

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Volume X, Issue III

Get Involved

Viking Deadline

Friday, March 30th

Send all submissions to the editor, Morgan Bryant, at MoBryant@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 & Communications

Cosmetology Club

Mondays bi-weekly
3:30 - 4:30 p.m., CTC

Cultural Diversity Club

First and third Wednesdays
1 - 2 p.m., Int'l Student Office

DAAC

Fridays, 12:45 p.m., HS 202

Delta Phi Delta (Art)

First Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m.
Design Room
Arts & Communications

Dental Assisting Club

Wednesdays, 11:30 - 12 p.m.
HS 205

Electrical

Technology Club

TBA
Contact Aimee Flynn
903-463-8684

Eta Sigma Delta

First Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Culinary Arts Building

FCA

TBA

Future Educators

Every other Tuesday
12:20 - 12:50 p.m., CIS 200

Gamers Guild

First Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.
Design Room,
Arts & Communications

Grayson Nursing Student Association

Wednesday or Friday
11:30 a.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)

Second and fourth Tuesday
12:20 - 12:45 p.m., LA 108

History Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.
LA 207, Liberal Arts

Honors College Club

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.
Viking Room, Life Center

HVACR Club

First Thursdays
5:30 p.m.
CTC Room 117

LEA

(Criminal Justice)

Tuesdays
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Location TBA

Men of Distinction

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

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GC Student Vets Now Part of Eisenhower Memorial History

(L-R) Chris Gonzales, Ashley Mathis, Amber Rogers, Prof. Howard Day and William Thompson



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

Members of the local chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) were recently updated about a new presidential memorial currently under construction in Washington, D. C.. This update came from this area's leading expert on the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Memorial, Professor Howard Day.

Mr. Day, a retired U.S. Army NCO and faculty member at Grayson College, is also the Official Texas Ambassador for the Eisenhower Memorial. He was guest presenter at the March 21, 2018 noon meeting of the SVA in the Veterans' Hub and relayed "personal thanks" from the Eisenhower Commission to the GC veterans' organization for their contribution to the \$150 million project.

The local club's recent fundraising allowed the group to be the first and only student veteran organization to make a contribution and become listed on the permanent "virtual donor" wall on the Memorial's website. In fact, the Grayson College Student Veterans Association is the only contributor from the entire Grayson County area to make a donation.

Since President Eisenhower was born in Denison, the GC group of student veterans felt it their duty to raise funds and

contribute to this rare and historical event honoring Grayson County's most revered veteran. The West Point graduate who became the Supreme Allied Commander during World War II, General Eisenhower led the allied armies to victory and freedom for much of Europe.

Mr. Day explained the lengthy and difficult process that was years and years in the making of this well-deserved and long-overdue memorial, but it eventually had its groundbreaking in November of 2017. Details of this monumental undertaking can be found on the official website (www.EisenhowerMemorial.gov), and by accessing the live-cam, one can monitor the actual construction progress.

The student veterans at this club meeting were surprised to learn that President Eisenhower was the driving force behind the Interstate Highway System that we all use and benefit from on a daily basis. Equally surprising, as Mr. Day pointed out, were the tactical and homeland security applications that this highway system affords. An interesting side-bar that Day also provided pertained to the location of the memorial: adjacent to the U. S. Dept. of Education, an agency that came into being under the leadership of then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Grayson's Professor Pawel Goral: He Never Gets Tired of "Cowboys and Indians"

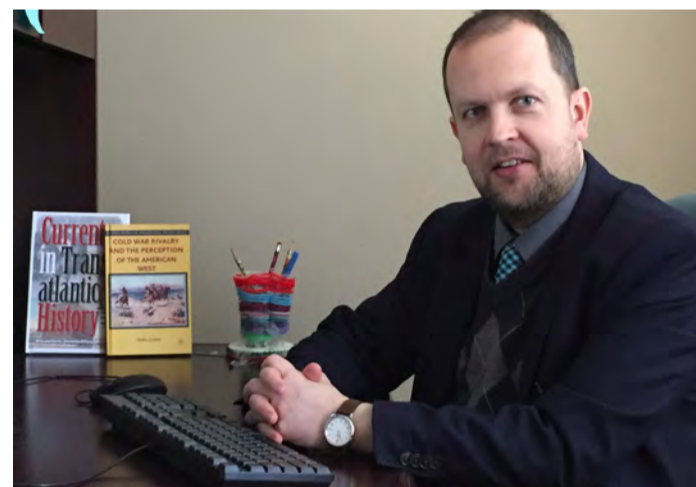
By Marlea Trevino, English Professor

Grayson College Professor Pawel Goral fell in love with Cowboys and Indians as a boy growing up during the 1980's in communist Poland. The American West--frontier, freedom, and individualism--continue to inspire Goral and comprise the focus of his ongoing research.

Goral has lived in Texas now half his life. "This might seem surprising, but there is nothing I particularly miss about Poland," Goral admits, aside from the beaches, which "are really beautiful, though quite crowded in summers." Raised in the Catholic Polish capital of Czestochowa (pronounced "Chestahova"), he followed an American woman he met in Europe to the United States in "a love story with a still-happy ending." Like many of our Grayson students, he worked full time and put himself through college, realizing his dream: to study American history and government in America.

Pursuing his dream

"I always wanted to be an educator," Goral reveals, but it was as an undergraduate at The University of Texas that he determined to enroll in graduate school with the goal of



"Cowboys and Indians, anyone?" Grayson History/Government Professor Pawel Goral ropes in colleagues and students to discuss the American West

becoming a college professor. His other dream of becoming a writer was realized when his Ph.D. dissertation was accepted for publication as a book.

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Phi Theta Kappa Brings Home #1 Ranking from the Texas Regional Convention

By Lavada Burse, Staff Writer

Grayson College's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, Omicron Psi, recently traveled to Houston to attend its annual Texas Regional Convention. In addition to being a government professor and chapter advisor, Mary Linder also serves as the Texas Regional Coordinator and led this year's event. The traveling group consisted of chapter officers, a student guest, alumni, and co-advisor, Dr. Molly Harris.

This annual event is to honor and recognize the achievements of each chapter and its members, as well as provide opportunities to network, attend informational workshops, and celebrate educational milestones with Phi Theta Kappa members from across the state. This year's event also included a trip to Houston's NRG Stadium for the rodeo, followed by a concert featuring American country singer and Nashville Star winner Chris Young. The conclusion of the event was a gala and awards ceremony.

Omicron Psi returned to Grayson College with a combined total of eleven individual and chapter awards including the following: Five Star Rating in the Chapter Development Plan (highest rating available); District II Hall of Honor, Students: Brittani Welch, Ashik Khulal, Bradley Presson, Edlain Ondo; Hall of Honor for Members, Ashik Khulal; Hall of Honor for Officers, Edlain Ondo; Hall of Honor for College Administrators, Dr. Chase Machen; Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Dr. Molly Harris; Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team, Dr. Molly Harris & Mary Linder; College Project Award of Merit; Honors in Action Award of Distinction- Theme 3: Rights & Responsibilities (top scoring project for Theme 3 in the Region); Honors in Action Award of Distinction (top scoring project in the Region); and Most Distinguished Chapter (highest scoring chapter in the Region, out of 91 Texas chapters).

