



Get involved

Sweet Treats Stop
1st Wednesdays
9:00-10:00 a.m.—2nd floor,
Student Life Center

April First Friday Connection Breakfast
Friday, May 3
7:00-9:00 a.m.—Life Center,
Community Room
Employees please register when you arrive. Sponsored by Grayson College. Hosted by Student Life.

April First Tuesday Connection Breakfast
Tuesday, May 7
8:00-9:00 a.m.—main foyer,
South Campus
Sponsored by Grayson College. Hosted by Student Life.

All in the Timing
May 2-4, 7:30 p.m.
May 5, 2 p.m.—Black Box Theatre

Free May Late Night Food Event
Monday, May 10
9:00-10:00 p.m.—Life Center,
Food Court
Breakfast menu with drink. Complimentary meal provided by Great Western Dining Services. Sponsored by Student Life.

Cinco de Mayo
Monday, May 6
11:00 a.m.-1 p.m.—patio under the Bridge

Recitals
April 29, Brass, woodwind, percussion
Apr. 30, Jazz piano
May 3, String and guitar
May 7 and 10, Classical piano
7:00 p. m.—Cruce Stark Auditorium

Student Government Association
Mondays (1st Monday of each month)
12:15-12:45 p.m.—The HUB
Student club and organization members are invited as well as all students. SGA is the voice of students at GC. SGA promotes “students leading students.”

BSM Luncheon
Wednesdays
11:45-12:30 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

Springfest 2013/ Mocktail Madness/ Welding Rodeo/ Senior College Preview Day
Friday, May 10
12-1:30 p.m.—Life Center—east patio under the Bridge
Come celebrate the end of the spring semester and the beginning of finals week. All are invited for free snack lunch, live music, car bash, club displays and activities.

GC Fitness Center
GC students and employees are eligible to use the facility with a valid GC ID card. Electronic check-in required, along with the ID card. First-time users complete liability form. Call 903.463.2579 for days and hours of operation.

(cont. on p. 2)

Evening of Excellence honors outstanding Grayson students



On April 9, as part of Grayson's annual "Evening of Excellence," faculty congratulated outstanding students and presented them certificates honoring their achievements in various subject areas.

24 teams ready for Welding Rodeo 2013 on May 10

By Janis Thompson

Grant Writer/Development Specialist

Have you ever been to a welding rodeo? If not, don't miss your chance! Grayson College will be holding its 3rd Annual Welding Rodeo on May 10, 2013.

"This event has really grown, especially with the help from local businesses who employ welders," says Greg Beckley, Director of the Welding Technologies Program at Grayson College. "The rodeo hosts high school welding teams who set up their welding equipment on the parking lot in front of the



2012 Welding Rodeo champs with their project, trophy, and prizes

dorm to demonstrate their welding skills and artistic capabilities. The teams compete for prizes as well as scholarship money." This year 24 high

school teams will be participating in the Welding Rodeo.

"The benefit of getting these different groups together goes beyond that of just a competitive rodeo," says Beckley. "It also introduces future students and family members to the excellent resources offered by Grayson College and permits them to get a flavor of campus life during the daylong event."

The College's Art Department is involved as well. Steve Black, Fine Arts Professor, is a judge for the rodeo. "I was asked to be a judge for the first two events," states Black, "and I'll be doing it again this year."

Black has also been responsible for conducting the pre-rodeo

See "Welding Rodeo" p. 2

Military uniforms have a story to tell for GC student

By Cy-Von Jackson

The military can be such a rapid and adventurous lifestyle.

While serving a little less than four years, I was fortunate enough to wear three different types of uniforms. Every uniform that I received has significant meaning to me during the times I wore them. From the Battle Dress Uniform in basic training to the Desert Combat Uniform and Army Combat Uniform in Iraq, they all have a story to tell.

While attending basic training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, I was wearing the mean green B.D.U.s, also known as the Battle Dress Uniform, with a pair of tight brown underwear that we, the new soldiers, called brown thunders.

The B.D.U.s came with a winter pair and a summer pair. Some days it gave me a sense

of pride for my country while putting on my uniform.

It would look very good on me at the start of the day, but when lunch time came, I was ready to undress just from being so exhausted from doing exercises, drills, and getting drilled. I felt like a caged elephant training for the circus all day. It made me ask myself, "Are the honors of the uniform worth it?"

I have been in the mud face first, have marched over nine miles, have fired my first M-16, and even have climbed up a twenty-foot rope in the mean green uniform. The B.D.U.s made me feel like Rambo, I guess because of the colors.

The thing I hated most was that the uniform had to be pressed, along with spit-shined boots.

Just as I was feeling familiarly comfortable in the Battle Dress Uniform, I was introduced to the D.C.U.s, or the Desert Combat Uniform, while



Cy-Von Jackson displays his Battle Dress Uniform, Desert Combat Uniform, and Army Combat Uniform

stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. Wow! Now I was gearing up for my first deployment to O.I.F. One.

Operation Iraqi Freedom marks the birth of one of the longest-fought wars in American history. Wearing this uniform meant "crunch time," "do or die," and "war face on or be replaced by the enemy."

The D.C.U.s were comfortable to wear, and the brown color blended with my skin very well. It felt like I had to grow up quickly in this uniform. There were lots of injuries and casualties that occurred around me, defeats and victories from day to day.

When I wore the Desert

Combat Uniform, my life was like a roller coaster because of experiencing so many ups and downs, from being in a war zone to missing home. I was still a young teen-aged private in a war zone, many time zones away from home with no way of calling my loved ones and friends.

D.C.U.s were in when Sadaam Hussein was captured, and my introduction to manhood is what I feel when I see my D.C.U.s.

I returned to U.S. soil from my first deployment, extra "gun whole," as we in the military call it, in my comfortable combative attire. Before I knew it, a newly-designed, digitally-printed set of

See "Military Uniforms" p. 4

Guitar Ensemble wins 2nd place in San Marcos competition on April 5-6



Hill Country Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival and Competition at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas April 5-6, 2013. The Grayson College Guitar Ensemble was awarded 2nd place in the College Division Large Ensemble. From Left to Right, Misty Hebert, Seve Mexia, Dr. David Tercero, Jennifer Martz, Douglas Carr.

Check out

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."

