



## Get Involved

**Sweet Treats Stop**  
 Complimentary sweet pastries, snacks and more, provided by Great Western Dining Service. Sponsored by Student Life.  
*First and Third Wednesdays 9 - 10 a.m.*  
*Life Center, 2nd Floor*

**Hump Day "Snack Attack"**  
 Complimentary assorted snacks provided by Great Western Dining Service. Hosted by Student Life.  
*Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 1 - 3 p.m.*  
*Life Center, 2nd Floor*

**Late Night Food Event**  
*November 11, 9 - 10 p.m.*  
 "Chili and chili dog feed" Free to students and employees. *Food Court*

**"Hiring Red, White & You" Job Fair**  
*November 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*  
*Gymnasium*

**Can't Dodge This Blacklight Dodgeball**  
*November 14*  
*Team check in: 6 p.m.*  
*Games begin at 7 p.m.*  
 Hosted by Phi Theta Kappa. *Gymnasium*

**Litter Pick Up**  
*November 18, 12 - 1 p.m.*  
 Hosted by SGA. Meet in front of the BSM.

**Princess Day**  
*November 20, 5 - 9 p.m.*  
 The Cosmetology Dept. and Sheers Club present a fundraiser benefitting the Crisis Center. By appointment only.  
*Career Tech Center*

**"It's My Life" Student Leadership Series**  
*Monday, November 23 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.*  
 Community leaders are invited to discuss and share their philosophy on leadership in today's competitive work environment. *LA 101*  
 Speaker: Dr. Regina Organ

**Gym & Fitness Center**  
 Open to all students and staff with a college ID.  
*Monday - Friday 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.*

**Student and Employee Spirit Day**  
*Every Friday*  
 Wear your GC attire with blue jeans and celebrate the Viking spirit.

**BSM Weekly Lunch**  
*Every Wednesday (Except November 25) 12:15 - 1 p.m.*  
 Students and staff invited. Compliments of the BSM.

**Office Christmas Tree Decorating Contest**  
*Registration period: Oct. 30 - Nov. 20; Contest period: Dec. 3-4; Judging: Dec. 4*  
 Winners announced by email December 7. Contact Student Life for details. General theme: Santa Clause Classics.

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

**Grayson Nursing Student Association**  
*Second Wednesdays 7:45 - 8:45 a.m.*  
*Viking Room, Life Center*

**HVACR Club**  
*First Thursdays 5:30 p.m. CTC*

# Hall-o-Fest: so much fun, it was scary



(Top) Carving contest winners. 1st: Ruth Pedro, 2nd: Sue Dilling. (Bottom) Decorating contest winners. 1st: Grayson Student Ambassadors, 2nd: HALO



"This may be the best turnout we have had at Hall-o-Fest," said Director of Student Life and Housing Coordinator Gregg Miles. The day was complete with skits, contests and over 30 table activities, from SGA's "Donut Dangle" to Roteract's Purple Pinkie Project table, which accepted donations for the Rotary International effort to vaccinate children against polio.

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month: the survivor's perspective

Logan Beauchamp  
*Assistant Editor*

As October was National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM), we as a campus have thrown our support behind the cause. The problem is that although we may be supportive, we may not know why we should be. According to the American Cancer Society, one in eight women will be diagnosed with some form of breast cancer within their lifetimes.

With costs ranging from anywhere between \$20,000 and \$100,000 the ability to fight the disease for the average woman is a grim prospect indeed. Women Rock is a local nonprofit that provides monetary support to area women seeking assistance. Just Doo It is a public breast cancer awareness rally hosted by Grayson College which raises money for Women Rock.

I had the privilege of interviewing the women in charge of organizing Just

Doo It, two of which are survivors, and I chose to offer the reader a look into the reality of being diagnosed and

Gretchen Huff: "It was very shocking... I worked out... I felt I did everything right. It was very emotional."

surgery it was very painful, "like being roasted." She also mentioned that the side effects are still being felt, due to her cancer being estrogen driven she has to take medication to prevent recurrence.



The fundraiser is also a competition among campus teams/organizations. This year the Student Government Association took first prize. Left to right: Lisa Hebert, Logan Beauchamp, Shelley Jones, Gretchen Huff, Rebecca Jones, and adviser Gregg Miles (not pictured: Paige Taylor)

fighting cancer. I would like to give thanks to all three: Lisa Hebert, Gretchen Huff and Rebecca Jones.

**What was it like to find out you had breast cancer?**

Lisa Hebert: "It was frightening, unreal; I have never felt anything like it."

She spoke of being depressive for days after her diagnosis.

**What was the fight like?**

Lisa Hebert: Lisa spoke at length about the 35 days of radiation treatment. How she felt alone, but not. Between chemotherapy and

Gretchen was fortunate to have an early diagnosis, and chose to pursue a double mastectomy, and have reconstructive surgery which took several months to complete.

*Continued on page 3*

## Analysis of Garret Hardin's "Lifeboat Ethics..."

Christina Childress  
*Student*

The question of what do to when faced with the decision to either keep ourselves safe or save others while possibly putting ourselves at risk is an irrefutably difficult one. In "Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor," Garret Hardin

discusses this problem using a metaphor. Hardin, an author, ecologist, and former professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, published his article on this issue in 1974. In his article, Hardin makes the startling statement "Complete justice, complete catastrophe."

*Continued on page 6*

## Fun and learning await in Costa Rica

Mary Yetta McKelva  
*Professor of Spanish*

One of the most memorable experiences you can have is living and learning a language in another country. June 2016 will be the seventh year for Grayson College to offer Beginner and Intermediate Spanish courses at the Intercultura

Spanish Language Institute and Cultural Center in Costa Rica. Experience living abroad and become part of the international community while earning transferable college credit in Spanish.

*Continued on page 8*



# Honors College second annual "Run For Your Lives" 5k/fun run a success

Brandy Fair  
Honors College Coordinator

tablet, to name a few. Medals were presented to the top

sponsible for the majority of the event planning. To the

who made the day run smoothly.

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors. Your contributions and donations made the event a success. The Grayson Honors College will be donating all of the proceeds to the Officer Down Memorial Page, currently totaling over 2,200 dollars. Thank you to all the officers, participants and volunteers who braved the cold to be part of a great event for a wonderful cause. Hope to see everyone again next year! ♥



Honors College student volunteers planned and manned the event.

Despite the cold, on Saturday October 24, the Grayson Honors College hosted the second annual 5K and Fun Run event. Thankfully the rain stopped in time to host a truly wonderful event. This year, the proceeds benefitted the Officer Down Memorial Page (odmp.org), which goes to the families of fallen police officers, works to buy bullet proof vests for agencies that cannot provide them, etc.

