m.

The menu varies according to donations and recipes submitted by the volunteers.

Showers are available for the guests, and toiletry items are provided as needed.

GCS also has a washer and dryer that guests can use to do two loads of laundry per week. These services are utilized on a daily basis.

The organization has worked with Grayson County Health Department to provide breast exams and free mammograms for those who qualify, blood cholesterol, and blood sugar testing, blood pressure checks, and flu shots.

A local dentist sees to emergency

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Getting Stuck for Love with Convenience

by Kendra Scott
Student

In the United States, when a patient needs blood, the doctor writes a prescription for a pint or more.

In other countries, it is common for medical personnel to ask a family member or loved one of the patient to replace the blood used in the blood bank.

"Give a little take a little." Something to think about... if that law was in effect here in the United States, would you have a loved one or family member willing to donate blood for you?

Consider that donating blood is much more than just a blood donation.

"Euphoria: that's the state my body experiences after I donate blood," says Amber Don, a student at Grayson College main campus and a successful blood donor.

"I have a sense of importance knowing I will help and even save three lives every time I donate blood.

The [uncomfortable] physical factors afterwards could drag me down at times with dizziness and light headedness, but the side effects all go away and become irrelevant after I realize the good deed I did," Don adds.

Convenience is key for most potential donors, but Francis Campbell, director of Texoma Regional Blood Center (TRBC), states, "We offer just that convenience with our mobile units to hold blood drives."

However, some donors actually do go to the blood bank to donate blood. TRBC is the smallest bank in the Texoma area with a total of 25 employees and covering the counties of Texoma to Ladonia and a few small towns in between the counties.

It may be hard for some people to get out and drive this way to the blood bank in order to donate blood, so, Campbell says, "TRBC will gladly set up a mobile unit at a convenient location."

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Behind the Badge: How Grayson College's Campus Police Keep Our Community Safe

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'just in case' situations."

However, there have been a few occasions when the police have been needed.

Chief MacPherson has been at the college 14 years, and during that time there were fortunately no major incidents that occurred on campus, only minor, such as tornadoes and a student who had a mental break but was able to get the help she needed.

When an incident occurs on campus, one can assume that the Campus Police will resolve the situation, but the more important question is "how fast?"

The response time of Grayson College Campus police is much faster than any local law enforcement could provide, due to the fact they are stationed on campus and have officers patrolling the college at any given time.

"We can normally be there within three to four minutes, depending on where we are located, but the response time is pretty quick," says Clayton Wilder, a Campus Police Officer at Grayson College.

"If an incident occurs, we are in the area, so it's not a long drive." Chief MacPherson was able to prove that statement by displaying a fast response time when a student accidentally clicked a button on a classroom computer that alerted the Campus Police.

Chief MacPherson was on the scene within minutes and resolved the situation.

The ratio of students and staff to Campus Police at Grayson College is quite high.

Several thousand students and staff populate the campus at any given time, but there are only a handful of Campus Police on campus to keep watch over them.

"We only have four full-time officers and four or five part-time officers to keep watch over

"Students with concealed carry permits won't make me feel safe. When they come in my class in the fall, I will not feel safe because I do not feel that they will be trained as a private citizen the way police are trained," says Trevino, who believes that accidental discharge is a major concern that should be taken into account.

Grayson's Campus Police share a similar perspective on the subject, believing that students who participate in concealed carry should be mindful.

"I'm big on the Second Amendment, so I'm fine with it, but common sense should be used," says Wilder.

"The people that do have concealed carry permits and have a weapon need to understand that if there is an active shooter or other threat on campus, they should not go hunting for them because it will make our job a lot harder... if they are actively moving, they could easily be mistaken for the shooter."

Students with concealed carry permits should exercise extreme precaution and safety and stay in the room and protect that classroom because their concealed gun is for self-defense purposes, adds Wilder.

Grayson's Campus Police can't protect the community by themselves; however, with help from the community's showing awareness of potential crimes and reporting them, as well as practicing safe procedures when handling a concealed firearm, Grayson can remain a safe place.



somewhere between four to five thousand students and several hundred faculty and staff," says MacPherson.

"We can't do it by ourselves, so we have to rely on our campus community to help us out... I think that something we need to do more as a campus community is to be more aware and more proactive when reporting crimes."

Awareness by students and staff alike is highly valuable to the Campus Police because it helps them to keep our college a safer place.

