



# *Vision of Excellence*

*Grayson College  
Chapter of the Year  
February 28, 20/20*



## **20/20 V.I.S.I.O.N.**

Here at Grayson College, we view the meaning of vision as producing a goal-oriented, goal-driven student organizations! We strive to continually be a place where students feel they can achieve their personal and professional dreams. The Grayson College Student Government Association has maintained that essential purpose this year for the advancement of our student body. We express our understanding of vision through the following commitments that we strive to adhere to for the benefit of all of our constituents...

**V- Viking Values**

**I- Involvement**

**S- Service**

**I- International**

**O- Outreach**

**N- Nurture**

## V- Viking Values

At Grayson College, there are six pillars that we consider to be Viking Values. The **components are balance, trust, clarity, teamwork, gratitude, and service.** Grayson College



defines trust as providing students the best resources to succeed in their educational endeavors. We are encouraged to be a team from start to finish, to guarantee a successful student journey at Grayson College. That is where teamwork comes together.

Grayson College gives the students a chance to be able to balance life with their classes. The Grayson College Student Government Association strives to exemplify all the values listed along with service. Serving the student body is our ongoing mission; to represent and lead students while really listening to what they have to say. The culmination of our values is gratitude. Gratitude to our personal and professional relationships and to Grayson College in having the opportunity to continue education, experiencing leadership skills, and life lasting impacts. This year, we feel we rose to the challenge and set in place a vision of excellence not only for our college, but for our students.

## I- Involvement

This year, more than others, the student involvement at Grayson College has increased tremendously. We reignited *Cruise to Completion*, it is an incentive program that encourages student engagement by giving students the opportunity to win prizes, and even a cash reward, for doing things that are proven to increase overall success in college. By simply engaging in different activities and events that we offer, it can really encourage students to expand their interests and involvement.



This year, Grayson College SGA has added two new clubs which are the American Sign Language and Black Print. American Sign Language Club gives students the opportunity to engage in learning and appreciating the concepts of sign and to prepare them for experience they might come across in the future. Black Print is an organization where primarily African-American students, though it is open to all students, can express themselves and mingle with not just other students, but community members as well. By adding these clubs, it shows that students are bringing forth new ideas they view important to be recognized. Grayson College SGA has also been a fresh face to TJCSGA Region II. This year, one of our very own executive



board members is currently representing Grayson College as Regional Vice President. Also, our advisor has given presentations about cultural diversity at the Region II Fall conference and the Region III Spring conference. One of our goals this year was to network with other colleges and student governments. We recently had the pleasure of hosting

and then attending a separate SGA meeting with Brookhaven College. We felt this was a step towards a more friendly and engaging student government.

### S- Service

Service to our campus and community is one of the primary goals of our association. Our association tirelessly supports clubs and organizations in their projects. This support has included offering our students volunteer opportunities, promoting events, and assisting clubs and organizations in the planning process. To start the new academic year, we hosted a campus-wide student leadership conference in the Fall for all clubs and organizations.

In September, student clubs hosted the 2019 Veteran's Association Community Mental Health Summit. With Grayson Student Veteran's sponsoring this event, our association worked to provide them with volunteers to make sure the event ran smoothly. Overall, this event connected 400 participants to mental health and veteran services across north Texas.

Every November, clubs and organizations compete to collect the most donations for our campus food pantry in a competition called *Canstruction*. As food insecurity is on the rise, we believed it was pertinent to do all we could to support this cause. By pushing student participation in the campus food drive, over 3,000 nonperishables were collected for the campus food pantry.

Preparations are already underway for the Grayson Honors College Club Beat-the-Heat 5k later this spring. This event raises money for the Grayson County Law Enforcement Agency Scholarship and Bereavement Fund and the Deputy Chad Key Memorial Scholarship. Our association is currently working alongside the Honors College to collect donations, recruit





and photos! **Deadline Sept. 20th**

Send your work to our editor,  
**Storm Anderson at**  
**stranderson@vikings.grayson.edu**

