

Welding Rodeo Friday, 9 May starting at 7:00 a.m. • Pg. A3



"A day of the arts!" 3 May cancer awareness exhibit • Pg. B1



Viking **Baseball** On the road to the tournament • Pg.B4

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Grayson College

Volume IV, Issue VIII

Commedia Pinocchio a success

Robin Robinson Director of Drama & Theatre

The Grayson Theatre department presented The Commedia Pinocchio in Cruce Stark Auditorium 30 April, 1 May and 2 May at 10 a.m. and Saturday, 3 May at 7 p.m. for local community and school groups. This was a show for young audiences

and for the entire family. This 45-minute comedy told the classic story of Pinocchio, a puppet who wanted to become a boy. This version was a creative approach written by Lane Riosley, who is an award-winning playwright. Her script tells the story from characters who are a traveling troupe of actors who choose to perform this story in a "Commedia" style.

This production was directed by Robin Robinson, GC Theatre Director. Tenna Matthews, GC Design/ Tech Director was the light designer and Technical Director for this production. Thea Albert, theatre adjunct professor, has helped guide the three student designers for this show. Nick Ellis and Skyler Alton, both Sophomore theatre majors were the costume designers and student Katie Sisemore designed the set. Jordan Moore was the Stage Manager and Dustin Meadows was the Assistant SM. Other crew members were Krystina Burns and Tommy Stowers.

The ten actors on stage each played a variety of roles making this show demanding to perform. Commedia is a style that focuses



(Pictured left to right) Brandon Langston, Jasmine Shannon, Ryan Ramirez, Madison Sizemore and Gabe Parker fulfilled the roles of several characters throughout the course of the show. Afterward, the cast signed autographs for area children and took pictures.

on the performer, so actors sang, performed gymnastics and portrayed characters. The actors in this production were Jasmine Shannon, Gabe Parker, Brandon Langston, Dakkota Foster, Brandon Stockton, JT Medders, Alex Watkins, Ryan Ramirez, Arron Hogue and Madison Sisemore.

There were three matinees of this show for area school groups as well as the community. Schools from Sherman, Denison, Paris, Sam Rayburn, Bonham and Roxton attended these perfor-

The Theatre department is committed to performing for young audiences each year to serve the community as well as it serving as a learning tool for the theatre majors. "This type of performance offers opportunities for our students to learn and experience a different genre which is important for their theatre education," stated Robinson.

Saturday, 3 May was an exciting evening since the Art department had a reception for their show in the gallery, the Music department played music in the lobby and the Theatre department performed in Cruce Stark following the reception. This evening celebrates the mission of the Fine Arts department at Grayson.



The actors' high-energy rendition of the classic tale kept the audience engaged through the 45-minute performance.

Get Involved

Sweet Treats Stop First Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 a.m. Student Life Center, 2nd Floor

May First-Tuesday Connection Breakfast Tuesday, 6 May 8:00-9:00 a.m. Main foyer, South Campus

Springfest / Senior Day Thursday, 8 May 11:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m. Life Center East Patio Come celebrate the conclusion of the spring semester prior to finals week. Student Club Appreciation, free

Student Government **Association** First Mondays 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. The HUB

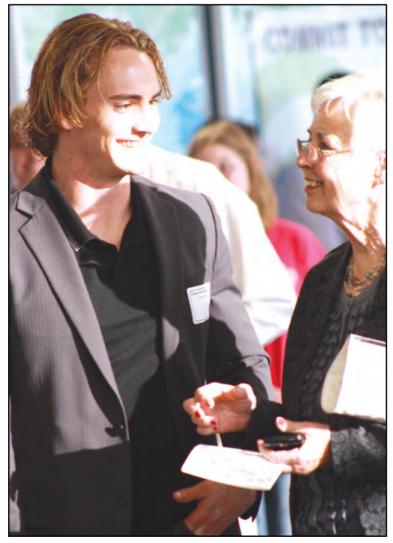
lunch, activities and more!

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

Evening of Excellence brings out the college's best

GC's Evening of Excellence honors the accomplishments of outstanding students. Approximately 540 guests registered at the event, a full house in the Student Life Center. Students received certificates and congratulations from the administration.



Many students invited friends and family members to this distinguished event. Awards were given by department.

Donna Kumler presented the prestigious Old Settler's Association essay contest awards to Liz Crawford (first place) and David Hall (second place).





Brought to you by SGA (Student Government Association) and Student Life



Grayson College is an equal opportunity institution

South Campus News

EOY BBQ: food, fun and civic awareness

Kimberly Weber Administrative Assistant

Wednesday, 23 April, the South Campus held its final SSE for the year by hosting its annual End of Year Pic-

Students were served BBQ from Daddy Rexes Twisted BBQ in Anna, Texas. They also enjoyed chips, drinks and a brownie sundae bar.

Sam's Club joined us to offer student's deals on memberships and provided additional treats.

The Grayson Crisis Center was also on hand for Denim Day and a donation drive. For a \$5 donation to the Crisis Center, employees were allowed to wear jeans for the day (students could make donations). The Grayson Crisis Center was also hosting a donation drive for immediate needs. Several donations were made. Most wore teal ribbons in support



Lori Harlin's calculus class partaking at the EOY BBQ

of friends or loved ones that have been victims of sexual violence. For those wishing to help, contact the Grayson Crisis Center to make mon-

etary donations.

In 1999 an Italian High Court overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing tight jeans at the time of the assault. The justices stated that the victim must have helped her attacker remove her jeans, from which they inferred consent. People all around the world were outraged. Wearing jeans on this anniversary became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual violence. One in four Texas women & one in ten men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Information provided by Grayson Crisis Center. 🛡

WHY DENIM DAY?

GC summer programs

Lauren Hummert Enrollment Specialist

Be on the lookout this summer for LOTS of kids and LOTS of learning happening at Grayson College.

The Center for Workplace Learning (CWL) is excited to announce the Summer Youth Program and College for Kids. The entire program is designed to provide children with an exciting range of unique opportunities to explore careers, gain knowledge, develop new skills and, most importantly, have FUN!