"If teachers or students notice an incident, they need to call us immediately so that we can handle the situation," says Wilder.

The open carry policy that will take effect on August 1st of this year at Grayson College has stirred up mixed feelings within the campus community.

Disney[©] Delights Moviegoers in 3D

by Lauren Aleman
Student

Last month I saw Beauty and the Beast in 3D, and I can honestly say--it was incredible!

While many recent live-action Disney remakes have differed tremendously from their animated inspirations, director Bill Condon managed to bring the original story to life.

The plot mostly falls in line with the Disney animated classic-- Belle, played by Emma Watson, becomes a prisoner of the Beast, played by Dan Stevens. She wants to save her father, Maurice, who is played by Kevin Kline.

Once she befriends his enchanted servants, however, Belle begins to see a different side of the Beast - a kind and gentle side that may be capable of love.

In an effort to refresh the



Belle begins to see a different side of the Beast - a kind and gentle side that may be capable of love.

fantasy romance, writers Stephen Chbosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos added scenes that brought a new emotional depth to the two main characters.

The transitions of the scenes were smooth and beautiful.

From the small French vil-

lage, to the dark and cold, cursed castle, every detail was pleasing to my eyes and even more so in 3D.

I was drawn in from the start and I kept wanting more.

Overall, this is one of the best Disney remakes I've seen.

It stays with the original storyline while bringing new insight to the characters.

Also, it delivers a "tale as old as time" in a completely new way that you will want to experience again and again!

Tell Us What You Think!

What would you like to see in *The Viking*?

Email your suggestions to Viking staff writer Morgan Bryant at mobryant@vikings.grayson.edu.

Include a headshot of yourself so we can include your comments and photo in the May issue.

April 2017 Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
4/1	North Central Texas College	Gainesville, TX	1:00
4/3	Murray St. College	Dub Hayes Field	2:00
4/5	Temple College	Dub Hayes Field	1:00
4/8	Temple College	Temple, TX	1:00
4/12	Cisco College	Dub Hayes Field	1:00
4/14	Cisco College	Cisco, TX	1:00
4/17	Murray St. College	Tishimingo, OK	2:00
4/19	San Jacinto College	Sam Houston St.	4:00
4/26	Ranger College	Ranger, TX	1:00
4/29	Ranger College	Dub Hayes Field	1:00

April 2017 Softball Schedule

Sat. 4/1/17	12:00 PM	Weatherford	Denison, TX
Sat. 4/1/17	2:00 PM	Weatherford	Denison, TX
Sat. 4/8/17	12:00 PM	@ McLennan	Waco, TX
Sat. 4/8/17	2:00 PM	@ McLennan	Waco, TX
Wed. 4/12/17	1:00 PM	Ranger	Denison, TX
Wed. 4/12/17	3:00 PM	Ranger	Denison, TX
Fri. 4/14/17	1:00 PM	@ Vernon	Vernon, TX
Fri. 4/14/17	3:00 PM	@ Vernon	Vernon, TX
Wed. 4/19/17	1:00 PM	Cisco	Denison, TX
Wed. 4/19/17	3:00 PM	Cisco	Denison, TX
Sat. 4/22/17	12:00 PM	@ Temple	Temple, TX
Sat. 4/22/17	2:00 PM	@ Temple	Temple, TX
Wed. 4/26/17	1:00 PM	NCTC	Denison, TX
Wed. 4/26/17	3:00 PM	NCTC	Denison, TX
Sat. 4/29/17	12:00 PM	@ Hill	Hillsboro, TX
Sat. 4/29/17	2:00 PM	@ Hill	Hillsboro, 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>

Review of *Infinite Black Suitcase*



by Morgan Bryant
Staff Writer

E. M. Lewis' *Infinite Black Suitcase*, presented by the Grayson College Theater Department on February 24, focuses on the devastation of losing a human, featuring mostly—if not entirely—emotionally charged scenes over death and the living characters' grief and struggle.

However, the scenes were lightened with comical moments and lines.

The play was a good choice for the Grayson College Theater company for the simple reason that it featured diversity in situations; for example, the play presented LGBT characters.

I find these factors as bold and relatable, expressing the true meaning of the play to

all viewers.

As for the performance, it was done quite well.

For very emotionally loaded scenes—and even comical moments—the actors conveyed them superbly.

The actors made the play real, and by the end of the play, the audience was moved.

I especially enjoyed the bar scene in which the character Frank Harper (James Berggren) drunkenly fell off a bench, which broke some tension of the scene.