Over 95 people registered to participate in the event, which was an increase in the number of participants from our first 5k last year. After completion of the Fun Run and 5k, participants were welcomed inside the gym with a free meal from Chipotle and a chance at over 40 raffle prizes including free food, gift cards, a FitBit Charge, LG Tone Pro wireless headphones and an HP

finishers (male and female) in each age category as well as a special event just for law enforcement/first responder participants called "Running Code." This year, the Sherman Police Department took home the prizes for first, second and third place.

There are so many people to thank for making this event a success. First, the Honors College President, Tana Pirtle, who was re-

other Honors officers, Elizabeth Taylor and Ali Hastings who worked tirelessly to prepare for the day. We are also grateful to the Grayson Maintenance Dept., the Grayson Police Dept., the Music Club and the EMT Club for both participating and volunteering to make sure the event could even happen on such a gloomy day! Thanks to all the Honors students and volunteers



Sherman PD Officer Paxton Emerson won first place in the "Running Code" competition among first responders.

## Grayson College 85 million years ago

John Moody  
I-Lab Instructor

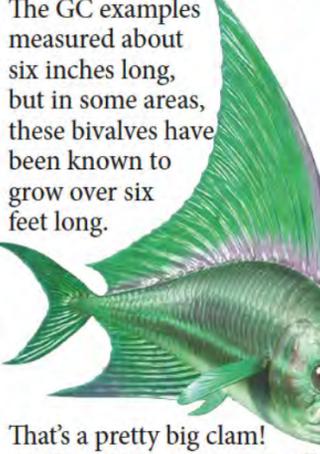
*Continued from October issue*

Paleontologists believe that other marine reptiles might be discovered if anyone ever decides to dig deeper around (and even below) the campus. However, other fossils have already turned up during construction projects right under the feet of students and staff, alike.

A few years ago, when some of the electrical and heating improvements were underway just north of the student center, large amounts of the same, white rock were unearthed. Examples of another thin-shelled clam known as *Inoceramus* were found in moderate numbers, all originating from a relatively-small patch of earth. These shells are fairly flat, with smooth, widely-spaced, curved lines as their most distinguishing

Pictured: a rendering of *Bananogmius* from National Geographic

feature. Apparently, these were a common sight on the Cretaceous seabed about 85 million years ago. They have also been found in many other parts of North America and even in Europe.



That's a pretty big clam!

When the campus was still young in the 1960s, a construction crew was working hard one day using picks and shovels to dig holes for the light towers in the main parking lot. One of the workers struck his pick into the white chalk, and when

he broke a slab of rock free, he happened to notice what looked like rock pieces containing fish bones.

The curious construction worker removed all the pieces that he could find and took them home to clean up and examine later. Over the years, these curious rock slabs changed hands several times until they reached someone who was pretty good at jigsaw puzzles. This person decided to put the pieces together and mount them in slabs of plaster. The results ended up being both sides of a compressed fish skeleton measuring about 18 inches long, and that is with most of the head missing.

Years later, Dr. John Maisey, a fossil fish expert at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, had the opportunity to examine this fossil. He identified the fish as *Bananogmius*, a Cretaceous genus

that had been previously described and noted in western Kansas and from as far away as Venezuela (from geological formations of similar age). As it just so happens, this fish has bony plates in its mouth, and paleontologists believe it might have used them to crush shells in order to obtain food. Maybe *Bananogmius* ate *Inoceramus*.

Who can say what other fossils might be discovered in the future as the campus continues to expand? It only takes a pair of sharp eyes and a little curiosity to find fossils when they are present, but one thing is certain; this is just another example of the rich heritage offered to students who attend GC. The campus has a known history dating back more than 85 million years! The next time someone digs another hole around the GC campus, an opportunity for discovery may be there. ♥

## The POWER of FIBER

Cables



Fiber optics was introduced to the Electrical Technology Program students by Pacenet Structured Voice and Data Cabling. The classroom and lab demonstration allowed students to learn about technology advances, material selection, tools & testing procedures and were able to perform hands on splicing. Dennis Hickman is the owner and his company is presently performing several projects on our campus. Director Bill Weidner is sincerely appreciative to Mr. Hickman for providing his extensive knowledge and his senior technicians for our students.



Pasta

Director Weidner recently attended the Pasta 101 class offered by the CWL and Culinary Arts. His family owned a restaurant in Lake Dallas in the late 70s, and Weidner learned to cook at age 12. The Lakeview Cafe was a popular place for the locals and the boating community. Bill has enjoyed many years in the kitchen and has retained a "passion for excellence" taught by an old east Texas chef nicknamed "Soul Brother."

The Pasta 101 Class was taught by Chef Instructor Elisa Brewer who demonstrated a wonderful passion for the food industry and great patience with the novice home students during the class. It was a hands-on experience that include recipe planning, mixing dough, cutting and forming different noodles and cooking sauces. The main event, however, was the tasting portion of the class which included fettuccine with alfredo sauce, roasted garlic with cherry tomatoes and ricotta-filled ravioli. Weidner enjoyed being back "under the vent-a-hood" and is planning to attend some of the future classes at the Culinary Arts Department.

### Paramedic Student Association

October 1, November 3, December 1, 12 - 1 p.m. Viking Room, Life Center

### Student Ambassadors

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

### Men of Distinction

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

### Honors College Club

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

### DAAC

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. HS 202

### Cosmetology Club

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

### Clay Club

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

### Phi Theta Kappa

Wednesdays 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. LA 207

### Psychology Club

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

### Delta Phi Delta (Art)

First Tuesdays, 12:15 Arts & Communications Design Room

### LAE (Criminal Justice)

Tuesdays, 12:15. CRJ

### Sigma Kappa Delta & Writers Unlimited

Second Mondays, 12 - 1 p.m. GC Perks, Life Center

### Veteran Student Association

First and third Wednesdays 1 p.m. Veteran's Hub

### Welding Technologies Association

First and third Mondays 12 - 1 p.m. CTC Break Room

First and third Tuesdays 12 - 1 p.m. South Campus

### Cultural Diversity Club

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

### Radiology Tech Club

The 15th of each month 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. HS 200

### Music Club

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

### Science Club

First Thursdays, 3 p.m. S 106

### Gay Straight Alliance

Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Bridge

### HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)

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

### Future Educators

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

### TIPPS (Culinary Arts)

First Tuesdays, 3 - 4 p.m. 691 Restaurant

### Eta Sigma Delta

First Wednesdays, 2 p.m. Culinary Arts Building

### Film Club

Wednesdays, 5 p.m. Life Center Lounge

### History Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. LA 207

### Veteran Nursing Student Association

First Mondays, 12 p.m. South Campus Skills Lab

### Sisters of Destiny

Thursdays, 2 p.m. Conference Room, Life Center

### FCA

Third Tuesdays, 6 - 7 p.m. Viking Residence Hall Lobby

### Dental Assisting Club

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

### Gamers Guild

First Wednesdays, 12:15 Arts & Communications Design Room

### Mu Alpha Theta

First and third Thursdays 1 - 2 p.m. LA 204

### Roteract

Second and fourth Wednesdays, 3 p.m. Viking Room, Life Center

# The women behind Just Doo It offer their point of view

Continued from page 1

Both Gretchen and Lisa spoke about the effects of confronting their mortality during this process. They said, in different ways, that during their ordeals they thought often about what their lives meant and what they had done so far and what they would do if they survived.