With over ten programs being offered, there is something available to spark any child's interest. All of the camps are being taught/supervised by a member of the Grayson College faculty or staff.

A few of the camp topics include world travel, music, crime investigation, art, science, storytelling and zombies, from a highly education perspective - of course! With enthusiastic instructors and interesting activities, these 4- and 5-day camps are an excellent way to provide education and

entertainment to any child.

Shirley Greenway, one of the Pre-med: GC Health Career camp's instructors says, "I love participating in College for Kids for many reasons, but seeing the excitement on the students' faces is the most rewarding. In the Health Science fields, the students learn through hands-on participation. In addition to learning about their own health and wellbeing, they take home a better understanding of what careers are available for the future. College for Kids is a great way to introduce the students to Grayson. My son attended this program in fifth grade and seven years later, on the way to his first day as a freshman at the college, he commented, 'I remember going here as a kid and I really liked it."

It is the CWL's goal to provide this camp each summer to area youth and to offer a diverse amount of programs each year.

For more information regarding each camp, cost and registration procedures, please visit www.CWLGCC. org or call 903-463-8765. ♥

GC professor receives local teaching award

Henderson named April Katy Country Teacher of the Month by local radio station 93.1 KMKT. Lori teaches mathematics at Grayson College and Van Alstyne High School. Henderson was nominated for this distuingished award by Van Alstyne High School Principal, David Brown. The college thanks Lori for her great contribution to the students of Grayson County.



Health and Wellness Center coming to South Campus

Kimberly Weber Administrative Assistant

Due to the growing student population and the importance of health and wellness for Grayson's faculty, staff and students, the South Campus has been transforming some underutilized space into a new Health and Wellness Center.

The area has been given a fresh coat of paint, and fitness equipment began to arrive Friday, 25 April. The center will offer a varied assortment of weight training and cardio options. The facility should be available for use (with limited resources) for the 1st summer

term, but we expect to be fully equipped for Fall 2014. Students will be required to check in with the office, and leave their student ID and driver's license to gain access to the area. This resource is only offered to students, faculty and staff of Grayson College. Children are not allowed.

ew Programs

Would you like to work as an Electrician or for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration?



Inquire with an advisor for more information about these new fields of study.

South Campus students receive writing awards



Professor of Integrated Reading and Writing

authors Several from South Campus entered this year's "Telling Our Stories" contest, a popular program at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Their stories addressed the theme "Home Ground: Memories Childhood."

The award recipients will be recognized at Austin College on Sunday, 4 May, 2014. You are invited to the program at 2:00 p.m. in Hoxie

Thompson Auditorium of Sherman Hall, on the Austin College campus at 916 N. Grand Ave.

Our winners are Nichole Bowers from Van Alstyne, and Tiffany Flanagan from Tom Bean. Both students won Silver Star awards for their short stories. Also, winning a Silver Star award was Sharon Brazeal, an avid supporter of the South Campus Scholarship Foundation. Clara Gehrts Bell, South Campus English teacher

also received an award.

Application Deadline Quickly Approaching!

Vocational Nursing

The deadline for applying to Grayson's VN program for the Fall 2014-2015 school year is 10 June. Applicants should pay special attention to the VN information packet details and deadlines on necessary immunization series. Specific inquiries should be directed to the VN Program assistant Tara Taylor at taylort@grayson.edu. Students that miss the deadlines will have other options to catch up quickly as the South Campus, in coordination with the CWL, plans to offer health career alternatives such as a Medical Assistant or CNA. More information on these classes will be forthcoming and students should consult the CWL website for dates for the South Campus. Payment for MA and CNA classes

are due at the time of registration.

Countdown to the Welding Rodeo

Rebecca Jones **Editor**

Months of preparation have led up to this: Friday, 9 May beginning at 7 a.m, GC will host the fourth annual Welding Rodeo at Loy Lake Park. The competition/auction will bring together area welding teams and the community for a day of art and heavy metal. The theme for this year's event is "Junkyard Wars."

According to Greg Beckley, GC Professor of Welding, the rodeo has garnered some \$16,000 to \$17,000 in sponsorship, with many local businesses also donating their time and machinery. Airgas will donate the use of a generator, while Lincoln Electric will contribute eight welding machines and Save Phace will furnish five welding hoods.

Harley Francis, like other participants in the upcoming competition, has put many hours into completing his pieces. He will submit three total, all of which he says are made entirely of scrap materials.

While some welding students worked on their individual rodeo projects, others set to the task of fortifying a smoker for Culinary Arts Department, who will cater to rodeo participants.









1) Christi Lenning, Jack Perry, T.G. McElyea, Veronica Walker, Kyle Gray, Traylon Porter, Adan Ortiz, Russel Navarro, Don Montgomery, Justin Slagle, Paul Richards, Garth Glidewell and professors Tim Lathum, Bill Gronemier and Greg Beckley. 2) Three works by Harley Francis for the Welding Rodeo. 3) A motorcycle frame built by Devin Johnston. 4) Francis says his largest piece (green) was certainly the most complex. It took about 16 hours to complete this piece, in addition to 4 hours each on the smaller works.

The smoker's specifications were very precise according to cooks' needs: a lid, a firebox and a set of wheels were added for portability and convenience. The grill also has extra long handles and a removable

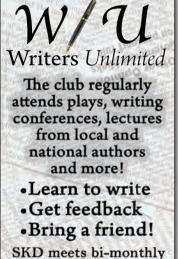
right fender for accessibility.

Do not miss GC's fourth annual Welding Rodeo, Friday, 9 May at Loy Lake Park. The event is open all day with the auction beginning at 5:00 p.m. ♥

jigma appa

English Honor Society Requirements to Join: minimum 3.0 GPA, one course in English or

Literature (grade of "B" or better), minimum 12 credit hours



in Library 110, the Writing Center, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month.



Want more information? Visit the Writing Center (Lib 110) or contact Richard Davis (davisre@grayson.edu) or Marlea Trevino (trevinom@grayson.edu).