Overall, the play was a good choice for our college and was executed well, although it contained some arguably unnecessary explicit language.

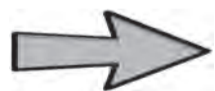
I look forward to attending the next production!

Tell Us What You Think!

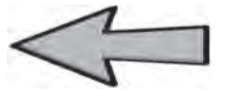
How is President Trump doing?

Email your responses to Viking staff writer Morgan Bryant at mobryant@vikings.grayson.edu.

Include a headshot of yourself so we can include your comments and photo in the May issue.



Juggling School, Work, and Family



by Matt Trevett
Student

Those who return to school after starting a family understand

the struggles of trying to juggle school, work, and family responsibilities.

The sacrifice, hard work, and late nights studying are sometimes overwhelming, and some students cannot handle it and end up giving up school.

But for those who keep going, they must find that special balance between the three. Some conflicts that arise are scheduling, time for homework, work, family time, chores around the house, and so on.

Holly Harris, a former Grayson College student who was a single mother while attending school, said, "The pull of being a single mother was all on me.

I had work, family, housework, school, homework, my girls' homework, all while keeping the girls feeling like they were the main priority in my life."

For Harris, it was a constant struggle to balance the three, especially being a single mother.

For some students, though, it takes having a family for them to get the motivation to go back

to school, whether it's due to the pressure of finances or to set an example for their children.

For Justin West*, a current Grayson College student, both of these were reasons for going to school.

He still has many of the same struggles as Harris, though West stated, "Sometimes I will sac-



Photo used with permission from www.pexels.com

rifice homework to be able to spend more time with my family, as well as putting in late nights to get homework done."

The constant act of juggling family, work, and school is never ending while attending school.

Lots of times parents will take their homework with them to children's sports practices or even

when they're just waiting to pick up their children from school.

Harris said, "I have no idea how I did it. I just know that no time was wasted. I studied at practices, [and] sitting in my car in the pick-up lines at school."

For most students with families at home, the hardest part is being away from their children so much, sacrificing time with them to go to classes or to do homework, which becomes a real struggle.

Laura Daniel, another former Grayson student with a family at home who has gone on to have a successful business of her own, said, "The hardest part of going back to school for me was splitting my time up between my little boy and school."

Splitting the time between family and classes seems to be the hardest part for most students with families at home.

West stated, "While taking 4 classes this semester to hopefully obtain my degree faster and working full time at nights, finding time to give to my family has become a real struggle."

Is all the juggling worth it in the end? Most say, Yes! After all the struggling, it pays off

Continued on page 8

The Life of an EMT/Paramedic

Continued from page 3
tal care to people in need, but aside from the physical care that is provided, there is a lot emotional care that comes with being an EMT/Paramedic.

There are times when an EMT/Paramedic cannot always save the person whom they are taking care of, regardless of how much they try.

However, even though the patient has been lost, their care does not stop there.

If the patient has family on the scene, then the family is now considered "the patient," and the EMT/Paramedic now transfers patient care to the family.

Cody Nelson, a Paramedic at Murphy Fire Department, says, "High-quality patient care is a key quality for any EMT/Paramedic to have."

Nelson goes on to say that "in this field, we deal with a lot of people, people that look for us to save their injured family member or friends."

When there is nothing that the EMT/Paramedic can do to save a loved one, they immediately do everything they can to help them through their difficult time, regardless of what it is.

Nelson then explains, "I remember a time where I asked if I could do anything for the family member of the deceased, and he said that he was hungry, so I went and made him a sandwich and got him some water."

It's the little things that the EMT/Paramedic can do to make the patients' horrible situation just a little bit better.

Nelson finishes with, "I want to be able to leave a scene knowing that I did everything I have been trained to do."

"Knowing that I did everything I could makes everything that I see and do in the job a little bit easier."

An EMT/Paramedic will encounter a lot of feelings

that will fill him/her with many different types of stress, emotions, and feelings, so it is important that he/she is following the correct steps to stress management.

There are three basic types of stress reactions that the EMT/Paramedic may experience as a result of a high-stress incident or from constant exposure to stressful situations.

The first is Acute Stress Reaction which results from exposure to a high-stress situation that can be seen not only in the patient, but also in the EMT/Paramedic and other emergency personnel.