**How has the "Just Doo It" charity event impacted you? The community?**

**Lisa Hebert:** (Lisa is actually the person for whom "Just Doo It" was founded.) She says, "It was very moving because cancer impacts almost everyone, every family. The first one was very personal."

**Gretchen Huff:** "Doing this on campus helps me feel like I can get out and help spread the word because I truly believe that through early detection people are able to have more options."

**Rebecca Jones:** "It's a very good cause, and I really

like to see that our campus can rally together and raise money for a good cause; for the women of this area specifically."

**What are your words about Breast Cancer Awareness and Research to the public?**

**Lisa Hebert:** "The reason it is important is because it affects men and woman. Early detection is important. The technology is available, but information needs to be distributed. This is not just for breast cancer. It needs to be a community effort."

**Gretchen Huff:** "I think we should be aware of our bodies, get routine mammograms."

**Rebecca Jones:** "[The community's] involvement is absolutely a necessity; we can't really do this on our own. We can plan, we can set up, but we can't raise the money on our own. So we really need the people in the community, and especially at GC to do their part."

Jones had a scare last month when a doctor identified a lump and recommended an ultrasound. It turned out to be benign, but around 12 percent of women in the U.S. will be diagnosed in their lifetime. Jones said that her scare has made the work she is doing "even more real."

In closing, the "Just Doo It" charity raised close to \$4,000 dollars this semester. We as a campus have really stepped forward to show our support for local women. Those clubs and organizations that participated include, but are not limited to, SGA, Future Educators, Radiology Student Group (Skeleton Crew), DAAC Student Group, Grayson Student Ambassadors, Dental Assisting Student Group (Dental Darlings), Paramedic Student Association, Culinary Arts, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. Thank you all for your hard work and support. ♥



Kay Dishner (left), the founder of Just Doo It event, with Women Rock Executive Director LuAnn Daniel (center) and breast cancer survivor Gretchen Huff (right).



Students and faculty get into the spirit (some more than others).

# Hybrid police vehicles: investing in the future of GC

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

Automobiles and other forms of transportation release a range of chemical and environmental pollutants that make up about one third of the U.S.'s greenhouse gas emissions each year. Greenhouse gases absorb the sun's radiation, trapping heat inside our atmosphere. Most scientists agree that a rise in CO<sub>2</sub>, largely brought on by the burning of fossil fuels, can be directly associated with unhealthy changes in global climate.

Being a commuter campus, there is relatively little that GC can do to govern student vehicle use in an attempt to curb emissions. The college can, however, learn to manage the impact that its own vehicles have on the environment.

Factors affecting mileage

and emissions are part of a patrol officer's daily routine; heavy acceleration, high vehicle weight and excessive idling reduce a police vehicle's fuel economy and correspondingly raise emissions. The college's records indicate that its vehicles are well maintained and tires are replaced yearly to ensure safety. This leaves only one other avenue for exploration: fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles. Even a cursory comparison will reveal much about how taking advantage of hybrid technology can lessen environmental impact (see figure below).

The electrical assist of a hybrid engine decreases the strain on the vehicle's gasoline engine, which reduces fuel consumption. Expending less fuel ultimately decreases harmful gasses emitted. "Improving the fuel efficiency of U.S. vehicles is

the biggest single step we can take to cut America's oil consumption in half," says the Union of Concerned Scientists, a move that will likely prompt more research into alternative energy forms with less injurious effects on the environment.

Based on the mileage data collected, GC could reduce the emissions of its police vehicles by an average of 54.6 percent if the institution switched to hybrid-electric models. A seemingly small change like this could have unprecedented results. Using even one hybrid model instead of gas could reduce our emissions by an average of 10 to 20 percent.

In the next issue, I will complete my proposal with a discussion on the effects this change could have on our community. ♥

## Dependent on TAPS?

If you are a student relying on TAPS transportation to attend class, Grayson College will assist you in completing this semester.

- 1) **Contact your instructor immediately.** Each professor is willing to work with students.
- 2) **Complete this survey** so we can determine the best way to serve those who need transportation in order to finish the semester.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GraysonCollegeBusService>

The college website will have updates as they are available. Please check [www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu) > News and Announcements regularly.

## GC Speech classes promote blood drive

Brandy Fair  
Professor of Speech

On October 28 and 29 the Texoma Regional Blood Center (TRBC) was on campus in the Life Center for a blood drive in conjunction with the Just Doo It Rally and the Hall-o-Fest. The students in two of Brandy Fair's Business Speech courses hosted the event as their group project for the class.

The students were responsible for producing brochures, flyers, a t-shirt

design, and a "sales pitch" speech to submit to the TRBC for use in their upcoming blood drive events. Representatives from Texoma Regional Blood Center will also be weighing in on the groups' work. The staff from the TRBC said the event was a success and are happily surprised by the increasing number of people that turnout for the event year after year. Thanks to all those who came out supported the event! ♥



Emissions per Year (in Tons)

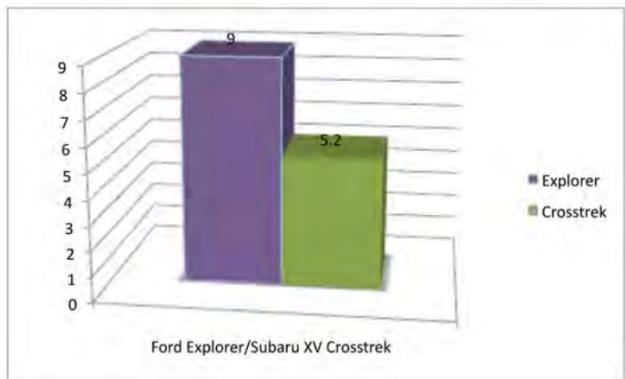


Figure 2  
This comparison of the 2015 Ford Explorer and the 2015 Subaru XV Crosstrek Hybrid is based on extrapolated data which states that Grayson College's Explorer may travel approximately 16,091 miles in a year. As a result, the Ford will output a total of nine tons of greenhouse gases.<sup>19</sup> At the same mileage the Subaru would output only 5.2 tons of greenhouse gases.<sup>19</sup> This is a 42.2 percent reduction in overall emissions.

