



## Get Involved

**Sweet Treats Stop**  
Complimentary sweet pastries, snacks and more, provided by Great Western Dining Service. Sponsored by Student Life.  
*First and Third Wednesdays 9 - 10 a.m.*  
*Life Center, 2nd Floor*

**Hump Day "Snack Attack"**  
Complimentary assorted snacks provided by Great Western Dining Service. Hosted by Student Life.  
*Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 1 - 3 p.m.*  
*Life Center, 2nd Floor*

**Gym & Fitness Center**  
Open to all students and staff with a college ID.  
*Monday - Friday 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.*

**"It's My Life" Student Leadership Series**  
*Monday, October 25 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.*  
Community leaders are invited to discuss and share their philosophy on leadership in today's competitive work environment. *LA 101*  
Speaker: TBA

**Student and Employee Spirit Day**  
*Every Friday*  
Wear your GC attire with blue jeans and celebrate the Viking spirit.

**Litter Pick Up**  
*October 25, 12 - 1 p.m.*  
Hosted by SGA. Meet in front of the BSM.

**Life Center**  
*Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.*  
*Friday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Hall-o-Fest**  
*October 29, 11 - 1 p.m.*  
Live music, games and snacks, courtesy of Student Life and SGA. Don't miss the costume contest and the pumpking carving and decorating contests.  
*Under the Bridge*

**Dodgeball**  
*Every Wednesday 12 - 1 p.m.*  
*Gymnasium*  
Sponsored by Student Life.

**Late Night Food Event**  
*October 15, 9 - 10 p.m.*  
"Mexican Food Fiesta"  
Free to students and employees. *Food Court*

**BSM Weekly Lunch**  
*Every Wednesday 12:15 - 1 p.m.*  
Students and staff invited. Compliments of the BSM.

**Office Christmas Tree Decorating Contest**  
*Registration period: Oct. 30 - Nov. 20; Contest period: Dec. 3-4; Judging: Dec. 4*  
Winners announced by email December 7. Contact Student Life for details. General theme: Santa Clause Classics.

**Student Government Association**  
*First Mondays (monthly) 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.*  
*Viking Room, Life Center*

**Grayson Nursing Student Association**  
*Second Wednesdays 7:45 - 8:45 a.m.*  
*Viking Room, Life Center*

**HVACR Club**  
*First Thursdays 5:30 p.m. CTC*



## Fifth annual "Just Doo It" breast cancer awareness rally this month



Photo credit: Nick Ellis

Rebecca Jones  
*Editor*

To ensure that students and members of the community are in the pink in terms of breast health and consciousness, GC will host the fifth annual "Just Doo It" breast cancer awareness rally October 28 from 11:30

The rally brings out students, faculty and local agencies to support breast cancer awareness and raise money for Woman Rock, a local non-profit.

a.m. to 1 p.m. under the Bridge. This campus- and community-wide fundraising event donates 100 percent of its proceeds to Women Rock, an organization that provides monetary and emotional assistance to local men and women afflicted by

cancer.

Student clubs and organization are encouraged to form fundraising teams to reach this year's \$7,000 donation goal. The top money-raising team will win a luncheon with Vice President of Student Services Regina

Organ and Just Doo It sponsors and organizers. Sponsors like Landmark Bank are even offering to match funds raised by a participating team.

The entire campus is asked to participate in this event  
*Continued on page 5*

## Phi Theta Kappa hosts valuable awareness week

Michaela Bledsoe  
*Student*

Have you heard about Phi Theta Kappa? Well I'm sure you have after Phi Theta Kappa held its Awareness Week from September 14 - September 18.

Monday we kicked things off with our CollegeFish day. Our members came up to the campus Sunday afternoon and chalked the school's sidewalks with all things CollegeFish. At our booth we were able to help several students set up their profiles to assist with their transfer process.

We loved having so many students on campus participate in our event, increasing the number of GC students who are connected to CollegeFish. This website is your "match.com" for colleges and scholarships if you are looking to transfer. To

create a profile of your own visit [Collegefish.org](http://Collegefish.org) today!

Tuesday we continued the week with our Scholarship Lunch and Learn. We had a record breaking number of attendees at this event. Elizabeth Taylor, the Division II International Vice President, and Professor Mary Linder spoke at our event. We were able to share tips with students about how to request letters of recommendation, how to identify the best recommenders, the importance of a scholarly resume and tips for answering application essay questions. Hopefully we will see lots of GC scholarship winners this semester. If you would like to find out about all the scholarships available to Phi Theta Kappa members, as well as non-members, stop by our meetings to get the scoop.

*Continued on page 2*



**There is still time to register for Fall 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week semester!**

To find out if you have remaining aid, contact the Office of Financial Aid at [financialaid@grayson.edu](mailto:financialaid@grayson.edu) or 903-463-8794

Need an extra class to fill out your schedule? Short a few credits for graduation?

You may have additional financial aid funds available! Find out Now!  
Classes start Oct 19<sup>th</sup>



## Volunteer and enjoy the Texas State Fair for free

Jean Sorensen  
*Roteract Advisor*

GC's Rotaract chapter accepted the invitation of Jennifer Hoffman, President of Fair Park Rotary, to volunteer at this year's Texas State Fair. Hoffman works for Texas Discovery Gardens, a 7.5 acre public garden and butterfly pavilion. She wrote

to the GC Rotaract group for assistance. Fair Park Rotary is volunteering every Thursday. Volunteers work a three and one-half hour shift. In return for their help, they receive a free ticket into the fair for the day they volunteer, a free parking pass and a free t-shirt.