GC gives back with the annual Recruit Back campaign and Earth Day celebration

Gretchen Huff Job Placement Specialist

Counseling and Advising had a recruit back event at the Earth Day Celebration on 22 April. Fun events were held and prizes were given to Bingo and Geo-Caching winners. Students registering that day for Fall 2014 classes were entered in a drawing for prizes.

Visit Counseling and NOW Advising early for to register classes. Fall 2014 *Be wise – get advised!* ■









Winners were 1) Julia Kennedy received a \$100 gift card to Wal-Mart/Sam's Club, 2) Carla Cooks received a \$25 gift card to Logan's Roadhouse, 3) Madison Haulfield won a \$25 card to Cellarman's, 4) Holly Rodgers won a \$25 card to Olive Garden.

Electronic cigarettes: a question of policy

Logan Beauchamp

Many of us are very familiar with the new trend that is on the rise among smokers. E-cigs, or electric cigarettes, are touted as the safe alternative to tobacco cigarettes. If we take a look around, we can see that this opinion has among the smoking public. Many of the students on

campus are smokers and vapers. This isn't surprising because college can be, even at the best of times, a stressful environment. I am willing to admit, as a former smoker, that there is nothing more relaxing than a good nicotine rush to calm the nerves.

After considering these things we arrive at our problem. Though there is policy addressing the issue of smoking, none such exists to regulate vaping on campus.

The last policy update in

this area took place a little over a decade ago, which means that ten years of change have occurred without review or addition to these policies. Below, is the student handbook's listing of Grayson College's tobacco policy. "To promote a healthy

become a very popular one campus environment, Grayson County College does allow the use of tobacco products in any college building. Effective June 1, 2004, smoking is permitted in designated areas only. The Main Campus designates the parking lots, at least 20 feet from a building entrance."

This was a good policy in a time when e-cigs weren't prevalent, but now it is in need of an update. Though vapers rarely smoke inside, because it is considered an inconvenience to some,

there isn't one rule prohibit-

lege buildings. This needs to change.

When asked, many students agree that there needs to be policy in place to deal with this new issue. Robert Adams, a student and smoker on campus stated that, though he himself is a smoker, he understands the need for additional policy such as this. Adams went on to say that because these are relatively new products there should be concern over the policy that regulates it, especially on campus. A former smoker and cur-

rent vaper who wished to remain anonymous, Jane, also stated that she felt that there really wasn't much difference between an e-cig and a regular cigarette. Jane expressed great concern over the vapor's effects on preg-

nant women, saying that both contained the same chemicals, which is the reason people even bother with e-cigs in the first place..

Have an idea about how

the college could be more environmentally friendly?

Contact the *Viking* to share your opinion!

jonesre@grayson.edu

We may also ask ourselves, "Is it fair to restrict one group without limiting the rights of another group for the similar actions?" I for one don't think it is fair to do so. Many smokers don't think that vaping is a huge break from smoking tobacco. Jane, our anonymous vapor, said in our interview that they are "practically the Whether this is true or not

is a matter of debate among vapers and smokers. According to Mr. Shelby Williams, Co-owner of Texoma Vapors, Jane's testimony isn't representing his product accurately at all. Mr. Williams, who used to smoke and dip, states that the only thing that e-cigs and tobacco have in common is their nicotine content. Yet even after saying this he agrees that it should be up to an establishment whether or not they permit e-cigs inside or not.

In the end, it isn't a matter of which is more safe, because both tobacco and electronic cigarettes have the potential to be harmful. This is an issue of equal treatment and the prevention of what could be an major inconvenience for other students at Grayson. It should also be noted that just because there aren't any problems with the current policy as of now doesn't mean that it is not in need of review. The happiness and health of Grayson student hangs in the balance, and decisions need to be made.



Find out what the BSM can do for you

Cecelia Pletan

If food is a universal language, free food can be-according to student Dakota Mitchell—a "freakin' gateway to heaven opening up right there!" Indeed, the BSM (Baptist Student Ministries) on campus offers a hugely popular "gateway" Wednesday afterevery noon, complete with live music and a unique speaker, as well as sweet tea by the (millionth) cupful and comfy couches for the first to arrive. Students stream in week after week seeking not only brownies but a laidback environment in which to interact with friends and hear the Gospel preached.

While it is the most prominent and popular ministry offered to students, free food is not the only dialect used to communicate with the hungry masses on campus, explains Bernie Gallagher, director of GC's BSM. "The BSM is here to encourage students to grow in the Christian faith. . . . but it's open to all students regardless of religious background." Derrick Roberts, assistant director adds, "If we are constantly encouraging others and showing them true love, then the world will be a whole lot better of a place. . . . we open our arms to anyone in need."

The BSM offers a wide range of Bible study opportunities in which students



Students and BSM staff alike enjoy a bite to eat before Monday Bible study

can participate. Every Monday and Tuesday at noon, a Bible study is held in the BSM building on campus —and there too, more free food is offered. Students are also invited to fellowship at North Park Baptist Church each Monday evening at 7:30 and again on Thursday evenings at 7:00 at Liberty

also always ready to hold epic ping-pong competitions) explains, "We're not really formal about [the student leadership team]. If you want to be a part of it, just come up and ask one of us. There's a meeting at about 12:45 every Wednesday afternoon, which is an easy way to just jump right in and

cause you HAVE salvation, and because you are freely given it, you want to freely give love to others. So we always need more help..."

Periodically, the BSM staff and student leadership team organize community outreach projects, the latest of which was arranged over Spring Break. Students,

ing [someone] temporary food, I can also pray with them. We're trying to open up the doors to. . . help people's physical and spiritual needs." "It's shown me a whole

is watching students being willing to give up their time

Just recently, the BSM

opened a small food pan-

try as well. Roberts ex-

pounds: "Instead of just giv-

to serve someone else."

new meaning," states Roberts, "What it's really kind of helped me to do is to visit with people and get to know them more. . . . I interact with students, help encourage them, lead Bible Studies, have devotionals, play games and just build relationships with [them]... which is really cool."