Next on the Phi Theta Kappa agenda is the international convention, PTK Catalyst, to be held in Kansas City, MO from April 19-21, 2018. This convention will also observe the Society's 100th anniversary. Rebecca Foster-Gillespie, currently Director of Committees and former Texas District II Vice President, will be seeking the office of International President. The chapter will be actively campaigning for her during the convention.

Anyone wanting more information about Phi Theta Kappa membership or community and campus involvement is invited to attend weekly meetings held each Wednesday at 12:30p.m. in the Viking Room of the Life Center (next door to GC Perks).



Phi Theta Kappa members accepting award at regional convention

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.
Libraty, Study Room 5

Please report incorrect listings to the editor:
Morgan Bryant
MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu.

Texas Women Are the Face of Poverty

Editorial By Debra Haggin, Staff Writer

Poverty is a condition where basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter are not being met. Everyone has worth and everyone deserves to discover their full potential. Everyone deserves access to basic necessities like nutrition, housing, education, and health care. Yet statistics show, through research at Austin Community Foundation (austincf.org), that Texas women are the face of poverty.

Women's status in the U.S. as a whole consistently lags behind men's. Despite some progress in recent decades, women earn less than men, experience higher poverty rates than their counterparts, face specific adverse health conditions, and remain underrepresented in political offices across the nation, with wide variation by state, race/ethnicity, age, and immigration status.

Increasingly the economic security of today's families rests on the shoulders of women. Two thirds of mothers are either sole breadwinners, primary breadwinners, or co-breadwinners (earning 25-49% of their partner's salary). With this increased responsibility to bring income into the household, the reality is that women are earning less money and have less opportunity to build assets for retirement and long-term financial security. Much of that insecurity is related to systemic factors created before women were a major source of economic stability for families.

The cost of poverty is carried by more than the poor. It robs society of productive potential. It wastes money on ineffective programs. It silences the voices of those with the most to say. It's time to examine personal decisions, policies put in place by private and public institutions, and economic relationships to determine their effects on those in need. It's time to change the system to give people a secure path out of poverty. It makes sense economically and it makes sense morally to work towards a solution. Let's open our minds, hearts, and voices, so we, the people, can change the conversation about Texas women's being the face of poverty.

March For Our Lives?

Editorial by William Leo, Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice

I have been watching political activists, opportunists, and the mainstream media put on display the children who were traumatized by the act of a madman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. This is their opportunity to use a protected group to carry their anti-gun message. No one dares to challenge the children's motives or their message to eliminate an entire class of popular firearms or perhaps eliminate the private ownership of firearms.

The turning point for me was when I saw an anti-gun demonstration on the local news Saturday. A young man was carrying a sign that said "the NRA is ISIS" in downtown Sherman.

I am a Life Member of the NRA, I am an Army and Air Force veteran and have spent most of my life in law enforcement. I am a patriot, not a terrorist! I am a typical NRA member, along with most U.S. Presidents, including John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. I was taught gun safety by NRA instructors as a youth and trained by them to become a police firearms instructor. That is the NRA.

Let's look at some facts that are conveniently missing from the protestors' knee-jerk reaction to a horrible crime. Where does the AR-15 rifle fit into society and crime?

The most complete United States crime statistics available are from 2016.

Murders*:	17,250
Murder using firearms*:	3,609
Murders using all rifles including AR-15's*:	374
Murders using hand/fists/feet*:	656

*FBI, UCR 2016 at FBI.Gov.

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English Word of the Month: Gadzookery (n)

[gad-zoo-ker-ee]

Definition:

The use/overuse of old or period-specific jargon

German Word of the Month: Bitte (adv)

[bit-uh]

Definition:

A word for "please," "thank you," "pardon," and "you're welcome."

Italian Word of the Month: Rocambolesca (adj)

[Row-cam-bol-ee-sca]

Definition:

Incredible, amazing, adventurous or romantic.



SpringFest 2018

Celebrate the End of the Semester!

Thursday, April 26, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Life Center Patio Under the Bridge
Sponsored by Student Life

Grayson College Theatre Presents *Scotland Road*

By Kealy Hicks, Staff Writer

On February 23-25, our Grayson College Theatre presented performances of *Scotland Road* by Jeffrey Hatcher in the Black Box Theatre on campus.

With a simple set design of a single chair and stool in the middle of the room and no more than six cast members, the production had many audience members on the edge of their seats -- wanting answers to the questions they already had, but only being left with more instead. It is the kind of production that hooks you in quickly with mystery and confusion and leaves you begging for more as you attempt to process the fast-paced, wordy script in the 75-minute time frame.

What is even more impressive is how Grayson's close-knit theatre family managed to rehearse the production to perfection in a matter of only three weeks, while also staying on top of their studies and participating in other school-related functions and activities. To say that Director Alison Trapp is proud of her students is certainly an understatement.

Four of Grayson's current theatre majors will be graduating this spring, three of whom have been accepted to universities such as, Midwestern, and other distinguished BFA programs.

Be that as it may, these soon-to-be graduates still have one last Grayson Theatre production to perform with their team. *Cinderella Confidential* by Eric Coble will be performed in the Cruce-Stark Auditorium on April 27th, 28th, & 29th -- all members of our community are encouraged and welcome to come! And if you are a current student at Grayson College, Grayson Theatre has made it clear that you do not have to be a theatre major to participate in the theatre productions. However, I have been warned that you may end up changing your major after working with this sensational group of individuals who, without a doubt, will be very successful in the future!



Cast members in costume for *Scotland Road*
Production Photographer: Mike Marlow

Continued from Page 1 , Grayson's Professor Pawel Goral: He Never Gets Tired of "Cowboys and Indians"

Goral's dissertation—*Cold War Rivalry and the Perception of the American West: How Both the West and the East Played "Cowboys and Indians"*—compares American and European westerns. He also contributed a chapter about how the American West is portrayed and discussed in Polish movies and books to the recently published *Currents in Transatlantic History: Encounters, Commodities, and Identities*.

Transitioning to US education system

Goral feels it's easy for someone coming from Europe to the U.S. to adjust. He has not found the public education system much different, although children do walk sometimes-long distances to school in Poland rather than ride buses. The collegiate experience is quite similar, though the course of study itself significantly differs. Students focus from the beginning of their college tenure on their specialty, with the assumption that they have already completed foundational courses in high school. Their college course work, then, focuses almost exclusively on subjects related to their majors.

Encouraging students to get off the political sidelines

Goral finds his Grayson students are eager to learn about other cultures and ideas. He incorporates his background that sometimes entailed standing in line to get food and supplies during shortages into class discussions about capitalism.

"There are so many things I enjoy about teaching history and government. I especially enjoy the ability to offer a platform where different points of view can be presented and discussed," Goral expresses. He believes understanding government/history benefits college students in preparing them for their roles as engaged citizens and in helping them make sense of the issues of our world in 2018. "I think that is crucial," Goral affirms. "There are more than 13 million potential voters in Texas, and yet most young Americans these days remain on the political sidelines. We make the point in our classes that representative democracies cannot work effectively without the participation of informed citizens. Only well-informed and engaged citizens can influence policies to ensure that the government acts in their best interests."

Continued Success at South Campus LVN Program

The Texas Board of Nursing visited March 6 and 7, 2018 and found the program to be fulfilling a need in the local and surrounding community and to be offering robust curriculum. A continued full status approval was given.

