



Monday, August 27, 2012

Get involved

Student Life Welcome Picnic

Thurs., Aug. 30
12-1:30 p.m.
Life Center each patio, under the Bridge

Sweet Treats Stop

1st Wednesdays
9:00—10:00 a.m.
2nd Floor—Student Life Center

Student Government Association

Mondays
12:15—12:45 p.m., The HUB

It's My Life Student Leadership Series

4th Mondays
12:15 — 12:45 p.m., LA107

BSM Luncheon

Wednesdays
11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Baptist Student Union

BSM Bible Study

Mondays
12:00—1:00 p.m.
Baptist Student Union

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Tuesdays
6:00 p.m.
Viking Residence Hall Main Lounge

Men of Distinction

Thursdays
12:00-1:00 p.m. - The HUB

Sisters of Destiny

Thursdays
1:15-2:15 p.m.- The HUB

Phi Theta Kappa

Wednesdays
12:00-1:00 p.m. - The HUB

Dental Assisting

Wednesdays
10-11 a.m. - The HUB

Speech Club

Every other Wednesday
3:00-4:00 p.m. - The HUB

Writers Unlimited/ Sigma Kappa Delta

2nd & 4th Fridays
12:00-1:00 p.m.
GC Writing Center (Rm. 110)

Mu Alpha Theta

Tuesdays
2:00-3:00 p.m. - The HUB

Welding Association

Every other Tuesday
12:00-1:00 p.m. - The HUB

Cultural Diversity

1st & 3rd Mondays
1:00-2:00 p.m. - The HUB

The Clay Club

TBA

Young Americans for Liberty

TBA

Eta Sigma Delta (Culinary Honor Society)

TBA

Student Ambassadors

TBA

MAS—Give More- Get More

Tuesdays
3:00-4:00 p.m. - The HUB

New president excited about new directions for college

By Jamie 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 observed a number of strengths he considers to be a solid foundation Grayson can build on.

First on his list is the staff and faculty and their attitude toward the college's mission, in particular their "passion about the students' success" and their "forward thinking." He feels the good relationship Grayson has forged with the community serves the college well, as do its facilities and equipment and the general environment of the campus. Grayson has "great potential," states Dr. McMillen.

However, Grayson's new leader is excited about new directions for the college. His agenda for this fall, in particular, includes making better use of the data the college collects to improve student success and students' college experience. Grayson needs to "lear[n] more about student success by the numbers," says Dr. McMillen, by analyzing data to form an "action plan" to make improvements. A specific application of this data, for example, would be determining what works best for students in developmental classes so that they can "move on" to college-level courses.

Grayson can reach students better by using the Student Engagement Surveys (SES) more efficiently, thus creating "an even more student friendly college," Dr. McMillen believes. The college should really be paying attention to the ideas students relate in these surveys in order to improve specific aspects of



Dr. Jeremy McMillen strives to ensure students, staff, and faculty see him as an "advocate, listener, resource, and strategic thinker."
www2.tvcc.edu

students' 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.

Also in Dr. McMillen's sights for this fall will be ensuring that Grayson is able to continue "to get everything that we need" with an ever-shrinking budget and 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 more partnerships with other universities so Grayson students would have more opportunities. And he would like to strengthen the college's coordination with local high schools to help prepare more students for college.

In his 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.

GC to hold auditions for the musical *South Pacific*

By Robin Robinson

Director, Drama/Theater

The Grayson College Theatre department will open the 2012-13 season with Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *SOUTH PACIFIC*. Auditions for anyone who is interested in performing in this musical will be August 28 and 29 at 6 p.m. in Cruce Stark Auditorium at Grayson College.

Auditions on Tuesday, August 28 at 6 p.m. will be for singing. Interested people can

bring a short prepared song, and the music director, Pam Gauthier Hamer will accompany. The song can be a church hymn or from a musical. Sheet music is preferred to use during the audition.

Call backs will be on Wed, August 29 at 6 p.m. for reading and for more singing. The director, Robin Robinson, will notify participants for the call back auditions.

See more on *South Pacific* on page 2.