Student Shimika Nitunga confirms, "[The BSM] feels really comfortable and welcoming. Derrick is always really friendly and greets you and asks you about your day. You hear about Jesus and pray, so it's really like communion." When asked how the BSM has impacted her personal life, she shares, "Last year, I needed a bed, so I came here and asked (the then current assistant director) Josh what he could do and if he could find one. . . he came back with all kinds of stuff—not only a bed, but a couch."

She smiles broadly. "The BSM has organized some pretty cool stuff!" ▼

"The BSM is...open to all students regardless of religious background."

Church for more worship. In addition to the student Bible studies, the BSM sponsors a faculty and staff Bible study every other Friday at noon in the BSM building as well.

The BSM also provides opportunities to get involved with student life at Grayson. Lacey Walker, president of the student leadership team (a group of students both willing to serve others and

be a part. . . . You can help plan [activities] and we can get your advice about stuff."

Mitchell (also part of the team) adds: "All you really have to do is ask and let us know you're interested in serving, because serving is a big part about being a Christian. It's not that you're serving to gain something; you're not serving to gain salvation, you're serving be-

paired with the North Park Baptist Church youth group, worked for three days to repaint sections of the North Texas Youth Connections building in inner-city Sherman. "We see needs in the community and if we can meet that need with college students, then we try to do that," affirms Gallagher, "The greatest part of [the outreach opportunities]

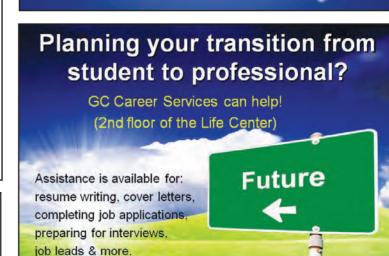
Forms.



Looking for Summer Aid? Get a step closer to your career goal! All Students Must Submit A Summer Financial Aid Form. The Summer Financial Aid Forms are available in the Office of Financial Aid or online at , register today! www.grayson.edu under Financial Aid Quick Link & All







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

BIG CHANGES IN THE WIND STARTING FALL 2014

State Exemptions

The State of Texas recently passed the Senate Bill 1210 which adds GPA and maximum hours requirements to continuation awards through the exemption and waiver programs (certain programs are exempted from these new requirements). The minimum GPA requirement in SB1210 is that of our institution's SAP policy; which is currently 2.0. The maximum hours requirement of SB1210 is directly tied to the excessive hours citation of 54.014 which refers to students in undergraduate or Baccalaureate degrees of 120 SCH's or who have exceeded the degree requirements by 30 SCH's. The pace/progression and maximum time frame parameters of our institution's SAP policy are not relevant; therefore, the hour requirement does not pertain to Grayson College students. The requirement will begin Fall 2014. There will not be a "grandfathering" of current recipients holding a less than 2.0 GPA.

The following may be helpful as you grasp these new requirements:

Requirement	Programs	Residency	Classification	Program Level
Minimum GPA (Financial Aid SAP Policy)	Exemptions and Wavers	Residents and Nonresidents	Undergraduates and Graduates	All Levels
Limitation of Eligibility (Excess Hours – TEC 54.014)	Exemptions Only	Residents Only	Undergraduates Only	Baccalaureate Only

The programs exempted from these new requirements are: Dual credit exemption (TEC 54.216; TEC 130.008)

- Foster care exemption (TEC 54.366)
- Exemption for ex-prisoners of war (TEC 54.342) Hazlewood exemption for children or spouses of veterans killed in action, missing in action, or who
- died as a result of a service-related illness or injury; (TEC 54.341(a-2)(1)(A), (B), (C), or (D) or (TEC 54.341(b)(1)(A), (B), (C), or (D)). * Waivers that allow nonresidents to pay the resident rate.
- 100 Mile Waiver (TEC54.0601)
- * SB1210 restrictions \underline{DO} apply to veterans and spouses/children of disabled veterans

Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

Grayson College is changing the policy in applying or receiving student loans. Starting in Fall 2014 students will be required to complete and submit a Student Loan Application to receive a Direct Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized loan. Students will be able to get the loan application in the Office of Financial Aid or online in

your portal under Financial Aid Forms. Editorial Information: The Viking is published by Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an on-

going service project to the college. Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff at Grayson College. The newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion, and views expressed in The Viking do not necessarily reflect the policy of Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration or the faculty and staff at Grayson College. Material for publication may be submitted to The Viking office (LA105E) or through email to Marlea Trevino (TrevinoM@grayson.edu) or Rebecca Jones (jonesre@grayson.edu). Volunteers for production and writing may also visit The Viking office.

ARTS AND INSPIRATION

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Saturday, 3 May: "A day of the arts!"

3 May marked an exciting event for the GC Fine Arts Department: an evening of art, music, social awareness and edible Xena costumes. The PB&J (Panties, Bras and Jockstraps) Exhibition is a unique event featuring 2-D and 3-D artworks to promote awareness of breast, prostate, testicular, cervical, lung, as well as other forms of cancer. The Artists' Reception began at 6:00 p.m. along with bidding in a silent auction. One-hundred percent of the money raised from the sale of auction pieces will go to the American Cancer Society. Students and faculty from GC's Music Department provided music throughout the event. At 6:45, guests dove into artworks from the fifth annual Incredible Edible Art Show, all of which exhibited the support of the arts in cancer awareness and education. At 7:00 p.m. the Theatre Department delivered the final performance of *The Commedia Pinocchio*.







Edible costume, "Breast Cancer Warrior Princess," by Cassie Davidson, Cody Daniel and Joanna Bryant. Lower left: three pieces by Courtney Miller. Middle bottom: two works by former GC professor Donna F. Adams. The Commedia Pinocchio (below) was hugely popular among local schools.









Student Michael Rains on sharing his story of survival

David Harman

There are, in our lives, inspire us to reach higher, to do more or to see more clearly. They can be doctors, teachers, parents, friends or, for some, it could be a favorite singer, performer or actor. It could be that they are sitting next to you in class as you prepare for your upcoming biology exam. Courage, fortitude and resiliency can be found in the

most unexpected places.

