

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Volume X, Issue IV

## Get Involved

### Viking Deadline

TBA

Send all submissions to the editor, [Kassandra Garcia at Kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu](mailto:Kassandra Garcia at Kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu). Remember, anyone can contribute!

### Student Leadership Series

TBA

### 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Communications

### Grayson Nursing Student Association

Wednesday or Friday

11:30 a.m.

Viking Room, Life Center

### HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)

Second and fourth Tuesday

12:20 - 12:45 p.m., LA 108

### History Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.

LA 207, Liberal Arts

### Honors College Club

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.

Viking Room, Life Center

### HVACR Club

First Thursdays

5:30 p.m.

CTC Room 117

### LEA

(Criminal Justice)

Tuesdays

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Location TBA

### Men of Distinction

Thursdays, 12 - 1 p.m.

CWL Seminar Room A

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# Grayson, Let's Go Green

By James Gatz, Student

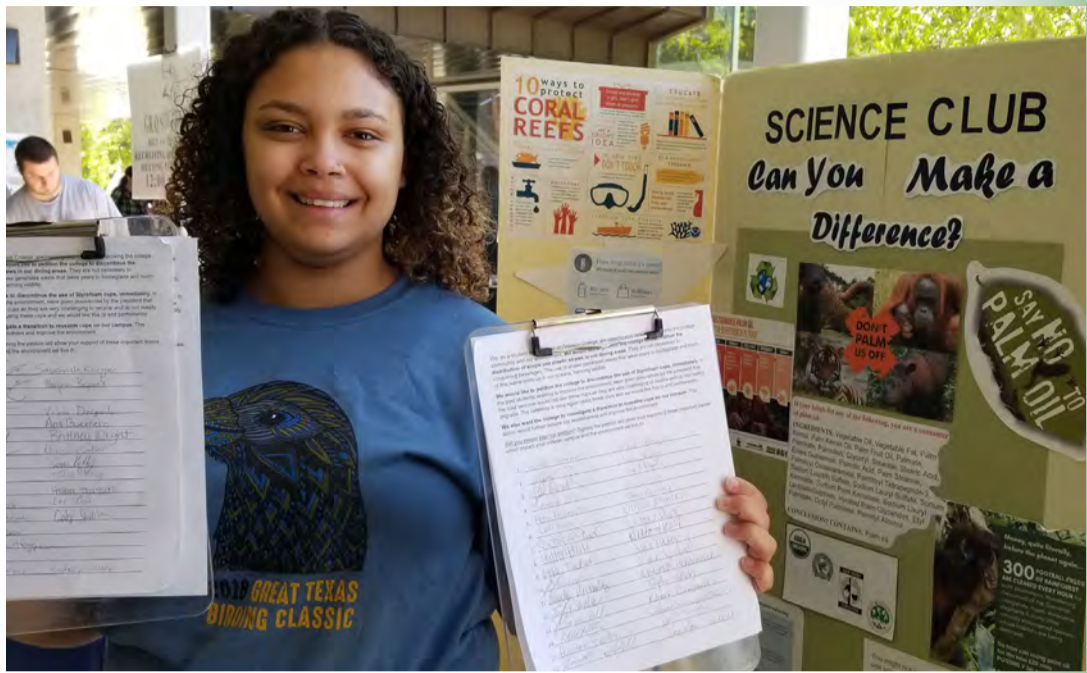
This spring, Savannah Ranger began her academic career at Grayson as a biology freshman on her way to becoming a zoologist. She joined Grayson's Science Club to augment her curriculum and interact with like-minded people as she worked hard her first semester. Being that conservation and recycling is vital to the future study of biology and animals, Ranger is close to the issue of environmental preservation and eliminating litter.

For this reason, she was distraught to find out that her new school was distributing such environmentally unfriendly products. Her main complaint was the selling of single-use straws and Styrofoam cups in Grayson's cafeteria. Single-use straws are, against common belief, non-recyclable, and have a great tendency to end up as litter. They are simply wasteful and unnecessary.

However, Ranger was most concerned about the usage of Styrofoam cups. "A few years ago, the Grayson College president announced that the college would no longer be using Styrofoam cups. So why are we using them again this semester?" she said.

Styrofoam cups are particularly dangerous for the environment because they are non-recyclable, and, more devastatingly, they are not biodegradable. This means that Styrofoam cups that are littered—and even the ones that are properly disposed of—will virtually last forever.

Styrofoam is also a concern for human health, as many of its plastics contain carcinogens. Essentially, distributing Styrofoam cups unnecessarily exposes students to cancer-causing materials and leaves a permanent mark on our environment. "We are not happy [straws and Styrofoam cups] are being used in the cafeteria. We want to have them stopped immediately," she said with full support from members of the Science Club.



Savannah Ranger with pages of signatures at Spring Fest

To gain support and raise awareness of this issue, Ranger and the Science Club participated in Spring Fest. They brought a petition to the event and reported the situation to their classmates.

The petition called for eliminating the use of Styrofoam cups and single-use straws, as well as requesting that Grayson investigates transitioning to reusable cups. The petition was widely received well by Grayson's students and faculty alike. It had well over fifty signatures in the first two hours it was shown to students, and students continue to sign.

At the very least, Ranger hopes to influence that Grayson to move toward greener, less-hazardous products in the coming semesters. Of her ideas, she also suggested that coffee and drinks be greatly discounted or even free to students who bring their own reusable cups and straws to the cafeteria—because why not? To her, Grayson's transition toward a green campus sets a precedent to our county and cities to help our environment and, thereby, ourselves. And who knows? Given our new, media-oriented society, this precedence could spread to colleges and businesses statewide.

## 8-Week Classes Are Here, but No Need to Fear

By Zachary Pletan, Staff Writer

The echoes of change have been rumbling through Grayson's campus over the last semester. "Have you heard? Next fall the college is switching to 8-week classes instead of 16-week." These whispers are often accompanied by fear, uncertainty, and doubt. Will student workload increase? Will classes suddenly try to cram sixteen weeks of information into only eight? Above all, why did campus administration feel the need to shake things up from a system we seemed to have settled comfortably into?

The answers start several years ago at Odessa College. Odessa's switch to two 8-week terms in a 16-week semester, as well as changes to the college, helped students succeed in this new framework and led to astonishing success. The percentage of first-time students who graduated or transferred shot up 7-10 percent from years before. Soon after, Amarillo College and Alamo College both adopted the 8-week model, with similar results.

Grayson College's administration took notice as well. Dr.

Molly Harris, assistant to the president, said that Odessa's success had been on Grayson's radar for a few years. However, in June of 2017, a group of faculty visited Odessa and immediately could see the success Odessa was having and how their model might also help Grayson. It was not just Odessa's administration touting their success; Dr. Harris said that Grayson faculty randomly asked Odessa students for their thoughts on the 8-week term, and they received similarly glowing opinions.

From there, Grayson's administration and faculty started thinking about how they could implement an Odessa-type model here at home. They didn't have to start from scratch, however. Dr. Chase Machen, Dean of Academic Instruction, said that around 30 percent of the college's academic sections are already 8-week courses. Moreover, instructors have already developed hybrid (classroom and internet) versions of many of the courses they teach.

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## Grayson Foundation's Cindy Perez Defines "Scrappy"

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor

To do her job well for the Grayson College Foundation, Cindy Perez has to persistently follow up with both donors and students. As Executive Administrative Assistant, she assists in meticulously planning important fundraising events then ensures everyone involved understands their roles and sees them through. She also coordinates hundreds of Grayson College Foundation scholarships, following up with students and seeking just the right scholarship match. "Scrappy" not only defines Perez' approach to her profession, though; it's also one of the types of quilting she loves best.

### Lots of Tears in There

Perez first became interested in quilting by watching her grandmother quilt, but she didn't pursue the craft at that time because there were always too many grandchildren around for her grandmother to really teach her. However, the idea of quilting as a hobby was, she says, "always in the back of my mind." Then after a life transition in 2001, she picked it up but then set it aside again because of the demands of raising a child.

In 2006, though, Perez joined the Sherman Quiltmakers and found her passion. She still has the first quilt she made with all hand-sewn pieces. She "had no clue" about what she was doing in creating it beyond the basic concepts of quilting. "I will never throw it away, though," she admits. "There were lots of tears in there."

### A Niche in the Traditional/Modern Mix

When Perez first started quilting, she followed the traditional patchworking her grandmother had done. "I didn't love what I was producing, so I didn't think it was for me," she recalls. But she found her niche when some friends introduced her to a more modern slant of mixing tradition-

al patterns with modern fabrics. She loves experimenting with quilting patterns like she does with cooking recipes. "I'll wonder, 'What if I turned those flying geese to where they're flying in rather than out,'" she cites as an example.

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Cynthia Perez's art quilt of Amy Winehouse was made with layering technique



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

**Phi Theta Kappa**  
Wednesdays  
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

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

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

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

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

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

**Sisters of Destiny**  
Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.  
Conference Room, Life Center

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

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

**TIPPS (Culinary Arts)**  
First Thursdays, 3 - 4:00 p.m.  
691 Restaurant, Culinary Arts

**Veteran Nursing Student Association**  
First Mondays, 12 p.m.  
South Campus Skills Lab

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

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

**Writers Unlimited**  
Every other Tuesday  
12:15-12:45 p.m.  
Library, Study Room 5

# The Relevance of Print in the Digital Age: Print Is Mightier Than the Kindle

By Caitlyn McGee, Student

Nearly every reader has faced the question, "Should I buy the hardback or the e-book?" They ask themselves which format is better and which is a better price. This has been a relevant issue since the early 2000s, when e-readers first sprang into popularity. Many thought e-books would take over the book industry, eradicating print. However, in the years since e-books were introduced, the market has remained fairly even for both forms of media, with print even taking the lead in the last few years ("Real"). But, as technology continues to advance and e-books are made more affordable, many readers are shifting their preferences or choosing to read in both formats ("Why").

