Connecting cultures: my experience learning American Sign Language

By Stephen Linn, Staff Writer

American Sign Language (ASL) is a beautiful form of communication. It is a visual language which cannot be truly written. Instead, any attempts at writing out ASL in linear format result in what is known as a “gloss” and is not nearly as efficient as the language itself. It is spoken among the deaf population of the United States and is the official sign language of our country. Yet ASL is more than just a language: since it is so different from spoken English, it completely represents Deaf culture. The values, beliefs, history, and struggles of the Deaf are represented by their language. ASL is the language of a people who were denied accessability to public events, quality education, and even language itself—and many are still denied these things. Somehow, someone got the idea that just because he could not understand these people (or maybe because they could not understand him) they must be so incapable of doing anything that the idea of “deaf” equating to “different” and “undeveloped” sticks. In fact, even still today parents of deaf children are required to give their child cochlear implants and have them learn English instead of ASL (rather than alongside it). This comes at a great disservice to those children. What if, twenty years down the road, that child’s deafness became permanent and “unfixable” through the hearing people to know about Deaf people? (Continued on page 4)
I remember sitting in a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) workers’ office. It was a very big room with large windows looking out to the upstairs section. It looked like normal, except for the windowed wall that was right behind us. The worker told me that her boss was up there and that I could ask her a few questions for a little bit. I didn’t think anything of it. The room was quite large and I could smell like hand sanitizer. She gave me toys to play with to keep my mind off of my home life. It seemed so simple. I never really thought much about it. I was noticing that my sister couldn’t make friends out of fear of her own home life. She would separate my clothes and photos into it. She stuffed animals, favorite clothes and photos into it. All of my most precious belongings were being carelessly thrown into a trash bag. It was dehumanizing.

When the evaluation was complete, the staff sent me out into the CPS room. They told me that I had both come to the conclusion that I needed to move out of my home. They tried to explain it to me the best they could. I knew exactly what they were saying. I just didn’t want to go with my sister. The worker told me that my sister couldn’t come with me and I phoned the CPS room. It was on the fifth floor of the building. I was talking to her and I felt like I was on autopilot for 6 years. I was ready to leave home. I had grown up without a mother. My parents would call me a caseworker to say I wasn’t my own. I was bounced from foster home to foster home. Every time I got used to being somewhere or even like the family I was with, I had to move somewhere else.

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After moving from home to home for a couple of times, I eventually stopped making friends out of fear...
Grayson welcomes back one of its own

By Marlene Phillips, Director of Advising and Outreach-CWL for students with financial aid eligibility

- Viking Room (located upstairs in the Life Center by the ping pong tables) any Wednesday starting at 12:30pm. We are always sure to get everyone

I am on Grayson’s main campus every Wednesday and Friday for Phi Theta Kappa chapter and officer meetings, so my offer still stands – if

one of my favorite parts about being a Viking.

alone I got two free shirts and a free bag! University is truly exciting, but I know no matter how nervous I am, I still have my Grayson family. That was

my wall, and we always try to read the bulletin boards and stands across campus to see if we can get some free merch or free food. Our first week

planning to go see the horror movie

Becoming active on campus is a treat as well because Commerce literally has something going on every day. My roommate and I are already

scholarship winners. (Quick note if you plan to transfer to Texas A&M University-Commerce: The scholarship I won opens every summer, so be on

scholarship certificates. I was given an extra surprise when I found out one of my best friends I don’t get to see that often was also one of the

amazing due to a picnic we had the Sunday before classes started. We were given a bunch of free food, signed our contracts, and received our

I managed to get my first Commerce scholarship over the summer from the Student Diversity and Inclusion Office; which has already been

9/23

9/22

9/21

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9/18

9/4

9/2

- Plan B Art Exhibit opens in the 2nd Floor Gallery
- Student Veteran Association (SVA) Meeting 12-1pm
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- 2nd Financial Aid Disbursement Date (if applicable)
- The Viking Deadline
- Plan B Art Exhibit closes
- A Game, Grayson Theatre, 2:00pm & 7:30pm
- A Game, Grayson Theatre, 7:30pm
- A Game, Grayson Theatre, 7:30pm
- Bookstore opens for Fall 2nd 8 Weeks
- 2nd Financial Aid Disbursement Date (if applicable)
- VA Mental Health Summit 9:30am-3pm
- Important GC Dates
- 10/14 - Canstruction Signups Close
- 10/14 - TEDxAustinCollege
- 10/14 - Plan B Art Exhibit closes
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\[ \text{Follow Grayson Financial Aid on Social Media and keep in touch with our office for more information to come.} \]

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Hello to my fellow Vikings! Many things have changed since I was your newspaper editor last year, like

the fact that I am writing this article from my apartment in Commerce. Texas A&M University-Commerce started their classes on August 26, a week after Grayson. I was told over and over again that Commerce is just like Grayson; therefore, I have nothing to worry about. Unfortunately, I am worrying constantly. For my five

classes I require ten textbooks, one of my online classes did not post until Wednesday, August 28, and I

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classes I require ten textbooks, one of my online classes did not post until Wednesday, August 28, and I
New semester, new officers, new events for Grayson Nursing Student Association

By Sophia Doorkan, GNSA Secretary

As a new semester begins, new officers were inducted in the Grayson Nursing Student Association (GNSA). Carly Sisemore was inducted as President, Shay Evans as Vice-President, Sophia Doorkan as Secretary and Jeremy Parker as Treasurer. The officers are responsible for performing a variety of tasks and event planning benefiting local communities and the nursing students throughout the semester, while maintaining required exam grades and upholding high characteristics of professionalism and accountability as they represent Grayson College’s respected nursing program.

Leadership, advocacy and remarkable patient care are some of the elements these officers take pride in. Evans states, “My hope is that my actions inspire my peers to learn more, do more, and become more than they ever thought was imaginable.”

Members have been enthusiastically quick in action with planning a community service project set to begin mid to September where they will be collecting essential hygiene products and/or a monetary gift to support the officers are planning. If you are interested in donating hygiene products and/or a monetary gift to support the event the officers are planning. For more information please e-mail Sophia Doorkan at sophiad03@yahoo.com. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Students Veterans Association

First and Third Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Veterans Hub

Vocational Nursing Student Association

First and Third Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Veterans Hub

Student Veterans Association (SVA) is open to all veterans and those who are a student or faculty member of the college. If you are a student or faculty member you would join the organization. If you would like to find out more information, please call or text the organization or have questions with them.

The Viking

Sarah Davidson: 214-205-4437

The Viking is published by Writer’s Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college.

This newspaper is provided for a forum for public opinion. Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff at GC.

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Submissions and corrections may be sent to the editor, Storm Anderson, by email at stranderson@vikings.grayson.edu.

Love to sing?

“Last Call” to come join the North Texas Concert Chorale, in partnership with the Grayson College Music Department.

All voices are welcome! (esp. Tenor)

Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.  Grayson College Arts and Communication Center

For the Fall 2019 season, the choir will be working on “Handel’s Messiah”

Come join us Thursday evening, or visit www.mtcsings.org for more information.

Work hard… Make music… Have a blast!

Handel’s Messiah

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