August 28 at 6pm- Singing
August 29 at 6pm- Call backs

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
903-463-8609
theatre@grayson.edu
Cruce Stark Auditorium
Grayson College Arts & Communication Center

AUDITIONS!
ALL WELCOME!
BRING A SONG TO SING

SOUTH PACIFIC
The musical

THEATRE
Grayson College

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 dance, listen to local bands, or watch your favorite sport teams. Whether you are a new student to Grayson College or just wanting to know where your classmates go off campus for amusement, 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 is a local club located on 4006 Texoma Parkway in Denison, Texas, where you have plenty of room to bust a move on their large dance floor. From 9 p.m. - 4 a.m. Thursday nights are college nights, which usually draw in a crowd from ages 18 and up. With a \$5 admissions fee, you can enjoy the diverse music styles played by a live DJ such as Hip Hop, Country and Latino music. If dancing in public is something you are not comfortable with, you can

play pool, arcades, or sit at the bar and enjoy a drink.

However, you might not



The Steel Rose plays hip hop, country, and latino music.

like the club scene and just want to sit and catch up with friends. At Smitty'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, good drinks and speedy service," states Rebecca Nidiffer, a student at Grayson College.

See more on local hangouts on page 6.

Look for The Viking in full color online at

<http://www.grayson.edu/college-info/the-viking.aspx>, including archived earlier editions.

From the Grayson home page, click on "College Info" and then "The Viking."



Music department represents GC at Classical Guitar Festival

By Lisa Hebert

Librarian

Grayson College Music department was represented this summer at the 7th Annual Classical Guitar Guild Music Festival by attendees Grayson College Adjunct Professor David Tercero and dual credit student Misty Hébert.

The week was full of master classes and learning sessions instructed by Olga Amelkina-Vera, Marko Feri, Robert Guthrie, Valerie Hartzell, and Lynn McGrath. These performers are well known as individual performers and as professors of music. Olga Amelkina-Vera, Lynn McGrath, and Valerie Hartzell comprise the all-women trio, Presti.

The students performed at the Fort Worth Modern Art Museum in the Guitar Orchestra directed by Olga Amelkina-Vera and Fernand Vera. The first arrangement performed was *Ninotchka* by Olga Amelkina-Vera (b.1976). The second piece was *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* by Heitor Villa-Lobos(1887-1959) Robin Tercero-Montgomery, soprano, performed with the orchestra.

The students performed individual solo pieces at the Saturday afternoon concert. Grayson student Misty Hébert performed *Rondo* by Ferdinando Carulli. At the final performance, Tercero performed, accompanied by Mitch Weverka, (guitar); violins, vi-



GC student Misty Hebert, along with the Guitar Orchestra, practicing at the Modern Art Museum of Ft. Worth as Olga Amelkina-Vera conducts her own composition, "Ninotchka"

ola, violincello, contrabass and harpsichord; Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) *Concerto in C Major for mandolin, strings&continuo*, RV425 *I.Allegro II. Largo III.Allegro and Concerto in G Major for 2 mandolins, strings&contino*, RV 532.

Baptist Student Ministry hosts *Welcome Back to School Luncheon*

By Bernie Gallagher

Baptist Student Ministry Director

GCC students, as well as faculty and staff, are invited to the *Welcome Back to School Luncheon* sponsored by the Baptist Student Ministry. This "come and go" event will be held on Wednesday, August 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the BSM building (next to the gym on the main cam-

pus). Hot dogs and all the trimmings will be served at no charge. Live music will be an added feature. Everyone is invited to come whenever you can and stay as long as you like.

Then on the following Wednesdays throughout the semester, the BSM is planning to provide a free lunch and program at the Baptist Student Ministry building. We will begin serving the meal, pro-

vided by area churches, at 11:50 a.m., followed by a brief program featuring music and speakers from area churches and/or the GC community.

For more information concerning how you can get involved in BSM, please stop by our building (open from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.), call us at 903-463-8798/903-465-2207, or email us at bsm6101@airmail.net.

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 everyone at Grayson College for their tremendous support of our Relay For Life service project.

Phi Theta Kappa has been involved in this service project since 2002, the longest that the American Cancer Society has had with any member-based organization. We have also raised more money for ACS than any other organization, \$3.4 million, and our Grayson College chapter is proud to be a part of that. In fact, in 2011, our chapter was the sixth highest fundraising chapter of all Phi Theta Kappa chapters internationally.

Many of you on campus

provided invaluable 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.

This year, our Grayson College team collectively put in over 1,000 service hours and raised \$4648.53 for Relay For Life.

If part of our philosophy and mission is focused on public service activities and community building, then I think this project alone shows we are accomplishing our goals.

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

ΦΘΚ

South Campus writers recognized at AC

By Kim Teel

Dean, South Campus

Forty-eight stories by *Telling Our Stories* authors, including three authors from Grayson College South Campus, were celebrated at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. The theme for the stories was

"Family Food Tales."