Men of Distinction
Thursdays
12:00-1:00 p.m.—*The HUB*
Tuesdays
5:00-6:00 p.m.—*The HUB*

Sisters of Destiny
Mondays
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. (2nd and 4th)—*The HUB*
Wednesdays
4:00-5:00 p.m.—*The HUB*

Phi Theta Kappa
Wednesdays
12:00-1:00 p.m.—*The HUB*

Dental Assisting
Wednesdays
1:00-2:00 p.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 (Library, 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 Thursdays
1:15-2:15 p.m.—*The HUB*

The Clay Club
Tuesdays
6:00-6:30 p.m.—*AC 120*

**Eta Sigma Delta
(Culinary Honor Society)**
TBA

Student Ambassadors
3rd Monday of each month
12:00-1:00 p.m.—*Bridge lounge-outside the HUB*

**MAS—Give More-
Get More**
Mondays
2:30-3:30 p.m.—*The HUB*

Delta Phi Delta Art Club
1st Wednesday of each month
11:45 a.m.—*AC105*

Grayson Nursing Student Association
Thursdays (last Thursday of month)
5:00-6:00 p.m.—*The HUB*

Psychology Club
Tuesdays
12:15-12:45 p.m.—*CIS 202*

Paramedic Student Association
Meetings as needed.
5:00 p.m.—*HS 215*

Vocational Student Nursing Association
Tuesdays
12:00-1:00 p.m.—*South Campus*

Cosmetology Club
Mondays
3:45 p.m.—*CTC classroom*

TIPSS (Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management Club)
4th Monday of the month
2:00-3:00 p.m.—*Culinary Arts Building*

Criminal Justice Club (LAE)
Tuesdays
12:15-1:45 p.m.—*CJ 101*

Drug Alcohol Abuse Counseling Club (DAAC)
Mondays
8:20 a.m.-9:00 a.m.—*HS 202*

Radiology Technology Club
Contact Robbie Jackson, 903.463.8676 for meeting times.

Veterans Student Association
Contact the veteran student representative in the Student Services office.

Future Educators
Every other Tuesday
2:00-3:00 p.m.—*CIS 200*

Visit the Student Life link on the college website for current activity and event information or call 903.463.8693.

GC hosts high school performing arts camp in June

By Robin Robinson

Director of Theatre

Summertime offers a variety of opportunities for young people, and the Grayson Theatre department is offering an opportunity of a lifetime for high school students interested in Theatre.

For the first time, there will be a camp offered on the Grayson campus called the **Grayson Performing Arts Camp (GPAC)** that lasts two weeks, June 9-22, for high school students.

Students participating in GPAC will live in the Grayson dorms, attend classes in the morning, and rehearse a production in the afternoon and evening.

At the end of two weeks, students will perform in either a musical or one of two plays. There will be a film element to the camp during the first week and also a tech emphasis for students who do not want to perform, but want to be part of backstage.

Teachers from across Texas and also from California are coming to teach and direct. Billy and Annie Drago from Austin High School in Austin, Texas will be directors for the musical and for one of the plays. They have directed the 5A One Act Play championship play for the past two years and have directed in other workshops across Texas.

Craig Hertel, the Fine Arts Director at Gainesville ISD, will direct the second play. Craig has also been extremely successful in the One Act world by taking numerous productions to the state One Act play contest in Austin and also directs in similar camps in the state.

An exciting element for this camp is the film component. Mark Scheibmeir, son of for-

mer GC president Dr. Alan Scheibmeir, is coming for one week to teach film acting and to lecture on getting a start in L.A.

Scheibmeir is currently working as an actor in L.A. and has been successful with commercials and independent films. He will work individually with students, and each student will leave the camp with a head shot and a "reel" to use for audition purposes.

Tenna Matthews (GC Design and Tech Director) and Thea Albert (GC Adjunct Design professor) will design for all three shows. Robin Robinson (GC Theatre Director) is directing a one-day Teacher Development training day for area theatre teachers who need professional development training for their districts.

On June 21, there will be various workshops offered to help prepare these teachers to work with their students in new and creative ways. Luis Munoz, the UIL State One Act Play Director, will be a guest speaker at the beginning of the day to discuss current rules and proposed rule changes for One Act Play.

Amy Jordan from Denison High will act as Director of the camp, along with B.K. Goodman as her assistant.

Nikki Silva from Denison and Pam Gauthier-Hamer will also teach at the camp, along with Scott Tipton.

The Grayson Theatre department is excited to offer this opportunity for the first time for incoming high school students who will be in the 9th thru 12th grades. The cost for a student is \$795, which covers housing, meals, and participation in the camp.

For more information look at the Grayson Theatre website www.grayson.edu/theatre or contact the theatre department at theatre@grayson.edu for an application.

Welding Rodeo (cont. from p. 1)

workshops in December for the high school students to begin thinking about art and design.

"The purpose of the workshop," says Black, "dealt with freedom in artistic expression." Black says, "We also discussed team project ideas, announced this year's theme-Project Earth, and created maquettes to experiment with concepts of design and structure."

It is Black's hope that the "collaboration between the Welding and Arts departments will expand into both programs

being able to offer students courses that bring the worlds of welding and art together. The Welding Rodeo has created a greater awareness here at the campus of using welding as an art medium." According to Black, "In fact, we currently have students from the Art department taking classes in welding."

Local industries and manufacturers participate in the welding rodeo also, not only to meet with prospective future employees, but to help support the costs associated with the rodeo.

Cultural Diversity Club helps missionaries to Africa

By Pierre Sangare

A few weeks ago, the Cultural Diversity Club once again has honored Grayson College by hosting a group of missionaries going to preach the word of God to Africa.

They have been traveling around the world, and the next journey is a small country in Central Africa, Gabon.

As we are well aware, a high percentage of Grayson College's international students come from Gabon.

As a gesture of community service, members of the Cultural Diversity Club decided to participate to a gathering with two goals: educate the group of missionaries going to Gabon about the social life, and help them practice how they are going to preach to Africans who do not speak or understand English.

First of all, we were honored to be served delicious African food by two former students of Grayson College, Paola Ambedet and Diana Mackaya.

After the little supper, we had a very nice presentation by Lucas Pambou and Nahandy Maroundou. Both are international students and from Franceville, the city where the group of missionaries is going to live in Gabon.

Everything began with a brief overview of the trip and how to get to Franceville, and the most important thing, how the social life is in Gabon.

This year's industrial sponsorships have tripled from the first event by generating more than \$40,000 worth of cash and in-kind support.

Platinum Sponsors who have donated over \$1000 include Airgas, ACS Manufacturing, Inc., Best Pawn, Snelling Staffing Services, Plyler Construction, Caterpillar, Panda Power, Vector Systems Inc., Matheson Gas, and Monitor.

Gold Sponsors who have offered donations of \$500 or more include Save Phace.

Silver Sponsors, with donations of \$250 or more include Denison Development Alliance, Sherman Economic Development Corporation, Elite Welding and Construction, Tyson Foods and Ruiz Foods.

Donations made by **Friends of the Rodeo** include Brad and Mattie McClenny, Landmark Bank, and TAPS.

