Art students’ sculptures auctioned for Special Olympics

By Steve Davis
Dean, Workforce Education & Training

Three students from the Grayson County College Art Department—Anne Henderson, Kaye Jambor, and Stephanie Shields—were nominated as Irene Ryan nominees this year. Judson Wall and McLain McAdams, did a fantastic job designing, building and auctioning metal art sculptures for the Special Olympics. The items were auctioned off last weekend at the Cedar Mill Marina “Arctic Blast” festival. The smaller of the two pieces sold to Cedar Mill Marina for $500, and the larger of the two pieces, “Spirit Orbs,” was bought for $2000 by Bob Utter as an anniversary gift to his wife.

Art students attend Region 6 KCACTF

By Robin Robinson
Director, Drama/Theatre

The Grayson Theatre attended and competed at the Region 6 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival hosted by the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK Feb 21-25. This festival was attended by one thousand students and faculty from six states: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri.

Grayson had several students competing in different events. Blake Rice also competed in the Musical Initiative.

Again, these freshman performers held their own and learned how to hone their craft for future performances and received positive feedback from the respondents.

Lori Stewart and Rodney Hudson auditioned for the “ten minute plays” that were chosen to be read and performed, and they were chosen to perform at the festival. They, along with 30 others, were chosen to perform these award-winning plays and won these roles from more. They will find out in March whether they will be hired.

All in all, the department represented GCC in a positive way, and the students made contacts for future work, as well as met four-year-program contacts who were interested in them as transfer students.

In Memoriam
Donna Johnson
Grayson County College Custodian

Two of Donna’s greatest attributes were her “can do” attitude and that “big smile” that brightened your day.
High-fidelity mannequins are our workplace focus one day each week. Teaching nursing students how to care for obstetric patients is my assignment. Armed with pre-set scenarios that play out for the students, I enjoy the structure that comes with static laboring situations.

A computer tablet is my way of communicating with the mannequin. It allows me to make minor adjustments in the progress of labor according to the pace of the student group present. One day the labor scenario was running smoothly. I had carefully delayed the descent of the baby when I lifted the bed sheets and jumped back, gasped, and threw up my hands in response to the unexpected—the baby’s head was already born! Suddenly our routine plan unravelled, and we gave undivided attention to the remaining birth process.

It was an enjoyable realization for me even in the static ho-hum realm of birth stories (simulation style), there are moments of astonishment! As for my students— they will always remember to frequently check under the sheets with patients in labor— even high-fidelity dolls!
Review of Erin M. Evans’ *Brimstone Angels*

By Brenda Witcher
Library Assistant

This novel follows Farideh and Havilar, twin triflings (half devil half-human). The sisters are raised by a clanless dragon born Mehan when they are left by the gates of the city at birth. Farideh makes a pact with a devil who Havilar calls. They are forced to leave town when their house explodes in the process. On the way they meet up with Tam, a priest of Selune, and a boy named Brin. They all set out to the town of Neverwinter, each for their own reasons. Neverwinter was destroyed many years ago and now is being rebuilt. But there are those who want Neverwinter for their own. And the five travelers fall right in to the middle of all of the plottings.

Farideh was hoping to control her devil, but now she may need all he offers to get her and her sister out alive. Most D&D novels are complicated. Plan on top of plan on top of … well you get the idea, and *Brimstone Angels* is no different. I liked the novel; it was paced well, and I could follow what was happening without a score card.

The world and character building made the story slow in places but never made me feel like that scene shouldn’t have been in the story. The ending was wrapped up but left room for many more sequels. I look forward to reading more of Erin M. Evans’ work, whether it be Neverwinter or any other world. The characters and world building are done in such a way that even if a reader had never picked up a Dungeons and Dragons book before, they would be able to enter this world and follow the adventure. I myself had never heard of Neverwinter and was able to easily follow along.

*Brimstone Angels* is a Dungeons and Dragons; Forgotten Realms-Neverwinter novel. It was released in 2011 by Wizards of the Coast and retails for $7.99.
Know before you borrow

By Brent Archer
Financial Aid Officer

Almost everyone is aware of the current economic situation and how this has affected employment rates, mortgage rates, and other financial situations that the families are facing. Many of you are realizing that student loan debt has now passed credit card debt in terms of outstanding balances. The Wall Street Journal recently estimated that student loan debt for 2011 was at an all-time high at an average of $25,000 per borrower, up 6% from 2010. This is expected to increase by another 5% over the last 10 years.