Though both methods of reading have pros and cons, print has and will continue to stand the test of time. Print books should remain the prominent source of educational and pleasure reading because print cannot experience technology issues or cause health problems, because print can save readers money, because print engages readers more effectively and sentimentally, and because studies have shown print promotes better information retention.

The problem of the decline in print is caused by consumers being led by the media to think that e-books are a better, cheaper alternative to printed books. This problem has heavily impacted readers, causing them to possibly waste money, negatively impact readers' health, and cause them to not remember what they read as well.

Not only does the decline of print affect readers, but also bookstores and libraries which have either closed or been forced to adapt to modern reading styles. Many libraries have turned to partnering with apps to create online e-book lending libraries. While some readers have done the research and know the downsides of digital books, others are stuck in the trap of reading on Kindles, Nooks, iPads, or just computers.

If this problem of the decline of print in favor of digital is not addressed, the future could be a truly Digital Age. Imagine a world without beautiful libraries full of books, people reading their whole lives on screens, with deteriorating eyesight and bad-quality sleep, making them sickly. Imagine students failing tests because none of the information that they had read on their e-reader had stuck in their memory. While this may be slightly dramatic, it could truly

be a picture of our future if print is eradicated.

The solution to this problem is that readers be made aware of the facts and turn to buying print over e-books. Switching to print will increase the quality of one's reading experience, whether for educational or pleasurable purposes. It would cost very little for the average consumer to switch from digital to print, possibly even saving them money or giving them a tangible asset that will retain its value.

One reason that print books are superior to digital books is that they do not encounter any technology issues. An issue that many e-readers experience is the lack of internet connection, which can prevent a reader from accessing a book or disable functions such as the integrated dictionary. E-readers can also have their battery die, which makes the reader completely useless until it can be charged. These factors make print the optimal source of reading, especially for things such as camping trips or other occasions where one might be without internet or power. Finally, e-readers do not have a long lifetime. Many e-readers are only usable for a year or two of regular use, while a book, when properly cared for, can last a lifetime or longer.

Reading on e-readers can also be harmful to one's eyesight and sleep quality. Looking at a screen for long periods of time can lead to the development of a series of vision problems known as Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS). When readers, who most likely use screens in many other areas of life, turn to screens for reading as well, it is likely that they would experience more issues with their vision. Up to ninety percent of screen users experience CVS, which causes "blurred vision, eyestrain, headaches, ocular discomfort, dry eye and diplopia" (Barthakur).

In addition, according to a study performed by Harvard Medical School researchers, reading on some blue light-emitting e-readers before bed can have adverse effects on one's sleep and overall health. The study found that the light from these devices can impact one's circadian clock, which is what tells the body when it is time to sleep and when it is not. This change in one's sleep cycle can harm sleep quality, alertness, and overall health (St. Peter).

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## Need Help Paying For College?

### Want to serve your country but stay home with your family and finish your degree?



Then the Army Reserve is for you. The Army Reserve allows you to pursue a civilian career or attend college full time and still serve your community and country. You can continue your career or education while training close to home and standing ready to serve with your valuable job skills.

For more information contact:  
Staff Sergeant Perez @ david.perezri-  
vera3.mil@mail.mil or 214-223-1261.

# GRADUATING? WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT YOUR STUDENT LOANS? From the U.S. Department of Education

As you prepare for life after school, we want to provide you with next steps, tips, and advice regarding your student loans.

First, review your student loan records. You can access your federal student loan record at [StudentAid.gov/login](http://StudentAid.gov/login). You'll need to figure out whether you have federal student loans, private student loans, or both. The advice below is for your federal student loans. To discuss repayment options for your private student loans, contact your lender.

## Not going to graduate school or not continuing your education?

In most cases, you'll have six months from the time you graduate before you have to begin making federal student loan payments. This is called your grace period. Use this time to explore the different repayment options available to you and prepare for repayment. Learn more about the different repayment options at [StudentAid.gov/repay](http://StudentAid.gov/repay). During your grace period, you can also start making payments of any amount. Contact your federal loan servicer to find out how to get a head start on repaying your student loan.

### Here's your repayment checklist:

- Know whom to contact if you need help with your student loans. Your loan servicer can help you for free. You never have to pay for student loan help!
- Choose a repayment plan that meets your needs. Compare your monthly payment options under different repayment plans using the Repayment Estimator at [StudentAid.gov/repayment-estimator](http://StudentAid.gov/repayment-estimator). If you need a lower payment, consider an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan at [StudentAid.gov/idr](http://StudentAid.gov/idr). Under an IDR plan, your monthly student loan payment can be as low as \$0 per month based on your income and family size. If you take no action, you'll be placed on the 10-year Standard Repayment Plan.
- Consider whether your career choice might qualify you for loan forgiveness. If you're employed by a government or not-for-profit organization, you may qualify for loan forgiveness after 10 years of federal student loan payments through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Learn more about the PSLF Program at [StudentAid.gov/publicservice](http://StudentAid.gov/publicservice). You may qualify for the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program after five years of teaching service in a low-income school. For more information about the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, visit [StudentAid.gov/teach-forgive](http://StudentAid.gov/teach-forgive).
- Understand your options for making payments. You won't pay the U.S. Department of Education directly. In most cases, you'll make payments to your federal loan servicer. Before your first payment is due, your loan servicer will provide you with information about how to make your payments.
- Consider whether consolidation may be right for you. If you have more than one loan servicer, consolidation can simplify the repayment process. In some cases, loan consolidation also can help you qualify for better repayment options. Just be sure to weigh the pros and cons of loan consolidation. Learn more about loan consolidation at [StudentAid.gov/consolidation](http://StudentAid.gov/consolidation).



Continued from Page 1: Grayson Foundation’s Cindy Perez Defines “Scrappy”

*Negative Space Rests the Eye*

Perez especially enjoys the more modern “negative space” quilting, which leaves blank space around a design to enable the viewer’s eye to rest then go on to take in the next area of the quilt. Traditional patterns often have so much going on that they overwhelm the viewer. Negative space lets the eye rest to better appreciate what’s coming next.

*Artsy and Scrappy*

Perez’ current quilting focus is on art quilts of people or pets, an interest she’s developed in classes with Grayson College alumnus Leo Ransom at Hope on Houston, an old church being renovated for use by nonprofit groups. As part of an advanced quilting class, Perez chose a pattern of Amy Winehouse, whose music she had never even heard. “It was her tragic life and desire to have a family but not be able to achieve her dream because of her addiction that drove me to her pattern,” reveals Perez.

For the Winehouse project, Perez chose 4 different types of black fabric, white for the face, and a pop of red color for the lips and sunglasses. She used a quilt collage technique that involved layering fabric and cutting out certain parts of each layer to reveal the fabric beneath. The final product, then, could be framed or quilted.

Another type of quilt Perez enjoys creating is a “scrappy,” which she can make using modern colors and prints or make in a more traditional style using muted earth tones and small prints. The scrappy style uses different fabric prints and colors in pieces that are so small that none stands out, but they all blend for a pleasing look.

One of Perez’ favorite scrappies is a spider web block that looks like a web. To create the design, she cut pieced squares on the diagonal and added strips to each side. Then she put 4 pieces together to form a new block, creating the “web” where the pieces came together.

Scrappy quilters are frugal—they never throw fabric scraps away. Perez repurposes any unusable scraps by filling pillowcases half full with them for dog beds that she donates to Denison Animal Welfare Group (DAWG). At Christmas last year, she was able to make 17 of these dog beds from the scraps she’d stashed around her house, under her work table, and in her dining room.

*Happy Birthday!*

An advantage of being part of a quilting group is being able to participate in group quilting activities known as “Birthday Blocks.” The birthday celebrant chooses a favorite pattern and provides general color suggestions; then every member of the group makes a block for that quilt using his or her own fabric. For her birthday quilt recently, Perez chose the “Benito block,” a quartered log cabin pattern, and asked members to use orange and blue fabric. Then Perez

cut the blocks she received into quarters and rearranged them to create the log cabin pattern.

*Time to Relax*

Perez typically spends at least 15 minutes each evening working on one of her quilting projects on her sewing machine, which she keeps in her living room. When she’s done crafting for the evening, she’ll sew a piece halfway then stop so that she’ll be more likely the next day to see the unfinished work and sit down to take some time for herself.

Perez also enjoys attending 3-5-day quilting retreats, generally located 2 hours away, to which she’ll take 30 projects of different sizes and use her time to catch up on in-progress work. She can’t work on just one quilt at a time and finish it since she has so many ideas in her head. So she takes along a huge suitcase packed with fabric that her friends call her “quilt store.” That way, she’s always prepared in case creativity strikes.

*Join Up and Get Inspired*

Perez suggests that people who are interested in quilting start by joining their local quilt guild, where they’ll find enthusiasts eager to share their passion with beginners. The Internet and YouTube provide helpful resources as well. Perez was inspired, in particular, by the story of the Missouri Star in Hamilton, Missouri. Fifteen years ago, a woman in that dying town started a quilt shop, a shop that’s now worth millions of dollars, with storefronts and an online presence and that even features a “man cave” where quilters’ partners who aren’t as excited about the craft can enjoy refreshments and relax in recliners.

