Honors Students Unveil Research Projects in Honors Symposium

By Hannah Lopez, Student

The Grayson Honors College held a come-and-go Honors Symposium on November 2nd in the Student Life Center. Over 45 honors students presented their honors research topics for the semester, letting students, faculty, and staff see a snippet of what the honors program consists of. It was a great opportunity that allowed those interested students to be recognized for all of their hard work. This is the first time the Honors College has hosted such an event.

Reflecting on the Symposium, many students and faculty believed it was a great success. Honors student Francisco Figueroa said, “I thought the Honors Symposium was a very fun and effective way to broaden knowledge. My favorite part about presenting was seeing people’s expressions firsthand when learning about the presented topics. I thought the format was perfect for the research portion as it allowed me to effectively portray all of the necessary details.” Another Honors Student, Eric Walsh, chimed in on the Symposium, saying, “My favorite part was meeting all the professors and other students who were interested in the work I presented about being able to use PowerPoint. I thought the format was perfect.” Edilin Orondo, an International student mentioned, “The event was really good because there was a variety of interesting topics, and in different languages. My favorite part was the way the students displayed their presentations, well-organized, easy to follow, and the students knew their topics.”

The Fears for DACA

By Janet Ortiz, Student

On September 05, 2017, President Trump ordered an end to the Obama-era program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) that shields more than 800,000 young undocumented immigrants “Dreamers” from deportation.

The five-year-old policy allows them to live without the fear of being removed from the country and gives them the right to legally work and seek further education. Ricardo Hu La Cruz, a “Dreamer” at Grayson College, said, “DACA was a big help to expand my education after high school.” De La Cruz stated that he wants to continue attending college even after high school. De La Cruz stated that he wants to continue attending college even after high school. “DACA has helped me succeed at my job at Carrus Hospital in Sherman, Texas. DACA has helped me succeed at my job at Carrus Hospital in Sherman, Texas. I don’t know what would have happened if I didn’t have it.”

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A Memoir from the Heart of the Altai Mountains

By Aleksandra Vishniakov, Student

There are many mystical and amazing places in the world. Different civilizations tried to find mythical continents and islands. Some of them were looking for the kingdom of El Dorado; another one was looking for Atlantis. In Asia, people tried to find a kingdom of Shambhala. It is a mythical kingdom hidden somewhere in Inner Asia. Most likely if it were ever a real place, it would be found in the Altai mountains. The Altai region is a place where I came from and where I was born. The Altai mountains is a mountain chain in Asia that is part of Russia. The name “Altai” means “Golden” from the ancient Mongolian language. The Altai mountains are one of the big mountain chains in the world.

We used to live very close to the mountains, and every summer we enjoyed trips in the mountains. From early childhood, we heard fairy tales about the mythical kingdom of Shambhala. Also, we listened to stories about a guy named Nicholas Roerich, who tried to find the kingdom in the Altai mountains region. In Altai folklore, Mount Be-lukha is believed to be the gateway to Shambhala.

Steve Black: Reflections on a Great Adventure

By Marka Trevino, English Professor

It was 1996, and veteran art professor Steve Black saw a Grayson College ad, “What’s the heck?” and applied. His first visit to the college for the job interview set the tone for the “great adventure” he was beginning. Observing an awards presentation for professor of the year, Black knew Grayson had “gotten something right” if so many faculty members had clearly found a home in which they could thrive. Black recalls being interviewed by Dean John Parton, who told him later that Black was the only person interviewed who had shown images of student work and not just his own. This interview demonstrated the impact of his teaching on students.
Grayson College Culinary Arts Represents Texas In Regional Cooking Competition

By Joanna Bryant, Lead Chef Instructor, Culinary Arts Department

Grayson College’s Culinary Arts Program is proud to represent the State of Texas at the national level by competing in the regional competition for the second year in a row. The student competes against each other in Madison, Wisconsin February 16-19. The competition is open to the best team from each state in the central region of the U.S. and it’s only a regional competition for two days. On Day One, the teams compete in a relay race where they have the opportunity to complete 20 tasks in 30 minutes. The students do not know what the tasks are until the day prior, so they must be prepared to do all of the skills. The skills consist of broiler skills, stove top, grill, pastry, and fish.
According to the Trump Administration plan, those who are currently en-rolled in DACA will continue under the program until their two-year permits expire. They will be able to renew their permit by October 5th if their permit expires by March 5th, 2018.

The reason President Trump and Attorney Jeff Sessions gave to terminate the program was that those who are in the United States illegally are lawbreakers who are hurting Americans by taking their jobs and pushing down wages. As soon as this rationale was made public, many protests broke out in front of the White House and in many cities all over the country.

