

Get Involved

Viking Deadline

Friday, March 8

Send all submissions to the editor, **Kassandra Garcia** at Kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu. Remember, anyone can contribute!

Student Leadership Series

TBA

Student and Employee Spirit Day

Every Friday wear your GC attire with blue jeans and celebrate the Viking spirit!

Clubs & Orgs

Baptist Student Ministries

Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m. BSM building

Clay Club

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

Cosmetology Club

Tuesdays bi-weekly 8:30- 9:30 a.m., CTC

Cultural Diversity Club

Second and fourth Mondays 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 Tuesdays, 3 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 Monday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Cyber Cafe, CWL

History Club

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

Honors College Club

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m. LA 107, Liberal Arts

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. Study Room 5, Library

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Please recycle this paper!

Grayson Students See First Hand How Texas Government Works

By Alison Earnhart, Student



(L-R): Dr. Molly Harris, Alison Earnhart, Elaine Botka, Senator Pat Fallon, Kassandra Garcia, Professor Mary Linder, Anita Maharjan, Lavada Burse, Board of Trustees Vice Chair Jackie Butler, Melinda Hendricks, Jeremy Babb, Melissa Rodriguez, President Jeremy McMillen, Board of Trustees Chair Ronnie Cole, Robert Halley, Irving Tapia, OL Kelly

On January 30, 2019, a group of Grayson College student leaders and faculty members attended Community College Day in Austin, Texas. The group of students included Phi Theta Kappa members, Honors College students, and a student veteran. As a group, we went to the capital to raise awareness of community-college issues such as dual-credit funding, while also emphasizing how important community colleges are.

Community colleges are very helpful due to the accessibility for first-generation college students. It's hard for a first-

generation student, and students in general, to understand the processes needed for a successful application and enrollment to college.

At Grayson, it was very easy and user-friendly to go to the Advising Office and come up with a plan. When trying to apply for a four-year university, it becomes more difficult because of how impersonal it can be. A website can only do so much. In knowing these great things about community college, we felt ready to represent ourselves, and other two-year college students.

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First Palentine's Celebration Includes and Connects Grayson Community

By Storm Anderson, Staff Writer

Fans of the NBC sitcom *Parks and Recreation* may recall the "Galentine's Day" episode of the show's second season. While Valentine's Day is traditionally the celebration of romance, "Galentine's" focuses its attention on the platonic affections of friends. Despite the comedic nature of the show, "Galentine's Day" sparked an event renamed "'Pal'entine's" (to include both genders) aimed at celebrating the community of our college campus.

As English and Philosophy professor Dr. Jean Sorensen explained, "Palentine's Day celebrates the importance of friendships for all people in an inclusive way that welcomes all creeds, all genders, and all forms of kindness and care that build the community."

A Palentine's Day party was thrown for the campus February 13th on the first floor of the Library, lovingly referred to by Dr. Sorensen as "the heart of the campus." Students and faculty from all areas of the campus gathered to snack and socialize with friends and colleagues in a relaxed environment. The Palentine's event provided an opportunity to meet students from every pathway and make deeper connections with fellow classmates and teachers.

While some may misunderstand the mission of a community

college, Grayson is just that: a community of future nurses, engineers, cosmetologists, scientists and everything in between. Events like the Palentine's Day celebration prove that Grayson College's mission to connect is what makes our campus so special.



(L-R) Students Stephen Linn and William Watson enjoying conversation with their fellow students.

Join Now!

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society



"I first joined because it was a boost to my ego; I stayed because of the friendships I made."

General Studies Student



"I joined to help pay for college and make a difference in the community."

Health Sciences Student



"I joined because I wanted to get more connected on campus, rather than just going to class and leaving."

Business Administration Student

New Member Orientation
Feb 27 @ 12:30, LA 107

ptkegrayson.edu for info

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SPRING 2

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Grayson College Sport Updates

By Mike McBrayer, Director of Athletics

The Grayson College softball team opened the season with a pair of shutout victories against Paris Junior College on Monday, February 11. The Lady Vikings completed the sweep with a 14-0 victory in five innings. Kaylee Walters was 2-for-3 with a home run and five RBI, Eden Lawson was 3-for-4 with four RBI and three runs, Cheyenne Stark was 2-for-2, drove in a run, and scored twice and Jade Miller singled, walked twice, and scored twice for Grayson (2-0). Carmen Eilertsen and Sarah Azlin combined on the four-hit shutout.