Perez observes that quilting bloggers share their patterns freely. She loves Crazy Mom Quilts, which is the blog that got her started in the “scrappy” style.



Cynthia Perez’s spider web quilt is a “scrappy” example



**Tackling Your Student Loans Doesn’t Have To Be Hard!**

Inceptia knows that student loan repayment can be confusing if you don’t know where to find the information you need. That’s why we want to help the Class of 2018 proactively get a handle on student loan repayment — before it even begins!

With Inceptia’s money mascot — the Knowl — as a trusty guide, graduates can use our Student Loan Knowledge Headquarters to find answers, calculators, resource guides and more to prepare for and successfully enter into repayment.

Getting started is easy. Head to [www.heroknowl.org](http://www.heroknowl.org) to explore our free tools and information.

**Get to Know Your Financial Aid III Advisers: Alisha Danner and Pam Davis**

Hello, my name is Alisha Danner. I am a Grayson College alumnus and I will complete my bachelor’s degree at Texas A&M Commerce this summer. I started in the Financial Aid office as a work study student in 2011 and have since worked my way up to an Advisor III position. I am proud to be a Viking and I love helping others.



Alisha Danner

**Q: Who is your favorite author?**

A: My favorite author would most definitely have to be Stephen King because his work is always captivating. I have reread quite a few of his novels because I feel like I find something new each time.

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

A: I am an avid reader. I also enjoy drawing, painting, and decorating cakes. My most important hobbies, though, are cheering my children on in theatre and baseball!

My name is Pam Davis. I am a graduate of Grayson College with an Associate of Applied Science in Manufacturing Technology. I resided in the dorms here on campus, I was a Work Study student in the registrar’s office, and in my spare time, I enjoy hand quilting. I continued my education at LeTourneau University, where I earned my Bachelors of Business Management. I returned to Grayson as an employee in the Financial Aid Office as an Advisor III.



Pam Davis

I enjoy working with students to assist them with all aspects of what Grayson College can offer them, as well as helping them find ways to finance their college education.

**Q: Do you collect anything?**

A: I collect M&M’s items and anything with turtles.

**Q: List two pet peeves.**

A: Someone clicking their pen constantly or tapping on a surface, along with people being late.

Continued from Page 1: 8-Week Classes are Here, but No Need to Fear

These hybrid classes will be especially important, according to Dr. Brandy Fair, the Fine Arts and Communications Department Chair who oversees all arts and humanities courses. This is so that classes can maintain their 75-minute twice-a-week schedule rather than meet all week for 75 minutes or twice weekly for 3 hours. Dr. Machen says it is important to maintain this schedule because one of the 8-week colleges that simply doubled up classroom time eventually saw attendance start to drop in response. Hybrid classes, by contrast, will allow students the same flexibility in weekly scheduling they enjoy now.

Hybrid classes will allow a bit more flexibility, too, in scheduling sections. Dr. Fair said she converted a Liberal Arts classroom over the summer into her “war room” for this purpose. She completely filled two classroom-length whiteboards with her attempts to schedule classes while making sure no time slot was overloaded or course type overrepresented.

The end goal of all these changes, of course, is student success. Dr. Machen said that we are down to 3.7 years on average for a student to complete a 2-year degree (this is due to the number of part-time students who attend). Further, over the past few years, the average has dropped from over 90 hours to 79 to finish out a 60-hour degree. While these numbers represent a large improvement over the past few years, faculty and administration are hopeful that their efforts will improve student success even more.

So how will the 8-week term increase student success? The most obvious benefit, Dr. Fair says, is that students be able to better focus on material, since they will be taking fewer classes at a time. (There will, in fact, be a limit of three classes taken in a term now.) Additionally, there will be fewer students per teacher in a class, allowing for more personal classrooms and more personalized teaching.

While students will be taking fewer classes in a term, a paradoxical advantage that Dr. Machen sees is that more part-time students will become full-time. He

explained that while a part-time student now might take only three classes in a semester, they would probably want to take two classes in each 8-week term in the future. This would bump them up to full-time status—among other advantages, increasing their financial aid payout—without spending much more time than with school than they already do.

Finally, Dr. Harris and Dr. Fair both say the 8-week term is better for students because it will be easier for them when “life happens.” For example, they both said, if a student has an emergency in week 10 of a 16-week term and they have to drop four courses, now they have lost an entire semester’s worth of work. Instead, if they have a problem in week 6 of an 8-week course, not only will it take less time to catch up, but it will also require less work to retake two classes than four.

Eight-week semesters are not the only project Grayson has undertaken to improve student success. Every student will have a success coach to make sure they are taking the right classes for their career or transfer goal. MyViking’s student planner will facilitate easier access to this success coach. Dr. Machen’s course sequencing initiative will ensure classes in a degree plan are taken in the order that they are “most transferrable.” The new, free College Connections course will help new students learn to work with all these new systems. All of these will contribute to a more seamless transition into the 8-week routine.

Grayson’s attitude coming into the next semester is confident yet vigilant. Dr. Harris urges students to sign up for classes as soon as possible. Faster student aid disbursements mean that students need to be enrolled—for both terms—by the first Friday of the first term in a semester. (Fall registration has been open since April 2.) Remember, too, as Dr. Fair put it, “We’re learning too.” If you have any questions, if your student planner looks funny, if you’re just not sure how this is all going to work for you: grab an advisor and just ask about it. They want you to succeed, just as much as you do.



# Grayson Welding's Chance Backest and Doyle Roy Give Students an Edge

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor

Coming from a long career in quality control at Texas Instruments, Grayson Welding professor Chance Backest learned welding at 10 years old from his grandfather. Throughout his high school years, he spent every free moment perfecting his craft. Joe Moore, his shop teacher at Bells High School, said Backest was "too good to leave the shop." Teaching part time at Grayson enabled Backest to learn Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW), also called Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) welding.

While Backest teaches in the larger Main Campus facility with 48 welding booths, Doyle Roy and his colleagues run the 17-booth South Campus facility in Van Alstyne. Students from southern Grayson County, including Howe, Van Alstyne, and Whitewright, often enroll in the South Campus welding classes although many students take classes at both campuses.

After graduating from Grayson's welding program in 2009, Roy traveled as a welder for various construction companies then started working for Vector Systems in McKinney while working as a teaching assistant at Grayson College. He enjoyed the challenge of working on multi-million-dollar projects with strict guidelines. If he deviated from them, he would be fired. When working on oxygen skids, for example, which pump pure oxygen through piping systems, if Roy left any defect, bacteria could catch on it, and the system would explode. His work took him throughout the southern U.S. through Oklahoma and Texas and was focused on oil and gas refineries. Sometimes he would be home only half the year.

Roy's first teaching job was for Kiamichi Technologies in Durant, where he found his true passion in helping young people develop a skill. During his 2-year transition into teaching, Roy worked from 6 a.m.-10 p.m., 4 days a week, welding during the day and teaching as a lab assistant in the evenings.

## Filling Huge Demand for Welders

Backest recommends that students who haven't decided on a career should "definitely" consider welding since 350,000 welders will be needed within the next 8 years across the U.S., according to the many online welding sites he follows. Welding jobs in this area pay \$14-15 an hour. Welders who work for a manufacturer will have a scheduled shift but are typically offered lots of overtime.



Kenneth Goin and Daniel Roy pay close attention to their welds

## Giving Students an Edge

"We blow every competitor out of the water," claims Roy in describing Grayson's welding program. "We're successful because we work really, really hard," he emphasizes. The professors view students in their program as "fabricators" who learn more than just welding, focusing also on developing math and other shop skills such as drilling and tapping holes using the lathe and mill, Backest explains. He focuses on teaching his students teamwork, as well, when assigning projects, matching "naturals" with students who can't interact well.

Roy centers his focus on his younger students and tries to ensure they're aware of all their options, which may take them beyond the art of welding. If he feels his students are capable of more, he'll encourage them to pursue engineering and has several that are now engineering majors at Old Miss, Texas State University, and Tarleton State University. Their welding coursework transferred as engineering electives.

## Attracting Female Welders

Backest finds that his female welding students are more dedicated, have better eye/hand coordination, and are easier to teach. Last May, two of his female students were hired by Eaton Beeline, a manufacturing company in Sherman with plants across the U.S. One had previously worked at a call center but was ready to make a change in her life when she enrolled in the welding program. Now she's tripled her previous salary.

Roy agrees that "it's an uphill climb" for female welders every day, though. Just outfitting themselves can be a struggle since most equipment stores sell only medium and large gloves, and jackets and hoods often don't fit women well. But he notes that some vendors—especially Lincoln, Miller, and Hobart—have started to recruit women onto their sales forces who are asking how they can address this issue. He's hoping Grayson can help pioneer such improvements in female gear.

When Roy has sent some of his female students to job opportunities, they've reported that they felt they weren't treated well. So he says that they will have to do more to prove to those employers that they can do the job. He highlights one Grayson graduate who should inspire other women welders. Amy Brown graduated with Roy from Grayson's welding program in 2009 and is now a "full-blown pipeliner" who earns \$4,000 a week and owns 2 pipeline trucks. "She didn't stop" when she encountered adversity, Roy observes. "She just worked harder."