*Continued on page 5*

**MONTH: October**

<p><b>27</b> Public Reading: Mary Shelley's <b>FRANKENSTEIN</b> 11 am - 2 pm @ GC PERKS hosted by writers unlimited</p> 	<p><b>28</b> FILM SCREENING: <b>THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW</b> 5 pm @ the Grayson Room (cafeteria) HOSTED BY FILM CLUB</p> 	<p><b>29 HALL-O-FEST</b> <b>FOOD • LIVE MUSIC GAMES + MORE</b> Pumpkin carving &amp; decorating contests <b>Costume contest</b> 11 am - 1 pm under the bridge hosted by student life and SGA</p> 
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\*Correction from September 2015 issue: the article "Carrying a Gun on Campus May Soon be as Common as Carrying a Textbook" states that campus carry laws will go into effect August 1, 2016. For community colleges, the law will not go into effect until August 1, 2017.

# South Campus busy with fall activities

Kim Weber  
*Administrative Assistant to the Dean (S. Campus)*

Grayson's South Campus kicked off their first fall student service event on Wednesday, September 23 with their annual Team Tailgate. Everyone was encouraged to wear their favorite team jersey and get into the spirit of things with the "Game Face" painting contest. Over 150 students participated in the event, but the lone winner of the spirit award for face paint was Lacey Nix. She was awarded one of the coveted South Campus Superman t-shirts.

The t-shirts are part of the fall theme "Be Somebody's Hero." Of course, the 'S' conveniently works for South Campus, too. Each month

will feature a month-long community service component coordinated alongside the monthly student service events.



Socktoberfest kicks off October 1 - 31. Did you know

that in homeless shelters socks are the least donated but most needed item? The South Campus will be collecting new socks, and donations can be dropped off in the office. Collected sock donations will then be made to the Samaritan Inn. On October 7, a representative from the Samaritan Inn will provide a presentation entitled "Can You See Me Now?" covering the topic of homelessness among teens.

November 1 - 30 will kick off a mitten/hat/scarf drive. These cold weather donations will be placed in the South Campus Coat Closet. Collected items will be made available to students in need. We are expecting SUPER participation and any excess donations will also benefit the Samaritan Inn.

The much anticipated return of Movember will take place on November 18 with free food, games like Pin the Moustache and contests for the best home-grown, fake, or painted mustachios.

South Campus events slated for December are "Santa's Elves Cookie/Candy Swap" and a Food or Toy Drive benefiting Samaritan Inn. More details about December events will be posted as dates/times become available. ♥



# Omicron Psi spreads educational awareness message to GC students

*Continued from page 1*

Wednesday was our Commit to Complete signing event. Every semester we hold this event for students to commit to their goal of graduating and sign our banner as symbol of that pledge. We had a great turnout this week and we are almost ready to retire this banner, as there is almost no where left to sign. We will also be recognizing graduating students at our commencement ceremony who have taken the commitment pledge. It's not too late to sign and make that commitment! We will be holding another signing event in November so be sure to come by and receive your C4 bracelet.

Thursday was our nation's Constitution Day and our chapter carried on the tradition of hosting a Constitution Day celebration event here at GC. This year we hosted a Constitutional Jeopardy game that brought in a lot of excitement from students, faculty,

and administrators. Winners received a Follett gift card, which can be used at GC Perks. We would like to thank Great Western Dining for catering, as well as



all who participated in this event. We hope everyone enjoyed the wonderful game our officers created, learned a few new facts about our Constitution and have made

use of the pocket Constitutions we distributed to all attendees.

Awareness week this year was fun from beginning to end. Lots of prizes were given,

lots of students received useful information to help them succeed and we were able to raise awareness for the organization that has opened up so many doors for us.

Recently, the college sent out membership eligibility letters through the mail. If you receive one—congratulations! You've worked so hard to earn this distinction and we would like to give you all the tools to help you continue your success. Even if you didn't receive a letter this semester, you can still get involved and take advantage of all the resources available to you as well. We hold meetings every Wednesday from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Viking Room (second story of the Life Center), or if you have any questions contact our advisor Professor Mary Linder at [ptk@grayson.edu](mailto:ptk@grayson.edu) or our website [ptkomicronpsi.org](http://ptkomicronpsi.org). If you want to see more of what Phi Theta Kappa is all about, stop by and join us. Thank you so much for participating with us during Awareness Week. Hopefully you were able to get a taste of what the society is all about and are excited to see what we have in store this year.

**"Join Phi Theta Kappa and be part of the next big thing!" ♥**

John Moody  
*I-Lab Instructor*

If a student or professor could have stood on the parking lot of the Grayson College Main Campus approximately 85 million years ago, what might he or she have thought? The unfortunate person might have thought, "Hey, I'm drowning!" because the beautiful hilltop where the main campus rests was under water millions of years ago. This can be noted from the geological strata and the fossils lying directly underfoot.

Approximately 85 million years ago, north Texas was part of a shallow tongue of ocean known as the Western Interior Seaway that extended from the present-day Gulf of Mexico northward into western Canada. The warm sea was teeming with marine life. Part of the evidence of this can be observed in the rocks that work crews turn up each time they undertake a construction project on campus.