A special thank you to **Mika Pierce, Lisa Fair, Amanda Green, Melinda Howard, Vickie Ramsey, Beverly Berni and Debbie Paveloff** on their hard work and success.

FOCUSED ON YOUR SUCCESS



Beginning Fall 2018, 16 week semesters will be replaced by 8-week terms for most programs.



Late Night Lasagna Feed & Outdoor Movie

Wednesday, April 11th

Meal: Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi screening: 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Student Life

The "MeToo" and "Times Up" Movements: Part of Women's History Month at Grayson Library

By Shalene White

It is most likely common knowledge that every year, March marks Women's History Month. In 1981, Congress passed Public Law 97-28. This allowed President Ronald Reagan to proclaim March 7 through March 13 as "Women's History Week."

This new proclamation gained speed within the next 5 years, and Congress continued to pass joint resolutions. After being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Public Law 100-9, proclaiming the entire month of March as "Women's History Month."

Library Director Lisa Hebert said Women's History is important on all ends of the spectrum. "We know, we see, and we learn how the women before us made the world a better place."

Library Technician Rachel Schroeder said it is about more than just history. "Women's History, it's OUR HISTORY," Schroeder said. "It is the women who fought for us with their inventions and determination. They didn't do it for the recognition; they did it for us so we could have things such as birth control, home security systems, and residential solar heating. We are giving them the recognition they deserve."

Since 2017, there have been two other social movements sweeping the nation: the #metoo and #timesup movements.

Even though the #metoo movement was pulled into the limelight when actress Alyssa Milano used the hashtag on her Twitter account to give a voice to women who have been sexually assaulted, it was actually created more than a decade earlier by an unknown civil rights activist.

Tarana Burke created the original #metoo movement when Twitter was just a fledgling social platform. In 1997, a 13-year-old girl told Burke about being sexually abused. Burke was so upset by the young girl's account, that she could not find her own voice, not even to echo the story with "me too."

This encounter weighed on Burke for quite some time, and she knew she had to do something. That is when "Me Too" was born. Burke started a non-profit organization called Just Be Inc. The organization assists victims of sexual harassment and assault.

Alexis Moncier, a Grayson freshman studying Respiratory Therapy, said this movement was needed. "This movement means an outlet for silenced voices to finally have their experiences heard," Moncier said. "This chain reaction is giving power to all the men and women that have been silenced for way too long to come out against their attacker and know they are not alone and have support."

Moncier said she has a deep connection with this movement, and it will hopefully help shift the tide in victims being afraid to speak out. "I have my own #metoo story from when I was just 8 years old," Moncier said. "This movement will help change a lot of injustice in our society."

Close on the heels of the reigniting of the #metoo movement, Alianza Nacional Campesinas wrote a letter of solidarity exposing the sexual abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein. The letter was published in *Time* magazine and shined a light on assault and harassment among female farmworkers, numbering more than 700,000 women.

In response to the letter and the sexual assault allegations nationwide, *Time* magazine announced #timesup. This new movement was in support of all the women, men, people of color and the LGBT community with limited access to media platforms to speak up about harassment.

This movement allocated a \$13-million legal defense fund from the National Women's Law Center to support lower-income women seeking justice for sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. The movement

advocates for legislation to punish companies that allow persistent harassment. It also encouraged women on the red carpet at the 75th Golden Globe Awards to wear black and speak out about sexual harassment and assault.



Women's History Month display in Grayson Library

Grayson freshman and music major Jordan Somers said she wanted to add more to the time's up hashtag to make a valid point. "(Hashtag) time's been up for a while now," Somers said. "It's about time that someone stood up for the others that are too scared to."

Somers encourages others to help whenever possible. "Help someone find their voice, because this silence needs to end."

Hebert said the #timesup movement was an eye opener. "I realized something while talking to a few students and coworkers about the movement; every single woman had a story," Hebert said. "The only difference in the stories was the severity of each occurrence, but each one had experienced sexual harassment or assault at one point in their lives."

These movements are a saving grace for everybody who might be afraid of ridicule and persecution for telling their stories, Hebert said. "I noticed that every woman blamed themselves for the harassment or assault they endured. The importance of this movement is for victims to be able to open up and freely discuss these occurrences, to stop the degradation of women."

Laura Haworth, a librarian at Grayson, said the movements are about solidarity. "Speaking up as individuals and then speaking out as a group is the main point," Haworth said. "Supporters of those who are courageous enough to tell their story makes women in general stronger; a force to be reckoned with by all."

Grayson Library had several displays spotlighting Women's History Month, '#metoo' and '#timesup'. Besides a plethora of information to read, these displays also had some interactive components to assist victims. There was a display of dry erase boards that encouraged victims of abuse to anonymously tell their stories. There was also a table at the entrance of the library with hearts that allowed victims to simply say "me too."

Red, White, and Blue Military Awareness Program Helps Staff understand Student Vets

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

At Grayson College's recent Learning Day on Friday, March 23, GC faculty and staff were provided a presentation related to military awareness and student veterans. This portion of Learning Day was designed by Leon Deutsch, GC's Dean of Teaching and Learning, and Ashley Mathis, GC's Veterans Outreach Specialist, to "bridge the gap" of understanding between student veterans and faculty/staff.

The abbreviated version of the Red, White and Blue Military Awareness program aimed to acquaint GC personnel with particular military information and how it relates to student veterans in the classroom. With over 500 student veterans on campus at any given time, most classes will normally have student veterans in the mix. Consequently, it is felt that all faculty and staff who may deal with student veterans in any capacity be made aware of certain aspects of prior military experience and how it may manifest itself within the classroom or in a student veteran's behavior.

Mathis' presentation explained how student veterans' prior military experiences can bring many positive aspects to the classroom (punctuality, determination, teamwork, commitment, etc.), while other issues like PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and health-related matters may require the assistance of specialized professionals. Faculty and staff are encouraged to display "Red, White and Blue Recognition" magnets and/or stickers on their office doors or classrooms, signifying their understanding of student veteran issues and their willingness to assist student veterans.

At previous Learning Days (March 2017 and August 2017), the Red, White and Blue Military Awareness program was provided to over 150 staff in four different one-hour sessions. The accelerated version of the program on this Learning Day was preceded with a pre-test and followed up

with a post-test in compliance with the Department of Education's Center of Excellence grant requirements.

For more about the Red, White and Blue Military Awareness program, visit the Veteran Services Office on the 2nd Floor of Student Life Center,



Ashley Mathis presenting to GC faculty/staff

GC Main Campus or call 903.415.2632. Email at: veterans@grayson.edu

NOTE: The Red, White and Blue Military Awareness program is adapted from Southern Nazarene University's RWB version through a collaborative partnership and Memorandum of Understanding between SNU and GC.

Financial tips for new college students: Part I

By Pamela Davis, Financial Aid Advisor III

For those halfway through their first year of college or who plan to attend next year, there are some important things to consider besides where you'll do your laundry. College is often a great experience to live on your own and finally feel personal freedom. With this new lifestyle, you also have a responsibility to keep your finances in order, whether you're working part time or receiving help from loved ones through your checking account.

Understand you can't spend more than you earn

This seems like the most basic tip to follow, but many young people simply don't know how to properly budget to spend less than what they earn. If you're working a part-time job and know you can't afford a new

piece of apparel, video game or furniture, don't buy it. You should always be safe with credit and avoid wasting all of your money on some item that you truly don't need right away. You'll feel more satisfied when you can make the purchase with money you know you can spare.