## Learning How Students Learn

One of the most rewarding challenges of his job, according to Backest, is learning how students learn. He loves "seeing the smile on their face after being frustrated for 2 weeks when they finally 'get it.'" Backest exclaims, "I really do enjoy the teaching aspect. . . being able to help another individual improve their life for their family." Roy enjoys the "consistent one-on-one." He objects to characterizing his younger students as "entitled," but instead compliments their "tech savvy brains" and feels that they "have a brighter future [as a result of their ease with technology] than we could have had."

## Growing the Program

Backest would like to see Grayson's welding program move more into the automation side with robotic welding since that's where the industry is going, but a significant grant would be needed. He would also like more professional development on the CNC (Computer Numeric Control) cutter. Roy adds that the program must always stay innovative and up to date and accomplish what the industry demands.

Backest feels the college needs to ensure that prospective students are well informed about equipment needed and provided. Students need only provide their personal equipment, which includes a helmet, gloves, shop clothes, and closed-toed shoes—a total cost of around \$300. Most of these items they can purchase used at a pawn shop. But he cautions students not to skimp on their helmet (around \$200) since it will carry over to their first welding job.



Collin Baker and Daniel Roy seem pleased with their work

# Women Veterans Continuing Their Service at Grayson College

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

Traditionally, men and women entered the military due to a sense of duty. When their tours were up, they walked away and left that part of their life behind them. But often times, that sense of duty is still with them. It doesn't go away. It drives them. It even defines them in their work and beyond. Such is the case of several local women veterans that have continued to be guided by that sense of duty, but serving now as civilians for the betterment of Grayson College and its student veteran population. Since June 12, 2018, has been designated as Women Veterans Day in the State of Texas, let's "Salute" the following women veterans serving Grayson College.

**Donna King**, U.S. Army veteran and current Director of Financial Aid/Veteran Services at GC, has a distinguished and extensive career in higher education serving at multiple schools and in various positions. Now, she works tirelessly year-round to ensure that all student veterans and their dependents at Grayson College have absolutely everything they need to be successful while at GC and even beyond. Whether it's spearheading an extensive make-over of the Veteran's Hub or streamlining the administrative processes for student veterans, she applies her energy, her talents and her sense of duty to insure that all student veterans at Grayson College are successful students. Ms. King's financial aid staff are all trained and coached to provide the same exceptional service to any veteran looking to Grayson College for educational pursuits.

After four years of active military service in the U. S. Army where she served as a Military Police and Public Information Officer, Ms. King continues serving and fulfilling her sense of duty here at Grayson College. Always working to improve the climate on campus for all student veterans and military dependents to insure their success is a primary driving force for Donna.

A special memory Donna has of her time in the Army and as a Public Information Officer was when she was given the opportunity to interview iconic rocker Alice Cooper, for the Stars and Stripes newspaper, whom she remembers as a "really nice guy." As an MP (Military Police), she even recalls being shot once but luckily was uninjured. Even with that one-time scary event, she treasures all of her military memories and was honored to have served.

**Katie Baillio**, a U. S. Army veteran and currently serving as a Rural Veteran Career Advisor with the Texas Veterans Commission, is retired from the Army after twenty (20) years of dedicated service. While in the Army, she was an Automated Logistics Specialist and was involved in many different levels of the supply function as well as motor pool administration and even an item manager for aviation readiness.

Twenty years of service represents lots of memories, but Katie's favorite ones are the "Welcome Home" ceremonies when members of the military return from deployment. Her own "Welcome Home" ceremony remains a viv-

id memory and one close to her heart. Also, while working with the Special Olympics in Okinawa, Japan, Katie learned that the language barrier between Japanese mothers and American soldiers was unimportant as everyone was just trying to help children be their best.

As a civilian, Ms. Baillio continues her service to veterans by being an active member of the Grayson College's Veterans Advisory Council (VAC). Sitting on this advisory board provides Katie an opportunity to improve and expand programs and services for all GC student veterans. It also provides her a forum with other veteran services personnel that promotes the free-flow of important information regarding veteran issues.

Additionally, she is serving on the Oversight Committee of the 2018 Texoma Veterans Resources EXPO and she also presents at GC Student Veterans Association meetings whenever asked. Plus she is always available to provide any student veteran with job-seeking tools and specialized assistance. In fact, Katie remarked, "helping veterans with significant barriers to employment is what I love best about my job."

Katie's dedication to serving veterans was validated recently when she was named the winner of the TVC Impact award and she also won the American Legion's Disabled Veteran's Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist of the year for the state of Texas and was also the National runner-up. Katie has retired from the military, but she no plans to retire anytime soon from serving veterans here in Grayson County and at Grayson College.

*Continued on page 6*



(L-R) Katie Baillio-Army, Donna King -Army, Penny Poolaw-Army National Guard, and Ashley Mathis-Air Force



# Editor's Letter

By Morgan Bryant, Viking Editor (outgoing)

A common opinion of a community college is that it is “fake” college and unequal to the experience of a “real” university. I do agree that the two are very different experiences, but I do not agree that one is inherently more strenuous than the other. I, too, was skeptical of a “fake” community college, but the logistics of my situation did not permit me to go to university. And now, after three semesters at Grayson, I am glad I attended here.

There are two differences I've noticed between a university and a community college. The first is that at a community college, you have the option to take your time, take less-involved classes, and you can choose to not be involved outside of class. Essentially you have the choice to make your academic career strenuous; at university, you do not have this choice.

The second is the community aspect. If you choose to go the extra mile, the activities you participate in revolve around a single community, and you will find yourself affecting the lives of those around you. Your professors, your friends, and your classmates are all part of the community you have the chance to interact with. Of course, at a university, you can interact with the community, but the difference is that you do not always have the opportunity to.

I received the offer to be the editor of *The Viking* by chance. I was in my first semester and joined Writers Unlimited because my professor recommended it to me. I was interested in the newspaper, but I had absolutely no experience with editing or journalism. However, that was the semester the editor before me was leaving, and no one else wanted the difficult job.

When my professor offered it to me, I took it. The irony is: I am not an English or journalism major. I am merely a mathematics major, and my only qualification was a knack for emulating the writing style of Vladimir Nabokov. Naturally, anything concerning journalism or editing would never have occurred to me to pursue, nor were they things that I would ever be given the chance to pursue elsewhere.

By no means is editing the paper an easy process; it is frequently frustrating, and it is always time-consuming, hard work. But the experience of editing has been a pleasure and has taught me a valuable work ethic. I have been able to give others a voice for their ideas and I have learned in great depth about the figures in our community. It has interested me in national problems and the role of newspaper media in society, as well as influenced my decision to go to law school. And the fact is, if I ever decided to pursue work in editing, I now have more work experience than most journalism/English graduates. I greatly appreciate the fact that editing for *The Viking* has opened doors I did not realize existed.

I am now graduating and leaving Texas to go to the East Coast, where, thanks to the help and support of my fantastic professors, I will go to a university ranked in the top 50 schools in the United States. With my experience at Grayson, I have the qualifications to work for my university's newspapers and magazines, which can get national attention. Many students who start out at a university do not have such.

If you are open to it, community college is about opening doors and taking unique opportunities. My only wish is that *The Viking* continues to exist and that Grayson continues to work to preserve the community college experience. I hope it continues to fund the strange opportunities, as well as the professional ones.

I thank our brilliant professors and I wish luck to our new editor, Kasandra Garcia. Send all submissions to [kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu](mailto:kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu)

# Grayson Holds First Alumni Event in 50 Years

By Janis Thompson, Grant Writer/Development Specialist

Although the weather did not fully cooperate for the inaugural Grayson College Alumni Reunion held on Saturday, April 21, the alumni who attended enjoyed a day of reconnecting, reminiscing, and interacting with many of the new programs offered at Grayson College.

Several alumni who participated were in the very first graduation class of Grayson County College in 1967. Kathy Lowe, one of the six cheerleaders elected for the first GCC cheerleader squad, brought her cheerleading uniform for display at the event. Tommy Cox and Steve Gentry were members of the Sigma Theta Epsilon Fraternity and displayed their paddles, which they were required to make as pledges of Sigma. Steve also brought his Sigma brick, which weighed about 20 pounds. Steve explained to Dr. McMillen that one of the pledge requirements was to keep the brick on their body at all times, and if a pledge was seen not physically touching the brick there would be consequences.



Tommy Cox and Steve Gentry explain the purpose of the brick and paddle to Dr. McMillen

Western Week was a major event on campus in the early days, which included the election of the GCC Western Week Sheriff and Western Week Queen. During Western Week, everyone was dressed in cowboy/cowgirl outfits, cowboy hats, and guns and holsters (play guns). Contests, which included beard-growing contests, spitting contests, EGG catching contests, root beer drinking contests, quick draws, and tricycle races, were held during the week and allowed various clubs, fraternities and sororities to earn points toward a trophy awarded at the end of the week. The Sadie Hawkins dance ended the week where the girl asked the boy for the date!

Various departments of the college offered demonstrations about their

outstanding programs. Following a welcome by Alumnus (and now GC Trustee Chairman) Ronnie Cole; College President, Dr. Jeremy McMillen; and Joey Guess, Chair of the Alumni Advisory Board, the GC Theater students presented a short performance of their upcoming spring play, *Cinderella Confidential*.

The Second Floor Gallery was open for their current display of Earth Day artwork. Two GC student recruiters guided the attendees through the Center for Workplace Learning, GC Library, Health Sciences Simulation Labs, the Veterans Service Office and Veteran's Hub, Criminal Justice, and Advanced Manufacturing conducted tours. The group reunited at the Culinary Center where Randy Truxal, Executive Director of the GC Foundation and Alumnus Rusty Weatherly were preparing hamburgers (donated by Tyson Foods) and hotdogs. Fabulous desserts were prepared for tasting by the culinary students. An afternoon learning experience was held at the T.V. Munson Viticulture and Enology Center. Another GC alumnae and current GC Trustee, Krista “KK” Hartman, guided attendees through an aromatic and flavorful wine tasting of regional Texas wines.