The durable, chalky, white rock that can be found whenever someone digs a hole on and around the college is known as Austin Chalk. This formation has been aged from 84 to 86 million years old (give or take a few hundred-thousand years), according to geologists at

the University of Texas, Bureau of Economic Geology. This places the Austin Chalk within the time period of the Late Cretaceous, an age when the tiny mammalian ancestors of humans were mostly hiding in burrows until nightfall, trying desperately not to get stepped on or eaten by dinosaurs, which were still the dominant land animals at the

# Curious fossilized creatures underfoot

time. The Austin Chalk, first described from the Austin area in central Texas, can be found on the surface in a band from south to north across Texas. (It is also encountered in the subsurface by oil wells in southeastern Texas and Louisiana). The white limestone can be seen in outcrop mostly south of Denison through Sherman, extending east and west in the southern half of Grayson County.

The Austin Chalk rests on an older marine formation often called the Eagle Ford Shale, and at the contact between these two formations, some interesting fossils can be quite numerous. These include the fossilized remains of marine bivalves (clams), gastropods (snails) and sev-



*Bananogmius sp.* – a Late Cretaceous fish fossil from the Grayson College Main Campus in Denison, Texas.

eral species of crabs and lobsters. A wide variety of shark and fish teeth are commonly found at the contact, and in some locations, these teeth are so common that this zone is known as the "Fish Tooth Conglomerate." Some of the shark's teeth can be two inches long, quite pointy and still sharp enough to cut flesh. Other shark's teeth of an entirely different species are roughly triangular in shape, with saw-tooth serrations along the edges like steak knives. Still other types of shark's teeth look more like blunt, rounded stubs that were used by the animals to crush shellfish as their principal food source.

Right after the construction of sewage treatment

ponds just northwest of the GC Main Campus, the ground was practically covered by small shark's teeth, and even today during heavy rainstorms, these types of fossils erode from the banks along the creeks just north and east of the campus. The teeth of mosasaurs (a type of swimming sea lizard) have been found on occasion in these same creek beds. The skeleton of a fish-eating, marine reptile known as a plesiosaur came to light during the construction of a stock tank not far north of Grayson College. It was also from the Eagle Ford Shale.

*Continued in November issue*

## Paramedic Student Association

October 1, November 3, December 1, 12 - 1 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

## Student Ambassadors

Third Mondays, 12 - 1 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

## Men of Distinction

Thursdays, 12 - 1 p.m.  
CWL Seminar Room A

## Honors College Club

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

## DAAC

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. HS 202

## Cosmetology Club

Mondays bi-weekly  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. CTC

## Clay Club

First Thursdays, 5 - 6 p.m.  
Ceramic Room, Arts & Communications

## Phi Theta Kappa

Wednesdays  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. LA 207

## Psychology Club

Tuesdays, 12:15 - 12:50 p.m.  
CIS 202

## Delta Phi Delta (Art)

First Tuesdays, 12:15  
Arts & Communications  
Design Room

## LAE (Criminal Justice)

Tuesdays, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

## Sigma Kappa Delta & Writers Unlimited

Second Mondays, 12 - 1 p.m.  
GC Perks, Life Center

## Veteran Student Association

First and third Wednesdays  
1 p.m. Veteran's Hub

## Welding Technologies Association

First and third Mondays  
12 - 1 p.m. CTC Break Room  
First and third Tuesdays  
12 - 1 p.m. South Campus

## Cultural Diversity Club

First and third Wednesdays  
1 - 2 p.m. Int'l Student Office

## Radiology Tech Club

The 15th of each month  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. HS 200

## Music Club

Every other Friday  
12 - 1 p.m. Band Hall, Arts & Communications

## Science Club

First Thursdays, 3 p.m. S 106

## Gay Straight Alliance

Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Bridge

## HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)

Second and fourth Tuesday  
12:20 - 12:45, LA 108

## Future Educators

Every other Tuesday  
12:20 - 12:50 p.m. CIS 200

## TIPPS (Culinary Arts)

First Tuesdays, 3 - 4 p.m.  
691 Restaurant

## Eta Sigma Delta

First Wednesdays, 2 p.m.  
Culinary Arts Building

## Film Club

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.  
Life Center Lounge

## History Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.  
LA 207

## Veteran Nursing Student Association

First Mondays, 12 p.m.  
South Campus Skills Lab

## Sisters of Destiny

Thursdays, 2 p.m.  
Conference Room, Life Center

## FCA

Third Tuesdays, 6 - 7 p.m.  
Viking Residence Hall Lobby

## Dental Assisting Club

Wednesdays, 11:30 - 12 p.m.  
HS 205

## Gamers Guild

First Wednesdays, 12:15  
Arts & Communications  
Design Room

## Mu Alpha Theta

First and third Thursdays  
1 - 2 p.m. LA 204

## Roteract

Second and fourth  
Wednesdays, 3 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

Please report incorrect listings to the editor:  
[jonesre@grayson.edu](mailto:jonesre@grayson.edu)

# Phi Theta Kappa celebrates Constitution Day

Logan Beauchamp  
Assistant Editor

On September 17, the Omicron Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa based on our campus hosted their annual Constitution Day celebration. It was a surprisingly highbrow affair, having been held in the President's Board Room with a light lunch catered by the college and many of our illustrious professors and doctors in attendance.

All the glitz and glam aside, it was an event meant to spread awareness of our truly remarkable Constitution, a document that has been the fulcrum on which the United States has survived its many ups and downs since its ratification in 1789. We could say that the Constitution stands as the beginning of the America which we now live in. It has grown and changed with the nation and its ideas to model the present.

During all of that time it has stood as a shield to protect the citizens of the United States with its Bill of Rights, checks and balances and framework which has stood almost unshakably for the last two hundred plus years. Its amendments also stand as a testament to the fact that it is a living document that will continue to grow and change until today will be thought of as a time immemorial.