Delayed Stress Reactions are signs and symptoms that may take days, months, or even years to experience, the most common of which is Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The third, Cumulative Stress Reaction, is the result of constant exposure to stressful situations that build over time in the EMT/Paramedic.

Callie Ramer is a wife of a EMT/Paramedic.

Ramer explains, "Certain ideas that an EMT/Paramedic can do to manage stress are to take a look at diet and cut down on the amount of sugar, caffeine, and alcohol consumption."

Another way to help with the stress is to exercise more often, Ramer continues, "which allows the release of built-up emotions that accompany many crises."

The EMT/Paramedic can also learn to relax by practicing relaxation techniques, meditation, and visual imagery techniques.

Finally, avoid self-medication, such as taking pills and consuming alcohol.

When an EMT/Paramedic can control his/her stressful emotions, this will allow the EMT/Paramedic to perform to the best of his/her ability and be able to provide the emergency care that is best for the patient.

Where Are They Now?



by Shalene White
Staff Writer & Library Aide

Grayson College has a flourishing athletics program, and the success of this program can be seen as many of our graduates move on to become professional athletes.

In this issue, *The Viking* is recognizing another amazing alumnus who went on to play baseball professionally.

Garrett Mock attended Grayson College during the 2001-2002 school year.

Mock played baseball for Grayson in the spring of 2002.

After leaving Grayson, Mock enrolled in the University of Houston.

Mock eventually signed with the Washington Nationals, then the Toronto Blue Jays, the Boston Red Sox, and the Houston Astros.

Ultimately, Mock signed with the Arizona Diamondbacks, where he held an 11-2 record and eventually retired.

Mock credits the coaching and teaching staff of Grayson College for making him the player he is today.

"The coaches were awesome," Mock said.

"They gave me an opportunity to see baseball at a higher level.

Basically, they pushed me to expect more and reach for higher heights."

Mock also said that Grayson was a stepping stone, a very integral piece of himself and his career.

Even though Mock loved the baseball life, the game took a backseat when he got married.

Mock transitioned from baseball man to family man almost seamlessly.

"When I became a husband and a father of 3 kids, all my priorities shifted," said Mock.

He currently resides in the Houston area with his family.

In his career, Mock pitched 94 mph, had a vicious curve ball, and was noted for his change-up pitch.

Being able to play professional baseball

was the icing on Mock's proverbial cake.

"Playing professionally was an absolute dream come true," Mock said.

"However, becoming a husband and a father was my ultimate dream, and I accomplished it all."

Mock credits the coaching and teaching staff of Grayson College for making him the player he is today.



Photo courtesy of Shalene White
Garrett Mock pitching for the Washington Nationals.

HR Consultant & Author Shares Interview Tips

By Rache'l Terry
Student & Rotaractor

The members of Grayson College's Rotaract met in early March to welcome Human Resources consultant and "Generational Guru" Sherri Elliott-Yearly.

Elliott-Yearly presented last autumn in Grayson's Student Leadership series.

Her presentation then emphasized her published work helping employers understand millennial employees.

As her latest audience, Rotaractors were privileged to hear her insight on the challenges of seeking work and interviewing with prospective employers.

Our guest shared advice to beat the competition in interviewing: the upkeep of social media profiles, the cultivation of a unique display of personality and skills, and the use of various Thank-You's to follow up an interview.

These were mentioned among many other practical interview habits that are sure to set a candidate apart from the crowd.

One special tip came in the form of encouragement to know five key strengths about oneself.

Having those five strengths always in mind helps with creating the right positive emphasis at every stage of job seeking, from the initial application to the final interview.

Elliott-Yearly called these five points the connector used to create a compelling story.

In this way, people interviewing create their "brand," making themselves the candidates that are memorable and hired.

For those struggling with finding a job, Elliott-Yearly recommended taking a position with a temporary agency with the hope that it could both build skills and lead to full-time employment.

Drawing upon her years of experience as a VP at Snelling Staffing, International, Elliott-Yearly shocked her audience when she shared how quickly initial applications

Continued on page 8

Getting Stuck for Love with Convenience

Continued from page 4

Students on campus at Grayson also agree with Campbell about convenience. Don states she has donated blood several times in her 24 years.

She would donate more, but finding the time is hard with being a full-time mom and having a full time job, and being a full-time student she doesn't have a lot of extra time.

She does, however, make it a point to stop every six months to donate.

Don also states she loves the blood drives held at campus, and she definitely takes advantage of the convenience and wishes TRBC would hold more blood drives at campus.