Formulate an effective budget

While knowing how to spend your money is important, it's also necessary to create a realistic budget that will help you plan ahead in your college years. Budgets are important to follow and you have to be strict with what you plan.

You can set it to be as vigilant as a weekly budget or a monthly budget to help keep you on track. Review all the things that cost you money every single week or month, such as food, gas, phone service or rent. Once you have them written down, compare that list to the money that's coming into your checking account.

When you have a broad picture of your funds, it's smart to limit how much you need to save and what you can spend per month on something else that's not included on the list, like going to see a movie. Also, creating a smart budget will give you the best overview of how you are spending your money each day and month.

Grayson Springs Back

By Molly Harris, Assistant to the President

Spring Back to Grayson! The inaugural alumni event will take place Saturday, April 21.

Alumni from the first graduating class will be attending the festivities bringing back much of their memorabilia. Even if you did not graduate from Grayson you are an Alumnus if you attended any class at Grayson- ever!

The morning will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Cruce Stark Auditorium with a welcome from Board of Trustees Chair and 1967 graduate, Ronnie Cole, and comments from our president, Dr. Jeremy McMillen. The arts and theatre will be featured during the opening. Other tour stops include the Life Center, Veterans Hub, and Center for Workplace Learning. The Health Sciences area will demo the simulation mannequins and the ambulance. Criminal Justice, Welding, and Advanced Manufacturing will also provide demonstrations.

Lunch will include a cook-out and desserts by our award-winning culinary team. The afternoon will have the baseball team facing off against Hill College. Men's and women's basketball tryouts will be held on Saturday as well. The day will conclude with a time for networking and fellowship at Loose Wheels.

Register for the event at grayson.edu/alumni. A Facebook event has been created to provide an opportunity for camaraderie and reminiscing prior to the event. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting some new ones

For more information, contact Director of Annual Giving, Kathy Hendrick: hendrickk@grayson.edu or 903-463-8716.

CAREER CONNECTION

Texoma's Job Fair

Hilton Garden Inn

505 South US 75, Denison

Thursday, April 12th

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Looking for a job in the Texoma area? This is the place to be!

Be prepared:

- Wear your best
- Bring resumes
- Prepare for interviews
- Bring a pen



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.perezrivera3.mil@mail.mil or 214-223-1261.*

Get to Know Your Financial Aid II Advisers: Ashley De Leon and Sara Kelly

By Pamela Davis, Financial Aid Advisor III

Please welcome Ashley, as she was just promoted to Financial Aid Advisor II.



Ashley De Leon

Hello, my name is Ashley De Leon and I am a Grayson College alumnus. I am currently attending Texas A&M Commerce for my bachelor's degree. I started in the Financial Aid office as a work-study employee and worked my way up to a Financial Aid Advisor. Because of this I understand what being a confused student is like, and I never want anyone to be afraid

to ask me for help. Grayson is an amazing college, and being an employee is very rewarding. I get the bonus of seeing students further their education and better themselves every day.

Q: What is your favorite thing about your career?

A: Getting to see the students that I have helped along the way graduate.

Q: What would you sing at Karaoke night?

A: Sometimes by Britney Spears (you can never go wrong with Britney!)

Sara has a vast knowledge of how Financial Aid can help you, the student. We invite you to visit with her about any questions you may have about Financial Aid.



Sara Kelly

Hello, my name is Sara Kelly. I never thought I would end up in the world of financial aid, but I have had the honor of being involved for over five years now. I have learned so much and continue to do so every day, which is why I love to answer students' questions. However, the best part of being in this office is seeing determined and hard-working students earn their degrees every semester.

Q: What celebrity would you like to meet at Starbucks for a cup of coffee?

A: Steve Martin, he is my favorite comedian. (But it would have to be tea...I'm not a coffee drinker.)

Q: If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A: My mom's roast and potatoes with green beans.

Financial Aid: Ask Us!



We'll be in the Student Life Center every Monday and Wednesday 12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m. April 2-May 9!

Continued from Page 2, A March For Our Lives?

Over the past 30 years, AR-15 style rifles have become some of the most popular rifles sold. It is estimated that there are millions in the hands of law-abiding citizens. There are over 300 million firearms in the United States, which almost mirrors the population. AR-15 style rifles have been available to the public since the 1960's. High-capacity semi-auto firearms have been available since around the 1930's.

During the Clinton Administration, the University of Florida was awarded a research grant on gun control. The results of that research found that between 500,000 to more than one million violent crimes are stopped each year by citizens with guns, saving many thousands of lives, far more than those lost to criminals with guns. (Lott study, 1998)

The gun has always been here; that has not changed. Mass shootings in

the United States are something new and must be addressed by society and government. It is far easier to demonize an object with terms like "gun violence," than address the complex issues that we as a society must address. The high school shooting in Parkland was not the result of a lack of gun laws, but a failure of society and local, state, and federal government agencies. The bad guys will always be able to get a gun. One estimate is that there is between 20,000 to 30,000 gun laws currently on the books nationwide. Rarely does a law prevent a crime.

There will always be tragedy. But the mass murder that occurred in Parkland was caused by a person, not an object. It's the person who controls the object. God help us when only the government and criminals have guns.

Spotlight on Talent: Min Kyung Kim

By David Tercero, Program Director for Grayson College Music Dept.

Min Kyung Kim joined the GC Music Department as the new professor to teach private piano lessons, piano courses, and to accompany the GC Viking Choir. Professor Kim's repertoire, pedagogy, and enthusiasm for music quickly became evident in the classroom. In addition to her role as a professor for Grayson College, she also maintains an active professional performing and recording career.

In 2016, Kim and her colleague, Jake Moon, recorded Shostakovich's own arrangements of his Symphony No 15 in A Major, Op. 141 and his Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Major, Op. 102 as part of an on-going compact disc series released by Toccata Classics London. These two selections are both world-premiere releases as the second volume in the series.

In January, Kim furthered her dedication to piano duo repertoire and as a result was selected as a first-prize winner in the chamber music category at the 2018 Golden Classical Music Awards International Music Competition. As a first-prize winner, Kim performed the Six Morceaux Op. 11 by Sergei Rachmaninoff with her piano duo partner, Ji Eun Yum, in the Winner's Recital in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on March 14th in New York City.

Professor Kim is an excellent example of the caliber of educator teaching in the GC Music Department. If you are interested in music, audio engineering or want to join the choir or band, contact Dr. Tercero at tercerod@grayson.edu.



Min Kyung Kim, new professor for piano studies



Min Kyung Kim with Ji Eun Yum during duo concert

Annihilation Will Melt Your Face

By Zachary Pletan, Staff Writer

I read *Annihilation* last semester with the rest of Sigma Kappa Delta/Writers Unlimited here at Grayson. It was spooky, eerie, and unsettling. Written by Jeff Vandermeer as the first novel in his Southern Reach trilogy, it records the point of view of an unnamed (fictional) biologist as she descends physically and metaphorically, into... madness? The surreal? What can you call it when you retain your mental faculties but the rest of the world crumbles around you? Wonderland, perhaps.

I was beyond excited, then, to learn that Paramount was adapting the series into film. I was also apprehensive. How could they accurately capture the quizzical horror of a dolphin with man's eyes without looking goofy? Luminescent fungi cover the walls of a tower and gradually is revealed to be text, an unending run-on sentence with no apparent meaning but every implication. How could they show that? Most importantly, how can an omniscient camera capture the fallibility of an unreliable narrator?

