New president excited about new directions for college

By Jayme Wagoner

Program Assistant—Academic Studies

This fall, Grayson College welcomes its fourth president, Dr. Jeremy McMillen, most recently of Trinity Valley Community College. In his short time with the college thus far, Dr. McMillen has already impressed with his strong leadership, vision, and strategic thinking. He is effectively working with the college's students and faculty to develop a strategy to keep the college moving forward. In this article, we will be exploring some of the new directions for the college, as outlined by Dr. McMillen in his inaugural address.

Check out local hangouts for study/work break fun

By Ashley Bowden

Now that your homework and studying are done, you are probably wondering what there is to do for fun around Grayson County. Grayson County has countless places where you can hang out and relax. Whether you are a new student to Grayson College or just wanting to know where your classmates get off campus for entertainment, here is a listing of some popular places that are located in the Grayson County area where you can achieve some of your recreation goals.

The Steel Rose plays hip-hop, country, and latin music. Like the club scene and just want to sit and catch up with friends. At Trinity's Bar and Grill, located on 101 East Main Street in Denison, Texas, you can drown yourself in the music performed by a live band on Friday and Saturday nights or indulge yourself with one of their everyday drink specials. "I go for the loud music," says an observant customer.

As you see, Grayson County has its sights set on making the college experience more efficient, thus better answering the needs of students and staff alike. The college is working hard to find a "plan" to make improvements, especially through the"action plan," with its current development and growth. In the beginning, ways to reach students better by using the Student Engagement Surveys (SES) more efficiently, thus producing a more "student-friendly college," Dr. McMillen says. The college should really be paying attention to these studies in order to improve specific aspects of student experience here. For example, one persistent problem for students and staff alike is the phone bank. The college needs to work on finding a better process for answering phones during busy times, he observes.

However, in Dr. McMillen's sights for this fall will be ensuring that Grayson is able to continue "to "advocate" for the college at the state level. Over the next five years, Dr. McMillen would like to see Grayson receive more recognition for its performance, specifically to be in the top 10% for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. He would like to see Grayson students have more opportunities. And he would like to strengthen the college's connection with local high schools to help prepare more students for college.

Dr. McMillen's role as president, Dr. McMillen characterizes his leadership style as "collaborative" but hopes to be understood and supported when a decision has to be made. He strives to ensure students, staff, and faculty see him as an "advocate, listener, resource, and strategic thinker." And he hopes that his passion for students is readily apparent and that faculty and staff, as well as students, can see he genuinely cares for their success.

See more on Dr. McMillen on page 3.
A Thank You from the Omicron Psi Chapter!

By Mary Linder
Chapter Advisor, Phi Theta Kappa and Government Professor

On behalf of the officers and members of the Omicron Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, I would like to thank our many friends for their tremendous support of our chapter and of the College!

Phi Theta Kappa has been involved in this service project since 2002, that is, since the American Cancer Society has been partnered with our chapter. Some of you donated money, some joined our team, and others provided fundraising ideas and congratulatory messages.

This year, our Grayson College team collectively raised over $464,00 in Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society. Some of you donated money, some joined our team, and others provided fundraising ideas and congratulatory messages.

I am so proud of everyone who participated in this project, as well as those who provided the support to accomplish all of our goals. I am reconfirmed every day why I love being part of Grayson College!

South Campus writers recognized at AC

By Kim Teel
Dean, South Campus

Forty-eight stories by Telfair High School seniors, including those authors from last year’s contest winners, were submitted at Austin Community College for this year’s contest. The theme for the stories was provided invalidable support and assistance this year as we raised money and spread awareness about Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society. Some of you donated money, some joined our team, and others provided fundraising ideas and congratulatory messages.

By Bernie Gallagher
Student Advisor

South Pacific auditions (cont. from page 1)

For more information regarding auditions, please contact the Admissions Office at 903-463-4639 or email thea- t@greyson.edu.

Turner and Jackson both received a silver award for their stories. Boll received a gold award.

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newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion, and views expressed in
The Viking...
Some of you may see me walking around campus during the first week or two of classes with a beat-up old shoulder bag in one hand and a coffee cup in the other and you will be dropping into some classes to ask you a simple question: Which of these two objects is more dear to your heart? I will spend the rest of your life working with the coffee cup.

I will be telling you that you have already made one small decision to indicate your preference; but the first decision was just the first in a long series of very small decisions that determine your fair share of that determine this long string of decisions that determine all the things you do.