Jerry Lincecum and Peggy Redshaw developed this exciting writing program with Austin College and the *Herald Democrat* in Sherman. Each year the topic changes and a new writing challenge is issued to Grayson citizens. They are invited to share their family history in a story. Volume Ten

South Pacific auditions (cont. from page 1)

Rehearsals for this show will be Sunday through Thursday nights, 6-10 p.m.. Performances will be Oct. 12 & 13 and Oct 19 -21. Tickets will be \$5.

SOUTH PACIFIC has entertained audiences for years and has many memorable and popular songs that will be familiar to many in the area. Although well known for its extraordinary score -- the songs include *Some Enchanted Evening*, *Younger Than Springtime*, *Bali Ha'i*, *There Is Nothin' Like A Dame*, and *A Wonderful Guy* -- **SOUTH PACIFIC** is also a deeply felt drama. Its portrayal of Americans stationed in an alien culture in wartime is as relevant today as when it first thrilled audiences in 1949.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this musical has won a total of

of *Telling Our Stories* book will be published this fall.

The Developmental Writing Class on the South Campus was given the opportunity to enter the writing contest.

Kelly Turner, LaTonya Jackson, and Jo Bell entered stories sharing memories of their families and food. The stories included fond memories of mothers and grandmothers preparing

17 Tony's for the two productions on Broadway.

As a tribute to our veterans and their families, the Oct. 13 performance is part of the Eisenhower Birthday festivities. Veterans and their families will be admitted for free

at this performance.

For more information regarding auditions, please contact the Grayson College Theatre Department at 903-463-8609 or email at theatre@grayson.edu.



Theatre Department Information Meeting

Monday, August 27 at 6:30pm
Black Box Theatre inside Arts & Communication Center

All Welcome! We will discuss auditions, productions for 2012-13, and much more.



food in antiquated kitchens as they said "I Love You!" with delicious meals and tasty desserts. The stories also shared family traditions around Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

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

Grayson County College MEN OF DISTINCTION

Recruiting all college men

Meeting every Thursday, noon– 1 p.m.
THE HUB - 2nd floor, Life Center

"We are men who plan to be successful."

First meeting Thursday, September 13, 2012
Free barbecue sandwiches



MAS - "Give More, Get More"



Our meetings are held every other Tuesday at 3:00PM in "The Hub" at the Life Center in the main campus.

If you would like to get more information:

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/graysonmas/>

Or email us:
Sandra Sibrian (Advisor), sibrians@grayson.edu
graysonmas@groups.facebook.com

STAND OUT - DESTACATE
SORTIR DU LOT - 脫穎而出

MAS - "Give More, Get More" is the Hispanic Student Association at Grayson College. We are now recruiting high school and college students from all across Grayson County that are interested in serving their community while learning more about the Hispanic culture and issues at the same time.

Are you interested in...

- Volunteering?
- Learning about your peers' cultures?
- Finishing your education?
- Being a leader?
- Strengthening your résumé?
- Building close friendships?
- Getting college & scholarship tips?
- Making a difference?
- **STANDING OUT FROM THE CROWD!**

If you said yes to any of these, then MAS is for you!

You can become a Viking Ambassador!

The Grayson College Viking Ambassadors program provides an opportunity for students to become more involved with both the college and the community helping them to develop leadership and public relations skills while providing a service for the college. Must write a paragraph explaining why you would like to become a Viking Ambassador. Get involved and enjoy college!

Leadership
Attend College Fairs
Give Campus Tours
Punctuality and good attendance
Current GCC Student enrolled in a minimum of 6 credited hours
Flexible Hours
Represent the college

Go to www.grayson.edu for more information or [CLICK HERE!](#)

Contact Charles Leslie at (903) 415-2532 for more information

The Student Life Center: a home away from home

By Kay Dishner

Director of Writing Center

When students are looking for a place to call “home” on the GC campus, all roads lead to the Life Center, located in the middle of the main campus.

Gregg Miles, Director of Student Life programs, has been providing a “home away from home” for students since 1994 and is the creator of the student activities programs/services that act as the “bridge” to unite students, faculty, and staff of Grayson College.

According to Miles, the Life Center is a living, breathing, socially active learning laboratory that builds campus community and gives students and employees the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, programs, special events, recreational team sports, student clubs, etc.

The Student Life staff encourages active student participation on a regular basis. The staff also promotes an appreciation for cultural diversity and growth.

On any day, at almost any hour, students find fun and fellowship at the Life Center.