The day ended at Loose Wheels, Texas, owned by GC Alumnus and former Sigma President, Buddy Gray. Living members of the Sigma Theta Epsilon Fraternity still conduct monthly meetings the first Saturday of every month at Loose Wheels.

A great deal of work went into the planning our the first GC Alumni Reunion by the Alumni Advisory Board members, under the guidance of Kathy Hendrick. These members include, Joann “Honey” Adair, Todd Bass, Tracy Bullard, Scott Caldwell, Ronnie Cole, Don Eldredge, Joey Guess, Cheryl Herriage, Don Medlin, Leigh Ann Sims, Aaron A.T. Thomas, Janis Thompson, and Sherry Thompson. Local sponsors made the event more special as each attendee received a free Alumni T Shirt. Alumni hats were also available for \$5.00 and can still be purchased at the Foundation House.

Special thanks goes to Blake Utter Ford. Other sponsors included Apex Sports Medicine, Cable One, Virginia Cook Realtors, Fast Signs, First Texoma Bank, Guardian Hospice, Scarbrough, Medlin & Associates Insurance, SEAT, LLC, Tyson Foods, and the Sherman and Denison Chambers of Commerce.



KK modeling new alumni cap, with Director of Development Kathy Hendrick and alumni Cheryl Herriage.

# Rotaract Honors Service

By Kassandra Garcia, The Viking Editor (incoming)

The most important meeting of the year for Grayson College's Rotaract Club was held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. This was the meeting that truly defined Rotary's motto: Making a Difference. In total, the club had \$500 to give away in scholarship and charity. Of that money, \$250 was split between Grand Central Station in Sherman, Texas and Surviving Sisters and Brothers in Denison, Texas. Grand Central Station, which provides meals, supplies, and other forms of service, unfortunately could not be represented at the meeting, but President Tyashia Love and Vice President Cheyenne Connor will be hand delivering the check to this worthy cause.

Surviving Sisters and Brothers, on the other hand, was represented by their founder, Debra Haggin. Officers helped create posters for the organization directly after the meeting and were amazed to hear about the work Debra's cause does for raising awareness and helping those affected by bullying. In addition to Debra's receiving the donation, she became tearful when Secretary Kassandra Garcia presented her with a Community Service Award plaque with her name on it. She expressed her gratitude to the club and explained that service is never for recognition; it is always for helping those in need, but the recognition does feel like a bonus.

As for the other half of the money, \$250 went out as the Rotaract Club Scholarship for Fall 2018. The recipient needed to be someone who committed to service above self, and the club found that in future Phi Theta Kappa officer Abigail Reasnor. Abigail has been committed to service since her very beginnings of high school and has done everything from feeding the homeless directly in the streets and becoming a founding member

and volunteer of Surviving Sisters and Brothers. At the meeting she was honored with a letter of thanks for all the service she has provided and explained her hard work to our club.

Rotaract could not be more thankful for the opportunity to give back to those who aid our communities. The club was also thankful to special guests Grayson Rotarian Kathleen Whitfield and Dean Leon Deutsch, who joined us and support us all. Lastly, the club had to say goodbye to their sponsor, Dr. Jean Sorensen. She has guided the club through their journeys and led them straight to these worthy causes and an outstanding student. Without her service to not only our club, but her service to her Rotary as well, the lives she has affected would be a little dimmer. Thank you to all supporters, sponsors, and a big thank you to Preston Trial's Rotary for making this all possible.



Recipients: (L-R) Abigail Reasnor and Debra Haggin



# Grayson Science Club Goes Birding (Again)

By Patrice Parsons, Science Professor

The Science Club at Grayson College has been participating in college and community events that focus on a better understanding and awareness of the Grayson County area since we first coalesced in Fall 2014. The club has been actively pursuing small ideas and projects such as community gardening, nature education, establishing habitat, and improving the general awareness of conservation efforts, both locally and globally.

Last year we decided to participate in the Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC), which is an annual event sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. The GTBC is in its 22nd year and is a team event which promotes awareness of the amazing variety of birds both transient and permanent, which reside within our state. The money raised by the event is used for conservation grants, nature tourism, habitat restoration, as well as nature enhancement projects throughout the state. Teams select their categories of competition based on the size of the team and the time the members can commit to identifying and recording birds. The Science Club participants, aka the Avian Inquirers (don't judge, I was in a hurry), went out on May 12th, competing in the "Dawn to Noon" category, and counted 62 species of birds, which earned our team 4th place statewide in our category.

On May 11, 2018, we will be out to defend our ranking and possibly advance our standing. We are going to be counting from dawn to noon at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. Our expectations are "soaring" due to the birding expertise of Dr. Michael Keck, the comic relief of Professor

Michael Dill and myself, and our energetic, enthusiastic and early-rising team consisting of Morgan Bryant, Hannah Diaz, Savannah Ranger and Isabel Hinshaw. More importantly than how we finish, we will have a brilliant time sharing the experience and learning about nature! So sorry that you are not with us, but hope that you can join us next year.

For more information about the Science Club, please contact Patrice Parsons at [Parsonsp@grayson.edu](mailto:Parsonsp@grayson.edu)



(L-R) Dr. Michael Keck, Hannah Diaz, Isabel Hinshaw, Dr. Michael Dill, Savannah Ranger, Dr. Patrice Parsons, Morgan Bryant

# 5th Annual "Beat the Heat" 5k

By *Kassandra Garcia, The Viking Editor (incoming)*

Saturday, April 28, 2018 the Grayson Honors College hosted the fifth annual 5k and Fun Run event. This year the run surpassed the previous with over a 180 runners, including some very creatively named teams. The Honors College club has many organizations, people, and volunteers to thank for the success of this event. The success is what leads the club to giving all proceeds to the Grayson County Law Enforcement Association (GCLEA) and the Grayson College Deputy Chad Key Memorial Scholarship.

Runners were recorded by different age categories, and medals were given to the top three males and females of each one. We had participants pushing strollers, walking dogs, and even one who carried an American flag the entire run. At the finish line we had various volunteers waiting with water bottles, two of whom were dancing through most of the wait. The official announcer of the race even joined in with their dance moves. All of us at the finish line certainly stayed busy and entertained, and our college's own President Jeremy McMillen joined in for the fun. We could not be more thankful for such a great crew of helpers, supporters, and incredible runners.

Many thanks must be given, one of which is to every business that do-

ated to the run for our prizes. These businesses donated escape rooms, entrees, products, tickets, and other various gifts. Another thanks goes out to our police officers who helped the race operate smoothly, and the others who ran it. The list of individuals to thank is honestly miles long, and the Honors College could not be more humbled or honored to have this many people support our cause.

The club looks forward to our sixth run next year; we hope to see all our runners again, and many more joining them!



The 5K race begins!

# Continued from Page 4: Women Veterans Continuing Their Service at Grayson College

**Stacey Pope**, U.S. Navy veteran, is currently the Facilities Coordinator in the Facility Maintenance Department here at Grayson College. While her ten years in the service were exciting and memorable times, Stacey loves being at GC and contributing to an overall-positive atmosphere for student veterans. One of Stacey's tours-of-duty took her to Bahrain in the middle-East where she worked jointly with the Army and Marines to send critical equipment and supplies to the Coalition forces in the Persian Gulf. This experience led her to the discovery that she possessed a passion for instructing and training adults. Stacey recalls that she really loved being in the military because it was something "bigger than me and my small hometown of Pittsburg, Texas."

After starting at Grayson College as a student in 2014, Stacy began her employment journey at GC as a work-study employee in the business office before assuming a full-time Grayson position the very next year and yet still completed her Associates Degree in Business in December of 2016. Stacey quickly points out that the advantage of serving at Grayson College as opposed to overseas is that she is home with her children while they are growing up.

The same military pride she had during her Navy days is shown here at Grayson College in the way she treats her job and how she goes about her work day. "It's something bigger than me and for a noble cause. Everyone working for Grayson College is part of something truly special and all are contributing to an environment for the betterment of all students," she said.



Stacy Pope at work

**Penny Poolaw**, U.S. Army National Guard retiree, is the Military Veteran Peer Network Coordinator for the Texoma Community Center. The Military Veteran Peer Network is dedicated to supporting local community veterans and families through fellowship, peer support, training, and sharing community resources. Penny feels her most important job is to train veterans, service members, family members and the general community to assist in conducting peer to peer service with other veterans. As there are approximately twenty-two veteran suicides every day, Penny operates with a sense of urgency as she knows she must get more and more individuals involved and trained to counter this alarming statistic. "I welcome local community supporters to become MVPN volunteers. We can work together to build a foundation of trust and give each other the opportunity to learn and pool resources. Only then can we really make a difference with our veterans who really need our help," she says.

While serving 20 years in the National Guard, Penny's unit was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was in that environment,

working with so many combat personnel, that she learned about the many issues affecting those soldiers. As a result of that experience, Penny is now energized to provide and to train others to provide all the various forms of support that military personnel greatly needs.