Regular readers of the *Vi*king have, over the course any number of people that of the past few months, followed the continuing story of the challenges faced by Grayson College student Michael Rains. Rains chose to share with us the ordeal of living with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). Inspired by the fact that he continues to go to college and tries to better himself despite the challenges of day-to-day living, I sought him out in hopes of

an interview for a follow-up to his revealing article.

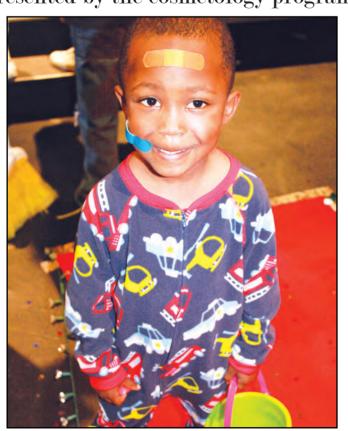
Rains graciously accepted my request. Regarding my statement that many readers found his story to be inspirational, Rains stated, "I don't feel very inspirational." It was at this point that he explained that his doctor has estimated his survival at no more than five years. Now more than ever, Michael Rains is faced with difficult decisions. Not surprisingly, his first concern is his fam-

ily. He asks himself, "Do I not to garner sympathy, continue school as an examquit, or do I quit school to many others face. Despite make the best of my time remaining?" He pressed on with what he wishes to extend to his children, "Honesty, integrity, honor, morals and belief in people." Faced with hard truth, Rains admits that "Life and death have exchanged priorities."

It is important to be aware that Michael Rains opened up on this delicate subject

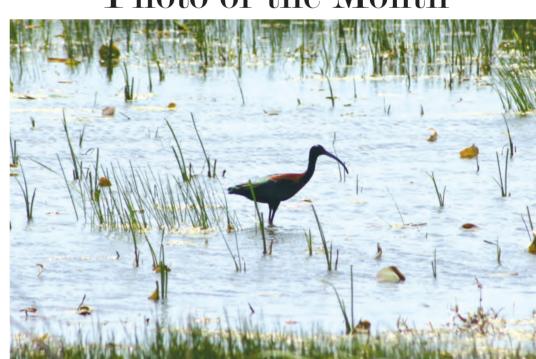
but to instill a better unple to my children to never derstanding of what he and his mettle in confronting the unknown, he is still human. He sometimes falters, "I finally have everything I have wanted from life, and only a minute to enjoy it." Do not pity Rains. Instead, take notes. Inspiration can only be found when we look, listen and open ourselves to the experiences of others. ♥

Hollywood: a Night of Stars! presented by the cosmetology program



The orphans from Annie made an appearance at the cosmetology program's spring fashion show. Page B3

Photo of the Month



This issue's Photo of the Month was taken by Sophomore David Hall at Hagerman Wildlife Refuge. Hall identified the shorebird in the picture as a White-faced Ibis in its adult breeding plumage. These bird's are common to the gulf coast region and Mexico in the winter and North Texas and parts of the midwest in the summer. "Discovering the wildlife refuge has really opened my eyes to the majesty of birds—we are privileged to live so close to unspoiled nature."

WRITING. EDITING OR PHOTOGRAPHY?



contact Rebecca Jones (jonesre@grayson.edu) or Marlea Trevino (trevinom@grayson.edu) for more info

Peace Corps volunteer shares good news from Ghana

Victoria Sicking

For the few of you that have been following my adventures in Peace Corps, you may remember a recent article I wrote about my counterpart, Fareed Asare. Well we have decided to let the cat out of the bag and announce that last month we tied the knot. We have been dating since November 2012 and on 28 March we were officially hitched.

Dating and being from totally different cultures has been a bit of a roller coaster ride, but for all the things we havelearned about ourselves, our cultures, and each other, I wouldn't change a single thing. Fareed's first language is Asante Twi. That being said, communication is by far our biggest challenge.

but the way in which each of us will phrase our ques-

tions or deliver our statements, changes our intended meaning and on occasion leads to mass confusion. Any of you who have interacted with someone whose first language is not the same as your own have probably experienced this.

Unfortunately for us, our challenges do not end here. When I finish my Peace Corps service, we plan to move back to Texas and this is no simple task. In order to get my visa to come to Ghana I filled out a single sheet

He speaks excellent English, of paper, attached 2 passport sized photos, my passport, and a check for \$40.



Then voila! In a few short weeks my passport arrived with the official stamp of a visa to Ghana. To bring my husband to the U.S. however, he has to fill out uncountable forms, pay close to \$1,500, be questioned in several interviews, and be

submitted to medical exams and criminal background checks. This whole process

normally takes about a year and there is still no guarantee he will get the visa. In fact, in Ghana, the chances are greater to be denied the visa than to be granted one.

I am a tall, white, Christian girl from

the Texas plains and Fareed is a short, chocolate (as he likes to call himself), Muslim man from the heart of Ghana's cocoa farms. We are an unlikely couple, and it appears the road ahead may be littered with a few potholes and speed bumps as we go along, but we couldn't be happier. The challenges we have encountered have allowed us to get to know one another in ways most people never do, and it has molded our sense of humor in such a way that the difficult circumstances allow us to laugh instead of cry.

I want to say a big thank you to Marlea Trevino and Grayson College for allowing me to share my stories with all of you. I will be finishing my service at the end of July and hopefully my husband and I will be touching down in Texas sometime in September. I am certain we will make a few visits to campus (if only to say hi to my mom), so if any of you have questions about Peace Corps or just want to swap stories we will be around.

The Inevitable: conclusion

Blake Burley

The voice got louder, "The food from heaven is filled with the fires of hell. As it fills your stomach it confirms your imminent death." "What do I do?"

Louder still, "He kills all of your kind in massive droves at this time of the year. Thankful for your death, they feast on your flesh. They do not care."

"What must I do?"

His small voice was no longer just confident, it was relentless, "They will eat you and eat all of your family. Your parents, brothers, sisters, they must all go."

Timmy began to cry as he thought about his friends and family.

Louder, "There is no escape!"

"No." Frustration accompanied his pain as Timmy shouted back, "What do I need to do!?"

His voice was like a lion, "You cannot run away!"

Covered in tears and chills, Timmy began to tremble to the ground. "N-n-no."