Students can relax in the T.V. room with a big-screen T.V. and comfortable seating, play a game of pool or ping pong, or check out a video game. Informal conversation lounges are available in the Life Center and the Bridge.

The area also houses the International Students office, the SOSU Outreach Center,



Gregg Miles, Director of Student Life, greets students with a friendly smile and believes that “Student Life assists student learning through quality programs and services.”



Student Life Center staff (left to right): Brett Hall, Gregg Miles, Audra Rhudy, Todd Richard, Jordan Aday, Fred Ly, Corine Terrell, Kedrian Perry, Josh Roberts

and the Career Services office. The “Hub,” a meeting room for student clubs and organizations, is located in the Bridge.

The Life Center also provides a home for the campus food court, where students and staff gather for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The Life Center Bookstore is located on the first floor, adjacent to the Food Court. Students, employees, and guests can purchase books, supplies, and Viking apparel.

The Life Center, along with other facilities on campus, was renovated approximately 4 years ago. The new additions and face lifts came at a very important time in the life of Grayson College. All features of the Life Center and the new Bridge addition required months of data collection, pre-planning, final design, and construction. Miles was part of the process from beginning to end.

The Fitness Center, located

in the Sports/Recreation Center, was totally renovated as well. Students and employees are eligible to use this facility for recreation and fitness training with a valid GC ID card.

The President of Grayson College and the Executive Council support Student Life and its mission of assisting student learning through quality programs and services.

Data says that “college students must be actively engaged in activities, events, and clubs within 10 days that they arrive on campus.” If this does not occur, student attitude reflects negatively toward the institution, and their positive expectations are diminished. These two factors have a tremendous impact on the student’s academic success.

Student Life plays a key role in both recruiting and retaining students at GC. Call 903.463.8693 for information.

GC welcomes McMillen as new president

By Shelle Cassell

Director, Marketing/ Public Information

The Grayson College Board of Trustees named Dr. Jeremy McMillen as the college’s fifth president, who began his tenure on July 16.

McMillen is no stranger to Texoma or Grayson College. A native of Bonham, he has seen firsthand the importance of the college to area residents. His wife, mother, sister and cousins all have attended GC; his wife also was a faculty member in GC’s English department several years ago.

“Because we have so many fond memories of GC and this beautiful community we call home, I am thrilled to be the new president of a college that has meant so much to us,” McMillen said. “I am passionate about the community college mission and I want to build upon Grayson’s past successes by bringing passionate educators together to work collaboratively. The reality of today’s environment of perpetual change demands that leaders focus on creating sustainable structures that recognize the power of collaboration with clear performance expectations.”

McMillen began his career in higher education as an adjunct sociology professor at Texas A&M-Commerce in 1995 before taking the same position with Paris Junior College and Trinity Valley Community College. He returned to A&M-Commerce as director of institutional research and then to TVCC as Dean of Plan-

ning and Institutional Research. At Trinity, McMillen was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and finally, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“Grayson is known for its continual pursuit of excellence, and I know the administrators, faculty and staff are committed to providing quality learning experiences for its students,” McMillen said. “Purposeful student success strategies are an integral part of GC’s operations. Creating an atmosphere or ‘vibe’ on campus telegraphs that Grayson is ‘the place to live and learn.’”

A graduate of Bonham High School in Bonham, McMillen received a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree, both in sociology, from what is now Texas A&M University-Commerce. He returned to the institution to earn his doctorate in higher education.



GC’s new president, Dr. Jeremy McMillen, has family ties to this area and to Grayson.

Hungry? Fast or fine now available on campus

By Carrie Elliott

If you are a new or returning student this fall to Grayson College, here are some food facts and information that will leave your mouth watering.

Rusty Weatherly, the Director of Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts here at Grayson College, stated, “I do know that there is a trend among people today in that they feel more accomplished by the fact that they are able to eat out and that it does give them social status.” You can join this trend just by checking out the wonderful fare offered twice a week in the Culinary Arts building.

The C. A. dining room will be open to all students, faculty, and guests on Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall/Spring semesters. A la carte menu will be served on Wednesdays.

A few items from last year included gourmet burgers with all of the trimmings, a battered fish and chips, special soups, and fresh salads.

Fridays’ fare will consist of a different theme each week. These themes are chosen by the Culinary students, who will be honing their cooking and presentation skills. Guests will enjoy the white-linen atmosphere and attention to detail that is often found in famous restaurants.