To celebrate our Constitution, Omicron Psi decided

to host a game of Constitutional Jeopardy, because it wouldn't be a Phi Theta Kappa event unless knowledge and a competitive spirit were present. Stacie Pope, President of the Omicron Psi chapter, acted as Master of Ceremonies and quizzed all of the teams who rose to the challenge.

The competition was heated throughout the contest, but I am glad to say that, oddly enough, I and my teammate were the ones who took home the prize of gift cards which could be used at the book store or GC Perks. My hat goes off to all the contestants who played, it was a real treat to compete against the best. As we end, I want to take the focus off of myself and restate that the real star is the Constitution itself and that I would more than likely not have the opportunity to write this article without it.

I hope that you, the reader, consider this as well and take the time to learn more about this light of the people and appreciate it with the same pride and vigor as all who were in attendance. I'd like to give a special thanks to Prof. Mary Linder and all others who were involved for their hard work to bring this event to the students of GC. I will close with a quote from the great and eminent physicist Albert Einstein, "The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it." ♥



Photo credit: Rebecca Jones  
Constitution Day with Phi Theta Kappa, where students participated in "Constitution Jeopardy."

OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL FUND

GRAYSON HONORS COLLEGE

**Run for Your Lives**  
5K Run/Walk & Fun Run

Join Us: **October 24, 2015**  
 When: 5pm (packet pick up at 4pm)  
 Where: **Grayson College**  
 How Much: \$25 5K / \$10 Fun Run  
 Contact: **Dr. B. Fair 903-463-8734**  
 fairb@grayson.edu  
 Benefiting: Officer Down (ODMP)

www.getmeregistered.com



Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

Back row (1 to r): Ronnie Rice, Student Life Program Assistant Brett Hall, Student Life Director Gregg Miles, Athletic Director Mike McBrayer, Daniel Rivera, Ernie Taylor. Front row (1 to r): Wesley Milner, Todd Richard, Codie Johnson, Max Owens.

## Your 2015-16 Student Life staff

# Hybrid police vehicles: investing in the future of GC

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

Arguably the most significant factor to consider in transitioning from conventional motors to gas-electric hybrid motors is cost. Right now, GC has one principal police vehicle, a 2015 Ford Explorer (Police Interceptor edition), the use of which is offset by the chief's 2009 Chevy Tahoe (Defender edition) and five Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors of varying years owned by the campus police academy.

Both of our main police SUVs were recently purchased. The 2015 Ford Explorer, purchased in August of 2014, is all-wheel drive all the time and has a six-cylinder engine. The EPA estimated combined city and highway mileage for this vehicle is 19, though common police practices like frequent stopping and heavy idling tend to bring this figure down significantly. The dash display in the college's Explorer estimates an average of 11.3 miles per gallon and 701 idle hours as of April 2015.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the average price of gas in 2014 was \$3.37, though Grayson College purchases fuel in bulk at a somewhat reduced cost. Using the EPA valuation and the assumption that this vehicle will be driven approximately 16,090.67 miles per year, the college will spend \$2,853.98 (or likely more) on fuel in a given year. These calculations are fairly conservative.

Likewise, the 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe was purchased new, but has a larger V8 engine that gets an EPA estimated 14 miles per gallon. Assuming that this vehicle travels 21,500 miles per year, \$5,175.36 will be expended on fueling in a given year. In total, Grayson College is likely to consume \$8,029.34 in gasoline for these utility vehicles. Yearly mileage totals were calculated from averaging past years' use.

The Crown Victoria fleet is used specifically for academy training. GC Criminal Justice Professor Brad Blankenship states that the vehicles are utilized for instruction for approximately 12 days during a typical year. The bulk of miles ac-

cumulated on these vehicles is related to their use by the GCPD.

At this time, on-duty officers drive one or more of these vehicles to the college's South Campus in nearby Van Alstyne, Texas, twice a day when classes are in session. The South Campus facility is 21.7 miles from the Denison campus. Two round trips per day for five days amounts to about 434 miles per week in commute. Roughly nine months of use at this rate adds up to 17,360 miles per year (driving/idling on campus are not computed in this quantity).

The EPA mileage estimate for Crown Victoria Police Interceptors (years 2000 to 2005) is 16 miles per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline, though Blankenship claims that "ten miles per gallon [for these vehicles] is good." Using the 2014 U.S. city fuel price average listed on the BLS, the annual fuel expenses related to the use of these vehicles is around \$3,656.45. GCPD's total yearly fuel expenditure is approximately \$11,685.79.

2015 has been a great year for hybrids. As mentioned last month, nearly every automobile company has tried their hand at a hybrid or all-electric engine design in recent times. Ford's 2015 Fusion Hybrid, for example, has even been tested and praised as a police investigation unit.

Though GC cannot stop using Crown Victorias for training purposes, I would like to suggest that a hybrid could be used to decrease our dependence on these vehicles. The Ford Fusion has a smaller four-cylinder engine, but still boasts 188 horsepower. Because hybrid engines use "idle off," a system that shuts off the gasoline engine at a stop, "regenerative braking" to capture unused energy and recharge the battery system and an electrical assist to further reduce impact on the conventional engine, these vehicles offer huge savings at the pump.

The 2015 Fusion gets an outstanding 43 miles per gallon in combined city and highway driving according to EPA estimates. It is also more affordable in terms of initial cost. If the car was only used in place of the

Crown Victoria fleet, a year's worth of fueling would cost around \$1,360.54—a savings of \$2,295.91. But, I posit that the Fusion could prove its worth on both campuses in a variety of uses as the police SUVs already do now.