The answer was simple. *Annihilation*, as adapted and directed by Alex Garland (previously of instant sci-fi classic *Ex Machina*), ignores such questions and instead aims to more generally capture the sense of dread permeating the novel. In this Garland succeeds. Backstory, doled out over the course of the novel, is given mostly up-front, allowing that all-seeing camera to inform the audience differently, and more appropriately to the medium, than the journal or memoir style of the book. He adds a few characters, condenses a few plot points, and even brings in more from the later novels for a less-cliffhanger ending. (I suspect this might be both for closure and, as looks more and more certain, in case Paramount opted not to make the sequels.)

Changes aside, however, the story is much the same. A biologist enters "The Shimmer," an area that has morphed Earth's plant life into something foreign. Many expeditions have entered, but only the biologist's husband has ever returned. He is changed, however, and clinging to life by a thread, so the biologist enters with a team of other scientists to study and understand this alien area. They are assaulted by nature and madness.

Annihilation is more than an adventure, though. It deals with themes of ambition and drive, self-destructiveness, and depression. The visuals start out, frankly, a bit tired (it looks like they sprayed candy-color insulation on trees), but build until a completely alien landscape leads into a light-house with a face-meltingly trippy...something...inside. The sound design starts functional but ends up, at climax, more alien even than most of the visuals it accompanies. As film blogger Scott Meixel (@ScottMeixel) said on Twitter, "It's like Terrence Malick directed a *Rick and Morty* episode."

Perhaps, given that last quote, *Annihilation* is not for you. Paramount seems to agree; they dumped the film straight to Netflix outside the US, and its theatrical run here is pretty much over as well. Still, the promise of a rapid release to streaming platforms makes it even easier for the reader to catch it in the near future.

If you are a sci-fi fan, a lover of weird movies, or simply someone who loves to meditate on the human condition, I urge you to see it. See it because they don't get made like this that often, or increasingly, at all. See it because I need them to keep cranking 'em out like this. Most importantly, see *Annihilation* because I can almost guarantee you haven't seen something like it before.

HIRE HEROES USA Empowers Grayson Student Vets

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

At their noon meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, members of the Grayson College Student Veterans Association (SVA) were provided critical job search information from HIRE HEROES USA representatives. The 10-year-old company based in Georgia with affiliates in the north Texas area provides employment workshops, personalized career coaching and job sourcing free of charge to military veterans and spouses. Their Mission? To empower U.S. military members to succeed in the civilian workforce. Through a very personal approach, veterans are partnered one-on-one with an expert Transition Specialist. A tailored civilian resume is then created with military experience translated into civilian terminology. Personalized job search assistance is made available for transitioning U.S. military members, current veterans and military spouses. Not only are services free, most are offered virtually, so clients can be served regardless of location.

Student veterans and their spouses at Grayson College who are entering the workforce upon completing their GC studies, should explore the career assistance offered by HIRE HEROES USA. Members of the Student Veterans Association were reminded that:

- Services don't go away until the veteran or spouse decides they are no longer needed.
- The job board houses tens of thousands of jobs posted by companies.

- A network of more than 700 volunteers – most of whom work in corporate America, as entrepreneurs, or as federal employees – coach, mentor and mock interview clients to help them prepare for the job search.
- Partnerships with many national companies that offer scholarships and specialized training equates to GC student veterans having in credible opportunities.

Any veteran or spouse of a veteran interested in additional information about HIRE HEROES USA or any other veteran issue is encouraged to contact the Veteran Services Office on the Main Campus of Grayson College. This office is on the second floor of the Student Life Center or you may call 903.415.2630 or leave a message at veterans@grayson.edu



(L/R) Martin Gonzales and Chris George

Meet GC Student Veteran – Shawn Thomas, aka “T-Bone”

By Shawn Thomas, Student Veteran

It was during my second tour of Iraq with the U.S. Army in 2006 that my life was changed forever, but thankfully, was not ended. Riding in a HUMVEE with four others as part of a fuel convoy, our vehicle was hit by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) as we traveled through Sadr City. The explosion ejected me and I was severely injured. Only Quincy, Ashby and I survived, but sadly, Andrew and Jerome didn't make it. We were a tight group and I still grieve for them. I was flown to a hospital in Germany, where I was treated for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and paralysis due to various spinal cord and back injuries. The prognosis was not good as I was going to be confined to a wheelchair. When my condition allowed, I was sent back to Ft. Hood in Texas and did routine office work until my discharge became official in 2008.

I had first joined the Army back in 1997 right out of high school and served as a Combat Medic and Surgical Technician. As it was peacetime for the most part, I sailed through rapid promotions and actually had quite an adventure. Luckily, I was even permitted to transfer to the Reserves, so I could go to college. After I earned an Associates of Arts Degree in motion picture production, I then I went back to Active Duty status. But then the Twin Towers were hit on September 11, 2001 and the War on Terror began. In 2004, I was sent to Iraq for my first tour but when I came home, I was diagnosed with PTSD, which was something I'd never even heard of. My discharge came through and I was finished with the Army, or so I thought. After about five months of civilian life, I missed the military and I felt I was incapable of coping with civilian life and all that it entailed, like paying rent, getting and keeping a job, etc. So, I re-enlisted in the Army and soon found myself heading back to Iraq for the tour that really altered my life.”



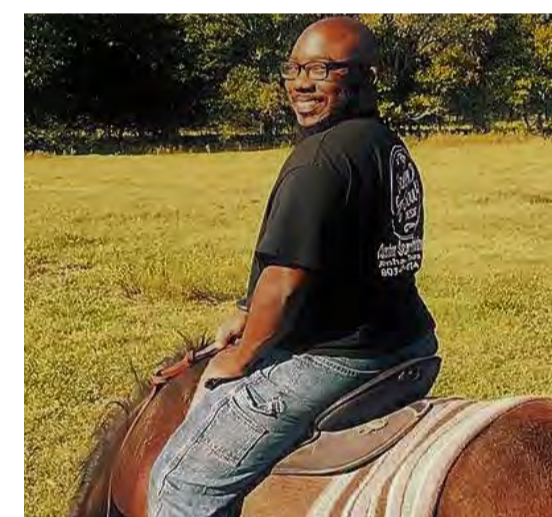
Shawn Thomas graduated from wheelchair to walker to cane to walking and driving.

Now here it is 2009, and I'm living in Cedar Hill, Texas with my mother, confined to a wheelchair, and my downward spiral continued. Not only was I using alcohol to escape reality that included “survivor's guilt,” but being unemployed also contributed to my feeling worthless as well. All in all, I was a mess. Having daily appointments at the VA Hospital in Dallas was a challenge for me. I rolled my wheelchair eight (8) miles from our apartment to a DART bus stop where I caught a ride to the hospital. Then, later in the day, I reversed my route. I rode the bus from the VA Hospital to the bus stop and then rolled my wheelchair the eight miles back home. That's about sixteen (16) miles and over 4 hours of rolling every day except on weekends in every kind of Texas weather. Replacing worn-out wheels was a routine matter for me. I wore out quite a few.