These donations are used as match for the \$10,000 grant received from the National Endowment for the Arts and include items such as donated scrap metal, generators, meals,

Pambou and Maroundou did an outstanding job and have shown how much the Cultural Diversity Club can be a useful source of information for people who want to go to Africa.

Second, they practiced how the missionaries were going to preach the world of God to people who do not understand English in Franceville.

The process itself was ingenious. They are going to use a cube that represents the entire journey of Jesus, the son of God, while He was on earth until his death on the cross.

In addition to that, they are going to have interpreters to translate in French. During the practice, Pambou volunteered to play the role of the translator and did a wonderful job.

At the end of the little experiment, we were all astonished by how this could be so powerful and more convincing to people who do not know Jesus Christ, the son of God.

Ultimately, the evening was one of the highlights of the Cultural Diversity Club during this semester. This was not only an opportunity for community service, but also a great experience of exchange and learning.

For years, the College has given a lot of support to international students, but that evening, through the CDC, former and current students gave back to Grayson honor and pride.

supplies, refreshments, auctioning services, and other professional volunteer time.

The 3rd Annual Welding Rodeo one-day competition will focus on both team and individual creations. Scholarship awards will be presented to the first-, second- and third-place winners.

Proceeds from the event's auction of final designs will benefit the Grayson College Welding Technology Association scholarship fund.

"There is a significant need for trained and employable welders in the Texoma region," says Greg Beckley, Director of the Welding Technology program at Grayson College.

There are also students from prior rodeo events who have taken classes here at Grayson College.

For example Brandon Clark and his Denison High School teammates participated in the 2011 Welding Rodeo. Clark says, "It was fun doing it [the rodeo]." Clark See "Welding Rodeo" p. 6

Welding Rodeo
MONDAY, MAY 6TH
11:00 AM-1:00 PM
UNDER STUDENT LIFE BRIDGE
GRAYSON COLLEGE STAFF & MAS (STUDENT ORGANIZATION)

Mocktail
Grayson College Clubs & Organizations Pour In
MADDness Contest
Do you have an amazing non-alcoholic drink recipe?
Come on out and blend it, shake it, mix it, pour it...drink it!
Cash Prizes and Wonderful Gifts!!!!!!
Date: May 10, 2013
Time: It's 5 o'clock somewhere
For us it's 12:00 pm till 1:30 pm
Location: Grayson College Life Center East Patio-Under the Bridge
Entry Fee: \$5
All Entry Fees donated to MADD
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Be a G.S.A!!!
Become a Grayson Student Ambassador
We are looking for NEW and active members
If you meet the qualifications and are interested call Rhonda Marroquin @ 903-415-2611
Preferred Qualifications:
• Current student enrolled in at least 6 credit hours
• Interested in developing leadership & public relations skills
• Willing to serve as a college representative
• A 2.75 minimum GPA
2012-2013 Current GSA Members
(Left to Right)
Top: Jordan Breaux, David Harman, Blake Bray Middle: Sponsor: Rhonda Marroquin, Dianna Clay
Front: Mary Frazier, Celena Reed, Sara Arellano (Not all members pictured here)

Friday, May 10, 2013
10:00 - Noon
Lunch provided • Live Band
Grayson College High School Senior Day
Class of 2013
6101 Grayson Drive • Denison, TX 75020
www.grayson.edu

Earth Day Gala 2013 recognizes Phi Theta Kappa members

By Jean Sorensen
Professor of English

A small group of Grayson students and faculty members stood in the sunshine this April 19 at Alumni Grove to celebrate the achievements of students in volunteering and service learning and to recognize Phi Theta Kappa members for their excellence as a 5-star chapter.

Central to the celebration is the on-going planting of trees in the grove. Under the leadership of former PTK president Jesus Sosa, the plan for a decade-long planting of 2 trees per year began. The 2 new trees planted this year brought the total to 6, another sign of the journey education provides for GC students as they enrich themselves and others through their learning and the contributions they make while attending GC.

celebration was the announcement of the aquaponics project of GC student Nathan Spurgeon. GC's grant writer Janis Thompson has written two grants seeking funds to implement the vision Spurgeon has for a self-sustaining fish and plant environment.

One grant seeks funds from Lowe's and the other from the National Collegiate Honors Council's Portz Fund. With funding, the aquaponics project will provide tilapia and their seasonings (plants and herbs) for a culinary feast while serving as a lab for environmental geology and a teaching tool to inspire young people to appreciate the opportunities in science and technology careers to create a world better suited to a healthy future.

Dr. Jean Sorensen led the group in expressing appreciation for support from administrators and students that re-

sulted in their attendance at the Rotary Club International's First Annual Peace Symposium and the Great Plains Honors Council Conference.

She spoke with pride of the honors articulation agreements that have been presented to Grayson College from the University of North Texas and Texas Tech University. Both four-year schools are encouraging GC's best students to transfer and apply for Terry Foundation Scholarships.

Professor Mary Linder gave special recognition to Phi Theta Kappa students who worked to impress their peers and PTK advisors around the country through their awards and achievements.

She noted the outstanding work of student Katie Turner in seeking international office and students Genia Shipman and Matthias Shelton in encouraging the votes for her.



The two latest additions to the Alumni Grove. Phi Theta Kappa will be adding two trees a year for a decade.

GC may be a small to medium sized college, yet it keeps up with and exceeds the achievements of larger schools because its dedicated students represent some of the finest students in higher education today.

Professor Linder reminded students of the new leadership team being selected for next year's PTK. Alumni Grove is that living reminder that what we contribute here at GC lives on after we move on.

GC Honors students attend Great Plains Honors Council April 5 in Amarillo

By Samantha Robinson

Students seeking an academic distinction are often surprised by the learning experiences offered by enrolling in the Grayson Honors College.

The education provided in the honors classroom certainly offers students an edge with smaller classroom sizes and a tailored curriculum. The emphasis on academic integrity renews in students a sense of purpose, and the performance standards keep students focused on their education. Its educational benefits, however, reach far outside the classroom.

On April 5, Honors College Director Dr. Jean Sorensen and her entourage of five students climbed into the Grayson van loaded down with their (very likely too much) luggage.

An hour drive can be unbearably boring, but Dr. Sorensen teaches as she breathes, and the conversational pieces introduced served as appetizers to five students with hungry minds; the flight, while shorter than the drive, was no different.

Their arrival in Amarillo was met with beautiful weather, a wonderful dinner with very informational speakers, a walk through poster presentations and general camaraderie.

Friday evening ended with attendees registering for the following day's hike in Palo Duro Canyon State Park.



Honors College students (front) Samantha Robinson, (back left to right) Blake Hyatt, Clayton Cummings, Irving Gonzalez, Dr. Jean Sorensen, Patrick Larowe

to keeping it alive. Tour guides, shop keepers, and most surprisingly, shuttle drivers all lent an air of realism with their firsthand stories to a tour already rich with life.