In Game 1, Kamrie Harrison homered, drove in three runs, and scored twice as the Lady Vikings earned a 16-0 victory in five innings. Eilertsen was 3-for-3, drove in a run, and scored twice, Stark singled, drove in a run, and scored three times, and Skylar Shedlock and Miller each finished with a double and two RBI for Grayson, which broke the game open with a nine-run fourth inning. Angelia Va'a and Azlin combined on the three-hit shutout.

Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	# Games	Time
3/1	Howard	Big Spring, TX	2	12:00
3/2	Howard	Big Spring, TX	1	12:00
3/6	Temple	Dub Hayes Field	2	12:00
3/9	Temple	Temple, TX	2	12:00
3/13	Cisco	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
3/16	Cisco	Cisco, TX	2	1:00
3/18	San Jac	Airhog Stadium	1	5:00
3/20	TCS Postgrad	Dr. Pepper, Frisco	1	6:00
3/25	Murray St.	Tishimino, OK	1	5:00
3/27	Ranger	Ranger, TX	2	1:00
3/30	Ranger	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/3	Hill	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/6	Hill	Hillsboro, TX	2	1:00
4/8	Murray St.	Dub Hayes Field	1	2:00
4/10	McLennan	Waco, TX	2	1:00
4/13	McLennan	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/17	Weatherford	Weatherford, TX	2	1:00
4/20	Weatherford	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/22	San Jac	Sam Houston St.	1	4:00
4/24	Vernon	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
4/27	Vernon	Vernon, TX	2	1:00
5/1	North Central	Dub Hayes Field	2	1:00
5/4	North Central	Gainesville, TX	2	1:00
5/11	Regional Tournament	San Angelo, TX	TBA	TBA
5/26	JUCO World Series	Grand Junction, CO	TBA	TBA

Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	# Games	Time
2/27	Weatherford	Weatherford, TX	2	1:00
3/2	Vernon	Denison, TX	2	12:00
3/4	Seminole	Denison, TX	2	1:00
3/6	McLennan	Waco, TX	2	1:00
3/9	Hill	Denison, TX	2	12:00
3/11	Connors State	Denison, TX	2	1:00
3/13	Temple	Denison, TX	2	1:00
3/16	NCTC	Gainesville, TX	2	12:00
3/20	Cisco	Denison, TX	2	1:00
3/23	Ranger	Ranger, TX	2	12:00
3/25	Murray State	Denison, TX	2	1:00
3/30	Weatherford	Denison, TX	2	12:00
4/3	Vernon	Vernon, TX	2	1:00
4/6	McLennan	Denison, TX	2	12:00
4/10	Hill	Hillsboro, TX	2	1:00
4/13	Temple	Temple, TX	2	12:00
4/15	Murray State	Tishomingo, OK	2	1:00
4/17	NCTC	Denison, TX	2	1:00
4/19	Cisco	Cisco, TX	2	1:00
4/24	Ranger	Denison, TX	2	1:00

Music Club
Every other Friday
1 - 2 p.m., Choir Room,
Arts & Communications

Phi Theta Kappa
Wednesdays
12:30 - 1 p.m.
LA 107, Liberal Arts

Psychology Club
Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.
CIS 202

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

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

Student Government Association
Every other Thursday
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
LA 110, Liberal Arts

Sisters of Destiny
Every other Thursday,
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 Tuesdays, 2 - 3:00 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
12:20-12:50 p.m.
Study Room 5, Library

Students See Government

Continued from Pg 1

However, talking to a state Representative and Senator seemed like a daunting task, but it was quite down-to-earth.

We talked to House District 62 Representative Reggie Smith first thing in the morning and presented our ideas for the betterment of community college. Two of our members shared deeply touching stories of their personal experience and how Grayson has been a saving grace for them.

Community colleges truly are opportunities for those who thought that a high school education was the most they would be able to attain due to various reasons like cost, location, and family situations. We also had the chance to talk to Senator Pat Fallon about the same issues we brought to House Representative Reggie Smith.

Besides being able to talk to a Representative and Senator, we also attended a basketball game between University of Texas and Kansas University, took a tour of the Capitol building, and sat in the House and Senate Chambers while they introduced topics of relevance.

Personally, my favorite part was being able to try on Pat Fallon's Notre Dame Championship Football ring. All in all, this was a great trip full of wonderful and exciting experiences. We were able to see firsthand how Texas government works and make some great memories.



Senator Pat Fallon lets Alison Earnhart wear his Championship Football ring from Notre Dame



More Parentine Fun!