I was offered but turned down an electric wheelchair as I felt the physical exercise of rolling one myself would keep me in shape, and it did. I got very strong and bulked up from the waist up. As a result, I was able to get involved with Rise Adventures/Rise Adaptive Sports that let me participate

in wheelchair sports like cycling, golf and even “Wheelchair Rugby.” It was this activity and my association with others in wheelchairs that helped get me started on that long and difficult road out of depression, temporarily anyway. It was a beginning, not the end yet, but a beginning.

Failing to follow through with my PTSD treatment, I began looking for answers in alcohol and drugs. Then, I became homeless and was in and out of jail during this really dark chapter of my life. After being shifted around from shelter to shelter, I was eventually sent to the VA Hospital in Bonham for rehabilitation to deal with my PTSD and addiction. Even though I had gone through several surgeries and some feelings had returned to my legs, I was still in the wheelchair. Then something truly wonderful happened. I was put in touch with James and Melanie Mincey from the Broken Wheel Ranch Project in Bonham that provides equine therapy for people (lots of veterans go there) with various disabilities. The Minceys would pick me at the VA and would take me to the ranch on a regular basis. They or some of the other veterans there would lift me from the wheelchair to the back of a horse. Not once did they make me feel like I was a lot of trouble or an inconvenience. I became part of their Christian family and their ministry. Mr. Mincey became the father figure I'd never had and always needed. Through the fellowship I shared with the Minceys and with all the others at the Ranch, I graduated from the wheelchair in 2016 to a walker and then to a cane and now here I am walking independently and driving my own truck. I still ride regularly, work voluntarily at the ranch, am going to school and I even



Shawn Thomas enjoys equine therapy program at Broken Wheel Ranch.

have a horse of my own.

Even though I have an Associate's Degree in movie production, I have started on a new path of study that hopefully will end with a degree in Psychology and a career in the mental health field. Since I want to stay near the Broken Wheel Ranch while I continue to grow and gain strength, I began classes at Grayson College in August of 2017. The financial assistance that I receive from VA Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation) takes care of books, tuition and a small living allowance and the HUD-VASH Program provides me affordable housing. I've also got a part-time job in retail. My plans are to finish at Grayson in December, then continue at Texas A&M Commerce for a Bachelor's of Science Degree, then on to Harvard for a Masters and Doctorate. Pretty lofty dreams for someone with my background, wouldn't you say? But I learned some time ago that I have “the power to re-write my destiny. I have the power to start over again. It is up to me. I have the power.” We all do.

Note: For his service to his country, Shawn Thomas has earned the following awards, medals and recognition: Purple Heart, Iraq Campaign Medal w/2 Campaign Stars, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Commendation Award, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism and the Armed Forces Service Medal.

Grayson Students Named to All Texas Academic Team

By Molly Harris, Assistant to the President

Two Grayson College students were named to the All-Texas Academic team. Nominees are selected based on academic achievement in addition to school and community involvement.

Brittani Welch, a sophomore student graduating in May with an associate of arts in teaching, has already earned an Associate in General Studies. She will transfer to Texas Women's University in the fall to pursue a degree in history with 4-12 grade and English as a Second Language (ESL) and special education certifications. Ultimately, she plans to earn a Master's of Arts in teaching and return to Grayson College as a member of the history faculty.

Hannah Lowe is also a sophomore and will complete an Associate in General Studies in May. She will transfer to the University of Texas at Arlington in the fall to complete a bachelors in education with a certification in ESL. She will then seek a Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy.

“I'm so incredibly proud of these students,” said Government Professor Mary Linder. “They work diligently throughout the year to create a better quality of life for themselves and others. They excel in the classroom and contribute significantly in their communities.”

Each year, approximately 100 outstanding community college students are selected from the top 50 community college districts in Texas to be honored as members of the All-Texas Academic Team. Members of the team represent the best and brightest students who excel in academics, leadership and service.

During a medallion ceremony and reception hosted by the University of Texas System and The Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) at the University of Texas at San Antonio campus on Friday, March 30, students received a certificate and medallion. At the reception, they had the opportunity to speak with university representatives from various institutions across Texas.

For more information, contact Mary Linder, linderm@grayson.edu or 903-463-8616.



Brittani Welch and Hannah Lowe

Disclaimer

Editorial Information:

Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta publish *The Viking* as an ongoing service project to the college. All students, faculty and staff at GC can participate in producing *The Viking*. This newspaper is a forum for public opinion, and views expressed in *The Viking* do not necessarily reflect the policy of Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration, or the faculty and staff at GC.

Submit material for publication through email to **Morgan Bryant at MoBryant@vikings.grayson.edu.**

Grayson Honors College to Host Annual “Beat the Heat” 5K

By Hannah Lowe, Student

Every year since 2015, the Grayson Honors College organizes and directs a 5K and fun run to support different causes relating to local government. This year, the 5K will be raising money for the Grayson County Law Enforcement Association, as well as the Chad Key Memorial Scholarship, which is for a student who wants to attend Grayson College’s Police Academy.

April Key, founder of Key to Sweetness Cupcakes, has shared her thoughts about the race with us, saying that, “The 5K is very near and dear to my heart. My husband was Deputy Chad Key from Grayson County Sheriff’s Office, killed in the line of duty on April 20th, 2013. The Honors College, Brandy Fair, and her students put in a tremendous amount of time, effort, work and heart into this project, and I am so honored to be part of it.”

Last year’s race was located in downtown Sherman starting at Piner Middle School. There were over one hundred participants with a wide age range. This year’s 5K will be held in the same location. At the event, the runners receive a swag bag with a headband and other goodies.

At the end of the race there is a raffle for various prizes, such as gift cards to restaurants, Cinemark, Sherman’s Escape Room, and more. We have already had over seventy people sign up, and this year we are predicting that the amount of participants will be the most in the history of this event. The Honors College officers and advisor Dr. Brandy Fair have spoken to many different companies in the area about sponsorships for the race and have received an outstanding amount of support. Mix 96.1 will even be broadcasting live during the event.

This race will definitely be one to remember, so be sure to register and contribute support to our members of our local law enforcement. It will be on the morning of Saturday, April 28th, from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.. ***If interested, sign up at getmeregistered.com, after searching for the “Beat the Heat 5K.” For any questions, contact Dr. Brandy Fair at fairb@grayson.edu.***

Texas Beat The Heat 5k Run

Hosted by:

Grayson Honors College and the Grayson County Law Enforcement Association (GCLEA)

When:

April 28th (5k race begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Where:

402 W. Pecan (start/finish line is behind Piner school)

Proceeds:

Monies raised will go to the GCLEA bereavement fund, the GCLEA scholarship fund, and the Grayson College Deputy Chad Key Memorial Scholarship.

Register at:

www.getmeregistered.com and search for Beat the Heat

Follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraysonCollege5K/>

Recycled Nests

By Kristin Vilbig, Professor of Art

Currently on display in the lobby of the Arts and Communications lobby is a Mail Art Exhibit of Recycled Nests created by the students in the Art Appreciation classes here at Grayson College. For this assignment, students were asked to work with the ideas of Earth Day and the concept of “Nests” to create “Recycled Nests” using discarded materials.

First, they were to decide on a purpose for their nest based on their needs and what is important to them. (As a human, we have more com-



Recycled nest display

plex needs, desires, and purposes than a bird, so students were not limited to attracting a mate, protecting offspring and deterring predators.)

