



## Welcome, Justin Parker!



By Justin Parker, Veterans Service Coordinator

Justin Parker is the new Veterans Service Coordinator here at Grayson College.

Parker comes to us from the State of Oklahoma where he worked for the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission in the areas of workforce development and unemployment.

Parker is a 23-year veteran of both the US Army and Oklahoma National Guard where he is still currently serving. He has completed 4 deployments to various locations around the world, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt and Kuwait.

In his spare time, Parker enjoys spending time with his family and antique shopping.

## See What the Guidance and Counseling Department Has to Offer

By Samantha Newton, Social Work Intern

Hello and welcome back, Vikings! We hope you enjoyed your summer break!

As a friendly reminder for all students, free mental health counseling is always available for currently enrolled students! Services are offered Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 5:00pm and can be scheduled for in-person sessions or online video calls.

To schedule an appointment, please visit the Grayson College website, then on the current students tab click on personal counseling. This will bring you to the scheduling link of the licensed professional counselors on staff.

The Social Services and Counseling team here at Grayson consists of Barbara Malone, the Director of Counseling and Social Services, Claudia Smithart, a Licensed Professional Counselor, and Social Work Interns, Ali Sotelo, and Samantha Newton. The Social Services and Counseling team is here to provide students, staff, and the community with any resources that are available and needed.

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## Discover Your Passion, Purpose, and Pathway in the New Grayson College Career Center

By Nancy Luthé, Director of Success Coaches

The Career Center is part of the Grayson College Quality Enhancement Plan, Grayson Pathways to Success. The Quality Enhancement Plan, or QEP, is a comprehensive, 5-year action plan that targets an issue identified by the institution as important to increasing student learning and/or success. It is an integral part of the re-accreditation process of any Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) member. In the center, students can utilize assessments to make an informed decision on their college major by aligning their values, interests and skills with career fields.

New career planning programs also provide students with the job outlook and salary information for various occupations. Early career planning means less expense, faster college completion, and higher job satisfaction.

The center will feature monthly Pathway Spot-

lights where students can learn more about the various Pathways and programs offered at Grayson College.

In addition to career planning, the center provides opportunities for students and alumni to learn job search skills, such as how to establish employment contacts, complete an application, write a resume and cover letter and interview for a job.

The Career Center Open House is scheduled for September 17, 2021 at 8:30 am. It is located in the Student Affairs Building next to the Advising Office.

Career services are free for students and alumni and the Career Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

Learn about the Career Center Staff and schedule on pg. 4

## Grayson College Partnership with TAMU-Commerce

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The Counseling and Social Services department at Grayson College was approved for the field placement by Social Work Interns due to the recently established Grayson Cares Emergency Student Assistance Program.

This program was founded in June 2019 and was made possible by funding provided by United Way of Grayson County and the Grayson College Foundation.

Grayson Cares has assisted many students by allowing Grayson College students to submit an emergency request online that will enable Counseling and Social Services staff and interns to coordinate on-campus and community agency services.

These services can include emergency student assistance, food pantries, veteran's assistance, transportation assistance, community partners, Grayson College's own Mobile Food Pantry, Texoma Council of Governments and Workforce Solutions, and gas vouchers, all available to students at Grayson College.

Social Work Interns that do their field placement at Grayson College will have numerous learning opportunities ranging from case management, community outreach, individual counseling with a diverse population, and assisting in the monthly

mobile food pantry hosted at Grayson College.

The students served through the Emergency Aid Program will be enrolled in the programs and courses in one of the six Career Pathways offered at Grayson College.

The Emergency Aid Program also serves the students enrolled in the Adult Education Literacy and the Center Workforce Learning Programs.

The placement activities and skills will include record-keeping activities such as intake summaries, treatment planning, collaboration with community agencies, progress notes, and followup summaries. The case management activities include follow-up with the Financial Aid Department, enrollment status, completion rates, and monitoring with agencies and community partners. The Social Work Interns will also actively assist and participate in Grayson College's Mobile Food Pantry, hosted monthly on the 4th Wednesday of every month. The Counseling and Social Services Department office is located in the Student Life Center on the second floor in room 200. The Social Work Interns are located in the same room as the Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and the Licensed Professional Counselor.