Editorial: Faking Confidence to Beat Stress

By True Shaw, Staff Writer

In today's world, a person's worth is often represented by what they own, the people they know, their jobs, their "smartness" or their "ability," or the amount of "likes" they get on social media -- in other words, the material things they own and the opinions and actions of other people. But a lot of these are things people can't control.

Sure, you can try to influence other people's opinions with your actions, but there is no magic formula to get people to like you or agree with you at all times. The stress and unhappiness that comes from similar situations that you don't like and can't control -- such as exams and job interviews -- is not an uncommon feeling in today's fast-paced and high-stress world.

In her viral Ted Talk, and in her book, *Presence*, researcher Amy Cuddy talks about how a person's body language can make people look and feel more capable when in these stressful situations. As tempting as it can be to try to control what others think or want, the truth is that the only thing you can truly control are your own actions. Cuddy encourages people to take note of what is up to them and to take control of certain things in their lives.

1. **Posture.** Sitting or standing up straight is a simple thing that makes people look more confident, and makes them feel in control. In her book, and Ted Talk, Cuddy even encourages people to "power pose" before a stressful situation, or to take time to stand up straight with arms akimbo or straight up in order to stimulate feelings of power and confidence. Whether you power pose or simply sit a little straighter, standing up straight has the double benefit of appearing more capable as well as feeling a more confident.

2. **Smile** - and look up. These are two small but powerful choices to make people look and feel more confident. Smiling can make people feel calmer,

happier, and appear more approachable. Looking away from your phone to make eye contact with those around you encourages you to sit straighter instead of hunching over a device. Also, looking people in the eye is another mark of self-assurance and encourages better communication between people.

3. **Dress for success.** Another simple thing to do to prepare for a test, a presentation, or an interview to gain confidence is to dress up a little. A good outfit allows you to be comfortable with what you're wearing but with the reassurance that you look good -- allowing you to feel good.

4. **Fake it until you become it.** All of these small suggestions lead to the crux of Cuddy's presentation, the idea that by acting like they feel confident, a person will actually start to feel more confident. Act confident until you no longer need to act. Cuddy isn't suggesting that people pretend that they aren't nervous. Instead, she encourages them to acknowledge their insecurities but to take control of their actions and body language despite their feelings.

Instead of wasting energy fighting a battle that can never be won, it might be more helpful for people to acknowledge that there are things in life that are up to them and things that aren't. Basing your happiness on things you can control, like your own actions, will make people happier because they are not dependent on the unpredictable feelings of others in order to be content.

By focusing on the things that you can control, even seemingly little things like your body language, you can increase your happiness and find a more productive outlet for your stress. So, the next time you're facing a stressful situation, try standing straight, smiling, and faking it.

Short Story: Jackson's Secret Library

By Brianna Watkins, Student

Smoke hung so thick in the library's rafters that he could read words in it. On the fifth floor of the campus library there is a door. It's well concealed, inconspicuous. The only people who know it is there are the librarians and an observant student named Jackson; the twisting stairway and reference mezzanine that rest behind it are left unsupervised. It's technically out of bounds to students, but Jackson is quiet. Nobody needs to know.

The books on the mezzanine are much older than those in the rest of the library. They've been left untouched for so long that the smoke that suspends them, preserves them, has become colored with their contents. Jackson sets himself up on the floor in front of the stairway door, back pressed against the warped wood, journal within reach to one side.

The shelves tell stories that the books that stain them do not; confused

and combined, the pictorial records of long-extinct species of butterflies and forest mushrooms illustrate the longings of a long-dead naval captain, monochrome photos of past monarchs and their children held afloat besides descriptions of mythological deities.

The smoke is thick up here, so far from the grates in the basement floor that keep the air circulating. If Jackson closes his eyes to the nonsensical images swirling and pulsing before him, he can almost hear the shelves whisper, feel the hum of their density resonate in his ribcage. He takes a pencil and follows the sound across the pages of his journal, scribbling down any words he can find in the haze before it fades away.

Oh, the stories he could tell.

Movies with Pickle Juice Review: The Final Installation of the "Unbreakable" Trilogy, "Glass"

By Justin Pelzel, Staff Writer

If you are a movie fanatic like myself, you probably were excited about the new movie, and last installation of the *Unbreakable* trilogy, *Glass*. *Unbreakable* is an early 2000's movie directed by M. Night Shyamalan and starring Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.