Eferanza Sanchez, a 22-year-old "Dreamer" and mother to a 1-year-old daughter, said, "I attended the protest in Austin, Texas on July 27, 2017 to have a voice and fight for our rights as Dreamers." Sanchez said the fear of parents is being deported along with their children to a country they have no memory of. "The opportunity is being taken from us to progress in this country only because we don't have a paper that labels us as citizens," she said.

**The opportunity is being taken from us to progress in this country only because we don't have a paper that labels us as citizens.**

Even though many colleges have reassured undocumented students will be allowed to continue attending classes, beneficiaries of DACA are worried about how they will pay for college if they are no longer allowed to have a job. Ricardo De La Cruz said, "I will only have so long until my work permit will expire, which will cause me to lose my ability to work. Furthermore, I will no longer be able to supply my own financial aid." Mayra Duarte, a 22-year-old student at Texas A&M University, said if DACA is removed she will be affected greatly. Since she graduates from college in the spring of 2018, she planned to look for jobs right afterwards. However, "I will be unable to do so because without my permit, I am unable to work here legally, meaning I'll be unable to put my degree to use," she explained.

Many schools, including Grayson College, are offering support to their stu-dents with DACA. Mayra Raya, who works at the Grayson College financial aid office, said, "As long as students are here at Grayson, with or without their permit, we will find ways to offer them financial aid."

The film tells the story of a group of young men and their life-changing tour of duty in Afghanistan. It gives the audience an intimate view into the chaos and horrors of combat, as well as the bravery and courage of the Citizen Soldiers display under the most hellish of conditions. The film further highlights the extraordinary and unprecedented role that the National Guard has played in post-9/11 wars since Sep-tember 2001. These "Citizen Soldiers" are patriotic men and women, one day working 9-5 at jobs, the next day deploying to the front lines of war. One of these soldiers is Colt Floyd, currently a Grayson College student and a resident of Bonham, Texas. Another is Raymond Viel, a resident of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Both men were on campus for the screening and were given the opportunity to meet with them and ask questions. Using multiple cameras, the soldiers captured the daily life of their unit, a unit that encountered some of the most violent fighting in Afghanistan. The film is an extraordinary and intimate look into combat, brotherhood, and patriotism.

"They wonder why opportunities should be taken away from them because of the only thing they don't have in common with American citizens: legal status."

**"They wonder why opportunities should be taken away from them because of the only thing they don't have in common with American citizens: legal status."**
Ready for your finals? Tutoring Centers Improve Student Success Rates!

By Starla Baugh-Kelly, GC Peer Tutor and Success Mentor

Grayson provides a FREE service that is unmatched. When most students hear about this service, the comment is followed by, “Wish I knew about it last semester. I could have really used it.”

Grayson College offers FREE tutoring to all current students to help review core concepts, tackle tough homework assignments, or prepare current students to help review core concepts, tutoring to all in the classroom, taking advantage of the tutoring system to help you get started at Grayson.Upswing.io.

If you need additional help setting up an account or setting up a time for tutoring, come to the Tutoring Center and ask for Jeffri John Hodge, Tutoring Coordinator, 903-463-8751 or jhodge@grayson.edu.

Explore the “Job Readiness Program,” and see how it can benefit you in your career and job search efforts.

On October 30th and 31st, the Texoma Regional Blood Center visited the Grayson campus for a Blood Drive in conjunction with the Hallo-Fest. A total of 124 people attempted to donate blood and 78 units were successfully collected. That is potentially 234 lives saved!

The students in three of Dr. Brandy Fair’s Speech courses hosted the event as their group project for the class. The students were responsible for producing flyers, shirt designs, and social media images. Students from TAMUCBC assisted with their marketing efforts in future blood drives. In class, groups presented their advertising as a “sales pitch” as to why their materials are the best. Representatives from Texoma Regional Blood Center also came to the classes to weight in on groups’ work. In addition, part of the assignment required each group to have a minimum of five people donate for their group, and the group who had the most donors received extra credit on their project.

Thank you to everyone who came out to donate and support the students!

Renaissance education

Over his years at Grayson, Black has been “really blessed” by his fellow professors, who have all become friends. Despite choosing his depart- ment many years, his “heart and soul” are in the classroom, teaching all art forms except for ceramics. He’s seen many changes in the department leadership, but always with a positive outlook. Grayson College provides an incredible basic foundation in art and hopes the program will continue to be a strength that both young and older students can enjoy through classical training and a firm basis in education inspired by the Renais- sance. The tenets of humanism are ever important in education, Black claims, for a well-rounded person needs the arts, government, history, and language. He worries, though, that due to the legislature’s regulations, stu- dents are no longer able to take drawing and painting as electives. “We’ve lost an incredible basic foundation in art and hope the program will continue to be strong that both young and older students can enjoy through classical training and a firm basis in education,” Black said. The program was inspired by the Renais- sance, and students are encouraged to see the beauty in the world. When his students are working on the paper mache sculpture (the large perforated paper art works displayed in the Arts and Humanities Building during October), they also study the gates and ironworks at Mexican restaurants and vacation resorts. He wants his stu- dents to be more aware of what’s around them, to see the world differently.