With a never-say-die attitude, the little flock of Graysonites sped through wardrobe changes and reconvened for a "must-see" tour of Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. PPHM is every bit as vibrant and diverse as the history itself, ranging from a massive oil rig from the 1920s to the softer side of history: art and nearly everything in between. But the learning was not limited to these obviously engaging pursuits.

When the teacher turns the educational reins over to the student, the opportunity for learning is—just as every other facet of learning on this incredible trip—vast, diverse, and rich.

The lecture portion of the program began with topics geared toward preparing the attendees for a great invasion

of information. Warning signs of video game addiction, a call to action on managing basic everyday addictions, and a great debate over home school education versus public education provided lively discussions, new ideas, and enlightenment on previously foreign concepts.

At the end of the trip, the attendees were treated to an absolutely astounding speaker, Dr. Leigh Browning. Dr. Browning spoke extraordinarily engagingly, leading those thoroughly entranced through a time warp ranging from 8-tracks and records to the future of glass houses. She provided informational bits one after another, encouraging those in attendance to a new level of awareness in their world.

Honors College is more than a pretty distinction on a likely already-sparkling resume. It truly is a learning experience worth every minute agonizing over whether Honors College is the right direction. Choose not to simply pass. Choose to pass with Honors.

Table tennis takes off at Grayson tournament

By Tony Stanzo

Dean of Academic Studies
Division

Ping pong is alive and well at Grayson. So is table tennis. For the uninitiated, there is a difference.

Table tennis is to ping pong like Olympic volleyball is to backyard volleyball (table tennis is the third most popular sport in the world, after soccer and volleyball).

And for the double-uninitiated, table tennis is an Olympic sport – dominated by the Chinese, so dominated that the best players in the United States are Chinese. And the best players in Korea and Japan and Europe and Africa.

So dominated that the Chinese girls beat the celluloid (that's the stuff ping pong balls are made out of) stuffing out of the American men at a tournament I was at last year. And it wasn't the Chinese National Team, it was a small ordinary women's university team. That's a little like the Oklahoma State Cowgirls beating the Miami Heat.

Anyway, as I said, table tennis is alive and well at Grayson. Best crop of students playing smash table tennis (smash mouth, also at times) I've seen since I started

working here almost four years ago.

There were about 30 students who signed up for the bi-annual tournament here. For a solid month, the late mornings and afternoons were filled with players battling it out on the 6 tables in the Student Life Center. I didn't play this time – missed the sign-up—but I watched every game I could get out of the office to see.

The semi-finals and finals were matches for the ages – proud, athletic young men playing their hearts out.

Sadly, there are very few women who play table tennis at Grayson. There should be more. It's a game in which women are not at a competitive disadvantage against men and in which the old or the young are not at a competitive disadvantage against the typical college student.

I should know. In my last tournament in Plano, I got beat by an 11-year-old girl in one match and a 72-year-old man in the next! And the sad part about it was, neither one was Chinese.

So give it a try – it's a mental game as well as a physical one. Who knows, you may get on the Olympic team some day. . .if the Chinese let you.



Grayson table tennis players Jacob Fisher, Kyle Gotcher, Michael Sorrels, and Freddy Menjivar compete during the recent Student Life tournament.

New for Fall 2013...
Be the first on campus to use the
NEW eTextbooks!
See the Savings!
Books for only \$50
per course
Visit your advisor today for details!

Enjoy gourmet menus
... at budget prices in GC's student-run restaurant.

**Six
Ninety-One**

Reservations for Wednesday and Friday lunch service: 903.415.2605

Culinary Arts Building

Grayson Hair and Nail Salon

Tuesday-Thursday
8:30-11 a.m., 1-3:30 p.m., 5:30-8 p.m.
Friday 8:30-12 noon

2nd Tuesday \$2 haircuts and manicures!
Wednesdays Senior Citizens Day

Call for appointment: 903.463.8744

Free X-Rays and Dental Impressions!
Fridays: 8, 9, 10, 11 a.m.

Call for appointment
Wendy Renfro,
Director of Dental Assisting
903.415.2529
RenfroW@grayson.edu

Pres. McMillen named Alumni Ambassador by Texas A&M University—Commerce

By Donna McKinney
Honors and Awards Committee
Chair

Grayson College's President, Dr. Jeremy McMillen, was recently named an Alumni Ambassador by the Texas A&M University-Commerce Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

As an Alumni Ambassador, Dr. McMillen was invited to return to campus to interact with students and faculty.

This is the highest honor that a department may bestow upon its alumni. University-wide, 809 Ambassadors have returned to campus to participate in the Annual Alumni Ambassador Forum over the past 30 years.

Dr. McMillen shared these thoughts about his return to his alma mater: "I'm proud to be a

Texas A&M University-Commerce Lion, and I am humbled to join the selective list of individuals recognized by the University as Alumni Ambassadors.

"During the day, I was able to visit with professors in the department, as well as meet with current students to share insights of what they can do today to set themselves up for success tomorrow. Visiting with former faculty in the very halls that provided the structure for my collegiate experience reminded me of how my life has been transformed through education and provided me with renewed energy to carry out that work at Grayson College."

A graduate of nearby Bonham High School, McMillen earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology and then a

doctorate in higher education, all from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Dr. McMillen began his career in higher education as an adjunct sociology professor at Texas A&M University-Commerce in 1995.

His career path includes both community college and university experiences. Former employers are Paris Junior College, A&M-Commerce and Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas.

His role at each institution added leadership responsibilities and included work with Educational Talent Search, Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness, and Academic Affairs.

In July 2012, Grayson College employees and students were happy to welcome Dr. McMillen as President of the College.

Military Uniforms *(cont. from p. 1)*

uniforms, Army Combat Uniforms, also called A.C.U.s, were presented to me.

About six months after flaunting my D.C.U.s., I knew that another deployment was in development. While wearing the A.C.U.s, my nose was pointed towards the air like a proud dog walking with his owner as I became a specialist at my job. I knew what to do and how to do it! I felt respected.

The deployment was a long and dangerous one. Dirt and sweat stains on the Army Combat Uniform remind me of all the hard work put into Iraq. I was at my physical peak while wearing this uniform: in shape, measuring in at five

percent body fat, weighing 178 pounds. I was so full of anger and stress! All I wanted to do was work out.

While earning the nickname "Combat Jack" because I was always ready for any situation, I learned how to adapt to my environment.

Wearing the A.C.U.s made me feel special just to be part of the first generation to wear the newly-designed uniform.

I managed to fulfill my contract before deploying to Afghanistan. I knew then I could hang up my third and final uniform with honors.