In my opinion, this is one of Shyamalan's better movies. *Unbreakable* is about a dad, Dunn, played by Bruce Willis, who figures out he has super-human abilities. Some of his abilities include super-strength, stamina and invulnerability, as well as an extrasensory ability to see the crimes people have committed by the sense of touch.

Enabled by his son to do good in the world, Dunn sets out trying to help others. He also tries to figure out what's wrong with him and why he can do the things he can.

This movie is also about a little boy who is too smart for his own good. The actor playing this character is Samuel L. Jackson. His character is incredibly smart and has an interest in super heroes. He, having the power of increased intellect, sets out to find others who have abilities like he does. His downfall is that he had bones of glass. Yes, that's right, bones of glass. You can probably figure out why the final movie of the trilogy is called *Glass* now.

Although this movie is a good movie, there are some areas that need improvement. I found that the movie's action scenes are a little dry and short. They could have used a little more raw action. Even though the movie is about a hero, it is not a super hero movie. However, this movie is not just about a hero; it is also about a villain.

Shyamalan creates the perfect villain to challenge Dunn, and a good villain is what makes a hero. I am not going to spoil the movie for you, so you will have to watch it to understand what I am talking about. I assure you that your time will be well spent.

The second movie in the *Unbreakable* trilogy, *Split*, was also directed by M. Night Shyamalan, and it was interesting, to say the least. The movie is about Kevin Wendell Crumb, played by James McAvoy. James McAvoy does a tremendous job in acting for this character, and if you haven't seen this movie, I highly suggest it. *Split* is about a guy with split personalities who believes they can unlock their final personality by performing a ritual and gathering enough followers within their own psychosis.

This ritual unlocks what they call the Beast, again someone with super-human abilities, to punish those who haven't suffered in their life time. This movie is very well written, and I would applaud M. Night Shyamalan if I could. *Split* had a lot of good scenes, and it is a very well-done movie. Though after first watching this movie, and then being told it was a sequel, I found it hard to believe for the simple fact that nowhere in this movie does it say or mention *Unbreakable*. The only thing that this movie has in common

with *Unbreakable* is the simple fact that it is an M. Night Shyamalan film.

They could have mentioned any of the characters from *Unbreakable* anywhere in the movie, had a television going on in the back ground and

saying one of the main character's names, or have the news going and explaining disastrous situations that occurred in the previous movie. M. Night Shyamalan does not on any level ever explain that this movie is tied to *Unbreakable*. The only reason I found out was after seeing the trailer for *Glass* and seeing the same exact characters from all three movies.

Now, my little brother thought it was not the end of the trilogy, and only similar characters played by the same actors in one movie. I could understand where he was coming from even though he had not even seen the first movie. To be honest with you, I was more into this movie than he was. So, my research had brought me to the conclusion that they are tied together, and the script writers just had done a poor job of explaining that they were.

Finally, the last movie to this trilogy is, of course, *Glass*. *Glass* is about having all three main characters in the same area, trying to escape to fight it out and see which triumphs over the other. It is sincerely good, versus evil, versus psychotic. The trilogy is fantastic, and I would definitely watch it a few more times just to feel the nostalgia from when I was a kid and have a good story line laid out in front of me.

The movie, in my opinion, is absolutely an 8/10 rating, not only because it was a feeling of nostalgia for me to finally watch the ending of one of my

favorite movies as a kid, but the artistic writing and plot sequence laid out for the audience is just astounding.

As a 1990's kid, I had no idea that this movie would have led to an all-out battle between three different super-humans, which makes the trilogy much more interesting to watch. The feeling of not knowing what is going to happen until it is displayed on the big screen was an absolute 360 for me. I can usually tell how a movie is going to turn out just based off the first few scenes. It was a sport for me while growing up.

This movie actually had me on the edge of my seat the entire time. This movie had its weak points as well, though. *Unbreakable* is about Bruce Willis's character, *Split* is about James McAvoy's character, and even though he is the bad guy, *Glass* is about Samuel L. Jackson's character. Samuel L. Jackson's character makes the entire movie worth watching. There are some points in the movie that needed a little work though. The ending is a little disappointing, but I am not going to give it away.