Ms. Poolaw is currently a very active member of the VFW Post 2772 in Sherman, and has served that post in a number of leadership capacities. She is also involved in another innovative local veteran program known as Veterans' Court that provides a non-traditional approach to dealing with veterans and their legal issues. Additionally, she serves as an active member of Grayson College's Veteran Advisory Council (VAC), presents at Student Veterans Association (SVA) meetings, as well as being a key member of the Oversight Committee of the upcoming Texoma Veterans Resources EXPO. Penny stands ready to serve the veterans' community any way that she can and is available to "teach, train or mentor anyone wanting to do the same."

**Ashley Mathis**, U.S. Air Force veteran, is also pursuing her sense of duty by serving veterans at Grayson College in a several key roles. Presently employed as the Veterans Outreach Specialist in the Veteran Services Office by way of the Center of Excellence for Veteran Students Success grant she provides many critical services for present and prospective student veterans to ensure their time at Grayson is productive, meaningful and successful. She is active in the Student Veterans Association on campus and was its previous president and currently serves as special staff advisor to that campus club.

From promoting club fundraisers and membership drives to organizing special activities and club programs, Ashley's energy and love of service is evident. She is an active member of Grayson College's Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) and the Veterans Student Support Team (VSST), two key areas of the Center of Excellence grant requirements.

Ashley's path to service to others began when she joined the U. S. Air Force while still a student at Whitewright High School. Her specialized Air Force training, coupled with her own technological skill-set, led her to be selected for the very high-tech part of the War on Terror many of us know very little about. As a Full Motion Video Analyst, Ashley assisted drone pilots in their pursuit and elimination of key targets. So, although Ashley was state-side in her military position, her work was overseas in the middle-East actively involved in day-to-day combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Her classified position allowed her to see the actual ground situation in that war on computer screens and to provide the necessary support to the pilots.

Ms. Mathis, who began working at Grayson in a work-study position in the Veteran Services Office, was promoted to her present position based on her desire to serve and make a difference with other student veterans. While performing her current duties, she has remained a full-time student and will be joining many other of her student veteran peers as a May 2018 graduate here at Grayson College. Her studies will then continue at Texas A & M Commerce for a bachelors and masters degrees. Ashley feels her long-range employment plans "will always include service to veterans and student veterans in some form or fashion." She even envisions returning to Grayson College some day with a full-time permanent position in the Financial Aid/Veteran Services department.

# Late Night Finals Week Breakfast:

**Monday, May 7, 9p.m.-10p.m. Cafeteria**

**The complimentary meal is provided by Great Western Dining Service.**

**The event is sponsored by the Student Life/housing office.**



# A Genuine Grayson Veteran: Gary Paikowski

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

Not only is Gary Paikowski a U. S. Army veteran, but after nearly forty (40) years at Grayson College, he is, in the truest sense, a GC veteran as well.

Since arriving on this campus in August of 1978 as the Director of the College Library, Gary has spent four decades doing what he loves to do – making a difference. Now, as the GC Vice President of Information Technology, and after such a lengthy tenure at Grayson, he recently reflected on why he is still at Grayson College. “Having come so close to dying at an early age, it was important to me to lead a meaningful life, and working in education for 40 years has done that for me,” he reveals.

Mr. Paikowski’s road to the GC campus has involved many twists and turns and a few detours along the way. After dropping out of Sul Ross University in Alpine, Texas, after a year and a half, where he had earned a baseball scholarship, the military called.

With the Vietnam War in full swing, all branches of the military were in need of many new recruits. However, the Army had something the other branches didn’t have: the draft. Back in those days, one could join the Air Force, the Marines, the Navy, the Coast Guard or even the Army for varying lengths of tours, usually at least four (4) years. Or, a young man could get drafted for two (2) years.

Not having the college deferment any longer and not enlisting in any of the other branches, Gary soon received his Draft Notice and was dispatched to Ft. Polk, Louisiana for both Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training. With a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 11B, (Infantry), Gary joined thousands of other young men in the long-running Vietnam Conflict/War. An Infantry MOS rating practically assured a soldier of an un-enviable place in the middle of the action, and in Gary Paikowski’s case, it most certainly did.

The singular event that altered Gary’s life, his attitude and his personal philosophy occurred on an early morning of December 3, 1968, when Gary and 99 other members of the U. S. Army’s 1st Cavalry Division were dropped into a small clearing bordered by trees and brush. Unknown to them at the time, they soon learned they were surrounded by their enemy, the Viet Cong. The noisy five-hour battle began at 10:45 that morning, and the gunfire was continuous until almost 4 p.m. that same afternoon.

With 23 of them killed in action and 55 wounded, including Gary, all of them thought this was the end for each of them. They all knew the situation was about as bleak as it could be. Suffering severe leg wounds, he lay there in the middle of the gun battle, listening to the awful sounds of his buddies experiencing pain and death.

But a miracle happened that day, and the fighting ceased before dark. Gary and the others were rescued by helicopters, but his combat days were over. Had they been still there after dark, Gary is certain they would have been overrun, and there would have been no survivors.

Following a long surgical and rehabilitation process, including a full year wearing a body cast in a non-air conditioned hospital room, Gary was medically discharged from the Army as a Specialist 4th Class. He returned to school at Eastfield College and then to North Texas State University, where he eventually earned a Master’s degree in Library Science. After a very successful stint at the Denison Public

Library, Gary was recruited to Grayson College by its second president, Dr. Truman Wester, to be the Director of the College Library, a position he began in August 1978, which was followed by his tenure as Dean of Information Technology. Now, forty years later, he is the Vice President of Information Technology and working for the fifth President of Grayson College, Dr. Jeremy McMillen.

Throughout Gary’s tenure in the field of Information Technology, he has always been in the forefront of technology training while providing key leadership to faculty and staff regarding the operating and networking systems on campus. His highly skilled Information Technology team is responsible for all of the on-campus communications and telephone systems, the computer hardware and software that is in all of the offices and classrooms, as well as developing the computerized systems that are used by all faculty and students on a daily basis.

The success of Gary’s team is such that it is being used by a software vender in a nationwide campaign to over 300 U.S. and Canadian colleges, showing what a Technology Department can do. Grayson College could have bought the software program for its new Student Planner, but Gary and his team spent six months building GC’s own program, a remarkable accomplishment.

When asked how things are different now from when he arrived all those years ago, Gary laughingly said, “Well, when I started here, the college name had 3 C’s in it (Grayson County Community College). In addition to that, he has worked under the leadership of 4 of the 5 Grayson College presidents that Grayson has had over the last 50 years. Most notable, Gary stated that even though he’s been at Grayson for forty years, the last four or five years have been the most rewarding, probably due to the challenges that he and his team have successfully met. One thing Gary learned all those years ago in the Army was “not to ever, ever give up --all problems can be overcome”. He certainly knows that to be true in his case.

So, the next time you see Gary, take a moment and thank him for his many years of service and contributions to Grayson College. But also, tell him something he might not have heard back in 1968: “Welcome Home from Vietnam, Specialist Paikowski. Thank you for your service.”



Gary Paikowski!, V.P. of Information Technology and U.S. Army veteran

## Continued from Page 2: The Relevance of Print in the Digital Age

In addition, print books have been known to engage readers more effectively than e-books, both mentally and emotionally. In a study conducted by Anne Mangen of Stavenger University in Norway, it was shown that printed books are more immersive than their digital counterpart. After having half of the participants read an emotional story on an iPad while the other half read the same story in print, it was found that those reading in print were more empathetically engaged and overall more immersed in the story than those reading digitally (Flood).

Print books also entice more sentiment in a reader. An article written by Barrie Smith, a writer for Voxburner, which is an organization that strives to share accurate statistics about young consumers, explains how sixty-two percent of sixteen to twenty-four-year-olds prefer to buy print over digital. The reasoning is as Smith states, “There is less affection towards electronic versions of books. Whereas age is shown in the spine of each book – and commitment by the size of one’s bookshelf – digital files have no distinguishing characteristic.” Print books inspire nostalgia, serving as a reminder of a time in a reader’s life. They can also be a sentimental gift from a loved one or passed down through generations. These characteristics make print much more personal and immersive than e-books.

The idea that printed books are much more expensive than e-books is an illusion. E-books are not worth the prices they are being listed for. E-books cost practically nothing to produce and send to any device, while printed books require materials, time, and someone to deliver them to a store or reader. Therefore, it makes sense that there be a price difference; in fact the price difference should be much more. Then why are e-books so expensive?

According to Rundy Purdy, author of multiple novels and essays, the reasons are fear and greed. Publishing companies know that if they keep the prices slightly lower than that of print books, people will buy books digitally, even if they are not worth that price. In addition, the prices of e-books are marked up so that the market for print does not diminish, as it could if publishers gave all e-books away for free.

Another reason that e-books will never take over the reading market is the cost of e-readers. The cost of a digital reader is too much for most consumers to make up for with e-book purchases. For the average reader, who only reads about 5-10 books a year, the cost of an e-reader cannot be made up for by the time it would need to be replaced (Purdy).

Finally, studies have shown that print books allow readers to retain more of what they read than an e-reader. One study was conducted at West Chester University, where middle school students were tested by giving half of the students something to read on an e-reader and giving the other half the same thing in print. They then asked what the students had learned from the text and found that those reading in print were able to better recall what they had read. The professor stated that the problem with e-books is the “flashy gimmicks ... and ability to wander from the text” (Walker). E-books grab the readers’ attention but do not hold their concentration as well as a print book.