I have different feelings for the three of the See "Military" below

Akrofuom, Ghana thanks Young Educators Club and PTK for aid

By Victoria Sicking
Peace Corps Volunteer

Here in Akrofuom, we are busy at work molding blocks for our new primary 5 and 6 building.

At our last community work day I was able to hand out copies of the January issue of *The Viking* to several of the chiefs supervising the work and the community members. They were beyond excited. They were happily gesturing to one another while proclaiming that their face had made it into the American magazine.

Those who did not appear in the January issue instructed me to take plenty of pictures at every community work day to come so that they may also start a legacy in America through this *Viking* (pronounced "Vick-ing" by Gha-



Chiefs and community members in Akrofuom, Ghana read copies of the January 2013 issue of *The Viking* in which their community was featured.

naians). So from me and all those in Akrofuom, we would like to say "THANK YOU." I have en-

joyed being able to share my stories of what it is happening here, and I hope you have also enjoyed

reading.

We would also like to say thank you to the Young Educators Club and Phi Theta Kappa, which have been busy collecting books for our soon-to-come community library and computer lab.

Before we can receive the books, we have to complete the lab by renovating the room, securing it with new windows and doors, building shelves, tables and chairs, and purchasing computers and all the necessary electrical equipment to keep the computers from being fried by the Ghana power supply.

All together we are looking to raise around \$6,000. If you are interested in donating, you can find the project, titled "Assin Ak-

rofuom Computer Lab and Library Project," at donate.peacecorps.gov. All donations are tax deductible.

The Peace Corps created Victoria Sicking's official donation page for the Library/Computer lab recently. The link is below:

<https://donate.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=donate.contribute.projDetail&projdesc=13-641-023>



Poets' Corner

The Seed

Judge me? Tell others of my faults and shortcomings?

As if *you* have none to be seen. As if you have the right to judge others because God has put you in that position personally? Not knowing of the long hours, hard work, physical and mental anguish that I have been through? Not knowing about my sleepless nights with memories of having no home to sleep in?

Yet I'm the one you have chosen to judge year after year, not even knowing the type of person who exists in this heart of mine. *Such a mean and cruel mother who shows no love to her own offspring, these poor children who must grow up not knowing what it is to have their mother's love.*

You have no idea how much love I pour into their hearts, their lives, and our home. You have no clue that the words you speak are such pathetic lies that the anger builds in me until my eyes well over with tears because you, a stranger, have chosen to use me as your verbal punching bag.

Well, be prepared because these fists are filled with fury, and the strength behind them is a strength that you may never have. My words leave bruises just as yours do, and after all the bruises that you have inflicted on my soul over the years, you need to start to feel this pain. It's your turn to understand that bruises on your soul do not go away like bruises on your body; bruises on your soul leave scars, and those scars leave pain that never goes away.

No counselor, no friend, no lover can ever completely take that pain away, and because of you, I believe that there just has to be some truth within these lies. They are lies, aren't they? Through your eyes, they are truth, and because of that, I search deep inside myself and even in the darkest corners of my mind and soul. I do not see what you see, and yet I never stop looking because if someone else sees it, then there must be some trace of this horrible person.

But I have something for you. I have a seed, a seed that was planted deep in my mind, not just by you, but by dozens of people throughout my life, all those people who

laughed, teased, and tortured me as I tried to find out who I was. I have tried to find someone who did not see what you and the others saw. I looked for someone who knew that there was and still is someone inside of me who deserves to be loved. But if I don't fully believe, can I ever convince someone else that the better *me* exists?

I do deserve to be loved. I deserve the opportunity to close your mouth and your mind from ever even thinking about uttering another negative word about me. I do deserve it, don't I? But now I want you to take this seed. This time I want you to carry it around in the back of your mind and wonder 365 days a year why people think badly of you. Why you are cursed to care about what they think. Is there truth to the ill feelings they have for you?

You see, in my mind that seed became a weed that poisoned my own opinion of myself. It made me think that I did not deserve to be happy, to be loved, to be respected. After years and years of self torture, I am giving this seed to you! Plant it and feed it well with the fertilizer that is the words of those who don't think so highly of you.

But, you will not have the satisfaction of using my hurt and pain to help it grow because throughout the years of pain hidden behind my eyes, I have learned that I only found myself after I stopped feeding that weed that grows through the words of those around me.

So, I forgive you for your cruel words that have been spread to others over the years, and I forgive you for never taking the time to see the beautiful me underneath the pain, and I forgive you for putting me down to make yourself feel better.

But most of all, I pray that God does not allow that seed to spread for the decades that it took for me to see that the one I was looking for to love me was here all along. That person is . . . me.

—Jamie Wagoner

Editor's note: The poem below contains words that some readers might find offensive.

The Children Reek of Arrogance and Insecurity

The children reek of arrogance and insecurity. Little oxymoronic bubbles—I tell 'em, "You're Special, but you're not the first."

I only come 'round to watch them burst. Didn't get the answers she was looking for? "Come over here." Daddy's little whore, drunk, On the troll for a score. Reused, repsyc-ologists—salt to taste. They've saved up for the waste, Dug their heels in deeper, deeper. Slow-mo self-destruction; it's a creeper, creeper.

—Nathan Spurgin

Military Uniforms *(cont. from above)*

uniforms I have worn, but they all tie in to my honoring my country and really understanding how strong my country is.

The Battle Dress Uniform was the alpha of my military career. It gave me the sense of wanting to move forward and find out more about the new lifestyle I had chosen.

When I wore the D.C.U.s, I was at the center point in my military career. I gained courage and wisdom. The D.C.U.s were like my growing up uniform.

A.C.U.s are the omega of my military career. I had felt as if something were to happen, I could take charge.

Since the time I was

on the job, from March 2003 until December 2006, I was able to wear these three different uniforms.

The Battle Dress Uniform was worn for about eight months, the Desert Combat Uniform for about six months, and the Army Combat Uniform for about seventeen months.

While wearing my uniforms throughout my military career, I experienced things that were unimaginable. When I look at my uniforms today, they take me to different places; they remind me of highlighted events in those times of my life as a dynamic soldier, like pieces in a time capsule.



Math Department offers COMPASS math test review May 20-23

By Dayna Ford

Math Hub Coordinator

Grayson College's Math Department is offering a mathematics review session for the COMPASS Placement Test. Presented by Dayna Ford, GC's Math Hub coordinator, the review session is free and open to new students as well as to those who need to take or wish to retake the math portion of the test.

As part of the Texas Success Initiative, Texas law requires all new students in public higher education institutions to have their academic skill levels assessed prior to entry in college-level courses. Most GC students take COMPASS, which is one of four approved placement tests used to demonstrate college readiness for TSI purposes. COMPASS assesses skills in mathematics, reading and writing.