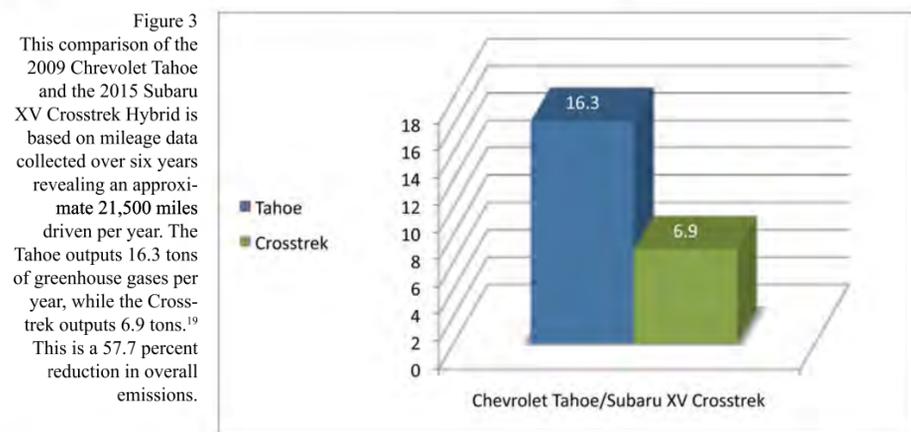


Figure 3  
This comparison of the 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe and the 2015 Subaru XV Crosstrek Hybrid is based on mileage data collected over six years revealing an approximate 21,500 miles driven per year. The Tahoe outputs 16.3 tons of greenhouse gases per year, while the Crosstrek outputs 6.9 tons.<sup>19</sup> This is a 57.7 percent reduction in overall emissions.

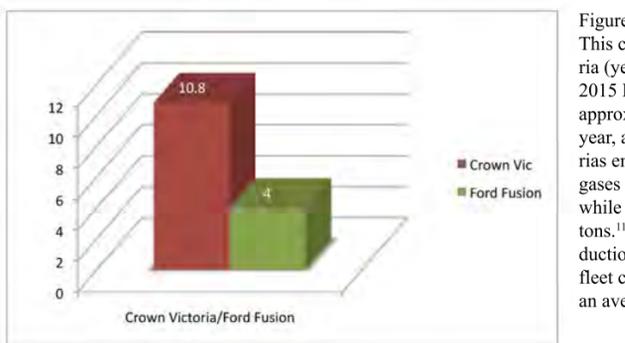


Figure 4  
This comparison of the Ford Crown Victoria (years 2000, 2004 and 2005) and the 2015 Ford Fusion Hybrid is based on total approximate miles driven on all cars per year, approximately 17,360. Crown Victorias emit around 10.8 tons of greenhouse gases per year under these conditions, while the Fusion would emit around four tons.<sup>11,19</sup> This equates to a 64 percent reduction in overall emissions. An all-hybrid fleet could reduce GCPD's emissions by an average of 54.6 percent.

## 2015 Office Christmas tree Decorating Contest

Registration Period:  
Oct. 30-Nov. 20

Judging: 10 a.m. -  
12 p.m. Dec. 7

Theme:  
Santa Claus Classics



Editorial Information: The Viking is published by Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college. Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff at GC. The newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion, and views expressed in The Viking do not necessarily reflect the policy of Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration or the faculty and staff at GC. Material for publication may be submitted to The Viking office (Lib 110) or through email to Marlea Trevino (TrevinoM@grayson.edu) or Rebecca Jones (JonesRe@grayson.edu).



# Our Country's Good tackles criminal justice themes

Marlea Trevino  
Viking Sponsor

Can convicted criminals be rehabilitated? How should criminals be treated during their imprisonment? These 2015 questions of criminal justice are themes of Timberlake Wertenbaker's play *Our Country's Good*, set in 1780's New South Wales, Australia, in a newly established penal colony. The Grayson Theatre department presented a moving, visually arresting production of the work on October 8-10 and then on October 14 for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Lighting crew Robert Gildner and Bryce Dansby set the opening scene of the convict ship and somber backdrop with an indigo "sky," accented by a strikingly painted Phillip Allen setting the tone of coloniza-



Chris Hendrik, Holden Webster and Darrion Dockins

tion protest as the Aboriginal Australian.

Early in the play, the Royal Marines in charge of the convicts sent away "for their country's good" debate these questions of criminal justice as they ultimately decide to allow the prisoners to mount a play themselves in part to provide entertainment and relief from the interminable hangings. It is during this heated discussion that the Grayson actors begin defining their charac-

ters for the audience, with Holden Webster shining as Captain Arthur Phillip, the Governor of South Wales and eventual ardent believer in the ability of the prisoners' play to "civilize" the performing convicts, one of which is soon to be hanged for stealing food.

Connor Copeland does a fine job of conveying the ambivalence his ambitious 2nd Lieutenant Ralph Clark feels about the prospect of the prisoners' play and his reluctance when asked to direct it. But the audience witnesses Clark's transformation, as the play progresses, from indifference to respect and even love for his convict-actors.

Transformation is evident in almost all of the convict-actors as well. Katelin Britton plays Mary Brenham as painfully shy initially, so nervous she can barely choke out her lines during

her audition and perfectly content to allow her more extroverted friend, Dabby Bryant, played admirably by Ashley Coffman, to speak for her. But as rehearsals progress, Britton shows Brenham's evolving confidence in reciting her lines ever more boldly, even practicing them alone as she strides across the stage. Michael Butt's character, the ostracized Jew John Wisehammer, buttons his vest and straightens his neck scarf



Curtain call: Holden Webster, Connor Copeland, Katelin Britton, Ashley Coffman, Michael Butt, Tyler Burns, Caitlin Pohland, Colton Wall, Colt Schell, Chris Hendrik, Jesse Alsup, Shelby Clements

when rehearsals begin, and the pickpocket Robert Sideways, played convincingly by Tyler Burns, is clearly in his dramatic element from audition to opening.

One of the most notable transformations is the jaded criminal Liz Morden's conversion into a "lady," which Caitlin Pohland conveys through her character's speech, demeanor, body language, but most importantly, through her desire to live instead of be hanged—to live in order to play her part in the prisoner play, through which she has found an avenue to a richer outlook on life. Colton Wall's character, prisoner John Arscott, proclaims that it is only during the prisoner play rehearsal that he feels free and human. The convict-actors initially reject the addition to the troupe of hangman Ketch Freeman, played insightfully by Colt Schell, because his presence reminds them that the freedom they feel when acting is only temporary.

In his vehement arguments against the prisoner play, Chris Hendrik makes

the audience despise his character, Major Robbie Ross. When Ross intrudes on the prisoner play rehearsal and begins humiliating Bryant, the mood change is palpable. The audience feels the convicts' hope has been dashed, even as the remaining convict-actors continue to pitifully struggle through their lines.