The visitor's voice was thunder, "You are destined to die at the hands of a liar!" "No!"

You will never escape the darkness, th-

This was too much for

Timmy, he ran as hard as he could, with tears streaming down his face. Stumbling and tripping under the unremitting canopy of the forest he ran into the light, to the man, the predator. With

a great conviction and a newfound confidence, the confidence you only experience in your last, fleeting moments, he said, "Sir, oh sir, please let the lies be lies. Do not do what is prophesized that you will do. Tell me the truth and do not deceive any further. We who emerge from sleep desire the sun, the rays of light illuminate fate. Good or bad, I am of indifference; it is the pain of ignorance that kills. Save me, spare me, or kill me, choose one and let it be true, for light in this forest is rare. But good sir, I ask that you choose with kindness. Think about what it is that you do, truth can only be known by two. Share your thoughts, cast your lots, but now you must draw, expose light on the straw."

All he heard were assorted clicks and clucks as he stood dumbfounded, watching this young turkey, standing two feet away, gobble at him relentlessly. Assuming that the young turkey in front of him had taken some form of brain disease, he decided that they would have one turkey less this Thanksgiving. He pulled out the pistol holstered on his side and shot him in the head.

And with that, he walked up to the slain turkey and looked to see a beam of light exposing his brown chest. He looked at the trees above him and wondered why it still seemed so bright even though their leaves covered so much. Perhaps light always defeats darkness he thought.

The inevitable •

The educational system of Gabon, Central Africa



Nahandy Maroundou

Coming from a country different from the United States of America, I have learned and experienced the American educational system, which differs from the Gabonese educational system in many aspects. Even though there are slight differences, many of the French organizational structures, especially the educational system are similar, due to the influence of the French's colonization.

Receiving education in Gabon is extremely fundamental in the Gabonese society, because leaders in Gabon want the younger generation educated in order to properly govern and improve the condition of the country when needed. This is the reason why, until the age of eighteen, it is a requirement to attend school all across the country.

In fact, Gabonese truly value education because a society without educated people functions with difficulty. This

is why public schools in Gabon are not expensive. Consequently, makes everybody, matter their finan-

cial situation, able to receive an education for the betterment of society. Moreover, as is known

universally, education is one of the major keys to a successful life. Gabon and the United States of America both have an educational system where the objectives are to aid in the prosperity of the country. Although, leaders of these countries both promote the education of citizens, Gabonese elementary and high school educational systems show some differentiation in sev-

eral aspects. These aspects

are tuition fees and uniforms in public and private school.

The first major aspect from the Gabonese public educational system that differs from the United States of America is tuition fees. In fact, in all public elementary, middle, and high school, the tuition school fees are free to everybody. Since the foundation of the country, Gabonese leaders have promoted the education of children, because it is through education that the country can be well developed.

As a matter of fact, parents pay enrollment fees for their child, which varies from \$30 up to \$60 in American dollars annually. This is the amount that students in public elementary, middle and high school in Gabon provide for their enrollment for the each school year. This system is applied all across the country. Although, private school's tuition fees in Gabon are from \$850 up to \$ 2,600 per school year, people, according to their will and wealth, can decide where

> send their children to study. Unlike

the American public education system, which

funded by taxes, Gabonese public education system is funded by government through natural resources. Consequently, it shows clearly that all Gabonese children under the age of eighteen are invited to get their pre-college education done without worrying about paying huge amount as well as it shows how increased is the occasion of many of Gabonese to be successful in life. Although, there are also many private Elementary, middle, and High school that are expensive in Gabon, the public

school's tuition fees openly

gives to everybody no matter how high or low is their level of wealth the opportu-

nity to become an educated. Another difference between the American educational system is the wearing of uniforms in secondary schools. This mainly concerns public middle and high schools. In fact, all the public secondary schools in Gabon have to manufacture uniforms. The color and design differ for each school across the country. Since the creation of the educational system, the government came up with the rules that all secondary public school students wear uniforms, so that all the students are treated equally, and there is not any kind of distinction between rich students and

less wealthy students.

Finally, people in the world value education according to their beliefs. Some use it as the way to form moral citizens in society. Others believe that through education the better development of their nation can occur. Many believe in both categories. Likewise, the Gabonese educational system shows some majors differences compared to the American educational in ways, such as tuition fees, uniforms, the grading method, and the punishments. Although universally known that through education a society can evaluate and improve from failures, ways of education vary from place to places. Cultural beliefs are most of the time incorporated into the educational system to support and distinguish people's ways to educate the future leaders of their countries. What is it beautiful about learning cultures in the world is discovering how diversified the world is and how it cul-

places. Photo credit: http://legabonemergent.nordblogs.com/

turally works from places to

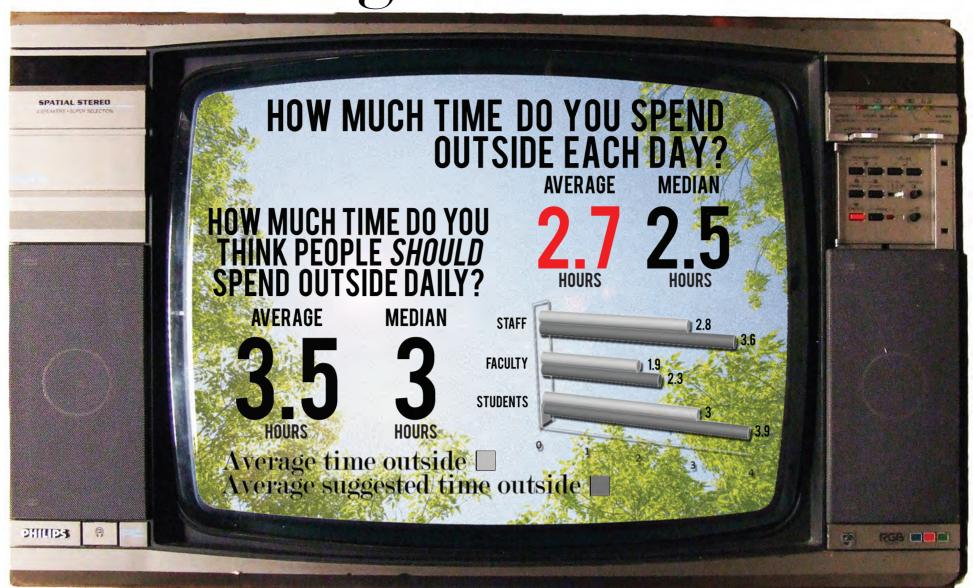
HAVE FUN GETTING IN SHAPE, DANCING THE WEIGHT OFF:



903.267.4051 -- Lisa Palevo 903.487.0571--Jennifer Diamond Loretta Bertrand, instructor We plan on adding other classes in the very near future.