Go to the Career Center page on the website at <https://www.grayson.edu/getting-started/advising/career-center/index.html> to schedule an appointment or email [careers@grayson.edu](mailto:careers@grayson.edu).

## Striving for Success,

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As a scholarship recipient, McCaw took the Workforce Success Skills (WSS) course, a prerequisite required for students entering a certification program, like CNA. In the WSS course, McCaw created a resume as an aspiring nurse aide.

Landsay Deen, her WSS instructor, gave McCaw feedback that her resume was in great shape. That's all McCaw needed to confidently apply for jobs even before she'd started the nurse aide training portion of her program.

In one night, McCaw applied for 18 CNA positions. A day later, she received 16 call backs! She was totally in control, determining which employers SHE wanted to call back. McCaw decided to interview with six employers. Her favorite was quick to offer her a position.

Eight days after her first application was sent, she was hired; ten days after she sent her application she was working!

## But wait, there's more!

"Part of me feels guilty that I waited so long to get into a career, but at least I haven't missed anything with my kids," reflected McCaw. This past Mother's Day, she recalled the card she got from her 10-year-old son. The card said he's proud of her.

"I thought [going to school] was going to be hard on the kids, but it has brought us much closer because they see me working hard; they help more around the house; we've grown more as family; and they understand," McCaw said with pride.

McCaw's circle of support extends beyond her children as well.

"I [am] grateful for those that have believed in me, especially my mom, stepdad, and my boyfriend, Preston Buckmaster."

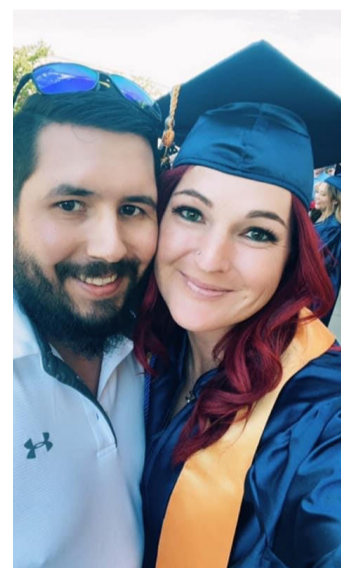
All three attended McCaw's graduation as expressions of their support.

While McCaw knew that she was going to be busy earning her way into Nursing school, she's been surprised by "extras" that have come with attending classes at Grayson.

"I didn't know that I would grow, engage with others, doubt and second guess myself less. I feel more positive, more sure."

Congratulations to you, McCaw! We are so proud of you, and all you've accomplished!

Thank you for letting us be a part of your journey. Nursing school, here you come!



Laura McCaw with her boyfriend, Preston Buckmaster.

The Viking is published by Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college. This newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion.

Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff of Grayson College.

The views expressed in The Viking do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, Writers Unlimited, Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration or the faculty and staff of Grayson College.



## Meet the Career Center Staff

Corey Leird is the new Career and Pathway Coach. He is from Pottsboro, Texas and was a former student at Grayson College.

He also attended the University of North Texas and has a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Leird understands firsthand the struggle some students face in selecting a college major and career path.

"I started my education fresh out of high school at Grayson College. I knew I wanted to pursue a degree but was uncertain exactly what degree or even what career!

"After completing coursework at Grayson College, I transferred to UNT and pursued Engineering but quickly

learned I was not an engineer!

"Through research of my own, I stumbled across UNT's Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree and thought this was the major for me. After completing my degree at UNT and entering the workforce, I realized I might not want to really endeavor in logistics.

"After several years of working in various fields, I recall finding myself continuing to think about making a difference in the lives of others and returned to school to receive my Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW). My story reflects upon me wishing I had someone at the beginning of my college career to help provide me with direction and resources in matching my



Corey Leird, new Career and Pathway Coach

education to a fitting career.

As the new Career and Pathway Coach at Grayson College, I now hope to connect with students providing them with this guidance, commit with them in achieving their education, and help them complete their pathway toward a rewarding career."