Jesse Alsup is riveting in his portrayal of the conflicted Midshipman Harry Brewer. The audience feels deep sadness for Brewer as he is haunted by the convict he hanged and is rejected by female convict Duckling Smith, whom Shelby Clements portrays as indifferent to Brewer's advances.

That indifference serves to cover Duckling's vulnerable nature and her fear that love is a kind of weakness. With the midshipman's death, Clements' tears, anger and grief portray the conflicting emotions of the convicts who long for a better life in England that their punishment of exile has denied them. Only one character slips away in a wild attempt

to sail home. The others remain in South Wales, uncertain of their future opportunities through any type of genuine reformation even though they have repented of their crimes or may have been wrongly convicted.

Many of the characters in *Our Country's Good* are based on real people, and the characters' hopes for their future, revealed just before their presentation of the prisoner play, echo many of their real-life counterparts' destinies.

Be sure to check out Grayson Theatre's next production, Stephen Karam's *Sons of the Prophet*, a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and described in production literature as "a dark comedy with a refreshingly honest take on how we cope with wounds that just won't heal." *Sons* will be staged in Grayson's intimate Black Box Theatre on November 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and November 22 at 2 p.m. Reservations are suggested. Call 903-463-8609 for more information or visit theatre@grayson.edu. ♥

2nd  
Floor  
Gallery  
Spring/  
Summer  
2016  
Exhibition  
Schedule

DECLARATION OF AN IDENTITY WITH CONVICTION - THE TATTOO ART SHOW

Open to artists 18+ January 21 - February 26

THE UPCYCLED - RECYCLED - REPURPOSED ART EXHIBITION

Open to artists 18+ March 3 - April 22

DENISON SPRING ART WALK AND INTERURBAN FILM FESTIVAL

Main Street Denison, Texas. Art Walk April 2/Film Festival April 1, 2 and 3

TEXOMA EARTH DAY FESTIVAL AND TRASHION SHOW

Lucy Kidd-Key Park Sherman, Texas. April 23, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

YEAR-END STUDENT ART SHOW

Open to art majors/students in studio art classes. April 28 - May 13

THE 7TH INCREDIBLE EDIBLE FOOD ART SHOW

April 30, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

THE ABSOLUTE BLACK & WHITE XIV EXHIBIT

Open to artists 18+ May 26 - August 11

## GC Theatre auditions for Sons of the Prophet

Luke Brown  
Student

If to live is to suffer, then Joseph Douaihy is more alive than most. With unexplained chronic pain and the fate of his reeling family on his shoulders, Joseph's health, sanity and insurance premium are on the line. In an age when modern medicine has a cure for just about everything, *Sons of the Prophet* is the funniest play about human suffering you're likely to see.

On Monday, October 19,

GC held auditions for their upcoming play *Sons of the Prophet*. Auditions were held in the Blackbox theatre where the production will also be held. Holden Webster, a second year student and Stage Manager for the upcoming show made sure that this week's auditions went as smoothly as possible. Many of the students were surprised at how much easier this show's auditions seemed, taking no time at all.

This production will be directed by Hunter McDaniel.

Bryce Dansby will design the lights. Aaron May will be designing the costumes and Chris Hendrik will design sound. All of these students are Sophomore Theatre majors.

Grayson College will be performing *Sons of the Prophet* on November 20 and 21 with curtain call at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a Sunday matinee with curtain call at 2:00 p.m. Come and support our young actors and their hard work and dedication to this production. ♥



Tyler Burns, Dakkota Foster and Conner Copeland

Get in the  
**Holiday Spirit**

**November 17**  
Thanksgiving Meal 8 p.m.  
Viking Residence Hall Main Lounge

**November 18**  
Sausage On A Stick & Soft Pretzels/Cheese 11 to 1 p.m.  
South Campus Main Foyer

**November 22**  
Christmas Decorating Party 7:30 p.m.  
Viking Residence Hall Main Lounge

**December 2 & 3**  
Santa's Workshop/Cookie Exchange  
South Campus

**December 7**  
Finals Week Breakfast 9-10 p.m.  
Life Center Food Court

**2015 Regional American Criminal Justice conference**



The 2015 Regional American Criminal Justice Conference was held in Texarkana, Arkansas. Students received first place in physical agility and third in the upper-class crime scene investigation. The Criminal Justice Club is open to new members. They will travel to the national competition in March in San Diego, California. You do not have to be a criminal justice major to join. Club meetings are held in the CRJ building lab every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. Pictured L to R: Chanee Lane, Mike Grove, Mary Pratt.

Complete your Federal Government requirement by taking a course with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution.

In the 2016 Presidential election year, what better way to learn Federal Government than in a course with an academic foundation provided by the U.S. Constitution?



GC professors Ron Velten (Government) and Matt Hamilton (History) will be collaborating to teach GOVT 2305.002 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. this spring.

Sign up to learn about the original intention of the framers and the vision for America that the framers had, as well as explore important historical and contemporary Constitutional issues and concepts such as the Constitution as a living document. Seating is limited, so be sure to enroll early!

**“Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor”**

*Continued from page 1*

Hardin was highly concerned with the looming threats of human overpopulation in a world of depleting resources. While Hardin raises many legitimate points, he makes several assumptions that hinder the usefulness of his metaphor.

He begins by comparing the rich nations and the poor nations, allegorically assigning each rich nation to be lifeboat occupants, leaving the people of the poor nations to be swimmers, sadly left destitute in the ocean. Those left in the ocean without supplies of any sort strongly desire to be aided by those with copious resources. Hardin poses the question *“What should the lifeboat passengers do?”*

**Three Options**

He goes on to extrapolate that the lifeboats have inadequate capacity to allow even a minuscule portion of swimmers into the lifeboats safely. At this point, there are three options the boaters can choose from. If they are feeling particularly empathetic, they can allow every single swimmer into their boats; however this would cause the boat to sink and every one to drown.

Seemingly, the next best option for them would be to allow some to enter, but then they are left with the impossible decision of who to allow in. If they are focused on self-serving ideals, they could also forbid anyone else from entering, and also leave a safety factor so they will have fewer worries. Hardin then mentions those who may feel guilt-ridden because they were lucky enough to be in the lifeboat. His response to those people would be *“Get out and yield your place to others.”*

He argues, however, that if all those with a conscience give up their seats in the lifeboat, the lifeboat would soon be entirely lacking people of integrity. He ends his quandary by mentioning that this issue will only grow in time, as those considered to be poor double in number more than twice as fast as the rich.