Classes are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

The Viking wants to know...



Fifty GC students (27), staff (14) and faculty (9) were asked the above questions. Time is given in hours. Answers were based on a weekly estimate then divided by day to include samples from the subjects' work week and weekend. The results show that the average person polled spent less time outside than even they believed was necessary. "[You] need the Vitamin D that your body produces from direct sunlight to keep your bones healthy and stave off diseases like osteoporosis," says Alan Henry of Lifehacker.com. "Similarly, a number of studies have shown that just spending time with nature—not just outdoors, but in a park or on a hike—can boost your creativity and cognitive function." Are you spending your time wisely to improve your health?

"The Monster Within-

"Hi, my name is Tobie Phillips. My daughter is seven years old. She has oppositional defiance disorder (ODD). I wrote this poem for her. I was trying to help her understand her disability better. I hope this gives insight into our point of view."

I have this little monster, he lives deep inside.

HE ONLY ESCAPES OUT, WHEN MY FEELINGS I CAN NO LONGER HIDE. SOMETIMES HE'S JUST LYING IN THERE SLEEPING, NEVER MAKING A SOUND. OTHER TIMES I CAN FEEL HIM IN THERE, FLAILING AND SCRATCHING ALL AROUND.

THERE ARE SOME DAYS WHEN HE SO LOUDLY GRUMBLES, GRIPES, AND GROANS. I OFTEN WONDERED IF I WERE TO OPEN MY MOUTH, IF OTHER PEOPLE COULD HEAR HIS GRIPES AND MOANS.

THEN I HAVE MY AWFUL DAYS, WHEN I CAN BARELY KEEP HIM IN. GROWLING, SCRATCHING AND SCREECH-ING, TRYING TO CLIMB OUT FROM WITHIN.

SOMEHOW I MANAGE TO KEEP HIM IN BY SHOVING HIM BACK DOWN. BUT NOT WITHOUT SOMETHING MEAN TO SAY AND A MISCHIEVOUS FROWN. MY MOTHER SAYS I NEED TO LEARN TO CONTROL THAT ANGRY LITTLE GUY. KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT! SHE SAYS, OR OUT YOUR MOUTH THAT MONSTER'S GOING TO FLY. KICKING AND SCREECHING WITH MISCHIEVOUS LAUGHTER, HE'LL COME OUT AND STAY.

Grumpily ever after.

Fashion show supports a great cause

Rebecca Blackburn Cosmetology Department

The Grayson College Cosmetology Department held a Hollywood-themed fashion show at the Black Box Theater on 14 April, 2014. "A Night of Stars" included celebrity impressions showcased by our own students and other models.

The models are as listed: Zoe Merrell as Shirley Temple, Crissy Cook as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, **Christian Mercer** as Marilyn Monroe, Abby Allison as Sandy from Grease, Trenton Spencer as The Fonz from Happy Days, Marcus Perry as Michael Jackson, Haley and Kristen Wiersgalla as the Olsen Twins, Brooklyn Whisman as An-

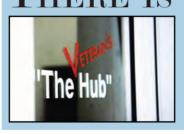
nie and Xander King Collins, Allison Cruz, Zully Ramirez, Mariah Walker, Evelyn Riley, Mia Riley and Notoshi Riley as the Orphans, Belinda Calderon as Mariah Carey, Bella Hollowell as Cher, Ellen Monogate as Sandra Bullock, Leslie Severn as Pink, Ashley Gibson as Shakira, Courtney Toney as Lindsey Lohan, Lanisha Collins as Jada Pinkett Smith, Destene Williamson as Jessica Alba, Kristina Burns as Britney Spears, Cheyene Minyard as Kat Von D, Whitney Schultz as Katy Perry, Ashlynn Smith as Melissa McCarthy, of Hearts, Savannah Bai-Anna from *Frozen* and Emily Weatherwax, Kiara Hernandez and Marla Harding the Kardashian Sisters.

Our show hosts were Patrice Phillips as Oprah and Debra Lansinger as Dolly Parton.

On the behalf of the staff and students, we would like to give a warm thank you to all of the people who came and contributed their time and effort to support our cause to raise funds for the Women's Crisis Center.

We wish to especially thank Dillards for all of the elegant clothing and support. We feel we have accomplished our goal because we have had the opportunity to showcase our beauty skills and talents while helping to support a good cause for the Women's Crisis Center. ▼

Shani Wiley as the Queen ley as Elsa, Marly Hicks as



The Veteran's Hub now provides veterans, spouses of veterans and dependents an area where they will have computer/internet access, a comfortable and quiet study area and an opportunity to meet other veterans.

A NEW PLACE IN TOWN

Me, myself and granny: a student's reflection

Jerald Battles

My grandmother was a very important part of my life. She used to make up stories for me as a child; maybe these stories are where my elaborate imagination comes from.

When I was a small child, she told me stories of my ancestors. Our blood lines today come from lands both near and far. But back a long time ago we were Indian, Choctaw to be precise. She would tell stories of how our people lived off of the land and worshipped everything that the earth had to offer. She would also tell stories of how if someone preformed a wrong action in the world, the sun, moon, and other various gods and spirits would come and bestow a curse on the land.

