May 2021, will be a memorable day for this mother-and-son duo, as they spread their wings and search for new life adventures. Talina and Nicholas Carver will graduate from Grayson College, Normal, Texas, with their Associate degree in Nursing. Talina, with her Bachelor’s degree in Nursing. Born and raised in Denison, both mother and son graduated from Denison High School, and Talina and Nicholas Carver will graduate from Grayson College, Texas. This May, Talina and Nicholas Carver will have their first child in Nursing at Grayson in 1997. The Carvers come from a long line of Grayson College graduates.

On Thursday, April 29th, the 17th Annual Law Enforcement Forensic Conference will be held in the C.L. Beck Auditorium. This conference is sponsored by the Texoma Regional Police Academy (TRPA), the Grayson College Criminal Justice Department, and the Career and Technology Education department at Denison High School. This free event has 100 available tickets for law enforcement. Credit for TCOLE and CEU is available for attendees.

The conference will begin at 8am with a welcome from Joseph D. Brown, Former US Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas and Former Grayson County District Attorney. TRPA Director Bill Dixon will also speak of upcoming training and new ideas at updates for the academy.

At 9am, retired Rowlett police Lt. Dave Nahans will give the presentation Bloodstain Pattern Analysis. At 10:30am, University of Texas at Dallas Doctoral student Vikram Dhamu will present, Crime Scene: A Rapid, On-Road, Soliva Platform for Detecting Bloodstains. Attendees will have lunch on their own and return at 1pm for Tyler Police Detective Jeff Roberts presentation Electronic Intrusion – Pain at the Pump. In this presentation, Roberts covers gas pump skimming investigations and applicable Penal Code statutes to assist in production. At 3pm, Amanda Gibson, M.S. and Dixon Christopher, M.S. of the Plano PD Firearms Examination Unit will present Will it NIBIN? Let’s talk about it!

To register, email trpa@grayson.edu. You must include the officer’s name, department, and a contact phone number.

A Grayson College paramedic student administers a vaccination at the Fannin County Multipurpose Complex. (Photo provided by author)

Above: A Grayson College paramedic student administers a vaccination at the Fannin County Multipurpose Complex. (Photo provided by author)

Above: Talina Carver (left) and Nicholas Carver (right). (Photo provided by author)

The Texas Regional Convention brings hundreds of Phi Theta Kappa members and their friends together. The annual three-day event celebrates the hard work, leadership, and academic excellence these students put forth during the academic year. This March, Grayson College’s Omicron Psi chapter virtually gathered together for the event. In total, our Grayson chapter won 23 awards throughout the weekend.

Highlights include eight Grayson students receiving awards for their leadership and service to the chapter. Chapter President Storm Anderson and Secretary Callie Keener were inducted into the Texas Hall of Honor for Chapter Officers during the weekend, which were submitted by their fellow officers. The Omicron Psi officer team, Andrew Groseclose, Courtney Langfels, Amanda Favors, and Crystal Welcozen, were presented with the Omicron Psi Distinguished Officer Award. Additionally, Keenie, Langfels, Favors, Wrenn, Roy Grimes, Kristinna Lee, and Timothy Ferguson, were inducted into the chapter’s Hall of Honor inductees are nominated by their advisor for service to their chapter.

Chapter advisors govern our own award for Leadership. Student Affairs Dean Molly Harris were inducted into the chapter’s Distinguished Officer Award. Student Affairs Dean Molly Harris were honored with the Continued Excellence Award. During the ceremony, Dr. Harris was also awarded the Pinnacle Award, the highest honor given to an advisor at the state level. They were nominated by the chapter officer team for their ongoing support to the student body. Assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs Dean Pool was named Friend of Texas. Friend of Texas is awarded to a nonmember who significantly contributes to the success of a chapter.

The two largest projects a chapter completes every year are Honors in Action(HIA) and College Project. The combined score total of HIA and College Project are used to calculate the chapter’s ranking. For College Project, Omicron Psi hosted a virtual resource fair last fall with college admissions reps from several colleges.

Did you know that you are on-campus with student-heroes? As of March 17, Paramedic students in the EMS program at Grayson have assisted with the administration of approximately 2000 Covid-19 vaccinations at the Fannin County Multipurpose Complex in coordination with Bonham Fire Department and Texoma Medical Center Bonham. “It’s a valuable clinical experience for the students. How often do we get the opportunity to serve in a pandemic?”, Curtis Groseclose commented.

The Program Director, Curtis Groseclose, accompanies the students to the site every Wednesday and provides supervision of the vaccine administration. “The students get to serve the community and represent Grayson College, it’s a really good thing.”