**Resource Availability**

The ideas Hardin discusses are highly relevant to society as a whole. There always have been and assumedly always will be both rich and poor in this world. It is vital for us to consider both the realities of these situations, and the effects of any actions we take concerning them as the outcomes of our actions could either make or break the countries we care about

most.

At first, and indeed perhaps second glance as well, Hardin's logic seems inscrutable. However, when we consider further the assumptions he has made in his metaphor, it raises some questions. In the case of the lifeboat, there are limited resources and limited options for those involved. While this gives a good perspective for distribution of inadequate resources, it falls short of conveying the reality of renewable resources. While some may be worried that the earth's resources are depleting, Thomas Graedal, director of the Center for Industrial Ecology at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, argues that *“We have never completely run out of a natural resource, and we almost certainly never will.”* Hardin also places restrictions on the capabilities of man to develop and improve, assuming that the lifeboats could not increase in size, and more could not be created.

**Out of Control Growth**

Hardin begins his article by mentioning that roughly two-thirds of the world's nations are considerably poor, with one-third being rich comparatively. While this is statistically true, a study done in 2009 by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Developmental Research Group from the years 1981-2005, shows that while the world populations increased by about 2,000 million, the numbers of those considered poor stayed relatively constant except for slight undulations.

Hardin fears that the amount of poor people those swimming in the ocean will increase in population twice as fast as those in the lifeboats. However, statistically this does not appear to be the case. This fact does not dramatically change the reality of the lifeboat metaphor, however it does assist in removing the overwhelming thought of a dramatically growing population of desperate, needy people swimming around our lifeboat.

I believe that Hardin's metaphor is helpful since it urges us to consider the actuality of a very real issue. It is also true that it is not currently possible for someone to take in every needy person at once, as Hardin portrays with the overloaded lifeboat that drowns. Yet, he fails to take into consideration the individual lives altered by the actions of the

materially fortunate.

I like to alter his metaphor slightly by allowing each separate 'rich' person to have their own lifeboat, different sizes according to their means. While this alteration still fails to consider the reality of renewable resources, it allows a clearer view of the results of the boater's actions. Some could help many, and others only a few. It is not however, necessarily detrimental to them either way. Depending on the location in relation to land, it is possible they could drop the swimmers off on land and rescue more, not having to worry about those already saved.

**Accessibility**

The entire metaphor, while useful to an extent, stays on the surface of the issue. Yes, helping them is vital, but why do they need help? Justin Minkel, teacher at a high-performing, high-poverty school in Arkansas, and former Arkansas teacher of the year, likes to use an example he calls *“The Drowning Babies Parable.”* In this parable, a man is sitting by a stream when suddenly he sees a helpless baby floating by. Naturally, he rescues it. Right away, he sees another that needs rescued. This continues until the man is utterly exhausted. He then looks upstream and sees a man tossing babies into the stream.

At this point the man has several options. He can call it hopeless and walk away, continue saving them where he is, or confront the probably frightening man throwing babies in the stream. This parable portrays a deeper truth than the lifeboat metaphor. While it is important to help others, we should focus not on the surface needs, but on the source of the issue.

In conclusion, Hardin's *“Lifeboat Ethics”* metaphor is undeniably thought provoking and helpful in realizing some of the issues with helping the poor, but it does not give us the best perspective of the issue. Hardin certainly achieved his purpose of causing people to think deeper into this situation. If more people were exposed to his metaphor, it could cause them to ponder ideas they may have previously ignored. It does, however, lack fine points that would give the metaphor a greater depth. It also disregards the phenomenon of renewable resources. In short, Hardin's metaphor is good, but not good enough. ♥

**New HVACR club on campus**

President: Tyler Hullett, Vice President: Ray Roberts, Treasurer: Chris Robbins, Secretary: Keeshan Lewis.



The club began with 24 new members. Meeting times are once a month on the second Thursday from 5 - 6 p.m. The location is the CTC building, room 117. The mission of the club is to promote interest and awareness of air conditioning and heating systems within the GC community and the County of Grayson through the use of lectures, outings, and other events.

The club would like to assist families who need areas around the AC and furnace cleaned. No AC service work will be performed by the club members to avoid state licensing issues. Of course, donations to the club are always welcome. Contact adviser James Popplewell for info: [popplewellj@grayson.edu](mailto:popplewellj@grayson.edu)

**SGA** Final meeting of the semester:  
Monday, Nov. 30  
12:15, Viking Room

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Peer Tutoring is located in the Testing Center (SC 115)**  
Tutors are trained and CRLA certified

Tutoring is scheduled by appointment. Sessions are one hour per week.

Tutoring Center hours:  
M-Tr: 8 AM - 8 PM  
F: 8 AM - 4 PM

To request a tutor come by or contact Jeffri Johnson Hodge at [hodgej@grayson.edu](mailto:hodgej@grayson.edu).

# The polarization of politics: has it always been this way?

Caroline Rowell  
*Dual-Credit Student*

The presidential campaign season has begun. With this season comes concerns about the state of politics in our nation and high hopes for a new leader who will forge change. The political parties seem polarized, though, which makes us wonder whether or not politics have always been the way they are now.

Politics in America may or may not have always been polarized. According to Lynn Rowell, a seventy-five-year-old man who has witnessed years of politics, beginning with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a two-party system will be polarized just by definition. But the polarization is worse today. He believes that our two-party system is at a "stale mate" right now because politicians have so much hatred for each other that "the legislature can't move."

However, Professor Ron Velten, an American government professor at GC, disagrees saying, "I think that we've had times when we've been worse off than we are now." As an example, he cites an incident in 1856 when a man named Charles Sumner was basically beaten unconscious on the Senate floor by a member of the House.

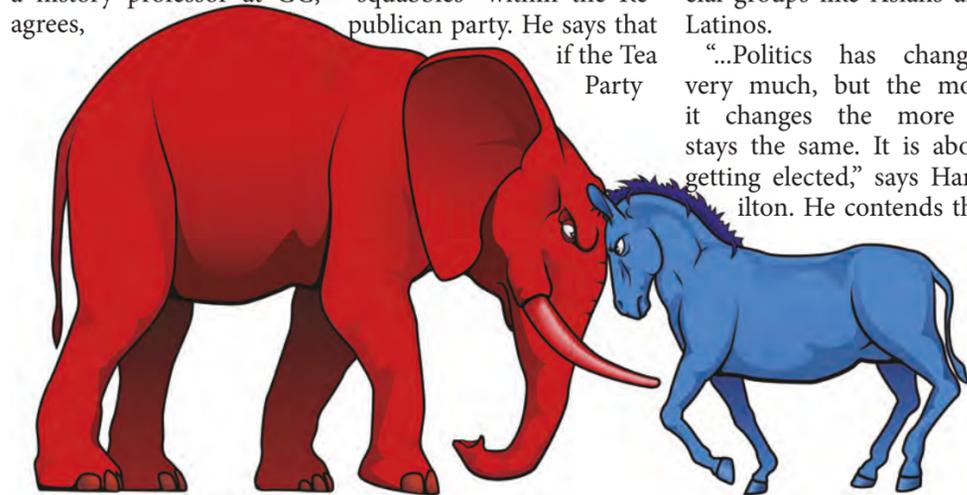
Professor Matt Hamilton, a history professor at GC, agrees,

the country's big policy issues, but it hasn't always been this way in regards to big policy issues.