Another study was conducted by Mangen of Stavenger University as a continuation of the experiment mentioned previously. In this study, fifty people read the same short story, half digitally and half on paper. They were then asked to reconstruct the story in chronological order. Those reading in print were found to perform significantly better on these tests than those reading on an e-reader. Mangen suggests, “The haptic and tactile feedback of a Kindle does not provide the same support for mental reconstruction of a story as a print pocket book does” (qtd. in Flood). These tests, as well as others that have been performed in the last few years, have shown time and

time again that information is better retained when read in a print format.

Some may argue that e-books are superior to print and will one day take over the reading industry. For example, Nancy K. Herther predicts in her article “Ebooks Herald the Future of 21st-Century Publishing” that the “enhanced reading experience” created by integrating moving pictures and interactive activities into digital books will prove print obsolete. She also suggests that print books will fade out of the mainstream when they cease to make money, telling of how many publishers -- especially those who specialize in children’s literature - have already shifted their focus away from print and towards interactive reading apps and these enhanced books. Some other common arguments in favor of e-books over print are that they are smaller and more customizable.

In some ways, these claims are true; e-books can be effective learning tools when they are well-integrated with interactive features. Additionally, e-readers could be a more practical option when one is forced to travel light or in the case of someone with eye problems, who might benefit from the customizable fonts. However, the advantages of print books far outweigh the benefits provided by e-books. The long history and learning benefits of print books make it highly unlikely that they will ever be overtaken by the digital media.

Print books have been the main source of educational and pleasure reading for centuries, and they should remain so even in this Digital Age. Choosing to read print over digital books alleviates technology issues, improves sleep quality and overall health, emotionally engages readers, is more cost-effective, and encourages information retention. Ultimately, it is up to readers to make informed decisions about their reading choices and keep print relevant in the future.

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# Financial Tips for New College Students: Part 2

By Pamela Davis, Financial Aid Advisor III

As a new college student, tracking your finances can be put on the back burner for homework, studying or hanging out with friends. However, there are some financial tips that could help you during your college years.

## Stay away from unnecessary debt

As a college student, the most important thing you need to focus on is your studies and earning that degree. However, a lot of younger adults get involved with unnecessary consumer debt. Taking out this type of debt at an earlier age while your funds are limited is a quick way to get into severe debt that will affect your overall credit. This kind of debt includes furniture loans, car loans and in-store credit cards. When you take out these loans and cards, you need to pay the bills on time and regularly, which might not be achievable in your current financial state. It's always better to make sacrifices when you're younger than paying for debt consequences when you're older.

## Create better daily spending habits

You've probably heard the phrase "If you cut your weekly coffee spending, you could save money," and these types of spending habits are good ones to take on. Since you're younger and taking on new financial responsibilities, it's always best practice to form good spending habits.

If you don't create better daily spending habits, you let your decision-making become lazy or halfhearted. If you don't have a big enough reason to buy an item, it's likely a poor financial decision to spend that money.

These kind of bad habits lead to poor financial decisions that have you spending all of your budgeted money well before your income comes in.

## Use Internet banking technology

You might find yourself in a much better situation if you use Internet banking to manage your finances. With Internet banking, you can look at your checking account while on the go and pay better attention to your funds while you're not at home and in front of a computer.

By using your smartphone to receive account balance updates and payment reminders for any credit cards, you'll be on top of your finances.

If you still have any questions on how to best financially plan your time at college, come in and talk to one of our expert bankers. <https://www.landmarkbank.com/blogs>



## Health Science Information Sessions Health Science Building

*Nursing – Irma Blackburn Lecture Center*

- May 8th 12-1:00 p.m.
- May 22nd 4-5:00 p.m.
- June 12th 12-1:00 p.m.
- June 26th 4-5:00 p.m.
- July 10th 12-1:00 p.m.
- July 24th 4-5:00 p.m.
- August 14th 12-1:00 p.m.

*Dental Assisting – HS 205*

- May 17th 4-5:00 p.m.
- June 21st 4-5:00 p.m.
- July 12th 12-1:00 p.m.
- July 26th 4-5:00 p.m.
- Aug 9th 12-1:00 p.m.

*Radiology Tech – HS 200*

3rd Wednesday of Each Month @ 1:00 p.m.  
(Excluding August & December)

Advising:  
**Becki Rathfon [rathfonb@grayson.edu](mailto:rathfonb@grayson.edu)**  
**903-415-2623**



## Annual Texoma Veterans Resources EXPO

*Saturday, September 29, 2018*

# Get Going with Student Support Services

By Pamela Polk, Director of Student Support Services

As you plan and register for your summer and fall semesters, check out the support that comes with being a member of Student Support Services (SSS).

Student Support Services is one of the Trio Programs, the college-level continuation of Upward Bound, and Talent Search SSS serves as a support system for students who would like assistance with tutoring, degree planning, printing free-of-charge for classes, budgeting and financial literacy information, leadership development, and university-transfer preparation.

Active SSS students are also eligible to go on trips to universities and to cultural events and venues. For the months of March and April 2018, Grayson College Student Support Services activities included: A tour of Austin College (see picture); a tour of STEM jobs available at the Emerson Process Management facility in Sherman; a tour of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas; a resume and interviewing workshop presented by Gretchen Huff; and a tour of the University of Texas at Dallas.

All trips, activities, and accompanying lunches are free of charge to SSS



Student Support Services tour Austin College

participants who have completed the required workshops and visits with SSS advisors. Interested students may fill out the SSS application on the Grayson website, or visit the SSS Office in the Grayson Advising Office. For more information, phone or email Brooke Ross at 903/463-8603 or [rossb@grayson.edu](mailto:rossb@grayson.edu), or Corwin Ransom at 903/415-2570 or [ransomc@grayson.edu](mailto:ransomc@grayson.edu).

# GC Alumni Visit the Veteran Services Offices and Veterans' Hub

By Tommy Ellis, Project Coordinator, Center of Excellence for Veteran Student

Craig Greenwood, Veteran Students Benefits Advisor at Grayson College, provided an update of the Forever GI Bill and explanation of current student veteran benefits to visitors at the recent Alumni Spring Back to Grayson event. On Saturday, April 21, the Veteran Services Office and the Veteran's Hub were on the tour of campus sites to visit by alumni, many of whom had not been on campus in many, many years. All visitors were openly pleased and impressed with the many services and activities, as well as the accommodations that Grayson College provides for its student veterans.

Craig Greenwood explains student veteran benefits at Alumni Open House, April 21, 2018





# Savory Southwestern Menu Polishes Off 691 Restaurant

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor

Sadly, Wednesday, May 2 was the Six Ninety One Restaurant's last day of service for the spring semester. The yummy southwestern menu featured a Texas Chopped Salad, Southwestern Seafood Chowder, Fried Green Tomatoes, Pulled Pork Quesadillas, New York Strip Steaks, and Chocolate Cake.

This year was restaurant manager Jeremy Hudson's first as an adjunct professor. While a bit apprehensive at the beginning, not being a teacher by trade, Hudson has enjoyed watching his students "learn the craft" of the restaurant business and what customers are looking for. He has tried to emphasize the importance of restaurant "ambiance" to his students—how a restaurant feels (temperature and warmth), including the role of lighting and music. He's also stressed the need for attention to cleanliness of the restaurant as well as proper etiquette.

Several of his graduating students told Hudson they were leery of dealing so closely with the public at the beginning of the semester, but 8 weeks later, they're much more confident about speaking with restaurant guests as well as handling the physical demands of restaurant service. Hudson is especially pleased that his students are more conscious when they visit restaurants of the amount of effort required to create a memorable experience for the guest.

Six Ninety One will be back in late August for the fall semester. But instead of lunch service, it will open Tuesdays and Thursdays for dinner. According to Lead Chef Instructor Joanna Bryant, this switch is necessary every two years so that culinary arts students who take only night classes can graduate.

For more information on Grayson's Culinary Arts program, contact Joanna Bryant at 903.463.8654 or [BryantJ@grayson.edu](mailto:BryantJ@grayson.edu).



Pulled Pork Quesadillas were delicious and tastefully presented!

# Leonard High School Golf Team Plays Well After a Rocky Start

By Austin Lewis, Student

Over the past couple of months the Leonard High School golf team has been busy competing at tournaments around north Texas. The season felt unbelievably short this year because several of the first tournaments, like the one at Emory, were canceled due to inclement weather. But, nonetheless, we were able to begin the season on the third scheduled tournament at Webb Hill Country Club in Wolfe City.

The first tournament was a rough one with everyone shooting way above what they are capable of. The boy's best player, Blake Morgan said, "Wow glad that one's over," at the tournament's close. All of the players were excited to have the first tournament out of the way. Coach Greg Connelly explained to the players that we all needed some improvement. He said the boys should have an opportunity to compete well at district.

The next three tournaments were at Stone Creek in Sherman, which was to be our district course as well. The tournament-preceding district went well, and all of the players were able to knock several strokes off their scores, prompting Christian McCartney to exclaim, "Wow I wish I could play like that every time!"

At the district tournament, it was a cold morning, and everyone was nervous. Coach told us to just play Leonard Golf, and have some fun out there. So, with that being said, we took the course and played our game. As some of the first players began to finish who had waited for what seemed like days to see the results, it was found that we would be sending one boy and two girls to the next round. But, there was a catch: in order to send our number one boy player, he had to play in a playoff round of golf (which is played on one hole and the best score wins). Morgan said, "I've never been so nervous in my life, and I really hope I do not mess up." With not much time to think, they called him to the tee box, and he hit a monster drive. He proceeded to beat his other two competitors competing for a playoff spot. He was absolutely elated to have finally made it to regionals.