Then they chose discarded materials that are significant to their purpose. And finally, they were asked to think about and use the visual elements and design principles discussed in class as



Recycled nests

they built their nests. (The visual elements include line, shape/mass, light, color, texture, pattern, space, time and motion. The design principles include unity/variety, balance, emphasis/subordination, scale, proportion, and rhythm.)

These nests have been arranged on cut branches that arch between two pedestals. The nests range in size from rather small half baseballs, filled with baseball “guts,” to relatively large, including a nest of empty cigarette boxes and baby diapers. There is a nest made of metal scraps, welded together and filled with plastic shavings produced by lathe work, a nest woven from plastic shopping bags from favorite stores, and a nest made of obsolete cables and wires.

Be sure to stop by and check out the variety, creativity and resourcefulness of the Art Appreciation students.



Zachary Pletan’s photo of Grayson’s progressing construction



Writers Unlimited/Sigma Kappa Delta members enjoyed the Dallas Theater Center’s *Frankenstein* on March 1st. (L-R) Zach Pletan, Marlea Trevino (sponsor), Mike McManigell, Eric Ralston, Kassie Garcia, Emily DeMay, Marcus Jones, and Ellie Worthy

Interested in Dental Assisting?

Grayson College Fall Admissions:

Deadline- April 30

- Transcripts for current semester will be accepted at the end of the semester
- Late applications accepted until all seats are filled

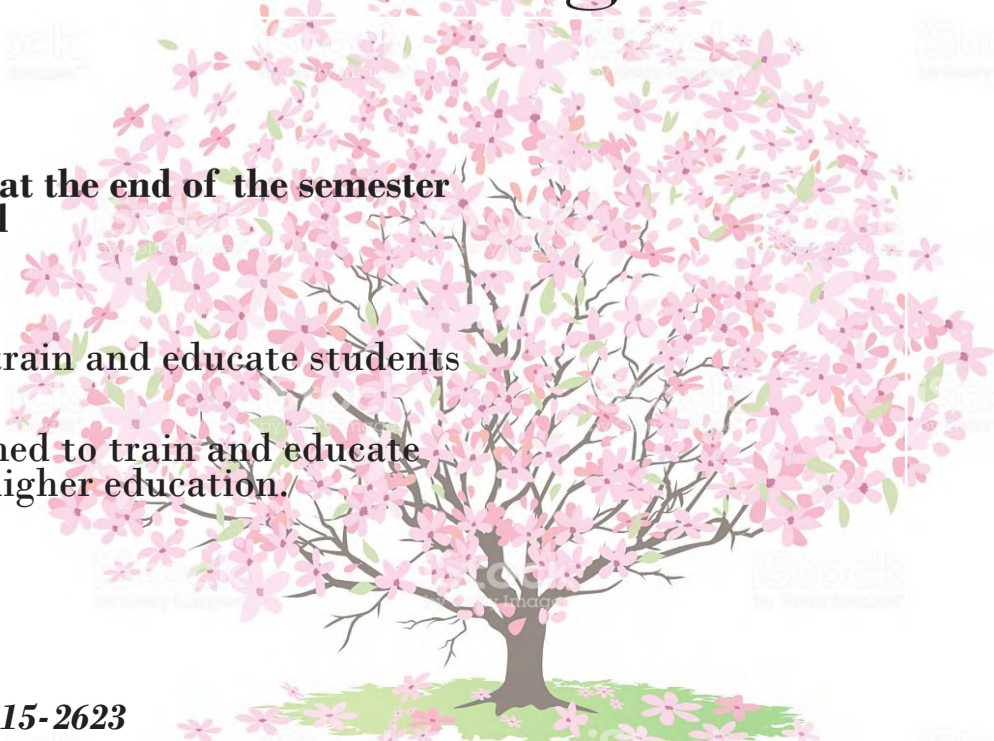
Credential Options:

- **Certificate-** 41 hours of coursework designed to train and educate students to prepare them for the workforce.
- **Associate Degree-** 60 hours of coursework designed to train and educate students to transfer to a university to continue higher education.

Certificate Pre-Requisites:

- ENGL 1301
- PSYC 2301

Contact Becki Rathfon: rathfonb@grayson.edu, 904-415-2623



I have learned from writing that sometimes people can express feelings or experiences better by writing. Stories that I have read have helped me. Mine are always about how I once was lost but now I'm found.

I write about surviving 33 years of my life. I write about my hardship growing up. I write about how I want to raise my children. I write about my many bad relationships. I write about my two brothers who were killed. I write about being a single parent. I write about my cancer and chemo. I write about my faith and my kids' success. ~ **Jessica Butler**

The lights are dim, and I'm alone except for Gus (my puppy). I can hear him snoring while I'm sitting here at 10:24 p.m. doing assignments while my kids and husband have gone off to nighty-night land—wondering why I didn't do the assignments sooner. Sitting in the dim room trying not to make a peep; afraid I might wake someone. I write so that one day someone else might read and choose to not make the same mistakes I have made in life. I write to see what may be ahead. I write to see the causes and effects of my actions. I write so that my future self can see I have gone through. I write to be heard by others. I write so that I don't have to worry about making a fool out of myself in front of an audience. I write to communicate without getting tongue-tied. I write to open up to others. I write to write better. I write to be a better reader. I write so that I may one day make a difference or an impact on someone's life. ~ **Lacey Shockey**

It is these times I like to sit in an empty room on a stormy day. No, not exactly empty; there is a cat. There's always a cat. But he's no bother. He seems to know I shouldn't be disturbed as I reflect upon my reasons for writing. I write because I must. I write because I can. I write to give gifts, both in person and at long distance. I write to journey to places I have never been. I write so others can join me there, not only physically, but in spirit. I write to meet family I have never met and never will meet; they wrote, too, but now are gone. I write to preserve the past for the future. I write as a way to recall the dead. I write to find my place in the world. I write to craft other worlds where I have no place. I write because someday I will die, but mostly, I write to live forever. ~ **John Moody**

It was a late spring evening. The breeze was flowing over my skin with a calming effect. I looked at the sunset and the awakening of the stars. I thought of reasons to write, why I write. I write for the future. I write for my younger self. I write to escape. I write to humble myself. I write to create something that hasn't been before. I write to channel emotional thoughts into words. I write out of knowing my worth. I write to heal. I write out of love. I write for the expression it can give the soul. I write, knowing I don't have all the answers. ~ **Aron Dalrymple**

I was walking down an old dirt road with my family, around noon. I was a kid in my home town Calhoun, Louisiana, throwing rocks into the woods. This is why I write: I write to make time go faster. I write to the sound of my dogs barking. I write with the passion and inspiration of my mom and dad. I write with the anger and hate that builds up inside my head. I write beside and with friends of the past and the present. I write with complete silence in solitude. I write to the sound of silence. I write so the world can be a better place. I write with the motion of the mood. I write so others don't have to. I write because I am willing to correct my mistakes. I write to express the way I work. I write to the sound and groove of old school country music. I write with the words of a teenager. I write from my heart, deeper and deeper each day. I write for the lonely ones in this cruel world. I write as if I am the only one who is able to see and overcome this error of time. ~ **Edward Franks**