Operating a new Ford Fusion in conjunction with the use of a hybrid SUV or wagon, which should provide more than adequate space for police equipment, the fuel expense reductions abound. The 2015 Subaru XV Crosstrek Hybrid, for example, gets an estimated 33 miles per gallon in combined city and highway driving. If two of these Subaru hybrids were purchased to replace the more heavily-used police vehicles on campus, Grayson College could expect to pay just \$3,838.80 for fill-ups annually. That is a savings of \$4,190.54 for SUV use alone. Combined savings for fueling a fully-hybrid police department would be approximately \$6,486.45 per year based on the data.

Could the GCPD justify the use of vehicles with less power than a standard police model? Monthly and annual crime reports for the college do not at all reflect the need for police vehicles with high-powered engines and heavy-duty suspensions. One officer claimed that in his time at GC only one pursuit had ever taken place. "Mo" Carrasco has been a Public Safety Officer at GCPD for three years. "It lasted for [a few] minutes," Carrasco said. "The top speed was 12 miles per hour because [the offender] was driving on two flat tires."

Police activity statistics show that between 2004 and 2013 97.6 percent of citations issued were for parking violations or warnings. The majority of services rendered in this period of time were for students locked out of their dorm/car or those needing a battery boost. There is simply no demand at GC for powerful vehicles made for chase. Hybrids and even increased foot patrol could solve the same sets of issues with fewer wasted resources.

Next month, the environmental implications of the move to hybrid police vehicles will be explored in depth. ♥

**Grayson College Career Services**

Assistance is available for:  
 resume writing, cover letters, completing job applications, interview preparation, developing job search strategies & more!

*Preparation can make the difference in YOU getting the job!*

For an appointment, contact Gretchen Huff,  
 Job Placement Specialist, huffg@grayson.edu (903) 415-2544.  
 Located in the Advising area.

Editorial Information: The Viking is published by Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college. Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff at GC. 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 GC. Material for publication may be submitted to The Viking office (Lib 110) or through email to Marlea Trevino (TrevinoM@grayson.edu) or Rebecca Jones (JonesRe@grayson.edu).

# DIA DE LOS MUERTOS IV EXHIBIT

OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 6  
2ND FLOOR GALLERY

Dia de los Muertos is a joyous time when the remembrance of family and friends and the continuity of life are celebrated. The celebration is also referred to as Day of the Dead because two important days November 1, All Saints' Day, and November 2, All Souls' Day, ceremoniously and festively honor those who have died. For Dia de los Muertos the skeleton represents the dead playfully mimicking the living and is not a morbid symbol. Our fourth Dia de los Muertos Exhibit features 38 works by 22 artists including:

Donna Finch Adams, Ashlee Anderson, Steve O. Black, Wesley Brown, Stephanie Canaday, Jody Castelli, Andrew Cobb, Kaylea Daubenspeck, Austin Duval, Jen Foshee, Shelley Tate Garner, Soltera Greenwood, Curtis Kaven, Wesley Milner, Eric Chance Mobbs, Jack Ousey, Wileana Patterson, Roy Siems, Barb Stewart, Kaitlyn Sutter, Sammy Thomason and Marie D. Van Arsdale



"Judy," by Ashlee Anderson



Photo credit: Rebecca Jones

## KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

WHEN  
Oct 14-17, 2015

WHERE  
Grayson College  
Cruce Stark Auditorium

6 COLLEGES PERFORMING 6 PLAYS!  
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND! \$5

**OCT 14**  
7pm Grayson College  
*OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD*  
9:45pm Southeastern OK State Univ  
*HAMLET*

**OCT 15**  
12PM North Central Texas College  
*CHEMICAL IMBALANCE*  
8PM Angelo State University  
*KEEPING A BREAST*

**OCT 16**  
12PM Sul Ross State University  
*THE LOVE SONG OF J. OPPENHEIMER*  
8PM Richland College  
*COMES THE STORM*

903-463-8609  
GRAYSON.EDU/THEATRE

The Kennedy Center  
AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

GRAYSON COLLEGE

## GC theatre hosts KCACTF Texas October 14 - 17

Rebecca Jones  
Editor

The GC Theatre department will host the Texas I State Festival for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) October 14-17 in Cruce Stark Auditorium. Six universities and colleges will present plays which are entered in the KCACTF competition, which is sponsored by the Kennedy Center.

The festival will include workshops for students who are participating as well as two different productions each day. Grayson will begin the festival by performing "Our Country's Good" on October 14 at 7 p.m. Southeastern Oklahoma State University will perform a 40 minute "Hamlet" in the Black Box Theatre at 9:45 p.m. On October 15, North Central Texas College will perform "Chemical Imbalance" at noon and then Angelo State University will present an original play called, "keeping abreast" that evening at 8 p.m. Sul Ross State University will perform "The Lovesong of J. Robert Oppenheimer" on October 16 at noon. The competition will conclude with Richland College's original play called "Comes the Storm" at 8 p.m.

Both original plays are entered in the playwriting competition for KCACTF. Each show performing is also entered as a "participating" entry and will be considered for the next level of competition.



Bryce Phillip discusses the stage's light plot with fellow theatre students.

Two respondents will attend the festival and meet with the company of each production to discuss the merits of their approach and performance. Joe Turner Cantu, the theatre director from the University of Mississippi will address the acting and directing aspects, while Tim Wisgerhof, a free-lance designer from Des Moines, will respond to the design and technical aspects of the productions. Wisgerhof will also arrive a day early to present a special workshop for the Grayson theatre majors.