Hamilton notes that throughout American history, there have been times at which the country reaches a "tipping point." At this point, if a solution isn't reached, problems occur, but we have always been able to arrive at a compromise. He says a compromise on a political issue can always be reached, whereas a compromise based on a moral issue cannot usually be reached. He cites the three-fifths compromise, Missouri compromise and the 1850 compromise as examples of political compromises. Although politicians may appear unwilling to compromise today, they have reached compromises in the past.

The political parties in America seem to many voters to be extreme in their views, but there may have been times when they were more balanced and moderate. Velten notes that up until 1965 or 1970, there were liberal and conservative wings in both parties. He says, "It is hard to be a moderate today in Congress because you catch heck from other people in your party.... There is pressure on moderates, and they are bailing out of Congress." Rowell believes that the Tea Party holds extreme views that are causing a lot of "squabbles" within the Republican party. He says that

if the Tea Party



saying, "I think from the very beginning it might be worse than it is today." He proves his point saying that during the Revolution, there was a lot of polarization between the Tories and Whigs over the issue of separation from England. He also notes how there was a lot of polarization in the campaign that led up to the 1800 presidential election between the Federalists and Jefferson's Democratic Republicans. People believed if Jefferson and the Republicans won the White House and Congress that civil war, violence, and blood shed would break out. The Republicans did win the election, but obviously none of these rumors became reality. Polarization seems to have always been a recurring issue in American politics.

Throughout history, politicians have seemed unwilling to compromise across the aisle in order to accomplish anything. Rowell notes that both Reagan and Johnson were skilled at reaching across the aisle and negotiating legislation. Hamilton says, "Even right now [in 2015], there is still a willingness to compromise." He says politicians currently reach across the aisle and accomplish small pieces of legislation, but I don't hear about these on the news because they are not big policy issues. Currently Congress will not do anything about

grows much bigger, it would be as if they were a third party. He holds that the country would be in deep trouble if the Tea Party became the entire Republican party.

Hamilton contends, "I don't know if both parties have such extreme views. Both parties have a very vocal minority within them that gives the impression that they carry more weight than they do." He points out that the media makes the parties appear even more extreme because they report the craziest news stories they can find in order to get people to watch their show or read their newspaper.

To prove his point, Hamilton cites the Tea Party movement as an example. He says the movement received so much attention that many Americans viewed the Republican party as being entirely made up of the Tea Party, which certainly seems to have proven true since Rowell holds this view.

Although Hamilton believes the parties don't hold extreme views but that the impression is given that they do, he says, "Perception is reality....Don't drink the Kool Aid." This proves to be true for the average citizen, including Rowell.

History and culture have affected the polarization of political parties and what they stand for. Rowell asserts that there was a huge cultural shift when Demo-

crats passed the Civil Rights Act. Hamilton cites the time before the Civil War during the 1860 election as being the best example of the most polarized time in our nation. Democrats on the ballot in the North did not even come close to Abraham Lincoln in number of votes, whereas Lincoln was not even on the ballots in the South.

Hamilton says by 1860, politics were a lot more polarized than they are now because the parties were divided geographically with an "us versus them mentality" that ended in civil war. Velten agrees, also saying that not only was politics polarized during the Civil War but there were even divisions between families and churches. This is a perfect example of how a historical event affected the polarization of politics during that time.

According to Rowell, politics have "always been like this." Hamilton took a more thorough approach to the issue saying, "It has changed... in terms of who politicians needed to pander to for votes...." For a long time, politicians only had to win the votes of white males who owned property because they were the only people who could vote. Over time, all white males were given the right to vote, then all males, then women, too, and then also large racial groups like Asians and Latinos.

"...Politics has changed very much, but the more it changes the more it stays the same. It is about getting elected," says Hamilton. He contends that

the same thing that divided the political parties throughout American history is the same thing that divides them today, which is the answer to the question of how active the federal government should be.

He states that one party believes that the Constitution should be followed strictly to the letter. The other party believes that the Constitution is a document that can be interpreted loosely. Therefore the federal government can exercise power outside of that granted to it by the Constitution, but it exercises this power for good. He says both parties accept the fundamental premise that the "Constitution is the government," and "it is the document that our government is founded upon." Neither party wishes to distort this premise, but they disagree on how to interpret the Constitution. Hamilton says even though the parties seem polarized today, they still agree on this basic premise.

In conclusion, with the upcoming presidential election, we should all think deeply about the current state of our nation and which issues could be changed for the better. It is up to the American people to elect a leader who will make changes that are best for the country by reaching across the aisle and working together. ♥

♥ Love Math?

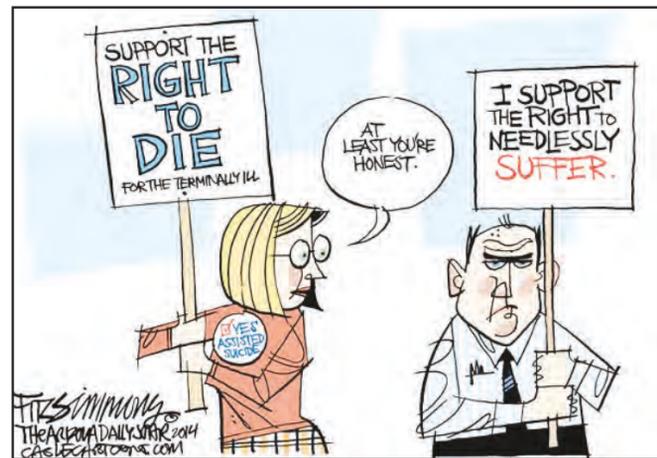
Join Mu Alpha Theta, the national math honor society!

The club is open to all. Officers are required to have a 3.0 GPA in college algebra I or above.

Meetings take place every first and third Thursday of each month in LA204 from 1 - 2 p.m.

For more information, contact adviser Billye Cheek: CheekB@grayson.edu or 903-463-2543

# The right to end your life



www.aurorasentinel.com

Leeta Hyatt  
*Dual-Credit Student*

It's part of the Constitution that the United States supports personal freedom. Americans have the right to freedom of speech and even freedom of religion. We, the people, can think for ourselves without the government micromanaging everything people do in their personal lives. When people think about someone taking their life, they think of the term "suicide." What if there were a law that stated that someone can take their own life if they are suffering a terminal illness and this were the law across the U.S.?