The math review session will meet in Room 113 of the Success Center, located on the north side of GC's Main Campus

in Denison. The review session runs from May 20 to May 23 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. No reservations or registration are required.

Students should bring pencils and a simple calculator to the review session. They will receive a workbook with practice problems designed to help them review and prepare for the COMPASS math portion. For students who complete the required number of hours of the review, there will be a discounted fee for the COMPASS test if taken at Grayson College.

"By concentrating on reviewing COMPASS math topics with a math instructor, students may strengthen their math skills now as they prepare for the test," said Ford. "By raising their scores on the test, it's possible they will place in a higher math class."

For more information about the math review sessions, contact Dayna Ford at 903-463-8663 or fordd@grayson.edu, and Shawn Eagleton, GC math professor at 903-463-8746 or eagletons@grayson.edu.

Making sense of the FAFSA Verification Process

By Jeff Scott

Financial Aid Counselor

The ever-changing financial aid landscape has created a few new policies and procedures for completing your application for Title IV funds. In the March 2013 edition of *The Viking*, we presented some of the major changes in the financial aid process for the 2013-2014 award year. We will now give specific details you may need to be aware of.

Many of you may already know of the dreaded verification process, but luckily for everyone, the Department of Education (ED) has taken steps to make the processes easier. They have accomplished this by stating exactly what institutions need to verify on selected students' Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

What we have done in the Office of Financial Aid (FAO) here at Grayson College is redesign our "Verification Worksheet" into different sections based on the criteria that ED has requested be verified. The form is much longer than its predecessor, but someone in the FAO will clearly mark what you will need to complete as well as what documentation, if any, you will need to supply.

Due to these changes in the form, you will now have to request the Verification Form from the FAO directly; it will not be available online. You may request this form in person from the Office of Financial Aid in the Administration Building, by emailing financialaid@grayson.edu, or by calling 903-463-8495.

Some students will have to appear in person in the FAO in order to sign an Identity/Statement of Purpose form. The Identity/Statement of Purpose form confirms the identity of the student by way of signature and reviewing of a valid state or government-issued identification. It also affirms the student will use the financial assistance they may receive only for educational purposes and to pay the cost of attending Grayson College for the respective award year.

If a student is unable to appear in person in the FAO, they will have to request this form using the previously mentioned methods and complete it in the presence of a notary and mail it back to FAO. Note: the FAO will not accept faxed, emailed or copies of the Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose form.

Along with the Office of Admissions and Records, the FAO is now required to verify a student's high school completion. For many students, an official high school transcript or diploma will suffice. Students may also present the FAO with a recognized equivalent of a high school diploma such as a GED, state certificate after passing state-authorized examination, or an academic transcript if a student has successfully completed a two-year program that is acceptable for full credit towards a bachelor's degree.

Special cases may require more documentation. Please contact the FAO if you have any question in regard to high school completion.

PTK makes strong showing at International Convention

By Mattias Shelton

The 2013 Phi Theta Kappa International Convention kicked off on April 4, in San Jose, California. The following weekend was packed with exciting events and activities for the four thousand participants who had gathered from all over the world.

Phi Theta Kappa members listened to several excellent speakers, participated in educational workshops, elected a new set of international officers from among the ranks of Phi Theta Kappa students, and received numerous awards based on a variety of criteria.

Among the thousands of convention attendees, Grayson College's Omicron Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa sent three members, one alumni member, and one chapter advisor to participate in the convention, a relatively small group. In fact, many chapters were represented by a much larger number of participants. Despite this, Omicron Psi was no slacker in terms of participation.

The small group managed to take on the responsibilities of leading a workshop, fundraising for the upcoming Relay for Life event through t-shirt sales, and, perhaps the most ambitious task of all, running for the office of District II international Vice President.

Katie Turner, Omicron Psi's chapter



Genia Shipman (left), VP—Special Projects and Katie Turner, Chapter President

President, had decided to take on the ambitious task of running for a seat as an International officer back in February.

This is highly significant because there are only five student officers elected each year to serve the entire international community. There is no doubt that holding such a position requires a lot of responsibility, but attempting to acquire the position is equally as daunting a task and requires no small amount of ambition.

The task requires an immense amount

of planning at the start and provides a lot of stress by the end.

Turner was one of the 27 candidates interviewed by Dr. Rod Risley, Phi Theta Kappa's CEO. She was given the chance to speak in front of hundreds of Phi Theta Kappa members at the Texas regional convention in early March, and she even appeared on stage in front of thousands of convention participants while campaigning throughout the weekend.

"It was an amazing learning experience that showed me I could go outside of my comfort zone in a number of areas," said Turner, describing her campaign. "Walking out on stage in front of 4,000 or more people is something I would never

have done before this."

Although Turner, as the candidate for international office, was the most visible of the group, she had a committed team that stood behind her, dedicated to her success. Turner described her team as "smighty" (small but mighty), saying, "They helped me through this experience by pushing me and encouraging me at just the right times."

Genia Shipman, Turner's hard-working campaign manager, described the campaign by saying, "It was a lot of hard work, but it was a learning experience for each of us as individuals, and it was a chance for us to grow together as friends."

In the end, Turner did not win the See "PTK" below.

Planning your transition from student to professional?

GC Career Services can help!
(2nd floor of the Life Center)

Assistance is available for:
resume writing, cover letters,
completing job applications,
preparing for interviews,
job leads & more.

Contact: Gretchen Huff, 903-415-2544 or huffg@grayson.edu.

College Police
903.463.8777

Check out Career Coach

<https://grayson.emsicareercoach.com/>

The GC Writing Center

We're here to help!

Hours
Monday – Thursday
8:00 am – 8:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Library • 1st Floor • Room 110
To schedule an appointment with a facilitator call 903-415-2541

Receive assistance with writing assignments across the curriculum

Personal counseling

Grayson Counseling Center 903.463.8730

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.

Room 113 Success Center

Dayna Ford, Coordinator

Writing Center

Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Room 110 Library

Kay Dishner, Asst. Coordinator

Need a job?
Need an employee?

www.collegecentral.com/grayson

PTK (cont. from above)

election, but each member of Omicron Psi, including many of those who stayed at home, got a chance to participate in a unique experience that was potentially life changing.

Although convention attendees from Grayson spent most of their efforts on campaigning, there was much more to see and do at the conference.

Along with several other exciting speakers, convention attendees were addressed by tennis superstar and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Billie Jean King. Omicron Psi alumnus Jesus Sosa, said of King, "I am embarrassed to admit that prior to the convention, I had no idea how big of an impact she had had in empowering women and the LGBT community. It was an honor to listen to her speak from the heart."