“There is a 50-person maximum [due to limited seating] in the dining room,” explained Weatherly. Therefore when making a reservation, a three-day advance is always recommended. Students should reserve earlier if possible.

Weatherly also noted, “Everyone should make a point to “LIKE” us on Facebook.com\GraysonCulinaryArts to view weekly menus and times.”

There will be a \$10 charge per person on all Friday meals. This price will include a beverage, appetizer, entree, and dessert. Weatherly laughed and added that “all the shows on Food Network have really encouraged people to eat out and try some of those foods that they have seen and heard about.” The Culinary dining room is a good place to start.

Ashley Bowden, like many students on campus, stated, she “has not eaten in the Culinary Arts department and didn’t know you could.”

Bowden has eaten breakfast in the campus cafeteria several times and liked the fact that they offered her more than one or two choices for meals and provided healthy food items. Bowden said, “I would like know how much an item costs before you get to the counter to pay.” Most students, like Bowden, will be seeing changes this fall in the cafeteria.

The Great Western dining/cafeteria services has added Food Service Director Darla Haver to the team. She explained, “The cafeteria has three main areas; the Snack Bar, Specialty Side Bar and the Main Line. Our ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET will apply to the Main line, which serves a choice of (2) meat entrees, (2) vegetables, bread, salad bar, dessert bar and one drink. The price, including tax, will be only \$5.62! Dine-in-only

available, and absolutely no take-outs will be permitted for the buffet.

If friends and family are visiting on the weekends, treat them to a breakfast brunch served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dinner will also be served on the weekends from 5 to 6 p.m. There is a \$5.00 charge per guest. Vegetarian menus and sugar-free desserts are available upon request.

“Catering is available for all events,” said Haver, “like social clubs, class meetings, seminars and the general public. We like to have 48-hour notice when possible.” When in doubt, check them out on the updated Food Services link found on the grayson.edu site.

The Grayson College campus is not in close proximity to fast food and fine dining establishments, but as you can see based on the information above, feeling hungry here on campus means never having to leave the parking lot. Take advantage of all food choices you now have available.



Fun facts about Dr. Jeremy McMillen

- Married for 17 years to his wife, Toni.
- Has a 5-year-old son (who after seeing *Step Up 3* has decided to start break dancing)
- Had a birthday on August 1 and turned 38
- Listens to a wide variety of music from country to rock: a few favorites are Pink Floyd and The Zach Brown Band
- Doesn’t watch much TV but does get to stay up to date on *The Sweet Life of Zach and Cody* on the Disney channel, thanks to his son
- Is a baseball fan, but really prefers to watch it live; his team is the Rangers (and now the Vikings) and anyone playing the Yankees
- Attended Bonham High School and played baseball

Welcome to a new academic year: decisions, decisions, decisions

By Tony Stanzo

Dean, Academic Instruction



Some of you may see me walking around campus during

the first week or two of classes with a beat-up old shovel in one hand and a sleek new iPad in the other. I will be dropping into some classrooms to ask you a simple question: Which of these two tools do you want to spend the rest of your life working with?

I will be telling you that you've already made one small decision to indicate your preference, but that one decision was just the first in a long series of very small decisions – most of them on a daily basis – that will determine which tool you will use.

These minor decisions will be ones such as: Will I go to class today? If I do, will I pay attention? Will I keep my phone in my pocket, or will I

be texting during class? Will I try to answer a question that's asked by my instructor? Will I log into BlackBoard tonight? Will I read the assigned homework? Do the assigned exercise?

These aren't the biggest decisions you'll ever make, at least not individually, are they? But if they will ultimately determine the tools you use in your career, they are life altering.

So what will it be, the shovel or the iPad? It's your decision.



Campus resources help students as they seek path to success

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 skill sets to learn, and new relationships to engage. Your experience here can set your life on a path to success and fulfillment, but only if you are ready to engage your mind and be open to learning all you can from every class you take.

Since Grayson College is not only welcoming new and returning students but also welcoming a new president, Dr. Jeremy McMillen, it will be an exciting new year for students and staff.

Dr. McMillen is equipped to lead our college to new commitments and successes that will benefit 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 year 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 the information and fun you find in *The Viking* but to become a contributor to our paper and to join our Writer's Unlim-

ited/ Sigma Kappa Delta Club. In these organizations, you will find a group of students and staff who love to write and share their work with others and who help us produce *The Viking*.

Let me also encourage students to take advantage of the campus resources made available to help students succeed in their classes.

One of those campus resources is the Writing Center, located in the library and available to any student needing help with a writing assignment.