In addition to the respondents, four Region 6 Committee members will also attend the festival and have input into awards presented at the festival. The members who will attend are David Fennema from Cameron University, who is a Region 6 member at Large, and Cory Ranson from Texas A&M in Kingsville, who is the Texas Chair. Jim Anderson from Texas A&M at Commerce is the National Playwriting Chair for Region 6 and Mike Burnett is the Region Vice Chair and also the Region Host for 2016.

The Grayson Theatre Department has participated for years in KCACTF at the state and the region level on other campuses. Tenna Matthews, the Theatre Design and Technical Theatre Director at Grayson stated, "we felt like it was incumbent upon us to host this event since our students have benefited so much from this organization over the years."

The public is welcome to attend any of the performances. Admission for the plays are \$5. For more information contact the GC Theatre Department at 903-463-8609, email at theatre@grayson.edu or visit www.grayson.edu/theatre. ♥

## Open call to amateur filmmakers

Logan Beauchamp  
Assistant Editor

The Film Club is proud to openly invite all amateur and experienced filmmakers at the college and in the community to submit their works for viewing at our once-monthly Amateur Night. This will take place at 5 p.m. in the Grayson Room near the cafeteria on the third Wednesday of

the month during regularly scheduled film club meetings.

The limitations are that the films may not be pornographic in nature and must be submitted a week before the meeting to be reviewed by the officers for approval. We hope to see submissions from the student population and the local community. These nights will serve as an open forum for critical

analysis and a chance for the producer of the film to learn from the audience.

Film Club meets every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the Grayson Room to watch and discuss films. All are welcome to join us for these showings and make suggestions for future screenings. On October 28 we will view "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Guests are invited to dress in costume. ♥

## Call for giant Dia de los Muertos puppets

Steve O. Black  
Professor of Fine Arts

The Denison Arts Council is calling for giant Dia de los Muertos puppets for its Dia de los Muertos festival and parade to be held on Saturday, November 7. This year DAC will be awarding prizes to the best puppets in the parade. The creator of the "Best" puppet in the parade will receive \$500. Second prize will be awarded \$300. Third place will receive \$200. Two \$50 awards will be given as Merit Awards.

Puppet workshops will be hosted at Grayson College every Wednesday evening beginning September 2. The workshops are held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in room AC105 in the Arts and Communication Center. The first Wednesday of each month will be dedicated to the introduction of various types of large puppets, ma-

terials needed, how to build a giant puppet and how to make wheat paste. The other Wednesday workshops will be working sessions.

Individuals, groups, clubs and organizations are invited. For more information or to reserved a seat or seats for your group contact Steve O. Black at 903-815-3665 or sblack\_art@yahoo.com or blackst@grayson.edu. ♥



## Free Puppet Workshops

Every Wednesday  
6 - 9:30 p.m. AC105

# New class schedule a major success

Zachary Pletan  
*Student*

First-semester freshmen may not know, but returning students certainly will—GC changed their class schedule over the summer break. Previously, classes were 50 minutes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or 75 minutes on Tuesday and Thursday. Now, they are all 75 minutes and run on Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday (with a few Friday classes and labs still in existence). We at *The Viking* wondered: now that classes have been held for a few weeks, what do students and faculty think?

Of forty-five students surveyed, on average the new class schedule was rated roughly a 4 out of 5. This held true when looking at either first-semester students or their more experienced classmates, some with up to six semesters of study. Most seem to enjoy having Fridays off. Many enjoy the extra time for homework

or simply to hang out with friends. Others are able to get more hours at their job. Still others are able to spend more time with their children. A few have even used the opportunity to schedule classes for only two days a week.

The longer class times were also positively received. Several students mentioned that these make them feel like they're learning more in class. Others simply benefit from increased time with professors. One dual-credit student noted that the schedule meshes well with their high school schedule. There were more critical comments for the longer times than the shorter week—one respondent mentioned that with longer classes, there are fewer time slots for class scheduling, forcing them into a specific schedule. Another now struggles to get to work right after their later classes. However, most still seem to enjoy the Fridays off, and consider it a net gain

for their schedule.

A few professors also weighed in. A couple saw no change; one said it was because they had already been teaching the four-day week for many years. Others praised the new schedule. They enjoy "feeling less of a sense of slightly out-of-sync déjà vu" now that their classes are both 75-minute sessions. They appreciate the extra time to get to know and work with students and being able to increase office hours now that their Fridays are clear.

The new class schedule seems to be working well. Students have better classes and a whole extra day off. Teachers have greater flexibility to teach and better availability to help students. Perhaps a collective collegiate thanks is in order to those that organized and pushed for this change. You've made our studying, and our lives, that much better. ♥

## FEEDBACK CAFE

How has the new schedule affected your week?

✓	"The longer class is more fulfilling."
✗	"I kind of like it but I'm still used to going to school five days a week..."
✓	"It allows me to get more hours at work and still have time to complete my college work."
✗	"It takes more time [out] of my day because I have to go to work immediately after school."
✓	"It has not changed my schedule. I prefer having a longer class period and more time with the professor per class."
✓	"Longer class periods help me plan uniformly. I get to know students better, quicker... Good move."

What do you think? Take our next e-mail survey!

## Just Doo It breast cancer awareness rally supports local women

*Continued from page 1*

"We would love to paint the campus pink on that day by everyone wearing pink," says Gretchen Huff, one of the rally's main organizers for the last four years, "Students, staff and faculty can create a fun 'doo rag' to wear to show your support."