Grayson College is not the only place Texoma Regional Blood Center holds blood drives, though. Campbell states TRBC holds drives at several business in the Texoma area, as well as non-profit organizations.

There are several blood drives held throughout the year. Approximately every 60 days, there is a drive going on at Austin College.

There are at least two held in the spring and two held in the fall at the Grayson main campus.

TRBC also holds 3-4 blood drives per year at each local high school they cover in Texoma.

Research through the TRBC web page and Facebook page helps students stay informed on when and where blood drives will take place.

Campbell advises students not to donate blood when they might be feeling ill or if the student has not eaten that day.

She encourages everyone who can to donate once every few months.

According to Courtney Love, a Grayson College student who was unsuccessful at donating blood, she was able to find out about a medical condition she never knew she had until she did the pre-screening for blood donation.

The pre-screening before one gives blood is mandatory and takes about 45 minutes.



Photo courtesy of Kendra Scott
Grayson student Amber Don is an experienced blood donor.

The process includes a personal information sheet to fill out, a questionnaire to answer with the phlebotomist, and a blood mini-test.

The blood mini test measures the amount of hemoglobin in the body.

When Grayson main campus had a blood drive about six months ago, Love tried to donate blood, but she failed the blood mini test in order to donate.

Love says, "At first I'm sure the phlebotomist thought, 'Oh, routine blood check, then hook her up to a machine.' Nope! I had to be the one they turned down to donate blood due to my low hemoglobin numbers. I was shocked and scared!"

In the same week that Love tried to donate blood, she went to the doctor and had blood labs drawn.

When the results came back, they confirmed that Love had low iron development.

"I'm so glad I chose to try to donate blood that day because I never would have known about my iron deficiency," states Love.

Don says, "I am a firm believer in paying it forward. I would absolutely donate blood over and over again. I want to give back to the community in ways physical labor cannot.

"To be a part of saving someone's life, a human being, a soul - yes, I will step up to save them time and time again, and I will encourage my family and peers to not only donate blood but to also save lives."

Donating blood helps yourself as well as others and goes much further than just drawing blood.

It means love, compassion, hope, and faith that in this time of uncertainty, people still stop to give back and help people in need, believes Don.





Photo courtesy of Jeremy McMillen

Dr. Jeremy McMillen discovered this lovely Dogwood tree in full bloom while on a hike with his son, Gabe, and his son's scout pack. Photo was taken at Waterloo Lake, Denison.

I Write: A Collage

Continued from page 2

I write when there is only paper to listen to me.
I write because it is a good way to fight. If I could not write, I would be mute, condemned to the violent dictatorship of the secret.
I write never to forget.
I write to put a face to my regrets and my hopes.
I write because I do not need more than a pen and paper.
I write to denounce injustices.
I write because it is a good way to fight and face oppressors. Writing is its own form of innovation and helps me to relax, breathe, and forget my problems.

I want to write to leave something behind that my son can be proud of.
I write because there are many untold stories inside me.
I write to find out what I am thinking.
I write to change.
I write to begin my studies.
I write to motivate a friend.
I write when I am trying to know.
I write when I cannot speak.

I write because my brain cannot hold all the things in my mind.
I write because it makes my work real.
I write not to be forgotten.

It's 10:00 am. I am lying down, thinking about what I am going to do with my life. I get up and write about being successful.
I write to follow my dreams and goals.
I write to always take control of my life.
I write to make peace of things.
I write to be open-minded.
I write to always remember where I came from.
I write to be a better person.
I write to make better choices.
I write because I am not afraid to face my weakness.
I write to push myself to reach my dreams and goals.

Sitting at my desk, I see only the paper in front of me in the light from the lamp. I can hear my son breathing softly while he sleeps.
I write to tell a story no one

knows.
I write to slow the storm that brews inside me.
I write to remember my dreams.
I write to know it doesn't have to be only a dream: "I can see my unicorns run on the paper."
I write to see others explore their imaginations.
I write to have numerous beginnings and endings—not just one.
I write because like a chilly day with the sun on your back, it's warming.
I write because paper doesn't judge me.
I write because sometimes I'm afraid to say it out loud.
I write because I believe in what I say.
I write because "it is what it is."
I write to enter another dimension.
I write because sometimes I feel like no one is listening.
I write to prove things will change.
 The day seems tinted grey with somberness. On days

like these, I tend to relax with music and reflect on life.
I write when I'm angry, when I'm sad, when I'm lonely.
I write to explain, to distort, to destroy.
I write to learn, to think, to enchant.
I write to laugh.
I write to cry.
I write to organize.
I write stories, to make worlds, to play god.
I write to others and for myself.
I write because of my addiction.
I write to that last cigarette that I had years ago.
I write to my future wife and children.
I write to my enemies.
I write for order, to shape, to organize.
I write to the fantasy that could be reality.
I write to those who are legends and to those who stand forgotten.
I write to crowds of people and to those who are alone in the crowd.