Another proud achievement is starting the thirteen-year-old SMAACC, Temple Art, which the TXRC has high school students who are art students who meet Sunday mornings (“there’s no secret handshakes”) at Panera Bread to network and discuss art. “We have our own little corner—the ‘local school’ group. Black explains. “New folks will come by and ask us, ‘Have you heard of the group? Are you the group?’ to which Black always replies, “There’s no such thing as an art group!”

Legacy

Black’s legacy extends not just to his students but to another generation of teachers. Through Facebook, he keeps up with students from many years ago, Grayson professors Brandy Black and Jesse Reinhard had his students, as were Temple Junior College professor Chance Dunlap and Claremont College professor John Prucha, with whom he’s worked for the last two years. “They’ve learned from me but also pursued their own routes,” Black says of his colleagues.

As he transitions into retirement, Black will continue to create art and has already been asked, now that he’ll have more free time, to sit on “this group’s board” and “join this or that” council. “So it’s not ‘Goodbye to Mr. Black,’ but ‘hey, jump on’.” Black’s legacy extends not just to his students but to another generation of teachers.

Prof. Steve Black and his Puppets

Another proud achievement is starting the thirteen-year-old SMAACC, Temple Art, which the Texas Workforce Corporation, Texas Workforce Development Alliance, the Texas Veterans Commission, and Grayson College all worked together to ensure a successful and well-attended event. Representatives from Workforce Solutions and Grayson College all worked together to ensure a successful and well-attended event.

Steve Black: Reflections on a Great Adventure

The state-wide and state-sponsored Homeless Veterans Job Fair that Grayson College participated in at the Sherman Municipal Ballroom

Thank you to everyone who came out to donate and support the students!
By Miguel Labato, Student

To become a member of the Grayson Honors College is an important step in one’s academic journey. Due to the success of this event, an Honors Scholarship, which awards up to $1,000 “honors” on a student’s transcript. In addition, some students may apply for the Presidential Honors Scholarship, which provides an additional $1,000 to students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement.

Grayson College President, Dr. Jeremy McKeiver, states, “The majority of students who have applied for the Honors Scholarship are community college transfers tend to be more prepared for success at a university than college students who have a family, work full-time, and try to go back to school, so it is difficult for them to juggle their studies.” As has been shown, when students are busy with their day-to-day activities, many of them are not always successful in focusing on their studies or extra-curricular activities.

Gore comments. The negative consequences of not participating in making sure students are able to do their best work in college and make a difference that will help to get them closer to their future career goals.

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Grayson College President, Dr. Jeremy McKeiver stated that, “The Honors Symposium is a great place for our students to showcase their research and creativity, and for us to hear about the cutting-edge work being done at Grayson College.” The event features presentations by students and faculty at Grayson College. It is an important opportunity for students to present their work in mathematics, engineering, psychology, music and even original research on Native American culture. The Honors Symposium will be held in each long se-
What is usually the first thing to be sacrificed by a high school athlete? Sleep. Not many people know the amount of time and effort put forth by student athletes to stay on top of their grades as well as perform to the best of their abilities while the sport of their choice is in season. But what most fail to see is just how much these athletes sacrifice in order to participate in these sports.

At a small-town high school in the town of Gunter, they are all about football. With last year’s 2016 team winning a State Championship title after a winning season of 16-0 and the 2017 team still currently undefeated, there is a lot of pressure put on this group, if you want to say the least. According to Gage Davis, a National Honors Society member and senior starting offensive lineman, “as long as you are also on the state championship team.” Between school and football, there isn’t much time for anything else during the season. The team does have long practices that are not uncommon for me to come home after, and to top it all off they have to spend past midnight doing homework, trying to stay ahead of my grades. On top of all those practices that regularly run until 7 P.M., the football team is also in their 6.6 A.F. for weight lifting and film study, so it is definitely an unknown privilege to these boys. We each need 7-8 hours of sleep at night to function at an optimum level during the day, but adolescents require even more sleep. According to the National Sleep Foundation, they found that only 15% of students said that they are getting their recommended amount, while 36% get less than 7 hours of sleep per night. This lower amount of sleep, an average of 9 hours 6% - 10 hours during the day,” Dr. Roane explains to keep a healthy sleep routine.

“Ultimately, this is about basic decency. This is about whether we believe in America, or whether we treat them the way we want our own kids to be treated,” Barack Obama on the repeal of DACA.