Student loan debts are an investment in the future, but as you enter the loan repayment process, does the thought of an additional monthly payment make you think twice about what you have taken out? Do you ponder how much your loan debt will cost you in the future? There are many questions you may be asking yourself, such as “What will the interest rate be?”

There are a number of things you need to know in order to help you manage your debt and keep it from hanging over your head too heavily, for too long.

Beginning on July 1 of 2012, the interest rate on undergraduate subsidized loans will rise from 3.4% to 6.8%. That’s double!

Beginning on October 1, 2011, the interest rate on all Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans will also increase from 3.4% to 6.8%. That’s a total of 3.4% for the current year, and a total of 6.8% for the past two years.

On October 25, 2011, President Obama signed into law the Higher Education Act of 2011. (“Pay As You Earn” Plan) will be available to current Federal Direct Loan borrowers. Students who choose this option will have their monthly payments capped at 1% of discretionary income as opposed to the previous 2%.

In 2013, under this program, students will also be able to refinance their 2006 and 2007 borrowers to 2007 and 2008 borrowers at 2009 rates.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness. A student’s outstanding student loan debt will be forgiven after 10 years of qualifying employment in a public service organization. To qualify, the student must have a direct loan, and must work for a public service organization for a minimum of 10 years. Under this program, students will also be able to refinance their 2006 and 2007 borrowers to 2007 and 2008 borrowers at 2009 rates.

Know more about the details of the loans you have, and what options are available to you. To find out more about your student loans, contact your Financial Aid Officer.

Know the Life Center

By Nate Essin

The clacking of pool balls begins to drown out the sound of conversation as a group of students clustered near a pool table. One after the other, they let out a groan of excitement when the ball shot toward the pocket. The metallic ring of a Foosball table erupts with cheers. A student in the building wearing headphones to block out the noise.

A student turns to his neighbor and says, “There are a lot of people here.” The metallic ring of a Foosball table erupts with cheers. A student in the building wearing headphones to block out the noise.

The Life Center is an area where students can come together to study or entertain themselves. It’s a great place to meet new people and enjoy some quality time away from the stress of school. The Life Center offers a variety of activities for students to enjoy, including study spots, game rooms, and social areas.

The zone is waiting for you.
Welding Rodeo coming to town

By Gary Clark

Have you ever been to a welding rodeo? If not, you don’t miss your chance! Grayson County College will be holding its 2nd Annual Welding Rodeo on Monday, March 5, 2012.

“This thing has really started to take off,” says Greg Beckley, an instructor in the Grayson County College Welding Department. Local businesses have begun to pledge their support.

Beckley says that the rodeo involves welding teams from local high schools that come out and demonstrate their welding skills and compete for prizes and scholarship money. This year, over 20 area high schools will have teams participating in the Welding Rodeo.

“The benefit of getting these different groups together from around the community goes beyond that of the groups involved,” says Beckley. “It brings together from around the community goes beyond that of the groups involved,” says Beckley. “It brings

As students at Grayson County College, many of us get absorbed in our dreams and aspirations of what we will be contributing to the continued advancement of technology and science. It is important, as we begin to realize the value of our goals and our goals as professionals, that we remember to maintain a sense of caution and humility.

One predominant aspect to what neuroscientists have identified as “optimism bias” is the tendency to think that the future will be much better than the past. Sometimes this is true, and imagining a better future is what keeps people trying to develop new things, but it can also lead us into making hasty and ill-considered decisions.

A student who suffers from optimism bias may find it hard to take precautions to prevent possible harm or rush a new design or invention to market without doing enough testing. Years after the invention has come to market, many companies wonder if the product was worth the time and money invested in the project.

Just as successful students develop strategies to help them overcome the downsides of optimism bias, so should we remember to incorporate these strategies into our future professional lives. Remembering the challenges of the past, we can build safeguards into our future to protect our world, while still maintaining our positive outlook.

Laura McMeeki

Technology of 2012 has shaped the way that people communicate in the workplace. We correspond with friends via instant messages. Families would prefer to text rather than talk face to face. And FaceBook is the app everyone uses when we're our W's helper.