After her inspiring and endearingly personal message to convention attendees, King demonstrated her mastery of the game of tennis by serving fifty autographed tennis balls to the 4,000 Phi Theta Kappa members who had gathered on Friday to hear her speak.

As the weekend came to a close, individual members, chapters, and entire regions were given a variety of different awards for excellence in many different areas.

Omicron Psi was privileged to nominate Jesus Sosa for the Alumni Award of Appreciation. This year is the first year that this award had been presented, so Sosa's achievement is especially notable. "Omicron Psi made history several times this year," he stated, "and I am glad to know that I was able to be included among those firsts."

Omicron Psi brought a lot of heart to the San Jose, California.

Join GC arts students in taking a creative break from studies

By Jennifer Martz

Are your studies getting to you? Do you need to constructively blow off steam? Why not try signing up for an art class, drama class, or perhaps music is the answer?

There are a myriad of ways one can be creative, such as singing in choir, acting in a play, drawing, painting, and/or playing an instrument.

There is even a music club here at Grayson. Seve Mexia is the student in charge of the music club, along with the chair of the Fine Arts department, Dr. Brandy Fair.

If participation in one of these activities is not your thing, then you can always come visit the wonderful art exhibits, see a great play, and attend a music and/or choir recital. Not only will you be supporting your fellow students in their activities, but you will be relaxing and having a good time yourself—a great way to take a break from your studies.

Meet a few of the GC students who enjoy participating in the arts at our college.

Seve Mexia is a music major here at Grayson. He will be leaving in the fall to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where he will continue his music studies. Mexia tried different classes here at Grayson, but he said, "Music is the one that stuck."

He plans on earning his bachelor's in music then getting his master's in theory. Mexia said, "I will probably do more teaching than playing when I am finished with school."

"Since being here at Grayson, I have made a lot of lasting friendships in music. And, as far as the

piano goes, I love to listen to someone else play the piano, but there is a reason I'm a guitarist."

Mexia is not only talented at the classical guitar, but he has a wonderful sense of humor, as you can see. His favorite pieces that he plays on the guitar are the new ones because, he said, "It's the challenge I get until I learn it. Then, I am ready and looking forward to the next new piece."

Seve Mexia is the student in charge of the music club. Come by the music department and check the music club out.

Misty Hebert is a music major and ready to be on her way from Grayson College to Southeastern Oklahoma State University to finish up her major in music therapy or musicology, which is the study of music.

Hebert got interested in the classical guitar by first taking a guitar class and a class in music fundamentals. Then she went on to take private lessons from Dr. David Tercero.

Hebert said, "Getting new pieces of music to play on my guitar is my favorite." She also said, "I didn't like piano when I started learning how to play, but I do like it now. After I learn the piece it is fun and I enjoy playing the piano."

Hebert said, "When I started college, my mom got diagnosed with cancer, and that propelled me to do something more with music." While Hebert learned to play the guitar, her mother, GC librarian Lisa Hebert, was doing musicals. Mrs. Hebert is still involved in musicals today. She performs them here at Grayson, also.

Mother and daughter started playing and singing together. Hebert said,

"Music has really helped me and my mother by making our bond even stronger, because we love to play and sing together—well, mom does the singing and I do the playing."

Doug Carr is our talented bass player in the guitar ensemble. He has been in the guitar ensemble now for three semesters playing the bass guitar. He was playing the tuba and Dr. Tercero asked if he'd be interested in playing bass. It's no surprise that he enjoys it as much as the many other instruments he plays.

Carr plays the mandolin, banjo, basic piano, percussion instruments and the harmonica. He said, "I already knew the scales and chords, so I joined the guitar ensemble and fell in love with the classical Spanish influence in classical guitar."

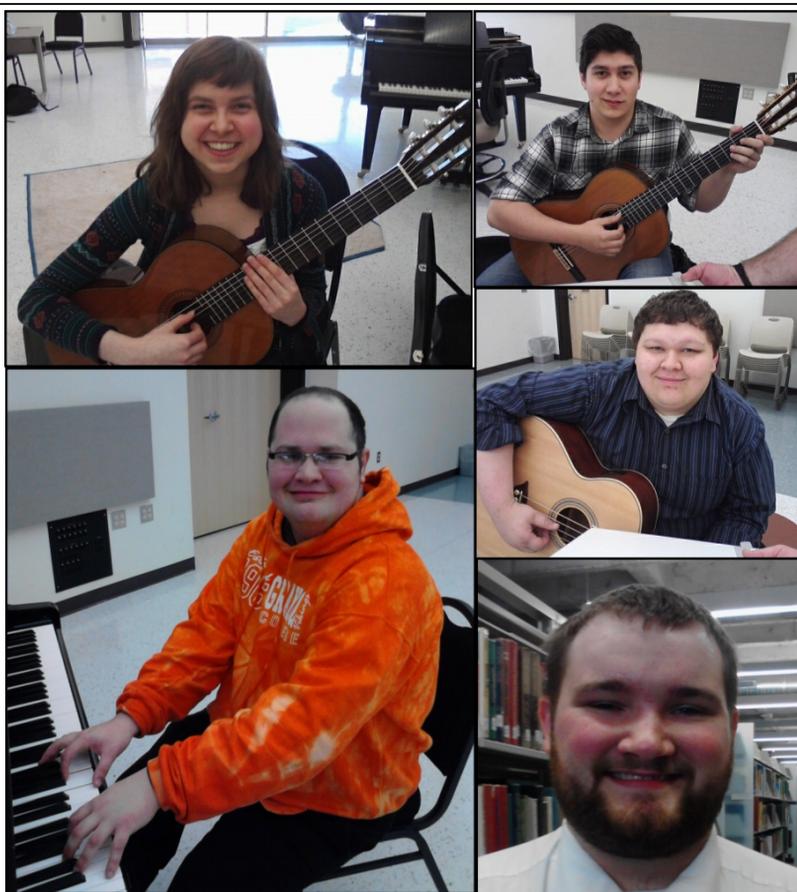
The church Carr attends is where he teaches 12-18-year olds how to play music in a hybrid class, along with their bible studies. He uses the book of Job to teach music. Carr is very passionate about music. He said, "I want to set a passion in music as well as learning more about the bible."

Blake Hendersot is a drama major here at Grayson. In the sixth grade Hendersot liked music and was involved in music in school. Then he and a few friends got involved in a play, and he never looked back. Hendersot was bitten by the acting bug.

Not only is Hendersot an amazingly talented actor, but he has a great sense of humor as well. He loves to laugh, even at himself.

Hendersot also acts in local community theater and enjoys the variety he receives from all his theater experiences.

Hendersot will be returning in the fall to Grayson to further his education in dra-



From top left to right: Misty Hebert, Seve Mexia, Doug Carr, Blake Hendersot, Timothy Jenkins

ma. Timothy Jenkins is a music major with a minor in education. He plans on doing graduate work in music. He will be attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the fall.