It is 10:00 am. I am sitting by the river, watching as the sun goes up. The birds sing as the wind blows through the trees. I begin to write:
I write not to be scared.
I write to see the world for good and bad, as the war goes by.
I write to change people's minds.
I write for others who are angry, hurt, and sad.
I write to show that I am beautiful, the way I am.
I write to show others that they are beautiful, the way they are.
I write for power and strength.
I write to understand my-

self and others.
I write to be myself.
I write to hear the sound of the earth's core.
I write to feel and breathe.
 It is midnight. I am lying awake, staring at my gravely white ceiling, imagining myself on a park bench with nothing but the sound of birds chirping.
I write to speak my thoughts without opening my mouth.
I write to confess love.
I write to stop a suicide.
I write to help the hurting.
I write for myself.
I write for everyone else.
I write to fill a void.
I write to open a closed mind.
I write to grant others strength.
I write for my own ambitions.
I write to make my family proud.
I write because I love writing.
I write because it is important.
I write because it changes lives.
I write so that more ideas come to my mind.
I write to fall asleep.
I write to settle differences.
I write to design my dream game.
I write because I have to.

Stay tuned!
The "I Write: A Collage" column will conclude in the May 2017 publication of The Viking.

The Sisters of Destiny Give Back

Continued from page 4

dental needs, and the organization is grateful to all the dentists who donate toothpaste and brushes for toiletry bags.
 GCS holds a Free Coat Day (1 coat per visitor) once or twice in the winter, and when extra food is donated that cannot be used, it goes to visitors.
 Every other Friday, toiletry bags are handed out with donated travel-sized products.
 Sisters of Destiny has encouraged members to attend GCS the first Saturday of every month for 5 semesters.
 The club's initiative has opened the door for clubs on campus to make an impact as well.
 The goal is to begin a Grayson College student/faculty presence at the soup kitchen.
 If more interest from clubs develops, it may mean that each club can run a 3rd Saturday alone as a team once during a school year or semester.
 Serving at GCS is a great opportunity to volunteer one Saturday a month to be able to give back to the community.
 The GCS specifically needs volunteers the 3rd Saturday of each month, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 Martinez said GCS is a good place to feel close to one's fellow man and woman.

"This faith-based endeavor has brought together visitors and volunteers from all over the Texoma area," Martinez said.
 "It is a 'safe' place for those who are hungry for food and need support of all kinds. It has been a blessing for those of us who serve."
 A food handler license is not required to serve, but it helps the process run smoother if two people from each group have one and would ensure there are enough volunteers in the kitchen.
 For a free certification, just go to <http://graysoncotx.foodhandlerclasses.com/volunteer.aspx>.
 Applications to volunteer may be picked up at GCS or from Jeffri Hodge in the Testing Center.
 Certificates of Completion of Food Handlers exam and forms may be given to Jeffri Hodge or dropped off at GCS during business hours, Monday - Friday, 8-1 pm.
 For more information, contact Debra Martinez at 903-271-1040 or Jeffri Hodge at JHodge@grayson.edu.
 This faith-based endeavor has brought together visitors and volunteers from all over the Texoma area.
 Grand Central Station is a "safe" place for those who are hungry and need support of all kinds.
 It has been a blessing for those of us who serve.

Inspiration/Secondhand Secrets



by Gabrielle DeMay
 Staff Writer & Assistant Editor

Inspiration
I breathed in the ocean-
Crash, spray, runaway sand
Delicate seafoam gone with a touch
Shells, souls, bottle-glass green
Memories, feathers, voice of the gulls
Driftwood, wind, salty lips
Rope, tie it up in a bow
I released it-
The tide went out

Secondhand Secrets

I'm standing in an aisle, in a room, in a bookstore, Where a thousand titles wait at my command; The different spines, though silence fetters, Catch my eyes with screaming letters... Captivated, I wander the floor With fingers on binding, and cover in hand.
 I'm standing in an aisle, in a room, in a bookstore, With a thousand stories waiting to be told; The many copies' lives are shown, The unique tales that are their own... I feel the life in thread and pore That draws me in to unknown worlds.