Another of the event's organizers, Kay Dishner, recalled how the doo rag theme came about: five years ago, Dishner was saddened to learn of her friend, GC librarian Lisa Hebert's battle with cancer. "She was still coming to work every day and making sure our students were taken care of in the library," Dishner explains, "She had lost her hair to the chemotherapy and was wearing a doo rag as many do who undergo

cancer treatment." Dishner hoped to organize a day where everyone would don a doo rag to show their support.

The first rally raised \$600 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and subsequent rallies at GC have earned around \$15,000 for Women Rock. Women Rock is a non-profit organization based in Sherman, Texas that provides support and assistance to those affected by breast cancer. "One in five women will develop breast cancer during their lifetime," Huff says, "Almost everyone has been touched by [the disease]." She has had her own battle with breast cancer as well.

Though the rally was at first dedicated to supporting Hebert in her struggle, it

has become an asset to our entire community through Women Rock. Still one of the event's main coordinators, Hebert is extremely grateful for the outstanding participation of GC students and employees. "We as a college are so much more than buildings, and classrooms, students, faculty and staff," she says, "We are people who care about our community. We care about making a difference with our lives."

The day of the rally is never complete without food, music, contests and the announcement of top fundraising teams. Several fundraising teams are selling t-shirts, baked goods and other items to raise awareness. Don't forget to wear pink and show your support by donating to this cause. ♥

## Free State Fair tickets for volunteers

*Continued from page 1*

Logan Beauchamp, GC Rotaract President, spoke in favor of volunteering, and the club voted to participate. The GC club has committed to covering eight positions from the hours of 12:30 - 4 p.m. on Friday October 16. Students wanting to join with the Rotaract volunteers to fill those eight positions should email [sorensenj@grayson.edu](mailto:sorensenj@grayson.edu) or phone/text Professor Sorensen at mobile number 469-626-7951.

Rotaract is open to all GC students full and part-time. GC's Rotaract Club is sponsored by the Grayson County Rotary. Both clubs focus on building literacy

skills and raising money for scholarships. GC's Rotaract gives students an advantage with its mentoring program, connecting students to professionals in the local Rotary Clubs in Denison, Sherman and Anna. Leadership through service and professionalism have helped people locally and internationally through their participation in Rotary programs. October 23 will mark the organization's celebration of World Polio Day in a New York City event that will be live streamed around the globe and honored by Rotaractors at Grayson College during its Hall-o-Fest event. ♥

## Avoiding the "freshman 15"

Natalie Cochran  
*Student*

When going away to college, a lot of changes occur in your life... and your body. Studies show that one in four college students gains between ten to fifteen pounds in their first semester of college alone. This sudden, extreme weight gain is popularly referred to as the "Freshman 15." This phenomenon alerts college students to the almost inevitable weight gain, so many are constantly looking for ways to avoid it.

Truitt Cochran, a former college student, reflected on his time spent away from home during his freshman year of college. "I ate a lot more snack food, chips and candy especially, because it was readily available, and I could buy it with my meal plan at the store in my dorm," said Cochran. "I also ate Chick-Fil-A for lunch almost 5 days a week because I could pick it up in the Student Union building between classes."

It is this unfortunate convenience that is contributing largely to the weight gain of many college freshmen. The ease of simply swinging by the nearest fast food joint to pick up some not-so-healthy food makes doing just that so desirable for college students who are so crunched for time. However, not only

are these types of foods terrible for weight maintenance, they also leave students feeling low on energy and sluggish.

Cochran, a victim of the infamous "freshman 15," stated he also "didn't get much exercise at all." Cochran was an active athlete, playing many sports in high school; however, the transition from high school to college slowed down his physical activity greatly. By the second semester, when Cochran was beginning to see the effects the chips, candy, and assorted fast foods were having on his body, he began frequenting the recreational center on his college campus. But he stated it was not as often as he should have, and as a result, he gained weight.

College professor Samantha Smith sees the effects of the lack of exercise and abundance of fast food daily with the students she teaches. She claimed, "The eating habits of college students definitely affect their performance in the classroom."

Not only are the poor eating choices of college students causing dramatic weight gain in a short amount of time, they are also developing poor eating habits that may stick with them.

Nutritionist John Green said eating the way college

students tend to eat "develops bad habits." Likewise, the poor eating choices students make now can likely lead to health problems in the future. Green offered some grocery suggestions for college students on a budget who are trying to avoid gaining the "freshman 15." He said it's the "little things" like purchasing raw foods instead of processed junk packed with preservatives, "the greener the better," and baking instead of frying. He states that lean meats such as chicken and ground turkey are great options for protein.

Green suggested, "Cost wise, split the grocery bill with your roommate, and take turns cooking." College students need to get in the kitchen and break the nasty habits many of them have of relying on fast food for every meal. Green said if students are short on time, they can prepare their meals once a week on Sunday, and then freeze them and warm them up during the week for a quick, yet nutritious meal.

However, some college students do not have access to a kitchen in their dorm. For these students, Green advises eating at the dining hall, but exercising self-control over the amounts of food you eat. There are going to be healthy options in most dining halls, you just

**Peer Tutoring is located in the Testing Center (SC 115)**  
Tutors are trained and CRLA certified

Tutoring is scheduled by appointment. Sessions are one hour per week.

Tutoring Center hours:  
M-Tr: 8 AM - 8 PM  
F: 8 AM - 4 PM

To request a tutor come by or contact Jeffri Johnson Hodge at [hodgej@grayson.edu](mailto:hodgej@grayson.edu).