Timothy's goal is to teach piano and voice. Timothy said, "Teaching is important, very important to me, and it's important to be a good teacher!"

He has been playing the piano since he was five years old. Timothy's parents realized that at the age of three he could hear a pitch and sing on tune naturally, so at five, they enrolled him in piano lessons.

He had disabilities in motor skills, and his parents thought that it might hinder his progress in piano. However, even though at first he struggled, he stuck with it, never giving up. While being homeschooled in his sophomore year he, just as Jenkins put it, "Shot off from there, gradually growing."

If you haven't heard Jenkins play, you are missing out. He is very talented and entertaining to watch. Jenkins said, "I am introverted and shy, but the piano has helped me be more

outgoing." He also said that, "I love Ms. Bays, my piano teacher here at Grayson, and if anyone is interested in piano, Ms. Bays is a great teacher to learn from." Timothy said, "The recitals will be great, and everyone should come to them. I'm looking forward to playing in the recitals."

Please come hear Doug Carr, Misty Hebert, Seve Mexia, and Jennifer Martz, as well as teacher Dr. David Tercero play in the guitar ensemble recital May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Auditorium.

Please come and see all the gifted students perform in our latest play here at Grayson College, the upcoming *All in the Timing* on May 2-4 at 7:30 p.m. and May 5 at 2 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre. The play is a comedy, so to Blake Hendersot and all the drama students who will be performing, "Break a Leg!"

GC Theatre presents *All in the Timing* May 2-5 in Black Box Theatre

By Robin Robinson

Director of Theatre

The Grayson Theatre department will present *ALL IN THE TIMING*, their final production of the 2012-13 season in the Black Box Theatre May 2-4 at 7:30 p.m. and May 5 at 2 p.m.

This group of short comedies written by David Ives all deal with time and relationships in a contemporary world.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this play, which has been produced by professional and amateur companies in all kinds of venues and enjoyed by audiences across the globe.

ALL IN THE TIMING has two acts and will last approximately 90 minutes with one intermission.

The plays *Sure Thing* and *Foreplay, or The Art of the Fugue* both deal with dating relationships. *Mere Mortals* and *The*



All in the Timing crew and cast

Philadelphia explore male friendships at lunch and the frustrations they experience. *Words, Words, Words* reveals three monkeys in a science lab with typewriters who have been given the assignment to create *Hamlet*. *Variations in the Death of Trotsky*

looks at the last minutes of Trotsky's life in a number of ways while he has an axe sticking in his head, and *A Singular Guy* discovers his real self while meeting the woman of his dreams.

The Theatre faculty has worked with the student

directors and designers to teach them how to adapt this lively play into the round.

The production has 13 actors, 5 directors, 1 sound designer, 2 costume designers, and 4 lighting designers which are all Grayson Theatre majors.

The set design is by Andrew Steele, and the audience configuration is in the round.

Nick Ellis and Rodney Hudson are in charge of costume design. Jasmine Shannon created the light plot for the lighting designers to use. Ginger Roberts is the sound designer. Maggie Bergener is the stage manager, and Rachel Schroeder the assistant stage manager.

Reservations are encouraged but not necessary since there is limited seating. Tickets are \$3 or free with a Grayson I.D. for students and staff.

Since there is some explicit language in some of the shows, the theatre department has rated this play PG-

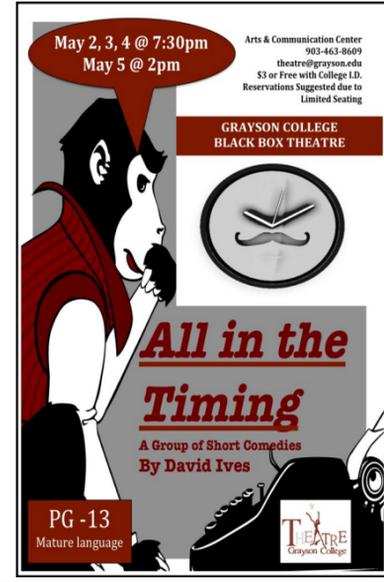


Dillon Wooten, Wes Hayes, Tommy Stowers as construction workers

13 and does not recommend it for young children.

For reservations or for more information, please contact the Grayson Theatre department at 903-463-8609 or theatre@grayson.edu.

In the past, audiences have always enjoyed the final play of the year, which is traditionally produced in the Black Box. These plays showcase the Theatre majors, along with short plays that deal with a variety of messages. The Theatre Department invites audiences to come enjoy this final production of the year. Be prepared to laugh!



Grayson student auditioning for *X-Factor* Season Four

By Marlea Trevino

Professor of English

Grayson College will soon have a celebrity walking our halls. Raeven Young, 19, plans to audition for Season Four of *X-Factor*.

Young was drawn to the show because of Disney star Demi Lavato, who judged Season Two. "Ever since I started watching Season 2 and found one of my favorites, I knew I had to try out," Young says.

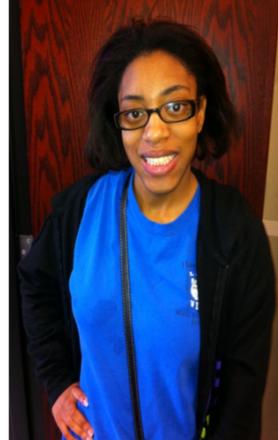
Born into a musically inclined family, Young started singing at 3 or 4 years old. As a sophomore at Shepton High School in Dallas, Young won first

place in "Shepton Idol" singing "You'll Always Find Your Way Back Home," by Hannah Montana.

At Grayson, Young is majoring in theater and has performed in the Sherman Theater as Finley in *It's a Wonderful Life*. "She also sings in her church choir."

So what will Young be singing at her *X-Factor* audition? "Something by Celtic Woman," says Young. "I really like the songs they do."

Good luck, Raeven! Your Grayson family will be rooting for you.



Raeven Young was inspired to audition for *X-Factor* after seeing Demi Lavato judge in Season 2.

Welding Rodeo (cont. from p. 2)

won 1st Place in the Individual Welding Skills Competition. His team's entry in the rodeo earned his teammates and him scholarships 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' t-shirt any day.

Clark plans to become a welder. When asked what it was like to participate in last year's rodeo, Clark said, "Having the rodeo at the campus helped me to decide that taking welding at Grayson was what I wanted to do." Being a part

of the Welding Rodeo has also helped his job prospects.

This year's Welding Rodeo coincides with Spring Fest here at the main campus. All parents, FFA Booster Clubs, and high school supporters are encouraged to attend this special event to cheer for their local high school teams.

At the conclusion of the judging, the items will be auctioned. The day will be full of activities from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