I'm standing in an aisle, in a room, in a bookstore, With a million pages waiting to be turned; I unfold the leaves, breathe in a scent With more notes than an accompaniment... I abandon my frame on some far-away shore And dive into a Universe... Will I return?



Photo courtesy of Shalene White
 Debi Martinez, Tiffany Moser, and Julia Kennedy taking a break from volunteering at the Soup Kitchen at Grand Central Station in Sherman.

The Austrian Symphony



by Morgan Bryant
Staff Writer

I stroke her curved nape down to her smooth, untouched back, riddling her gloss with the dragmarks of my callused fingertips. My eyes begin to cloud over before a rain; a brief abeyance of sound fills us. I reach her end and slide ever so lightly up her lined sides as my corybanctic tears stain her shoulders. This nodus begins to slip my mind for the agony erupting commits an unforgivable putsch against me. I grip the indentation of each side of her waist and throw my head to sob silently into her, the scent of her fresh finish intoxicating me. God, why must I have this chord in my pulverulent heart? No matter what we do, every vagarious attempt, we lead stentorian tunes farther from the ambrosia of all sounds.

I mustn't lose it! I'd never breathe again! Beautiful darling, please let me come to a peace from this torture! I let out a small whimper and she says still nothing. Composure. I must force her to speak my mind. Yes, I must become the merciless prisoner. I've been gentle; loving. I must sacrifice my own meaning and purpose to find what I seek. My dear you must forgive me. My silent dear, I will make you tell the truth. The soft hairs may brush your skin no more-

only the knives that are my nails. Gentle paeans will cease to be your song; short screams will become you.

No, no. I cannot do this. Instead I produce a wretched wail against you. Better me than you; how long I can hold this maimed animal in, I do not know. I am a composer dying of the strain of composure. Oh the irony, my love. Your strings, so gentle yet powerful, but not generous to me-- your stubbornness will kill us both, dulcea. Love me now, pacify the beast, play the piece or I will break the lock to the cage! God cursed me to this madness, don't you see? Poëna Dei!

She never replies. The silence-- could it be the soundless acceptance of what I must do to her? Is it the trembling timor of me? I wail and scream to fill us. My fingers run back over her chest, textured and elegant with her tender strings and elongated, broken cordate mouth reflecting on either side of them, her ancient Austrian features, brown stature. I fall silent and stare down at her. This composition God wishes me to play to appease him would take my very soul. I will not do it. To mollify the madness that was His will forever? I can do so no longer! The

years I've suffered in this state will be in vain; it's time to commit stalemate. A new horror fills me with this defiance. I'm sorry. I dig my claws into her beautiful mouths and apply a forceful pull. I screech in agony as I hear the crack of her skin and sudden lurch of her ripping in half. I slam my eyes closed; if I saw her terror I could not finish. I then feel for her wet strings and drown them as I break them one by one to an indescribable sound. Her beautiful crest, like a galaxy, I tear off with my claws.

My lips go deaf and I drop her from my arms to the cold floor and stare. Murder. She'll never make another sound. The corpse before me is no longer the glory that was her; a pile of oak is my love. She cannot think of me as her torturer, but only as her broken lover. You know death is superior to the unforgivable alternative, dear.

The inevitable truth blares as I stare. The beast has broken out of his cage but what he sought is gone. Hungry, hungry monster, devour me. I cannot live without her.

-Franz

HR Consultant & Author Shares Interview Tips

Continued from page 6

are rejected for errors and simple mistakes in spelling.

She emphasized the research skills used to learn about potential employers.

By learning about the company, the potential job candidates are prepared and able to have good questions about the company.

She spoke on resume preparation and emphasized the importance of having a business card ready for networking.

Her advice about participating in volunteer opportunities as part of building the resume and the social network made sense to Rotaractors.

As an organization that emphasizes the development of professionally and philanthropically involved individuals, Rotaract

is truly grateful to Elliott-Yearly for her time and career-savvy advice.

Grayson College students are welcome to join Rotaract every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 3-4 p.m. in the Viking Room of the Life Center.



Photo courtesy of Jean Sorenson

Sherri Elliott-Yearly spoke with the Grayson College Rotaract.