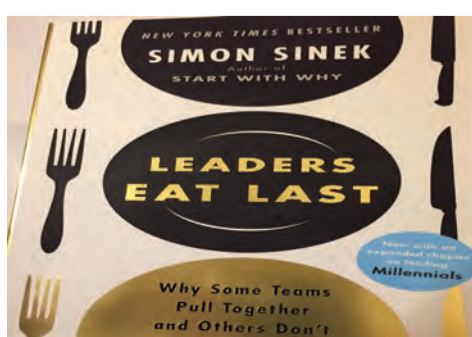
Glass could have been written better. Everyone loves a cliff hanger; maybe leave it like that, with a cliff hanger. If M. Night Shyamalan did not want to leave it on a cliff hanger, write a better ending. If you ever get the chance to watch it, put yourself in my shoes, and see if you can come up with a better ending.



https://cdn.movievieweb.com/img.teasers.posters/FloQgNF1bLXLst_1_a/Glass.jpg

Leadership Book Club discussing "Leaders Eat Last"

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor



"It is not the demands of the job that cause the most stress, but the degree of control workers feel they have throughout their day. . . [Stress lies in] the imbalance between the effort we give and the reward we feel," claims Simon Sinek in his *New York Times* bestseller *Leaders Eat Last*. The Grayson Leadership Book Club discussed this concept, along with ways of creating a work "culture" of trust, during its first meeting of the semester, last Friday, February 15.

The book's title comes from the practice of Marine leadership of eating after junior troops.

"Marine leaders are expected to eat last because the true price of leadership is the willingness to place the needs of others above your own," Sinek explains. Last semester, the club took on Brene Brown's *Dare to Lead*.

The Leadership Book Club is open to all faculty and staff. Its next meeting is **Friday, March 22** from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in CWL Seminar C.

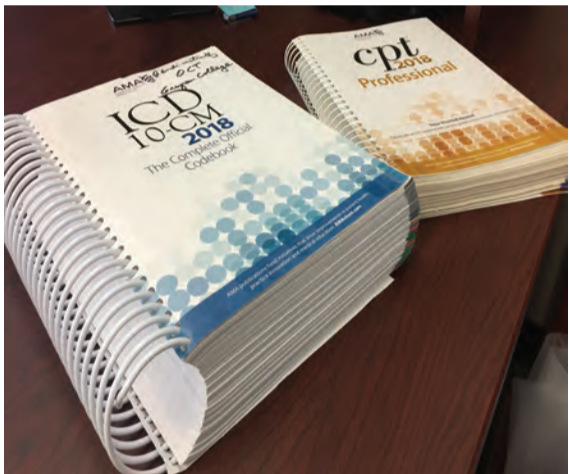
For more information, contact Director of Human Resources Jennifer Becherer, BechererJ@Grayson.edu.

Medical Coding and Billing Certificate Fast-Tracks Students to Jobs

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor



Prof. Sandra Metcalf is growing the online Medical Billing and Coding program.



Coursework includes becoming familiar with coding references.

Walk into Professor Sandra Metcalf's office, and you'll be greeted by a 3-foot-tall skeleton named "Bart." In a previous "life," Bart was a prop Metcalf used in her face-to-face courses in medical coding and billing to give students a working knowledge of the body parts they would be referencing in their future careers.

After earning a bachelor's degree in Career Development and later, a master's in computer science from the University of North Texas, Metcalf began teaching part time at Grayson. When she turned in her last computer program at UNT, she told herself, "I will never, ever teach this!"

However, when it comes to teaching administrative assistance, "I like this type of work," Metcalf professes, reflecting on the job she began when she was 15 in a lumberyard office and now the subject matter she teaches, along with classes in Word, Excel, Administrative Project

Solutions, and Medical Coding and Billing. One misconception Metcalf notes students sometimes have is that an "assistant" is not a useful job. But "those bosses would be lost without [their administrative assistants],"

Metcalf insists.

Typical student

Most of Metcalf's students in the program are female, and at least 60% work full time. Many have worked in factories and really don't know what goes on in an office. "There's more to it than answering the phone," Metcalf has to explain to her students early on.

Learning business English and communication skills, along with what to wear and how to interview, are all important components of her courses. Her students work on composing letters, as opposed to writing research papers. "They are here to learn a skill to get a job," Metcalf explains.

Professional emphasis

With 100% of Metcalf's program being online, she relies on her students' making videos so that she can gauge their professional preparation. "I need to hear them—how they talk and look," she explains. If they lack appropriate office attire, Metcalf will reach out to the Thrift Store of the Crisis Center in Sherman (1729 Texoma Parkway), which will provide the student one interview outfit at no charge.

Growing program

Metcalf would like to have enough students to offer the program both online and face-to-face, but "I'm a one-person program," she says, with two adjuncts who teach computer applications and keyboarding. Some doctors' offices will hire candidates who have no training.

But offices further south, toward Dallas, will pay higher salaries and require more training. Most of her graduates of the certificate program start at \$14/hour as a receptionist or in the billing department and then can advance into coding.