The sun is coming up and creating a beautiful sunset on the beach. The Galveston breeze is calm, and it's peaceful. I'm thinking about how peaceful life can be when I stop and look at what is in front of me. I start to figure out why I write: I write for the pain of the children who are going through stuff. I write to get it off my shoulders. I write to see the other side of the world. I write for today's history. I write for the single moms out there, but from a child's point of view. I write to make my point. I write to leave my footprints somewhere. I write for college students who need encouragement. I write for the homeless and the poor. I write the depression that hides inside me. I write to lift people up when they are down. I write to take all of the negativity out of my body. I write to my loved ones who have died; I write to my loved ones who are still alive. I write to have a clear understanding. I write to bring warmth to my heart. I write to take the brick off my heart. I write from the beginning to the end. I write to the legends before me. I write for the people that I called friends. I write just like telling a secret to a friend. ~ **Zayla Pope**

I did everything that I was supposed to do after class and ate lunch with my friend, Zulejha. Now I am home. I opened my computer and saw a blank word document and began thinking why I write. I write to express my ideas that I often cannot share with anyone. I write to grow. I write to be intelligent. I write to have a voice. I write to represent myself. I write about my culture that I grew up in. I write about my religion that is full of love and peace. I write because I believe in words. I write to explain things I cannot say. I write with excitement about my future career. I love writing because it can connect people and create peace. I write to represent my culture and my religion. ~ **Hiba Sarris**

Awake, looking at the ceiling, drenched in sweat. Walking around in the dark and watching the fog, like a silk robe falling off my body. I write to communicate with others; English is not my first language. I write to make my dreams come true. I write to tell stories of my past. I write to talk about my family, to say how much I love my parents. I write to talk about my community. I write to express my nightmares because they haunt me at night. I write to show others how the world has changed; they seem to forget that we all have differences. I write to show love for people and to believe in them. I write to see a playground full of letters instead of slides and swings. I write to see the ocean as the waves come crashing into the rocks. I write as though I'm giving advice. ~ **Ana Stallings**

When I was young, sometimes I wrote about who I am, what I did and how I feel. It was in Malaysia. We lived in an apartment and life was difficult. We didn't have many things to eat. When I re-read what I wrote, it gives me strength. I write when I am struggling with something. I write to give myself strength. I write because I need to write, or because writing will mend something broken inside me. I don't write because I want to say something; I write because I have something to say. I write what is in my head so I don't end up getting lost there. I write because my mind is too full to keep everything inside of it. I write when I achieve something that I really want to achieve. I write about things that have changed my life. I write about my religion. I write many things about my mistakes. Writing is not a life, but sometimes it can be a way back to life. I write to let go all the pain, to show the things that I didn't want to say. ~ **Lian Thang**

I write because I want to be a journalist one day, a sports journalist so that when I get old and can't play sports I can write bios. I write because I love music. Music is my destiny. I play keyboard for my church, and I love to write songs. I write because I'm angry and don't want to say something rude out loud. I write out of happiness; I feel so joyful and happy at times and I want to remember those moments. So I write about them. I write because at times I can be shy when it comes to speaking to a girl. I feel better writing than speaking to her. Writing can play a big part in everyone's life, not just mine. Take time out to sit down and think. Instead of speaking, write it. ~ **TJ Watson**

It was a dark and rainy night in Denison. I could say the clock said it was midnight. Sitting in my workspace, it was so quiet that I could hear myself thinking as the gears turned, thinking about why I really like writing. I closed my eyes. I like writing because I can really be myself. I write because it keeps my mind going, and I'm the one telling the story. I like to write something and look back at it. Sometimes I write something to myself, lose it, and find it months later and laugh at myself because it's funny. I write to remember times that I don't ever want to forget. I write when there is someone I can't talk to face to face. I write a letter to make my point. I write to see an outline of myself. Most important, I write because it's fun it even when I'm not the best at writing. ~ **Antonio King**

It was a dreary early Thursday morning, no sunshine in sight. I was sitting in the classroom preparing for the day. As I dug through my backpack I thought about the reasons I write. Writing is hard for me. Writing is unnatural to me. And yet I know that it is of value. I write to find value. I write: I write to remember. I write to solve problems. I write to ease my mind. I write to have an enjoyable day. I write when it is cool and breezy. I write about school. I write out of faith. I write into paradise. I write in my sleep. I write to stay in control. I write about cooking. I write out of love. ~ **Milas Davis**

Today I am walking on a sunny, beautiful, day. I couldn't have picked a better day to come out for a walk. I begin to think of some of the reasons why I write. I write to calm my pain. I write to celebrate my victories. I write to express my emotions. I write to associate with the world. I write to give to the ones who need to hear my sorrow. I write when I'm feeling defeated. I write to acknowledge the society we live in. I write to forgive. I write to mesmerize. I write because it takes me back in time. There are so many reasons why I write because writing is a part of me that will never leave. ~ **Norma Higuera**

It was a warm, sunny day in March. I remember sitting on the front porch drinking coffee. The birds were chirping, cows mooing, and the wind blowing. I started to ponder why I write: I write to remember my childhood. I write to emphasize what truly matters. I write to buy groceries and pay bills. I write to organize. I write to hear myself. I write to send a message. I write to study what I don't know. I write to not hurt. I write to cry and laugh. I write to travel when I want to escape. I write because I see things in a way that many others don't. ~ **Marycela Rivera**

Today is a rainy, quiet, spring day. Meeting with a class is always a privilege—with mind meeting mind, and is worth even this slow slog across a rain-soaked campus. It's Tuesday, 7:30 am, and my umbrella and raincoat have proven laughably inadequate for a contest with nature. Today, I write to record another day in academic life. Days that are predictable on the surface rarely are at a deeper level. I write to examine their differences, and our human differences that, when placed side-by-side like days, are similarly rediscovered and negotiated. I write to experience language, the power, durability, and delicacy of words, and to encourage students to experience the words they commit to paper. I write to reverse conditions: to repair injuries, to applaud potential. I write to remember why I am who I am and how I arrived at this point in life and time. I write to honor all who contributed to the process. I write to remind myself of the cost of regret and the dividends of gratitude. I write to sketch a path through time, to plant familiar markers in the mist produced by change. I write to capture irreplaceable human stories that might otherwise be lost. I write to contest the heavy, boring, constraints placed on minds allowed to mildew in the mundane. I write to raise difficult questions, to protest first-pass, easy answers. I write to accept negative incidents, to celebrate positive events, and to resist premature cataloging of unexamined experience as either. I write to provoke thought—as a form of hope and courage—as an opportunity to reimagine and recreate all that is not already a better or best possibility. ~ **Stella Thompson**

It was just around 6:30. I was sitting at the dining room table waiting on dinner to be made, wearing my comfortable house sweater and slippers. I began typing why I write: I write to have control. I write my fears. I write when struggling to find the right words to say. I write to encourage. I write for encouragement. I write to motivate and for my own motivation. I write for myself. I write for inspiration. I write when I am overwhelmed, frustrated, and flustered with myself or others. I write to escape. I write to make sense of this madness called life. ~ **Autumn Huff**

I write to the ones I love. I write out of sadness into happiness. I write to show my struggles and show my strengths. I write because my thoughts need a voice. I write for my future self to learn from my past self. I write for self-clarity. I write when it's silent because my words are loud. I write as if I'm creating a map that helps me find my way. I write because it creates a journey of pages to walk through. I write because the sunset tells me goodnight and the sunrise tells me good morning. I simply write to create and affect the ones who are reading. ~ **Ashlyne Huff**