

Get Involved

*Viking Deadline*

March 12th

*The Viking* needs student content! Please send any articles, art, poems, stories, journalistic writings, etc. to the editor, Katherine Petri, at [prkpetri@vikings.grayson.edu](mailto:prkpetri@vikings.grayson.edu)

Phi Theta Kappa

Wednesday, 12:30 pm Viking Room

Student Veterans of America (SVA)

2nd Tuesday of every month 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Veterans Hub 2nd Floor Bridge

Summit

Thursdays 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Baptist Student Ministry building

BSM

Navigate

Grayson College Commercial Truck Driving Courses are back!



Grayson College is utilizing driving simulations to help prepare future truck drivers for the road.  
By Marlene Phillips, Director of Outreach, Center for Workplace Learning

Beginning in February, the Grayson College Center for Workplace Learning (CWL) will again offer non-credit, commercial truck driving training classes.

In addition to the courses that prepare individuals to drive tractor-trailer rigs, Grayson College is also offering Hazmat, Permit Review and Refresher courses for professional truck drivers.

Classes will be offered monthly, and scholarships valued up

to \$2,350 are available for Texas residents to attend and certify in Permit Exam Preparation and Professional Truck Driving courses.

“Tractor-trailer truck drivers are a high-demand occupation in Texoma with over 800 job postings for trained drivers in Texoma in the last year,” said Dr. Djuna Forrester, CWL Executive Director.

“Thanks to the scholarship funding from Texas’s Coordinating Board for Higher Ed-

ucation’s TRUE grant and community support, we are thrilled to return truck driver training to Grayson College.”

“At Grayson College we are committed to offering programs that meet employers’ needs and provide opportunities for our students to launch their careers locally,” explained Dr. Jeremy McMillen, President.

“Tractor-trailer drivers are vital to sustaining and growing the economy of the Texoma region

*cont. pg 2*



Don’t Miss It!

Only Child book review, pg. 3

Job fair info, pg. 2

Truck courses opportunity, pg. 2

Grayson College sports, pg. 4

Letter from editor, pg. 3

Important Black History Month Q & A, pg. 4

Pokemon GO

WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM RAID HOUR

MEET @ LIFE CENTER, 2ND FLOOR TV ROOM FRIENDS & FAMILY WELCOME!

Don’t miss the next job fair!

By Corey Laird, Career and Pathway Coach

With 22 employers, and 300 students attending. The Spring 2023 Health Science Job Fair hosted by the Career Center and the Center for Workplace Learning was rated a 5-Star event.

Full and part-time students, dual-credit students, alumni, and members of the community were able to attend the event to explore career

opportunities from local employers. Networking amongst each other, and preparing for a bright future; successful job placements were accomplished during the event proving its value.

Please join for our second job fair hosted on South Campus in Van Alstyne on *February 23 rd from 11:00am – 2:00pm*



The Spring 2023 Health Science Job Fair hosted by the Career Center and the Center for Workplace Learning was rated a 5-Star event.

TRIO student support services

By Kenzie Randolph, Advisor TRIO student support services

A resource for first-generation students, low-income students, and students with disabilities!

TRIO Student Support Services (TRIO SSS) is a federal grant program at Grayson College whose purpose is to provide academic support services to first-generation college students, low-income students, and/or students with disabilities with the goal of increasing graduation and retention rates.

**Services include:** academic coaching and mentoring, university visits and assistance with the transfer process, helpful life-skill workshops, financial literacy, scholarship opportunities, and providing a sup-

portive climate for student success.

Become a TRIO SSS participant and join the TRIO family.

We have tons of fun touring colleges in the DFW area, visiting museums like the Dallas Museum of Illusions, or working together to solve puzzles at Downtown Escape Rooms!

Our SSS advisors offer mentorship and keep track of your academic progress to help you be successful!

Most recently we were able to award 10 of our students with \$500 scholarships for the spring semester!

For more information about TRIO SSS, call 903-415-2597, or email [sss@grayson.edu](mailto:sss@grayson.edu).



TRIO SSS Staff Members (from left to right) Kinzie Randolph, Corwin Ransom, and Aerial Stovall







# Book Review and More

Pg. 3

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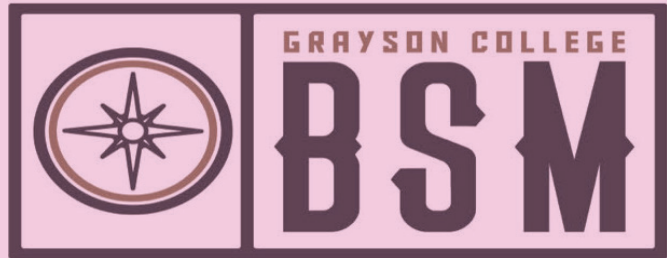
Denison, Texas

<https://grayson.edu/the-viking/index.html>

February 15, 2022

Edition XVII, Volume I

Join BSM today and become invested in your college experience



## Letter from the editor

Hello everyone, and welcome back to a new semester at Grayson College! I hope that everyone is having a wonderful spring semester. From the recent ice storm in January to Valentines day around the corner it has been a very eventful start to the year.