Juggling School, Work, and Family

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in the end, whether it's a better-paying job or even a job that one enjoys going to.

Harris stated, "[It's worth it] not only to meet my goals, but the girls got to learn and see what all it takes to make it to your goal.

I didn't hide the struggles or victories." Daniel agreed, "After working a couple jobs that helped me get some experience, I was able to get a job in the field that I was aiming for in school.

And now I have been able to venture off and start my own business, which is growing exponentially."

So, the struggle of working, raising a family, and going to school seems to be well worth all the hardships in the end with many students going on and working in the field that they have studied in.

The ability to take better care of one's family or setting an example for their children comes from setting the goal and

The Boonies Tracker

Part 2

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Editor's Note: This is the second part of an ongoing serial story. Part 1 can be found online in the March 2017 issue of *The Viking*. -AD

The drive itself is rather quick. Sheba maneuvers her rickety Buick like an old-timey pirate on a ship cutting through tough waters.

The whole time, I sit quietly while Sheba flicks through the radio stations, landing on a jazz station.

She taps the steering wheel to the beat until we halt in front of a small building near a four-way stop.

"Here we are. Mike should be inside waiting for us," Sheba informs me, slamming her door shut.

"Okay. Is he still cool with actually helping out?" I ask, holding up my journal with my story in it.

A feeling of nervousness nags at the back of my gut.

Sheba stops in front of the restaurant's door.

"Trust me, Sebastian.

Mike really is wanting to get into film making, and if this is something that can get him some experience, he'll totally jump on it. Or I'll punch him in his bits!" she jokes, raising her fist with a wicked grin.

As we walk in, the smell of Chinese food assaults my nose, burning and making my eyes water.

"No way! Why didn't you tell me we were meeting him here?" I demand.

"What? Thought you liked Soba Cup," Sheba retorted, flashing a fake smile at me with the biggest hint of smart-assed intent.

I heave angrily and fall in behind.

"Yo dudes, over here," Mike barks, haggardly

waving us down.

He graduated a year before us and has not been doing a whole lot since then.

"So," Mike starts, "Sheba tells me you've got some sort of story you want to make into a movie, right?" he begins, extending his hand as we sit down. "Hand it over and let me flip through it."

My stomach tightens. My palms go clammy. Sheba hasn't even read it yet herself. All she knows is what I've spit-balled at her.

"Uh yeah, yeah," I gulp hard. "Tell me what you think. . ." I mumble, passing my worn-out notebook over. "I haven't actually finished it up yet. You know, a work-in-progress, right?" I squeak as my voice cracks and my face flushes.

"Mhm. . ." Mike intones, leafing through the first few pages.

Sheba is talking about menu items she thinks I would like, but my mind is on Mike.

The sun starts to fall just behind one of the great dunes, resting before the night's reign begins.

With a long sigh, Amani goes to work, digging through her pack to look for something to stop the bleeding and to keep the wound from going bad.

She still has a long way to go. Setting aside tools to cut up the beast, she finds some unused cloth and extra water for such a wound cleaning.

Resting on the large tail of the basilisk, Amani pours the water over her wound and binds up her arm tightly with the cloth. "This will do for the time," she thinks.

Looking around her surroundings, Amani lifts herself up and grabs her tools for the task of carving the basilisk for the vital components that were requested of her.

Assessing the light she has left, she carves only a portion before she has to start setting up camp for the night, something she especially enjoys in

tracking--the moments taken to make camp, each task something that she has done repeatedly, relishing each step.

As she finishes up with her tent, a familiar presence creeps from the stretching darkness.

"It took you long enough to take that thing out. Looks like it was a bit testy that you were in its lair, eh?" suggests the melancholy voice floating in the air.

Amani's gaze shoots directly to the place her fire would go, where a lean figure stands cloaked in dark robes. "And it took you long enough to show up to even consider helping, right Hermes?" she fires back.

Hermes chuckles. "Hey, I'm just the runner. All I do is make sure all went well... Or not so well."

He removes the hood of his cloak and sits down on the sandy ground. "And looks to me, went better than well," he adds with a large smile and light laugh.



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Amani breathes heavily, for below her lies the now-broken body of the basilisk, twisted in its final moments of anger and pain, infusing Amani with the thrill of success.

She spits at it. Looking to her left arm, she sees blood dripping from her hand, pooling with the basilisk's own dark blood. The fight wasn't as perfect as she would've liked.

The beast had made its life something Amani had to struggle to take.

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