## A History Lesson — College Entrance 1973

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A shuttle bus was available, but I chose to drive the Mustang. I showed up to that class with a bad attitude. I didn't know what I needed, but I knew that I didn't need a drama class. Like a typing class that I was forced to take in high school, I knew that this would be a total waste of my time. (Side note: That typing class has been as beneficial to me as any other class I ever had to take.)

When I found the classroom and entered, I saw her. I didn't see anything or anyone else. My eyes were drawn to the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. She had long, blonde hair and wore a short hot pink dress and white shoes. I immediately sat in the desk behind her. I was scared but not scared enough.

I don't remember much of the short conversation that we had before class started, but I know that I asked her name and she said, "Kathy McDonald."

What were the odds of meeting such a pretty girl with my last name in a college class that I was "forced" to take? It was the perfect ice breaker.

I didn't ask her how she spelled Kathy, but I asked how she spelled McDonald. I was smitten by her then. I am smitten by her now, over 47 years later.

There were only ten or twelve people in the class. I was way out of my element.

The instructor, Professor Armbrister, asked why we were taking the class. I remember hearing the other class members talk about radio and TV experience and theater and art ambitions.

Except for the presence of the pretty girl I had met, I was still seething for having to be there.

When it was my turn to speak, I said, "Geology was closed, they wouldn't let me take another PE, and this class was all that was available." There was a proverbial "pregnant pause" in the class. I don't remember what Mr. Armbrister said. He probably brushed me off as a bad egg. Kathy would say later that she was impressed with my honesty, but even then, I didn't really care what anyone

thought. I was still mad.

Since she rode the shuttle to the theater, I offered her a ride back to campus. Another girl intruded, offered herself a ride in my car, and took the front bucket seat. Kathy had to sit in the back. Somehow before she got away, I managed to get a moment alone with her and asked her for a date. She said yes. I quickly found a new love for drama.

On the first date, we saw two movies. The first was called "The Bird in the Crystal Plumage." After that, we went to Sonic and had cheeseburgers before going to the second movie, "High Plains Drifter." (Side note: We still have dates at the Sonic on occasion.) Ok, I wish I could say that we fell in love on that date, but we didn't. Well, she didn't. I think I did. I called her the next week for another date. It seems that her roommate had to wake her up when I called, and she blames her sleepy confusion for agreeing to a second date – something she said she had already decided not to do.

After only a couple of months of dating, I very reluctantly told her, "I think I love you." She said something like, "Well, I wondered how long it was going to take you to figure that out." (Side note: If we have a "song," it is probably "I Think I Love You" by The Partridge Family.) Once again, planning for the future was not high on my list of talents, and we didn't really know what to do next, so we decided to get married. (Side note: I still regret not giving more thought to a proposal.)

We shopped for a ring and bought one at Zales. We paid \$419 for it, and Dad had to co-sign for a loan. It was paid off at \$19 a month for two years. Yes, times have changed a little.

We were married on Saturday, June 22nd, 1974. Believe what you want to believe, but I know that I was meant to be in that drama class. The rest, as they say, is history.

**Moral: Just because you don't have a plan doesn't mean there isn't one.**

## Fall Career Center Events Schedule

**September 17:** Career Center Open House

8:30 am  
Career Center

**October 6:** Arts and Humanities Spotlight

10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**October 8:** All Things Career Round Robin Lunch Discussion

11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
SAB Conference Room

**October 12:** Business and Entrepreneurship Spotlight

10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**October 19:** Resume Workshop

10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**October 21:** Public Services Spotlight

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**October 26:** Industrial Technologies Spotlight

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**October 28:** Career Exploration

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**November 1:** Health Science Spotlight

10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**November 4:** Workforce Solutions Career Fair

**November 10:** STEM Spotlight

11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**November 12:** All Things Career Round Robin Lunch Discussion

11:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
SAB Conference Room

**November 16:** Resume Workshop

10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

**November 19:** Career Exploration

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Career Center/ Computer Lab

The Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) hosts a campus-wide free luncheon every Wednesday from 12:00-12:45 pm! All you have to do is bring you and your stomach to the BSM building and they will fuel you up!

**BSM FREE LUNCH**



**@12PM EVERY WEDNESDAY**