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, applications, or any other type of writing assignment.

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

Crime prevention at GC: proactive not reactive

By John Hunt

Investigator, GCPD Crime Prevention Unit

Well another year has started at Grayson College, and we are ready to Rock and Roll! Jensen Hall is no more and has served the college well for a number of years. For those of you who drive and have already registered, you know that we have new parking permits that go on the rear window on the outside.

The summer brought about a number of staff and facility changes, and the police department had one sergeant retire and another move on to the Grayson County Sheriff's Office. The entire College Police Department wishes both officers well in their future endeavors.

Oct. 6 is the Texoma Night Out for Crime Prevention, and we will once again be taking part in the law enforcement convoy that travels to all of the cities in the county.

Last year was GCPD's first year to do this, and we were located at the old school at Perrin Heights, lots of activities and a number of college departments taking part, along with the community.

Each stop along the route has food available, and we had Chef Rusty from the Culinary Arts Department as Head Chef cooking hamburgers and hotdogs donated by our cafeteria and Tyson Foods.

At the end of the day, the officers from all over the county voted on the Best In Class in several categories, and Grayson College tied for Most Improved and 2nd in Best Food. Chef Rusty says no more second place; this year is Number 1. Lots of great food and calories! The events at the school are open to all, so please come and enjoy.

On the Crime Prevention front, we will once again be running Crime Prevention posters on the flat screens all over campus, courtesy of James Scoggins and the IT Department. Please pay attention to them, as they contain valuable information.

Last year we had a number

of thefts of property left unattended. Don't take for granted that the person sitting next to you is not going to walk off with your laptop if you leave it.

Last year we made a number of cases that resulted in several Class A misdemeanors and at least two felonies being filed.

We managed to recover some property and return it to the rightful owners. Unfortunately, not all of the property could be identified. Mark your property; record the make, model and serial numbers. I can find it in a pawn shop, but if I can't prove ownership, it's gone. Property pawned/sold to a pawn shop belongs to that shop if out of pawn, and under the law, the owner does not have to give it back. There can be a hearing, and the judge can rule for the original owner or the pawn shop. BE AWARE!

There are still those who believe that K2/Spice and bath salts are legal and okay to use.

All went illegal in September 2011 under Texas law and carry a heavy penalty. Bath salts are not the stuff you put in your bath to "take you away"; they will take you away but not in the good sense.

Bath salts are a combination of chemicals that are very addictive and can do permanent brain damage. Why put a substance like that into your body? If the person who makes it wears gloves to handle it, what does that mean for you?

Welcome back, and let's have a safe year, and please be aware of your surroundings and who is around you, be careful of your property, be careful of your choices, and if you need us, we are here.

We prefer to be proactive rather than reactive...903-463-8777.



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 does not apply to students age 30 and over or to students who are enrolled only in online classes; all other students must comply. The meningitis vaccination or booster must have been administered within the last five years and before the start of the semester or term. Turn in your evidence of immunization to the Office of Admissions.

State-Approved Exemption. The Texas Department of State Health Services allows exemptions from the immunization requirement based on medical issues or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, or active duty with the armed forces of the United States.

Evidence of Vaccination. Acceptable evidence of meningitis vaccination includes:

- ✓ A physician-signed or stamped form
- ✓ Official state or local immunization record
- ✓ Official record from school officials

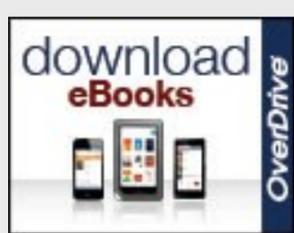
Where to Obtain the Vaccination Uninsured or Underinsured Students. County health departments provide vaccinations to students without insurance or students whose insurance does not cover adult immunizations. Contact your county health department for immunization and fee information.

- ✓ Grayson County Health Department
- ✓ Bonham Community Health Center
- ✓ Collin County Health Department
- ✓ Denton County Health Department
- ✓ Hunt County Health Department

Students can also go to their personal physician or other healthcare provider for the meningitis vaccination.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Students will be dropped ten days before classes begin if proof of meningitis immunization or exemption is not provided.

Grayson College Library is proud to introduce our newest digital resource... eBooks! Use your library card to download and read thousands of eBooks on your favorite device.



Write for *The Viking*!

Submit articles, flyers (jpeg format), poems, cartoons, and photos with captions to TrevinoM@grayson.edu.