The one story that will be implanted in my head forever is the last one she told me. "When I was a girl we lived on a farm, and day



pick cotton until our hands would bleed." Holding my grandmother's hand, feeling the once old blisters on her hands, now soft from the pink Mary Kay night cream she applied every day for the past eighty years, I began to tear up, knowing that this story was probably the last one my grandmother would

As I tried to clutch and hang off of each word that came from her withered, dehydrated lips, she proceeded to tell me how she would be

in the blistering sun with

nothing but a basket, and she would imagine our ancestors and how they fought for everything they believed in. She told this story as if she were there, jumping back and forth between her imagination along with the past and present. She told the story in such

a manner that for the time being I forgot where I was and would catch myself in the story alongside of my granny. She would imagine how life would be if it were truly free.

In her story, she told me of a ball of fire in the sky that would smile down on the tribe's people, helping them and their crops grow to be strong and have free will. I imagined this sun god having a friendly face with grand beams of golden light that streamed from its every pore. But one day the medicine man cast the sun god away, along with every good thing that it had done for

earth and its people. Due to

these actions, the gods bestowed a curse on the land.

My granny imagined that she was the daughter of the medicine man, and she chased the sun to all ends of the earth, encountering many challenges along the way. One day the medicine man's daughter ran into a man who told her of God the Almighty and how He also had a son deterred from his path. She listened to the man about his God; but deep down she wanted to feel the warmth and prosperity of her god.

Thinking about all the good that the sun god had done in the past, she left and looked for her sun. What she didn't know was she would spend the rest of her life chasing the sun because it was her destiny to fix her father's mistake.

My grandma was a short stocky woman with an olive complexion. To me, she

was beautiful, strong and

endearing; she was the only

person who could love me the way that she did. She was wearing an old robe the day she passed at one hundred and two years of age. She had owned it for years, and it was made of a white and blue gingham material that I could tell was old by the way certain parts of the gown were worn down into a thin layer, much like that of a dirty window. On the day that my grand-

ma left this world, she was also wearing her wedding band. It was small, made of white gold and a token of her unconditional love for my grandfather. I slipped her wedding band off of her swollen ring finger and placed it onto my pinky. As I gazed into my granny's eyes to see if they still had some light in them I realized, much like the story that she had just told me the day before, that she had finally caught the sun, just like the medicine man's daughter, and was in true peace.

Vikings headed to regional tournament

Rebecca Jones **Editor**

The Grayson College baseball program will had to Lubbock, Texas, 9 May for the regional tournament at Texas Tech University. "[Our] entire season and the 96 games we play come down to this one double elimination tournament" said Head Coach Dusty Hart, "It is the most important time of the year for us."

According to Hart, this time of year is also critical for student athletes because of how their grades affect not only their ability to participate in school sports, but their self-esteem.

"The boys have worked extremely hard and have an overall record of [40-12] and are ranked number two in the country," Hart said. This means they will enter the tournament as the number one seed. The Viking men are 26-6 in conference play.

The team received a number of honors Monday, 5 May, from the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference (NTJCAC). Austin Krajnak (first base), Zack Files (second base), Zack Reding (outfield), Luke Hamblin (outfield), Chris Gittens (designated hitter) and Grayson Huffman (starting pitcher) were named to the NTJCAC 1st Team All Conference. McLean (outfield) and Chris Gittens (starting pitcher) were also named to the NTJCAC 2nd Team All Conference. Austin Krajnak and Chris Gittens were voted Co-Offensive players of the year and Dusty Hart was named Coach of the Year.



Chris Gittens is a triple threat pitcher and first baseman who has been named NTJCAC Co-Offensive Player of the Year along with his teammate Austin Krajnak.

Pitcher | 4 games played, 3



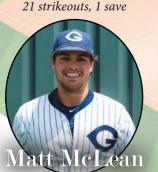
Pitcher | 9 games played, 3 wins,



18 strikeouts, 4 assists, 2 saves



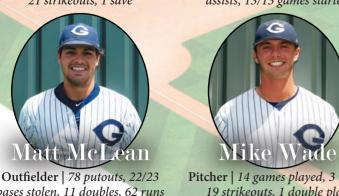
Pitcher | 9 games played,



bases stolen, 11 doubles, 62 runs

Infielder | 31 putouts, 42 assists, 9

double plays, 7 doubles, 21 runs



Pitcher | 14 games played, 3 wins, 19 strikeouts, 1 double play

Catcher | 123 putouts, 12 doubles,

18 runs, 7 assists



luffman

Infielder

not enough data

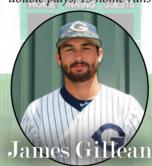
Pitcher | 8 wins, 83 strikeouts, 7

assists, 12/12 games started

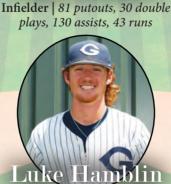
Gravson



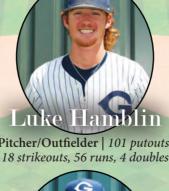
Outfielder | 190 putouts, 21 double plays, 13 home runs



plays, 130 assists, 43 runs

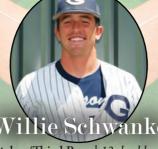


Pitcher/Outfielder | 101 putouts,





2 putouts, 1 run



Schwanke Pitcher/Third Base | 13 doubles, 5

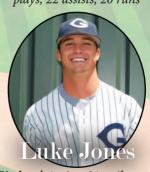
home runs, 43 putouts, 53 assists



Pitcher | 12 games played, 16 strikeouts, 5 saves, 3 assists



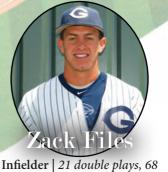
Catcher | 239 putouts, 17 double plays, 22 assists, 20 runs



Pitcher | 4 wins, 21 strikeouts, 2 assists, 1 save

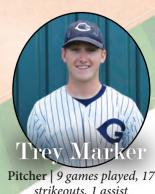


4 assists, 5 runs





putouts, 10 doubles, 5 home runs 8 triples, 4 home runs



Infielder | 2 games played

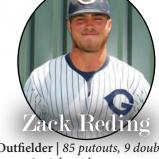
Pitcher/First Base | 3 shutouts, 7

wins, 63 strikeouts, 12 home runs

Outfielder

not enough data

strikeouts, 1 assist



Outfielder | 85 putouts, 9 doubles,