(Continued on pg 3)
He came into the woods with his black and brown dog running ahead of him. The two were a familiar sight around town, but it was rare to see them enter the woods. We always closed the borders of our woods to the public, but some days we let them in. I walked into our woods as well. Jason knew and hadn't shared this knowledge with us.

But one day, in late April of 1968, we all three were there in the woods when they entered. Jason and I were sitting in the hollow of the famous Rainbow Tree (a silver oak that arched all the way to the ground when they entered. Jason and I were sitting in it comfortably, and directly below the arch and hollow were caused by a clearing of nothing but high weeds. Neither of us could see the bend of the tree was Sherry, Jason's sister, who was taking the leaves with her hands into a pile. We heard the sound of a dog barking and a man jumping down.

Jason saw them enter first and hissed out "Quiet!" before pushing my head down with his hands while he ducked his own head. I shook my head free of Jason's hands and complained loudly.

"Stop it, Jason! You are not the boss of me!"

When Sherry asked what was wrong, he put his finger to his mouth and gave out a loud "Sssssss!"

"Quiet! Why?" Sherry asked.

Jason shook his head with disgust. As he always did. He pulled my head down and I quickly returned, the man bent down and swatted away his hands defiantly. He wore a thin belt wrapped tight around his bony, and his "shirt sleeves" appeared wrinkled.

"How do you know they're like that, Jason?"

"Dad told me," Sherry chimed in. "They don't look scary to me."

"Don't worry what Dad said. Sherry. He told us to never go near him. And Heinz...I seen him hunt down a bunny. You'd think a dog could tell if they were scared, but I can't tell what I saw."

"You seen them in here before?" I asked. He nodded but didn't elaborate. We continued to sit in our woods, watching the clearing we called Cedar Forest. The trees were as thick as thieves for a good half a block square, and there were times when all we could make of them was the spot of brown cloth from the man's shirt, or the black and brown coat of the dog, until finally, they came out of the trees and into another clearing of nothing but high weeds. Neither appeared sinister to me, and of the two of them, the dog was the healthiest. His master had a rod thin, with deep shadows under his neck. Then off they went again, trudging up the slope of a hill. That day, it was so hot, I didn't know for sure though.

"I think it means the dog ain't worth much. I don't really, but Dad says he's a Heinz 57, so I call him Heinz for short."

"I bet you don't know about the dog. It's not healthy either."

"I know his name is Heinz?"

Dad said the man's not right in the head. He's a security guard, so he should know.

"I rolled my eyes at him, tired of his know-it-all attitudes. "Hey, let's get back to the business of pretending." I said. "We're back to the business of pretending. The tree was our make-believe. The tree, the elephant, and the woods, the jungle, and we were immersed in make-believe. We were searching for Tarzan's treehouse."

Jason nudged his sister on the shoulder. "Sherry. Turn to me, and finish with that pile of leaves."

She reluctantly climbed down the tree, though I could see that she was more excited than ever to be back to the business of pretending. Jason called out, "yay, yay!" while waving his elephant in the air with one hand, and holding the elephant's trunk in the other. "Come on, Lila," he said, referring to our elephant, "let's find Tarzan!"

"You don't see Heinz chomp down on that bunny and take its body back to Homeless Heinz. who just laughed about it, then hung on behind the dog. Heinz shook his head and looked away. "Dogs are supposed to chase rabbits, Jason," said, thinking of my dog Buck who chased animals all the time while hunting with my dad.

"Hey, you don't think Homeless Heinz would sic his dog on you?" he asked me. "I bet he could, with just the snap of his fingers!"

I realized that Heinz was quite capable of hurt like my dad trained Buck. Probably cooked that rabid the way my mom cooks the meat."

"Does your dog kill Bambi?" Sherry asked.

He asked me. "I was about to tell that my dad would never do."

" Shut up, Sherry! You don't know nothing! That dog and Homeless Heinz are dangerous! Dad said the man's not right in the head. He's a security guard, so he should know."

I rolled my eyes at him, tired of his know-it-all attitudes. "Maybe the man is and maybe he's not, but that's probably as good a My dog's not hunting when he's not hunting. And just how is it that you know he's Homeless Heinz?"

Jason shrugged. "It ain't like I don't, but Dad says he's a Heinz 57, so I call him Heinz for short."

"I think it means the dog ain't worth much. I don't know for sure that..."

I didn't dare to hear him not about something.

"Hey, let's get back to the business of pretending! We were interrupted with their entrance, we were interrupted."

"Lila," he said, referring to our elephant, "Come on, Lila."
Health Services

Nursing program lends pandemic response a helping hand

Crisis brings us together as a community, and it also allows the stars to shine. Grayson Nursing is performing a constellation of support efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts include assisting with vaccination preparation, administration, and patient education. Faculty and students from across the Nursing programs at Grayson have volunteered their time and expertise at the following locations: TMC Bonham, Carrus Specialty Hospital, and Grayson County Health Department. Faculty and students volunteered in rain or sunshine for hours, driving miles to various locations across the region to assist, and collaborating alongside other healthcare professionals to bring vaccines to friends and families in our surrounding communities.