Metcalf finds that her Grayson students often need extra help on grammar but are strong in social-media skills, which employers can use to have them monitor the office's presence on Yelp and Facebook sites.

"I believe in this program. I really do! I have lots of success stories," Metcalf exclaims, revealing a 25-year passion for helping students move into careers that they enjoy and that improve their lives.



Bart the Skeleton greets visitors to Prof. Metcalf's office.

Love Gaming? Consider a Career in Cybersecurity

By Marlea Trevino, English Professor

The last time you finished your meal at Olive Garden, did you pay with the "table kiosk"? Did you realize that data you just sent wirelessly is easy for nefarious types to "catch"? How secure is your phone? Many people don't realize that there are five ways to get data on and off a smart phone—a data cell plan, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Near-Field Communication (NFC) or "bump," and a USB cable. As Prof. John Dick, who teaches Grayson's Cybersecurity program, cautions, "Smart phones are wonderful things because they connect us to the world, but sometimes that world isn't the 'nicest' to connect to." Cybercriminals are lurking literally everywhere.

Extensive experience

After earning an Associate's degree in Computer Science from Grayson, Dick began working for Texas Instruments in Sherman in the help desk area, networking, and programming. Later, TI funded his work on his Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science degree from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M University—Commerce). For the next nineteen years, Dick also worked as an adjunct professor at Grayson, teaching computer science, computer maintenance, and networking, becoming a full-time professor here five years ago.

Topics covered

Now in program's second year, ten students are scheduled to graduate with a Cybersecurity degree in Spring 2019. The program covers networking topics like computer maintenance, wired and wireless networking, and server administration (since most companies have data on a server), as well as cybersecurity—both computer protection (keeping hackers out) and computer forensics (chasing hackers with a sting operation called a "honey pot").

Student characteristics

Students who are already gamers would likely find the Cybersecurity program appealing. Most of Dick's students are under thirty years old and male. They enter the program out of high school or from a computer maintenance field, a job area that is slowing down since it's cheaper for most consumers to buy a new computer rather than pay to repair the old one. Dick encourages gamers to play their games on computers as opposed to consoles so that they're increasing their skill sets. Many of his students have built computers to play Massive Multi-player Online (MMO) games on but lack server and network administration experience.

Currently there are four-five female students in the program, and Dick works to ensure his program follows the trend nationwide of increasing amounts of women entering the field by being sensitive to childcare issues, for example, and working to accommodate single parents. Because the cybersecurity field typically attracts males, special scholarships are available targeted to women, as a non-traditional gender for this career.

Dick feels that students who pursue the cybersecurity field will feel the "pride of accomplishment" in helping people articulate the IT problems they're experiencing and then helping fix those problems.

Two degrees at once

Since many of the Cybersecurity classes overlap with the Computer Maintenance program, many students pursue both degrees at the same time. By taking just four more classes (typically the Cybersecurity classes as electives), students in the Computer Maintenance program can earn the Cybersecurity degree too, a plan that extends their education by only a semester.

Retention in the program is high, due in part, Dick believes, to the one-on-one lab help students receive from their professors in the labs. Both the University of North Texas and Southeastern Oklahoma State University



Prof. John Dick is enthusiastic about the new Cybersecurity program and encourages students to "double up" with a degree in Computer Maintenance too—just one extra semester to earn both degrees.

work with Grayson Cybersecurity graduates who wish to pursue a Bachelor's degree in IT Engineering, for example.

Employment opportunities

Most of Dick's graduates work for Globotech or smaller businesses, including computer support contractors or computer repair companies, starting at around \$30,000 annually for a full-time position at a mid-sized company. With a bachelor's degree, students would start at around \$45,000 annually.

Advancement in smaller companies is often "horizontal" rather than "vertical." In Dick's previous position as a one-man "IT shop," he was part of the Human Resources, engineering, and manufacturing departments of the company. In larger companies, advancement is not as rapid, but as employees take on more skills, they'll be paid more. So in this field, Dick notes, one doesn't have to become a manager of people to make more money.

Upgraded lab equipment

To offer a Cybersecurity program, a school needs leading-edge applications. So, Dick applied for and received a Perkins grant last year to upgrade his existing computer lab's computers and is pursuing a Schweizer Endowment to further upgrade lab equipment. Through his department's current budget, he's able to purchase 10 new computers a year, but faster CPUs, more memory, and large-capacity hard drives will be required as the program grows.