Most patients with a terminal illness do not want to leave their family members with the last impression of their being really sick. They want to feel relieved that after they pass, their families will be fine and celebrate their life in a positive way. Currently only five states out of 50 states allow physician-assisted suicide. Those states include Oregon, Vermont, Washington, New Mexico and Montana.

The number-one goal in a doctor's or nurse's mind is to save everyone they can. In reality, though, not all people can be saved. When it comes to letting someone go through pain until death or peacefulness until death, Americans are conflicted.

Dr. Vivek Talwar, a family practice doctor at Baylor Hospital in McKinney, Texas, states, "The hardest part is watching the patient in chronic pain until he passed." Nurse Debbie Simko, physician coordinator at Baylor, disagrees, stating, "It's harder to watch a person pass away peacefully while they're still themselves." To some, it's harder to watch a loved one die peacefully since it seems like they are not going through pain, but in all reality, they are. Denise O'Brien, also a physician's coordinator at Baylor, thinks that "both choices are hard, but to let anyone go is the hardest....It would be the last time they are seen even though it would give them peace."

Certainly many emotions are present when making the drastic decision to take one's own life. Talwar thinks a patient should see if every possible choice is thought

of first. He wants "no stone left unturned," meaning he doesn't want to leave any idea possibility for improvement untouched.

Both Nurse O'Brien and Simko agree that if the patient knew there was no cure, they would be worried about their families. Simko said, "She [the patient] doesn't want her family to see her suffer." O'Brien agrees that the patient may think to themselves "how can I lessen the burden on my family?" She wants "to live as long as she can until she starts forgetting and the pain becomes worse."

Since this action is not legal yet in every state, some people choose to either take their case to court or go to a state that supports physician-assistant suicide. Both Talwar and O'Brien feel the law should allow this option. O'Brien explains that patients should have the right to choose when they are dying in pain.

Most people want to die in peace. This is if there is no cure or other choice, states O'Brien. Simko cautions that "[a] person with a terminal illness will go through many stages of emotions. They will probably change their opinions or point of views on some. Ending your life is a decision you can't change once it is done. Also, as rare as it may be, what if a person was given a wrong diagnosis?" If that were the case, for what purpose did that person die?

Would this law go against religious morals? Some religions believe that God should be the one to choose when people leave this earth, not themselves. Talwar states, "I am not sure of this." But both O'Brien and Simko agree that such a law could cross religious beliefs. O'Brien explains, "I believe that if the law passed for the right to choose, the religious leaders would interfere by bringing their religious beliefs in it, and saying it is wrong."

So what is the government going to do about physician-patient suicide? Are they going to deny someone's rights, or are they going to grant everyone's wish to have freedom? No one wants someone to make a mistake, but what if it could save people from misery? ♥

# Travel to Costa Rica and earn college credit

*Continued from page 1*

GC Spanish Professor Mary Yetta McKelva will accompany the group and oversee the language program. Students will attend class four hours each day of the week and live with a Costa Rican family.

The school is located in Heredia, about 20 miles from San José. Heredia is a medium-sized city that still maintains a typical Latin American "pueblo" feel. Students may attend cultural events offered at the school and may serve as a volunteer for environmental projects and literacy improvement efforts in the public schools. The group will take weekend excursions to the beautiful

rain forests, beaches and volcanoes throughout Costa Rica.

**Cost**

The basic program fee is approximately \$3,500.00 for a four-week stay. The price includes round-trip airfare from Dallas to San José, Costa Rica; airport transfers; your room and board with two meals a day with a Costa Rican family; one weekend group excursion and services of on-site staff in Costa Rica. GC enrollment fees will be paid directly to the college at the time of registration for Summer 1. Only air fare is paid ahead of time in mid February.

**Eligibility**

If you are a student in good standing at one of

Texas' community colleges, you are eligible to enroll in this program through GC. You do not have to have any prior knowledge of Spanish to attend. You can be a beginner!

**Interested?**

The first preview meeting will be held Tuesday, December 1, 2015, in Liberal Arts Bldg. room 108 at 6:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend, please call Professor McKelva at (903) 463-8623 or e-mail [mckelvam@grayson.edu](mailto:mckelvam@grayson.edu). For a complete overview of the program, staff, home stay selection process, excursion descriptions and a photo gallery of the school, visit the web site below. ♥

**Plan ahead for Summer 2016!**

Earn your Spanish course credit in

**Costa Rica**



Earn up to 6 hours of foreign language credits in Spanish while living in Costa Rica. Beginning and Intermediate course credits available. Continuing Ed credits available as well. For more information contact: Mary Yetta McKelva [mckelvam@grayson.edu](mailto:mckelvam@grayson.edu) 903-463-8623

Learn Spanish while immersing yourself in the culture, the people, and the beauty of Costa Rica!



<http://www.interculturacostarica.com>

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK NOVEMBER 16-19

<p><b>NOV. 17</b> <b>"TASTE THE WORLD"</b></p> <p>A presentation from our students from Mauritania and a sample of some of the food from that region. Please email or call the International Student Office to reserve a spot, a limit of 40 people for this event.</p> <p>Location &amp; Time: BSM at 12:15 to 1:15</p>	<p><b>NOV. 18</b> <b>BSM LUNCHEON</b></p> <p>International student testimonials on cultural adjustments in the U.S.</p> <p>Location &amp; Time: BSM at 11:30 and 12:15</p>	<p><b>NOV. 19</b> <b>INTERNATIONAL DAY</b></p> <p>Table displays from over 17 countries</p> <p>Empty Bowls will also be going on during this time.</p> <p>Location &amp; Time: Student Life/Bridge Area 11:00 - 1:00 pm</p>
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Please call the International Student Office if you have any questions: 903-463-8749

**MEXICAN GRILL**

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Hosted by Clay Club, Culinary Arts and the Music Department

## Empty Bowls

Thursday, Nov. 19  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Life Center

Artists donate the bowls...  
Cooks donate the soup...  
You donate \$10 and help provide meals for children in need!

Benefitting Visions of Sugar Plums

**GRAYSON COLLEGE**  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

<b>Nov. 18th</b>	<b>AC/GC Wind Symphony Concert</b>
<b>7:30pm</b>	
<b>Nov. 24th</b>	<b>GC Music Department Concert</b>
<b>7:00pm</b>	
<b>Dec. 3rd</b>	<b>GC Piano Department Recital</b>
<b>7:00pm</b>	

All concerts and recitals will be held in the Cruce stark Auditorium and are free to the public.  
Grayson College Main Campus  
600 Grayson Drive  
Denison, Texas 75020

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The Grayson College Music Department Performs on Petrof Pianos.