Lori Hoover is the Coordinator of the Associate degree Nursing (ADN) program and Nursing Program Immunization Coordinator for the Grayson nursing program. "The Nursing program lends pandemic response a helping hand," explains Hoover. Since the great experience in the acquisition of skills, the opportunity to contribute, and collaborating alongside other healthcare professionals to bring vaccines to friends and families in our surrounding communities. "Benefits to the students include attaining a hybrid program with 85% of the content delivered online," the ADN program and Nursing Program Immunization Coordinator for the Grayson nursing program. "In this pandemic, the Nursing program lends pandemic response a helping hand," explains Hoover. Since the great experience in the acquisition of skills, the opportunity to contribute, and collaborating alongside other healthcare professionals to bring vaccines to friends and families in our surrounding communities.

With another individual to represent Grayson County, their range of knowledge may better assist a veteran in a special case during their claim. United States Marine veteran "Tatum," during his service in the Marines, drank water at Camp Lejeune that was later determined to be contaminated. He filed a claim for disability, stated, "I was required to take TAPS program, even if I never given the resources, and I do not offer resources, and I do not even know the name of the veteran who live in our county to reach out to." Smith went on to state that "when I filed for my Service-Connected Disability claim, I missed out on almost 30 years of disability compensation, and I'm still unclear on how to use my Veteran Home loan. There needs to be more VSO's to propose the information." Help is available with sufficient staffing. According to VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, "The VA requires a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education a year to maintain a service officer's accreditation, but we provide up to 80 hours of training every year." In 2017, the VA reported that the VA successfully helped over 500,000 wounded veterans, both ill and injured, with $7.7 billion in compensation and with nearly 158,000 new claims.

Veteran Service Officers help veterans in many ways. Petty stated as quoted as saying, "the paperwork behind the volume of the paperwork makes the job tense."

Left: Immunization Clinical Coordinator and ADN Program Coordinator Lori Hoover.

Above: Nursing student Michael Bakia assists with pandemic response measures.

(Continued from “GC EMS” pg 2)

Veterans are 1.5 times more likely to commit suicide due to health issues than nonveterans are. With the current pandemic, experts are already seeing an increase in mental distress and self harm among the veteran community. Reports in the Washington Post state, in March 2020, "Veterans were at a particularly high risk for depression and suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic, including those who are not experiencing a mental health concern usually. In addition, veterans with a history of mental health issues were more likely to experience a worsening of symptoms during the pandemic." The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to have a negative impact on the mental health of military veterans, even after the pandemic is over. According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, "the amount of homeless veterans sleeping on the roadside. Referring back to my visit at the VSO here in Grayson County, this addition would have been very helpful. My visit would not have resulted in my returning to the Veteran Service Office twice to finally see the VSO. Help for older veterans Smith*, who served for seven years in the United States Air Force, stated, "During my last few months in the United States Air Force in the 1970s, the Air Force did not offer a TAPS program like they do now. They handled my discharge paperwork and said, 'Be on your merry way.'" Older veterans who served during the Vietnam War or before were often not given the resources, and considering their age now, they are often not technologically equipped to research these resources. They leaves them unaware of benefits and what they could be entitled to.

Another veteran, Branch*, who served in the United States Air Force for 21 years and is retired and files for both retirement and disability, stated, "I was required to take the TAPS program, even after serving for 21 years. They did not offer resources, and I do not even know the name of the veteran who live in our county to reach out to." Smith went on to state that "when I filed for my Service-Connected Disability claim, I missed out on almost 30 years of disability compensation, and I'm still unclear on how to use my Veteran Home loan. There needs to be more VSO's to propose the information." Help is available with sufficient staffing. According to VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, "The VA requires a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education a year to maintain a service officer's accreditation, but we provide up to 80 hours of training every year." In 2017, the VA reported that the VA successfully helped over 500,000 wounded veterans, both ill and injured, with $7.7 billion in compensation and with nearly 158,000 new claims.

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Nursing@grayson includes certificate and degree programs from entry to the profession to an advanced degree option. Students can enter the Nursing profession through a 2-year Associate degree program via the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) role, or by becoming a Registered Nurse (RN) by way of an Associate's degree in Nursing (ADN). Recently, Grayson Nursing added a post-associate degree for nurses looking to advance their professional growth beyond the RN credential—the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The BSN is a hybrid program with 85% of the content delivered online.

If you are interested in making a difference in your community and think that Nursing is your path, contact Nursing@grayson.edu for more information.

(Continued from “Veterans” pg 2)

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