Recently I had my 23rd birthday (Feb. 3rd). We couldn't do much due to the bad weather, but I still got to enjoy dinner with my family and friends.

Another new life update for me is that I found out I am expecting a second little one that should be due in September of this year!

If you have any birthday photos, or life updates you want to share with *The Viking*, please feel welcome to share them with me.

As we prepare to head into the season of love, just know that you are worthy of love. Self love is the best kind of love that we can provide for ourselves. Be sure to take time to show some of that self love by setting time aside for you to relax.

With college one thing that I have learned is stressing out, not eating and losing sleep definitely never help. By setting time aside for yourself to rest and get some TLC you are actually helping your grades.

In my Psychology class we recently learned that not getting enough sleep can be very harmful for anyone. It can be especially harmful for your learning and grades.

Something to keep in mind is that there are helpful tools provided at Grayson to help make student's

lives easier.

If you find yourself losing sleep due to struggling in any particular subject there are ways to get help. Some helpful resources are the Writing Center, Math Hub, online tutoring and more. You can contact the Writing Center by email, or in person at the main campus in Denison. Peer tutoring is available for students and free, so take advantage of that as well.

I hope that some of this was helpful and that you all achieve your goals.

Remember: if you ever want to share with *The Viking*, please reach out to me at: [prkpetri.vikings.grayson.edu](mailto:prkpetri.vikings.grayson.edu). There is always room for you to share here.

Thank you for reading Grayson College's *The Viking*.

-Happy Valentine's Day!



My son and I after getting lunch and Cheesecake Factory in Watters Creek, Allen Texas. This is a beautiful spot for a date, or nice lunch.

## How Children's Wisdom Can Light the Darkness

**Book Review:** *Only Child* by Rhiannon Navin, published in 2018 by Knopf Publishing Group. 2020 Lincoln Award Nominee

By Viking Staff

Though it's set in New York State, Rhiannon Navin's *Only Child* could easily take place in any of the many communities where school shootings have devastated families over the last twenty years.

The story 6-year-old Zach Taylor tells could be the story of one of the children at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas last May or even of the child who shot his first-grade teacher at Richneck Elementary School in Newport News, Virginia last month.

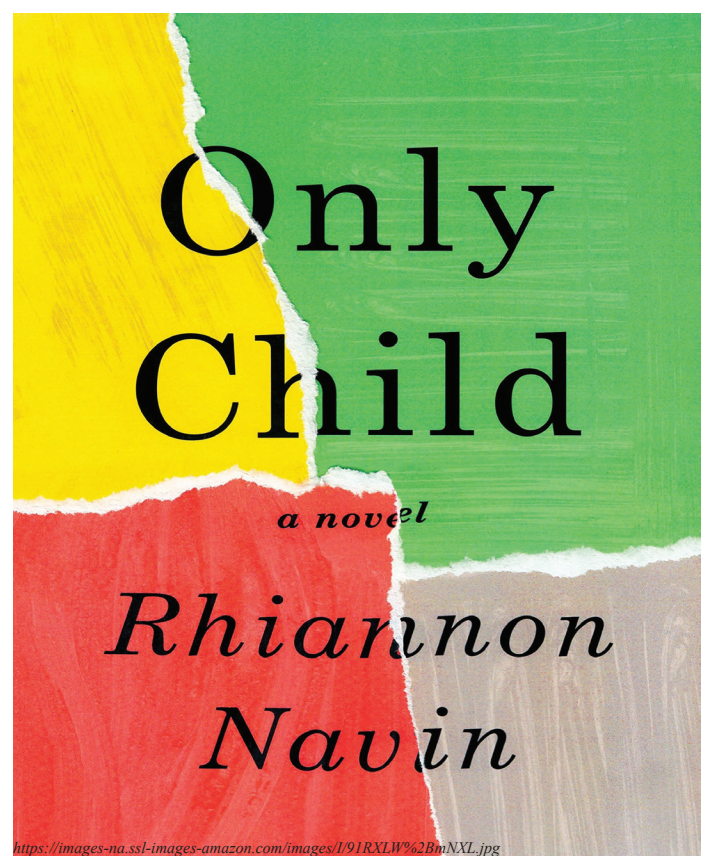
Beginning with the unsettling moments of being shoved into an overly full closet with his distraught teacher and terrified first-grade classmates, Zach describes hearing the "Pop. Pop" of the shooter's

gun, smelling the vomit that covered his shocked friend's shirt, seeing the bloody pools in the hallway that his classmates can't keep from staring at when led to a nearby church (even though warned by police not to look), and enduring the excruciating wait for his mother and father to arrive and claim him.

Through the next year, Zach recounts the events of a family trying to move forward that is often so consumed by their own sorrow that they have nothing left to help him recover.

Yet in the midst of broken routines and confusing adult reactions, this resourceful boy creates and applies his own recovery methods, suggested in part by the adventurous Jack and Annie's

cont. pg. 4



<https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/91RXLW%62BmNXL.jpg>



South Campus faculty and staff gathered February 6 at 7:30 am to celebrate January and February birthdays and catch up on what's new in each department. Dean Ilene Walton rolls a campus "Huddle" into the monthly celebrations to help departments communicate successes, concerns, and needs.