These minor decisions will increase as you will go through the college. By Kay Dishner

Campus resources help students as they seek path to success

By By Kay Dishner

Writing Center Director

Whether you are a returning student or this is your first semester at Grayson, we are all very glad you are here. You will find the faculty and staff ready to teach and support you as you find the path you intend to journey to the life you are hoping to live. As we all know, education is the key to finding, changing, and living the life we want. At Grayson you will find new ways of thinking, new ideas, new relationships to engage. You will be asked to make decisions your whole life. From the time you set the alarm and get up in the morning all you can from every class you take may be putting you on a path to success.

Since Grayson College is a community college, our students are returning students but also students who are first time students Dr. McMillen, it will be your time to sow for you as a student and staff. Dr. McMillen is equipped to lead our college to new commitments and successes as we work with all of our students, as well as our community and state. It is an exciting time to be a student or a member of faculty or staff here at Grayson College and a time we will all look back on as one that changed all of us in new and promising ways.

As Director of the Writing Center, let me encourage each of you to not only enjoy this information and fun you find in The Viking but to become a contributor to our paper and join our Writer’s Unlimi
ted Sigma Kappa Delta Chis in these organizations, you will find a group of stu
dents you love to write and share their work with those who produce The Viking.

Since Grayson College encourages “writing across the curriculum,” most classes include writing assignments and the Writing Center is prepared to help with any of the assignments. We can help with essays, book reports, resumes, applica
tions, or any other type of writing assignment.

Together we can make this an exciting time in our lives....and together we can accomplish success for all of us.

Last year we had a number of thefts of property left unattended. Don’t take for granted that the person sitting next to you in class today is not using his or her laptop if you leave it there.

Last year we made a number of purchases that resulted in several Class A misdemeanors as well as 25 traffic citations not unat
tually, not all of the property could be identified. Make your purchase, record the make, model and serial numbers. If you find it in a pawn shop, but you have to give it back. There can be a hearing, and the judge can rule for the original owner.

Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Requirement

New and Former Students Enrolling at GC. Starting in January 2012, all incoming freshmen, transfer students, and returning students who did not attend in the fall 2011 semester will be required to show proof of immunization against bacterial meningitis. The law for new and former students enrolling at GC.

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Popular Math Workshops returning to Math Hub this semester

By Dayna Ford
Math Hub Coordinator

As students and faculty have been preparing for a new semester, the Math Hub has also been preparing. Some new and exciting changes have been happening.

The Math Hub now has 12 new computers to assist students in their math courses. They will be used for viewing math lecture videos, completing online homework with MyMathLab or WebAssign, creating projects in Excel, or reviewing a professor’s lecture notes.

Fraction pieces and other math manipulatives have also been added to the list of resources available for students. Many familiar faces will be returning to the staff of the Math Hub, as well as many new faces.

Students will be pleased to know there are currently several student tutors available right now. Applications for tutoring are available in the Math Hub.

The ever-popular Math Workshops are also returning. The first two have been scheduled for Friday, August 31.

We will be Factoring Polynomials from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. and Simplifying Fractions from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Both workshops will be held in SC-113 and taught by Shawn Eagleton.

Saturdays are not boring around the Math Hub either. For Saturdays a semester the Math Hub is open 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for students to catch up on their lab credits and get some extra help. The Saturday schedule has been set and will be open the following Saturdays: September 22, October 20, November 3, December 1, December 8.

The Math Hub will be open starting Monday, August 27, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. The last day for math lab credits will be Saturday, December 8, 2012. The rest of the semester, the Math Hub will keep the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8:00 am – 8:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:00 am – 2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Please feel free to contact the Math Hub Coordinator Dayna Ford (fordd@grayson.edu) with any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions.

Rx for your computer: clean up and speed up

By Jamie Wagoner, Program Assistant—Academic Studies

Now that the Fall semester is upon us, it is time to get our computers and laptops ready for our busy class schedules. Over the summer you may have done a lot of online shopping, game playing, and even Facebooking. All of this may have caused your computer to slow down. So here are a few tips to get your computer cleaned up and sped up.

Reduce the number of icons that you have on your Desktop.

Best option is reorganize the files. Create a folder by right-clicking on a blank location on the desktop and selecting New, then Folder. Name the folder “Desktop Files.” Then just drag and drop all of the extra files in a single folder.

Limit the number of Startup programs:

Most of them are considered “Junkware.”

Click on your Start Menu. Type in msconfig in your search box. Click the Startup Tab. Uncheck any unnecessary programs. Click ok and then restart your computer.

Remove unnecessary toolbars:

You can disable a toolbar two different ways.

Click the “X” next to it or Right click at the top of the browser and deselect the undesired toolbar.