Speaking to Coach Connelly afterwards was quite the treat. He was so happy because the previous two years he had had only had one player make regionals, and now he had three. Sadly, the three that made regionals did not advance to state, but for two of the regional qualifiers they will



Front row (L-R): Remi Long, Maddy Bryant, Ashley Klaus, Charley Ashworth  
Middle Row (L-R): Aaron Bennett, Bryce Baker, Blake Morgan, Ty Ashworth  
Back Row (L-R): Coach Greg Connelly, Alexa Rhone, Austin Lewis, Maddy Reaves, Jessi Smoot, Christain McCartney, Madison Michaud

have a shot again next year. So, needless to say Leonard golf is poised to have a great team next year.

The Leonard golf team is set to have a great year next year too. Connelly said he is ready to finally get the whole team out of district play and move on to regionals. One of his biggest goals is to win a state championship with his whole team and not just an individual. Connelly also stated that he believes that he some great golf talent coming up from the 8th grade class that might be able to bring Leonard golf to the next level.

# Tips for Paying off Your Student Loans

By Pamela Davis, Financial Advisor III

Graduating from college can be a bittersweet moment for some adults as they get the sudden realization they'll have to start making payments on their deferred student loans.

With some individual debt amounts reaching into the tens of thousands of dollars, it is not surprising if the prospect of tackling such a large number seems daunting - especially if you haven't secured a full-time job yet.

Luckily, federal student loans and some private lenders offer a grace period following graduation to give you some time to get on your feet. This is a great time to employ some strategies for how you're going to pay off your debt.

## Here are seven tips to get you started:

- 1. Know your loan information.** When you're about to finish college, you're required to partake in exit counseling for federal student loans. This training session lets you know how much you'll owe and some options for repayment. It also includes a calculator for determining your monthly payments under different plans. Make sure you know how much you owe and what your bills will look like once it's time to start repaying.
- 2. Create a budget.** With your loan details handy, get to work on a budget for life after college. If you don't have a full-time job already, you can check salary information online to determine the average starting pay rate for your field. Determine how much of your income will go to your loan payments each month and see where you'll have to make sacrifices.
- 3. Set up income-based payments.** This is one type of repayment plan that is tied to how much you earn. It keeps your payments within a reasonable figure so you're not struggling each month.
- 4. Start paying early.** Although deferment and grace periods are a relief, consider making your first payments before these periods are over. This reduces the amount of interest you pay over the life of the loan.
- 5. Set up automatic payments.** This step can not only help you make sure you're current on your payments, but it may also earn you a discount. Some lenders may be willing to lower your interest rate if you have automatic payments.
- 6. Make bi-monthly payments.** If possible, cut your lender a check twice a month to pay off your debt faster.
- 7. Save money.** Practice smart spending habits to keep more money in your checking account at the end of the month after paying your bills. This will leave more breathing room in your budget.



# The Art Corner

Articles by Kristin Vilbig, Professor of Art; Art by Students



## Trashion V

The Grayson College Visual Arts Department, in conjunction with the 2018 Texoma Earth Day Festival, organized a runway fashion show consisting of apparel created from recycled materials on April 21, 2018 at the Sherman Municipal Grounds. Artists used discarded, unwanted, and leftover materials, recycling these materials into high-fashion designs. Whether by dumpster diving, closet raiding or waste bin wading, these artists sought to re-envision refuse and unlock the potential of unwanted items. Trashion apparel was not limited to garments, but also included accessories and jewelry. From tutus to ball gowns and three-piece suits to swimwear, the sky was the limit.

This "Trashion Show" was a delight to the environmentally conscious as well as to creative types, as the designers explored the possibilities of garbage garments and cast-off couture. One man's trash is another man's treasure trove of creative potential.

For more information about the Grayson College Visual Art Department's events, please visit their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/GraysonCollegeVisualArtsDepartment>



Sydney Cleveland and Makenzie Barror with their companion



Eamon Keefer-McGee, Rita Casavantes, Jesse Lucian, Eli Keefer-McGee, and two tiny models at Trashion

## Dada...Sounds Like Nonsense to Me...

From time to time, everyone feels that the world just doesn't make sense. This feeling is certainly more intense during times of tragedy, suffering, and conflict. Seeing innocent people suffer or experience great loss leaves one grappling with the question "Why?"

Artists in Europe in 1915, confronted with the tragedy, suffering and conflict of WWI, began to respond to that question of "Why?" Their response became an art movement called "Dada," a nonsense word, reflecting the ideas of the movement's artists. These artists, including Hannah Hoch and Marcel DuChamp, felt that rationality and intellectualism were, among other things, a cause for the war. Carefully negotiated treaties and colonial empires, designed to unify and govern, had failed to bring the peace they promised. Rather, the world found itself in a state of chaos and war.

Dada artists chose to reject rationalism, logic, order, and traditional conventions in order to search for an aesthetic, a set of ideas pertaining to the visual world, that embraces chaos, was not concerned with a traditional notion of beauty and that did not make sense.

One of the most iconographic images from the Dada Art Movement is *Cut with the Kitchen Knife, Dada through the Last Weimar Beer Belly Cultural Epoch of Germany* by Hannah Hoch. In this work, Hannah employs a technique called "photomontage," a technique where the artist uses photographic images from media sources, disassembles them by cutting before reorganizing and reassembling them in a collage.

By reassembling media images, Hannah is questioning the notion that the media presents a truth in a universal sense and suggests that the way we perceive an event is subjective. Within her work, there are images of acrobats juggling their own heads, tutu-ed ballerinas' bodies with male heads, men in military uniforms, various African animals, and mechanical wheels, gears and bearings. There is no underlying structure or sense of order to the placement of the cut images; they are not arranged in a way as to appear "beautiful," but rather a chaotic mass of confusing images. She is questioning

established gender norms by combining male and female figures while creating an image that is not narrative but, rather, associative, examining how one element of the work relates to the others. This work, and the ideas it explores, was radical; in fact it was so contrary to the established societal norms that the Nazi party deemed her work to be degenerate.

In the Dada Dolls exhibit at Grayson College, artists explored both the techniques and ideas of the Dada Movement. Donna Dennington's work *Not Always the Bridesmaid* is a large ant-like figure constructed with irregular black painted tree branches for arms and legs, a sharp circular saw eye, wearing a soft tulle dress and carrying a mesh lantern of blue glowing lights. The title suggests a commentary on traditional gender roles and expectations while the materials the artist used are "collaged" non-traditional sculpture materials.

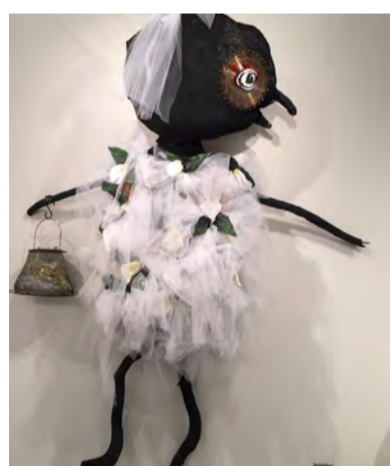
Amber Washington's *Pretty Women* uses beads, jewelry and other adornments used to make women beautiful to create a sculptural form of a woman who is not beautiful. The figure refuses to be contained by the rigid and bold black lines of the frame and appears to float impossibly on a surface of glass.

This "pretty woman" stretches her arms and legs to the edges of the frame, almost cruciform, from the mass of pearls, beads, stones and metal chain that form her dress. The face of the figure appears as if it is the inside of a mask, taking the impression of a face that is no longer there, leaving the viewer questioning their own physical point of view.

Eamon Keefer McGee's *Journal Entry 1, 2, and 3* uses empty paint tubes to create figures encased in glass jars that are labeled with the text from a journal entry. These paint-tube figures have wire arms and legs, an upside down paint tube body and a cap for a head. The hand-written journal entries pasted to the exterior of the jars leave the viewer pondering if they were written by or about the paint-tube creatures. The sealed jars are microcosms which the viewer is able to observe at a safe distance, exploring ideas and values of a unique creature and their world.



Amber Washington's *Pretty Women*



Donna Dennington's *Not Always the Bridesmaid*

## Grayson College Year-End Student Exhibition

Currently on view at the 2nd Floor Gallery is The Grayson College Year-End Student Art Exhibition, a juried show featuring works by GC Visual Arts students currently enrolled in the art program or taking an art studio class in the Spring 2018 semester. The Grayson art students have submitted their best work to highlight their artistic efforts over the past year.

Students were permitted to submit work in any media, so the show has a variety paintings, drawings, sculpture, and ceramics. There was also no restriction on theme, so the show exhibits a large variety in both style and content with work ranging from still-life and landscape to surrealism and fantasy. With such variety, there is something for everyone and plenty of opportunity for discussion.

The Grayson College Year-End Student Art Exhibit is currently on display at the Grayson College 2nd Floor Gallery located on the first floor in the Arts and Communications Building, on Grayson College's Main Campus and runs through May 11, 2018. The 2nd Floor Gallery is open 9am - 3pm, Monday through Friday or by appointment. The closing reception and awards ceremony for the Year-End Student Show will be held on May 4th 6:30 - 8pm, with awards being announced at 7:15pm.

For more information about the Grayson College Visual Arts Department, upcoming show and events, follow us on Facebook, Grayson College Visual Arts Department.



Eamon Keefer-McGee's *I Don't Know That Guy*



Jessica Neihardt's ceramic *Odd Fellows*



(L-R), Terisa Wilson's *Home Sweet Home*, Jamy Miller's *Mature Blossom*, Jamy Miller's *Eyes in the Plum*