Next deadline: **Mon., Sept. 17, 2012**

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. Five Saturdays a semester the Math Hub is open 10:00 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 13, 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:

Monday – Thursday
8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Friday
8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Please feel free to contact the Math Hub Coordinator [Dayna Ford fordd@grayson.edu](mailto:Dayna.Ford@grayson.edu) (903-463-8633) with any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions.

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)



Dayna Ford, Math Hub Coordinator

August Workshops

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

Success Center 113

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: Many programs are installed unintentionally. 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.

Click on the Start Menu.

Type in *%temp%*.

Select all files by holding down Ctrl A.

Then Shift Delete.

(A message may pop up on certain files; just choose to skip those files.)

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 computer: 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*.

The *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 more convenient for you. (Just remember to leave your computer on during the scheduled time.)



'Like'
Grayson College
Career Services
by Sept. 10th & be
entered in a drawing
for a GC tshirt and
Starbucks gift cards!

Stay up-to-date
on relevant career information,
events, job leads
and job search strategies.

Preparation can make the
difference in YOU getting the
job!

facebook

Recreation Center Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sat./Sun. closed



Fitness Center Hours

Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-8 a.m., 12-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.

Sat./Sun. closed

Room 110
Library



Mon.-Thurs.
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fri.
8 a.m.-12 noon

Bring a copy of your assignment so the tutor can better help you!

Are you job searching?

Grayson College has an online job board where students and alumni may view job postings from area employers.

Register at www.collegecentral.com/grayson.

Check it out frequently to view new jobs!

Career Services can help with your job search:
resume writing, cover letters, completing job applications,
interview preparation, developing job search strategies
& more!

Preparation can make the difference
in YOU getting the job!

Contact Gretchen Huff, Job Placement Specialist,
2nd floor in the Life Center.

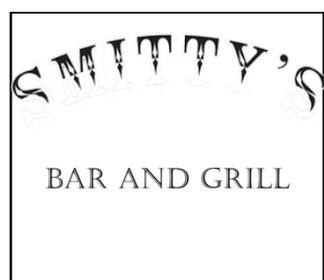
huffg@grayson.edu, 903-415-2544.



Writing Center

Local hangouts *(cont. from page 1)*

Smitty's has an outside patio and two full-service bars located in different areas of the establishment, which provides the customers with enough room to move around and mingle with friends.



Smitty's has an outside patio and two full-service bars.

Smitty's' operating 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 "twenty-one and up age limit after 9 p.m.," states Will Smith, owner of Smitty's

Although meeting up with friends for drinks is fun, adding a television blaring with action-filled chaos of their favorite sports team would make a sports fan excited.

Buffalo Wild Wings, located in the Sherman Town Center on 4066 North US Highway 75, has their dining area filled with forty-nine flat screen televisions roaring with



Buffalo Wild Wings has 49 flat-screened TVs.

every kind of sports you can imagine.

"If you love sports, then Buffalo Wild Wings is the place to be!" exclaims Rickey Burton*, manager of the local Buffalo Wild Wings.

Buffalo Wild Wings' operating hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., and they offer \$3 appetizers all day on Wednesdays.

Here you will be welcomed and seated by one of their friendly staff members who will provide you with "no rush service....," states Burton. You can watch the whole game

without feeling the need to keep ordering off the menu once you are done with your meal. "...Camp out if you want to!" Burton adds.

Grayson County has a lot to offer than just the bar and club scene, though.

Also located in the Sherman Town Center on 3310 Town Center Street, down from Buffalo Wild Wings, is the local Cinemark Movie Theater.

Cinemark shows the newest movies out in theaters from adult R rated to animation films for the kids. Regular ticket price are \$6.25 and \$8.25 if your movie is in 3D.

Here you and some friends can take advantage of their



Cinemark is located in the Sherman Town Center.

"Early bird" ticket price of \$5.25 for any movie that starts before 12 noon.

After the movies, you can swing by the local bowling alley, located on 1414 S. Fm-1417 Sherman. Here at Lone Star Lanes of Sherman you can enjoy "\$2 Tuesday" special on games, food, and longnecks.

Once you have rented a pair of bowling shoes from one of the "polite and hardworking



Lone Star Lanes offers \$2 Tuesdays.

staff," states Joe, manager of Lone Star, you can enjoy your night bowling with the family.

Even though the Grayson County area does not have as much entertainment as a larger city would, such as the Dallas/Fort-Worth area, there are numerous places where you can go to have a great time.

From soldier to civilian: GC helps

By Kambria Dansby

The questions soldiers are most frequently asked when they leave the military are: was life difficult in the military? Did you shoot anyone? What do you know? Are aliens real?