Save the date...  
**'Just Doo It'**  
**October 28**  
A campus-wide breast cancer rally and fundraiser for Women Rock

For more information, contact Gretchen Huff x2544 ([huffg@grayson.edu](mailto:huffg@grayson.edu)) or Lisa Hebert x8651 ([hebertl@grayson.edu](mailto:hebertl@grayson.edu))



have to be looking for them. Likewise, students may eat quick healthier snacks such as nuts, fruits, and vegetables, which are available almost anywhere.

Green said college students need to realize their metabolisms are slowing down, and they will need to start practicing good eating habits while they are young.

Green also suggests getting in to the gym. "Most colleges have a good accessible gym, and you should take advantage of that," he said. He stated students should find a type of exercise that they actually enjoy so they can stick with it. Take out an hour of the day at least 3 times a week to ex-

ercise, and you won't regret it. He also suggests boosting your activity level by walking or riding a bike from class to class and taking the stairs instead of the elevator when one has the option.

It is easy for a college student to grab grub at local McDonald's or to pig out on a bag of chips. However, the best thing they can do for themselves is to take care of their bodies while they are young and develop good eating habits they can carry with them for the rest of their life. The "freshman 15" is a phenomenon affecting numbers of college students everywhere, but students can fight this epidemic of weight gain. ♥

# Photo of the Month



Submitted by Cody Lenderman

## Gunter robotics students “one big family”

John Earwood  
*Dual-Credit Student*

It is 10:30 p.m. at Gunter High School, and all of the halls are dark and silent. Students and athletes have long since left the school and are preparing for the day ahead. However, light is flowing under the seal of the school's computer lab, and inside there is a completely different scene. Students are hard at work, some furiously typing documents on computers; others are painting panels of wood with complex designs. Tucked away in one corner lies a group of students rebuilding a mechanical arm showing no sign of stopping soon. Some of these students will stay early into the morning, testing, repairing, and adjusting minute details of the club's robot for the competition the next day.

**Those Involved**  
“A similar scene happens each year almost without fail,” recalls robotics sponsor Cynthia Foster. “Other organizations do things in a short time if its something small. We have to do big things quickly and right in six weeks.”

Students will generally

spend around fourteen hours each week preparing for the CoCo (Colin County) Robotics competition at the start of November. “It is definitely a more organized chaos towards the end,” recalls Matt McAllister, senior at GHS. “Tensions between us are high, and only the people working on their exact task can tell what they are doing.”

Foster claims that robotics uses “eggheads, geeks and those who already have something planned in their future like being an engineer. This really goes with it.” Many of the students in robotics plan to go into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields later on in life, and this program stands out well for prospective schools. The robotics program is not, however, overseen by the UIL (University Interscholastic League) but rather a conglomerate of volunteer retired engineers called BEST (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology.) This group reaches out to companies like Texas Instruments, VEX Robotics and many others to fund and expand the organization. The lack of UIL authority allows both

public, private, and home schools to enter their robot in the competition.

**How It Works**  
The team itself is split into two divisions, robot and marketing. The robot division focuses on the design, construction, programming



Students Taylor Crelia, Hannah Husted and Taylor Smith work on the Gunter High School Robotics website.

and use of the robot in the competition at the end of the season. The marketing division focuses more towards the presentation of the team, handling the construction of the team's booth, presentation, team spirit, website and public relations. “The main goal of marketing is to make the group appear as a real company. So we make banners, design posters, build the website and so on,” summarizes McAllister.

The robotics season is a

short one, starting in early September and ending in November, lasting around six weeks. At the end of the season, the team goes to “Game Day,” a competition that changes each year, which the robot is specially designed for. Students drive

through an obstacle course, collecting and placing PVC pipe, Styrofoam balls, and other objects. The layout of the field is chosen by the theme of the game. There have been games where the field was four vertical columns representing a space elevator that the robot had to climb and complete certain tasks. Others have required the robot to be a sorting system for a factory, a bug exterminator, or a fuel delivery system for jet engines.

### One Big Family

The Robotics student base is tight-knit and hard working since it's humble beginnings in the first BEST organization in 1993. Foster became the sponsor since she, “loves the kids in the program” and she is one of the few willing teachers to put in the time. James Riddle, programmer for the team joined “primarily because of peer pressure but stayed for the engineering.” Alumni who stayed in the program tend to distinguish themselves in the STEM world, owing their skills to time spent in the club. Current students such as Riddle stay in the program for its positive effects on college applications.

The robotics program at Gunter has introduced its students to the technical and social skills needed for pursuing not only STEM careers, but valuable traits for life itself. Students leave the club with with an enhanced understanding of technology and group organization and with a strong work ethic and a willingness to get projects done. ♥

### September in photos



1 & 2: SGA hosted a litter pick up to help clean up the pond, collecting twelve bags of trash. 3 & 4: The second annual Club Appreciation Day exposed new students to GC clubs. 5: The Student Veterans Association hosted a Suicide Awareness event and push-up competition. 6 & 7: Students visited the T.V. Munson house during the Local History Awareness Week hosted by SGA.




**ROTARACT**  
cordially invites you our next meetings

Meeting are held in the  
**Viking Room**  
(2nd story of the student life building)

**Oct. 7**  
Wednesday  
3:00pm - 3:45pm

**Oct. 21**  
Wednesday  
3:00pm - 3:45pm

**SCIENCE CLUB**  
FALL ACTIVITIES: Science fair, garden project, museum trip, volunteering with pond project



**Sisters of Destiny**  
Sisters of Destiny is a women's support group through LIFE:

Leadership  
Inspiration  
Faith  
Encouragement



Contact:  
Supervisor: Susie Viars (viars@grayson.edu)  
President: Debra Martinez martinezd@grayson.edu