Delete your Temp Files:

Temporary files may be created by computer programs for a variety of purposes but primarily for backup purposes. Having too many will slow your computer. Right click on the drive where your temporary files are stored and select Delete.

Backup your files:

Tomorrow is not promised for your computer, so protect your data! You can either use the drag and drop or Right click the desired folder. Click the “Send to” option. Then click the drive you want to transfer the file to (like a flash drive or a network drive if available).

Defragging your hard drive helps it work easier when accessing files and increases its lifespan. To defrag your computer:

Go to All Programs. Then Accessories. Find System Tools. Click on Disk Defragmenter.

Last but not least, remember to run regular virus scans on your computer. Most Anti-Virus programs even allow you to schedule a scan so that your computer may run the scan during a time that is most convenient for you. (Just remember to leave your computer on during the scheduled time.)

Math Hub Schedule
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Nov. 3, Dec. 1, and Dec. 8 only)

August Workshops
Fri., Aug. 31 12:30-2 p.m. Factoring polynomials
2:30-4 p.m. Simplifying fractions

Success Center 113

By Dayna Ford, Math Hub Coordinator

What's happening at gC

- Workshops are returning.
- Tutoring are available in the Math Hub.
- Applications for general student tutors available now.
- Math Hub Coordinator, by Dayna Ford.
From soldier to civilian: GC helps

By Kambria Dansby

The questions soldiers are most frequently asked when they leave the service are: was your life difficult in the military? Did you shoot anyone? What was your most frequent duty? Do you know? Are aliens real? Did you ever get to know one another? Staff members are in the process of making a military icon on the GC webpage so that military will know everything they need to do to get started. Ward said, “I want to open a veteran’s lounge with an area for studying, couches, chairs, and a TV.”

Unfortunately for Brenda, Dansby, veteran of the United States Navy, he did not have all these resources available to help when he was discharged from military.

Dansby was a sergeant in Nuclear Weapons Support during his 2 years and 3 months overseas tour. Dansby said, “It was hard as hell when I got discharged. I never transitioned to all and coped with my mental challenges with alcohol.” Dansby had 10 years of use his G.I. Bill and never used it. He ended up using his own concrete business from 1979-2010. Dansby, who did not maintain a structured life when he became a civilian, said, “I basically went wild.”

Injui Veterans Lance Fernandez, former Sergeant (E-5) in the United States Army for 6 years, months with 3 hours to Iraq, said, “My transition from the Army was very hard because I knew I had a family to support, a wife and 2 little children. The amount of knowing what was to come was hard as hell.”

Fernandez is currently a work study student here at GC majoring in accounting, while attending classes using his G.I. Bill.

Local hangouts (cont. from page 1)

Cinemark is located in the Sherman Town Center.

Smitty’s offering hours are Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Thursday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., and on Sundays, 12 a.m. - 6 p.m. Since Smitty’s is a bar, there is a “twelve-once and up age limit after 9 p.m.,” states Will Smith, owner of Smitty’s. Although meeting up with friends for drinks is fun, attending a television blazing with action-filled chaos of their favorite sports team would make a sports fan ecstatic.

Cinemark offers a study area filled with forty flat screen TVs.

Local hangouts (cont. from page 1)

Cinemark shows the newest movies out in theaters from adult R rated to animation films for the kids. Regular ticket price are $5.25 and $8.25 if your movie is in 3D.

“Early bird” ticket price of $2.55 for any movie that starts before 5 p.m.

Within the movies, you can enjoy “20 Tuesday” special with $3.50 games, food, and longnecks.

Once you have rented a pair of bowling shoes from one of the “polite and hardworking” staff,” says Joe, manager of Lone Star Lanes.

Love your local sports team and come over to Smitty’s bar and grill to gather with friends and catch a game! The best bar and grill in Grayson County! A favorite sports team would make anyone a sports fan excited.

Buffalo Wild Wings has 49 flat-screened TVs.

“Study Abroad Costa Rica,” June 2012 with Spanish Professor McKelva

By Kambria Dansby

When you think of other reasons why you want to study abroad, you may not think of the many benefits that you can get from the experience. However, people that have been on Study Abroad programs have found that they benefited from their experience in many important ways.

ArounD THE WOrLD Monday, August 27, 2012

Front left to right: Amy Treese, Mary Yelta McFalla, David Wittchen, Rhonda Pickens

Left to right: Carren Mikell, Marcus Lopez, Kristen Donohue, Blakely Preyer, Joe Bedolla, Amy Treese, Darrell McFalla, Joseph McGowan, Caryn Witten, Rebekah Shaw, Mallory Pickens (blonde on far left in yellow)