These things can be good. In a world in which so- cietly is demanding more and more of its goals is almost necessary to help us succeed. For example, if someone's birthday is on Friday, any friend's holiday, I may remember too late to purchase a present, or I may forget altogether.

“Another problem with social networking is that it can't forget the appeal of non- technical, intimate contact. There's nothing quite like pen and paper, putting dishes pre- pared with love, and discussing the issues and chal- lenges of the day. There's something special about writing a note from a friend. Different colors, written in their favorite color, and signed with a unique stamp to familiar you, could recognize it any- where.

Let us not forget to add personal touches to our social networking. Instead of just clicking, in other words, it's okay to search for the perfect gift online. Just don't forget to sign the card.

Lindsey Holder

Mason Keels

What’s happening at GCC

New applications due

March 30, 4 p.m.

The National Endowment for the Arts has created a greater awareness here at the campus of using the worlds of welding and art to offer students courses that bring in artistic expression.” Black says, “dealt with freedom in doing it again this year.”

Black also helped give a workshop in December and brought high school teams competing in the ro- deo. The purpose of the workshop speaks Black, “dealt with freedom in doing it again this year.”

Black also helped give a workshop in December and brought high school teams competing in the ro- deo.

Brandon Clark and his Demons High School teammates partici- pated in the Welding Rodeo last year. Clark says, “It was fun doing it if the rodeo.” Clark won 1st Place in the Individual Welding Skills Competition. His team’s entry in the rodeo earned him and his teammate, scholarship money of $250 each. For winning first in the Individual Skills Competition, Clark received a welder’s tool kit and a welding helmet. That beats a crummy ole’ shirt any day.

Clark plans to become a welder.

“Tyson foods will be helping to cater the event,” states Black, “a d n r u y [that] from Hospitality and Culinary Arts Division will be making burgers and fries for dinner for all.

And “Arts” in involvement in the rodeo won’t be just the culinary variety either. The National Endowment for the Arts has pledged money to help support and promote the Welding Rodeo. Beckley

People the Friday of the event. Weatherly and Tyson Foods will be helping to make sure that all in attendance have enough to eat. So get your (welding) boots on, and make plans to attend the 2nd Annual Welding Rodeo at Grayson County College.

Welding Rodeo student getting into the Rodeo arena

Possible outcomes of local businesses have begun to pledge their support.

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Miranda Gill, a local welding supply company, plans to feed 450 people the Friday of the event. Weatherly and Tyson Foods will be helping to make sure that all in attendance have enough to eat. So get your (welding) boots on, and make plans to attend the 2nd Annual Welding Rodeo at Grayson County College.

Are you ready for the challenge?

MicroCHIPS

Theatre Department’s Romeo and Juliet captivates audiences

Judson Wall and Rebecca Carter in the title roles
Fabian Garcia as Paris, Dillon Wooten as Capulet, and Kasy Poindexter as Lady Capulet

Judson Wall as Romeo and Jessica Huffstetler as the Nurse

GCC student publishes novel

By Brenda Witcher
Library Assistant

Sierra Peterman has recently had her first book published, Dawn of the Vampire. Her book has been picked up for sale by Booksamillion.com and Amazon.com.

Peterman considers herself a native Texan and was raised in Sherman, having moved around a little before settling there. She is currently a student at Grayson County College.

Her hobbies include writing, reading, singing and creating her own role playing games with her friends. She likes to read authors Rick Riordan, Charlaine Harris and anything about vampires and mythology.

Peterman wrote the book in eighth grade based on the adventures of her friends and herself. She wrote throughout high school but finds it harder to find time to write now that she is in college.

She looked into self-publishing and traditional publishing companies and found Publish America. Although she submitted her manuscript once before she was eighteen, she had to be eighteen to sign a contract. She is currently working on the sequel to Dawn of the Vampire.

To any aspiring writers, she would suggest to “look, around, stay open, and notice detail.”

Dawn of the Vampire was released in September of 2011 and can be purchased at Books A Million.com and Amazon.com. Contact Sierra Peterman at drama_gurl973@aol.com.

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For information
Contact Mary Yetta McKelva
903-463-8623
mckelvam@grayson.edu

Sierra Peterman

Noah Scheidmeir as Mercutio, Wes Hayes as Benvolio, and Judson Wall as Romeo

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