Be a part of  
Summit  
Thursdays  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
in the Baptist  
Student Ministry  
building





# Black History Month

Pg. 4

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Denison, Texas

<https://grayson.edu/the-viking/index.html>

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## 5 reasons cool air

cont. from pg. 2

mean the insulation around your duct runs may have come off caused by rodents, improper workmanship or poor quality materials. Warm or Cool air may be leaking into the attic instead of your home.

Remember, you have invested in a mechanical system that requires ser-

vice yearly or at most every two years.

Low supply and higher demands isn't helping homeowners get their system running.

The cost of labor and materials has gone through the roof so the more you try to protect your most demanding year-round system the

less chance of major failures and higher cost.

Program: Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Technology

Location: CTC-108

Program Director: James Popplewell

## Q & A for Black History Month

with Dr. Charles Leslie, Grayson College Recruiter  
By Viking Staff

**The Viking:** Briefly describe your work at Grayson College and in the community.

**Dr. Leslie:** I have worked a Grayson College for 15 years. Twelve of those years were recruiting and advising African-Americans.

The last three have been recruiting, custom service, and tours and now assisting Kendrick Gibson with Men of Distinction & Student Ambassadors.

As far as community service, I am the V.P. of Sherman Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Assistant Pastor at New Birth in Sherman, and on the board of the Grayson Crisis Center.

**The Viking:** What are your thoughts about Florida's recent decision to ban the AP course in African-American studies?

**Dr. Leslie:** It seems that the unveiling of hidden truth is a disturbance of the conscience. African-

American Studies is not just talking about Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**The Viking:** What are your thoughts on the recent Tyre Nichols beating and the fact that the officers who beat him and were subsequently arrested were all African-American?

**Dr. Leslie:** I was saddened by the news and even more disturbed as I watched the video. He seemed to be cooperating with the police officers. It was abuse of force. I was shocked to learn

that the officers were all African-Americans because the beating was unjustifiable.

**The Viking:** Do you think focusing particular months on ethnic group's heritage lessens racism?

(Feb.--Black History; May--Asian American; Sept.--Latin-American; Nov.--Native American)

**Dr. Leslie:** Being educated about other ethnicities helps open up our thinking so that we can discover and appreciate other cultures and can begin to break down barriers.

**The Viking:** What are our K-12 schools doing well and what do they need to work on in calling out racism?

**Dr. Leslie:** Moving the different ethnic groups towards respect and acceptance.

Also, teachers must teach students to be open to learning about other ethnic groups.

**The Viking:** Same question for our commu-

nities and businesses?

**Dr. Leslie:** Our community usually supports other cultural events. Those who are open minded to learn about another culture will come out to be involved in community activities.

As far as businesses go, they seems to hire qualified people of other ethnicities even some people with disabilities.

**The Viking:** What do you see as the greatest challenge for the Grayson County African-American community?

**Dr. Leslie:** Rebuilding the African-American business base that was a thriving community.

**The Viking:** In what areas and on what topics do African-American leaders need to be more vocal/active?

**Dr. Leslie:** To appreciate African-Americans for who we are and the contributions that we have made to the United States and the world.

There is still a disconnect from what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

We need to be valued and appreciated because our ideas matter. We are intelligent and able people who can accomplish great things, and we have. We will continue to make great strides in inventions, medicine, education, politics, business and health care, etc. As African-Americans, we are an awesome people. Why are other people scared to recognize that fact?

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

10th Annual Grayson College Black History Program

Keep Going

"If you hear the dogs, keep going. If you see the torches in the woods, keep going. If there's shouting after you, keep going. Don't ever stop, keep going. Don't ever stop, keep going. If you want a taste of freedom, keep going."  
-Harriet Tubman

FEB 16 • 6:30PM • CWL AUDITORIUM

## Grayson College sports schedule home games

Men's Basketball  
Feb 15th, 7pm

Women's Basketball  
Feb 15th, 5pm

Men's Baseball-  
Feb 17th, 2pm  
Feb 17th, 7pm  
Feb 18th, 10am

Softball  
Feb 15th, 2pm  
Feb 15th, 4pm

## Children's Wisdom

cont. from pg. 3

time-travel quests in *The Magic Tree House* series, which readers may fondly recall from their own early reading experiences.

As Zach struggles to make sense of his parents' often illogical and uncharacteristic behavior as they attempt to reframe their lives and their relationships, he struggles equally with

the ambivalence he feels toward the shooter, the shooter's family members, and his own friends who died.

While Navin writes Zach as a typical child of his age with a characteristically limited world view, he is also insightful in the direct way children are.

The reader is privy to his somewhat inac-

curate interpretations of the events he witnesses and the conversations he overhears.

But we're also privy to Zach's exasperation that the adults who surround him can't seem to choose the compassionate path that seems so obvious to him.

Check out the  
Grayson College  
Black History Program  
Feb. 16, 2023  
@ the CWL  
Dinner  
6:30 pm  
Program will  
start at 7 pm.



Dr. Charles Leslie