However, no one bothers to ask the most important question: how difficult it is for soldiers to transition back into civilian life? I can only theorize that the reason for this is that people believe life as a civilian is easier than life in the military.

At GC, we have a veteran's counselor who helps every vet who comes to this college to use their G.I. Bill, which pays military personnel's tuition, and enroll in school: Barbara Ward, Veteran's Education Benefits Coordinator, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Services, and United States Air Force Veteran.

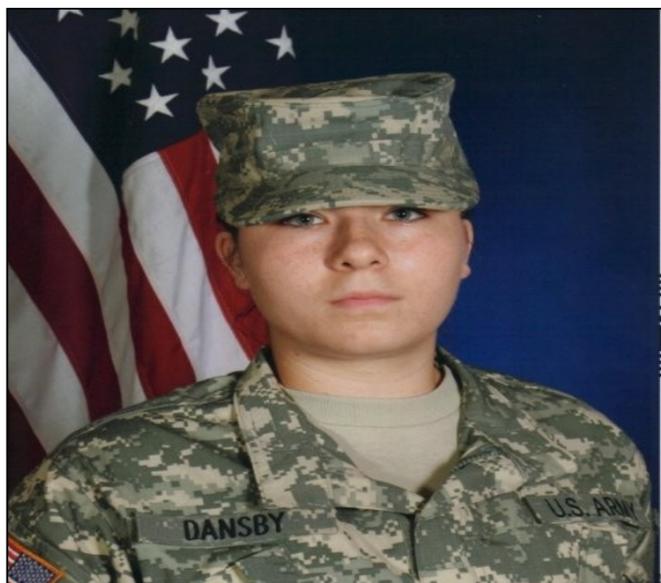
We have 5,202 students currently enrolled at GC. Of those, there are 149 vets, and 2% of the vets are not making the grades to graduate or transfer.

Ward says most veterans get a degree in career fields such as criminal justice, nursing, teaching, EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), or law enforcement. Only about half will get a degree in 2 years and transfer to UNT, A&M, or South Eastern.

GC offers counseling for soldiers. We have two GC counselors who are trained in PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) issues. Sandi Metcalf is one of the counselors who started the Veterans Student Association 2 years ago.

Ward says, "I want to start a book swap for soldiers and store the books in the book hub." In the summer and fall semesters, students who have unwanted text books can donate them to the book hub, and when a soldier needs a book, they can check the book out, and when they are done, return it.

We also have a Military Facebook for GC where veterans can start study groups or get to know one another. Staff are in the process of making a



GC student Kambria Dansby will be writing a Veterans' Column.

military icon on the GC website 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 T.V."

Unfortunately for Bradley Dansby, Vietnam veteran of the United States Navy, he did not have all these resources available for 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 at all and coped with my mental challenges with alcohol." Dansby had 10 years to use his G.I. Bill and never used it. He ended up owning 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!"

Iraqi Veteran Lance Fernandez, former Sergeant (E-5) in the United States Army for 6 years, 6 months with 3 tours 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 girls, and the uncertainty of not knowing what was to come was a huge stress factor."

Fernandez is currently a work study student here at GC for the veteran's counselor, while attending classes using his G.I. Bill.

Wounded veterans like Dyana Reyna, former soldier in the United States Army for 8 years and who is now 100% service-connected disabled, said, "It was extremely hard to transition to being in a wheel chair and having 5 children to figure out how to support."

Reyna was blown off a truck during her Iraqi tour. She is now using her G.I. Bill at GC and working towards a degree in psychology counseling. Reyna continues to maintain a structured life.

Veterans need more support because for most it is one of the most difficult transitions with all the uncertainties of not knowing whether or not they will find a job paying what they were making, where they will live, and how they will get used to the change in lifestyles.

Especially for wounded veterans who will need financial help because they don't get disability money immediately, it takes time. They are different from the average civilian in that they have already experienced more life-changing events in their life time than most people will ever experience.

"Study Abroad Costa Rica," June 2012 with Spanish Professor McKelva



Left to right: Carrie Mikeska, Marian Lucke, Kristen Donahoe
Back row: Randi LeFevre, Joe Bedolla, Lacy Row, Jessica Gray, Joseph McGowan, Caryn Witten, Rebekah Shain, Mallory Pickens (blonde on far right in yellow)

Front left to right: Amy Treece, Mary Yetta McKelva, David Witten, Rhonda Pickens