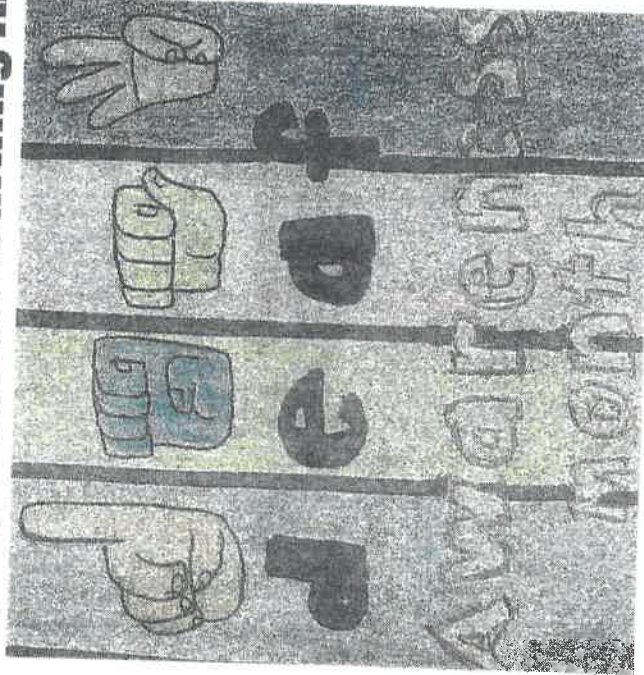
**Remember, anyone can contribute!**

**Editorial**

## **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 accessibility 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 "broken" became widespread. So much so that even still today parents of deaf children are rec-



ommended to give the 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 becomes permanent and "unfixable" through the

evening format to allow attendees to meet while attending the academy.

Many of our academy graduates have also earned their Associates in Applied Science Degree (AAS) in Criminal Justice through Grayson College's Criminal Justice Department. Many law enforcement agencies either require a two-year degree to apply for a peace officer position or receive additional pay for officers who have a degree. Our graduates have also entered law enforcement through many career paths other than police officers. The AAS Degree in Criminal Justice is also a great way to prepare students for the police academy.

Later this year the Police Academy and Criminal Justice Department will be hosting a reunion event for alumni, former and present instructors, and faculty of the two programs. This event is still in the planning stages.

use of technology and that child never learned ASL or got involved with the Deaf community? If they decided to stay mainstream (assimilated into hearing culture) they would be a twenty-something-year-old adult isolated from family and friends because they can't hear what everyone is laughing about. If the person decided he wants to learn sign language, he is still capable of doing so; however, it will be much harder because he will have to start with the basics (things he would have learned as a child if he had been taught ASL when he was first diagnosed). He may become so overwhelmed that he could decide to remain in the shallow end of the ASL spectrum and never learn how to most efficiently communicate with hearing or Deaf. Lip reading and writing things down may work in a pinch, but it is not enough for daily communication. Written discussions take longer than they should and cannot be compared to the pure back-and-forth dynamic of a conversation without a pen acting as a middle-man. I asked a Deaf friend of mine, "What is one thing you would want all hearing people to know about Deaf people?"

*(Continued on page 4)*





# The Viking

Grayson College

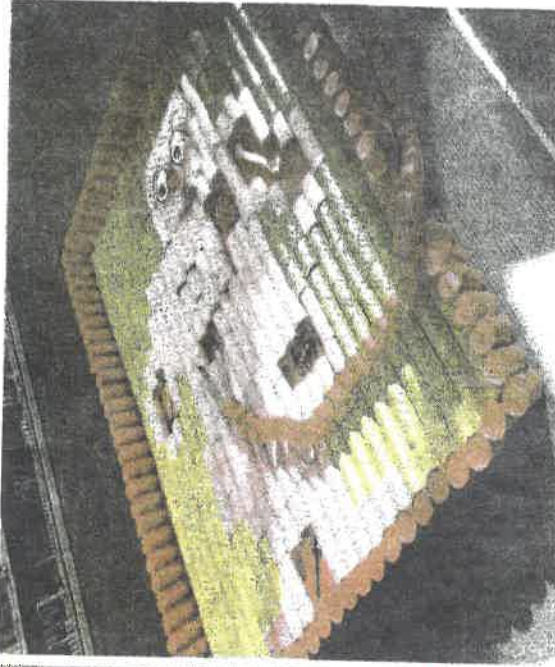
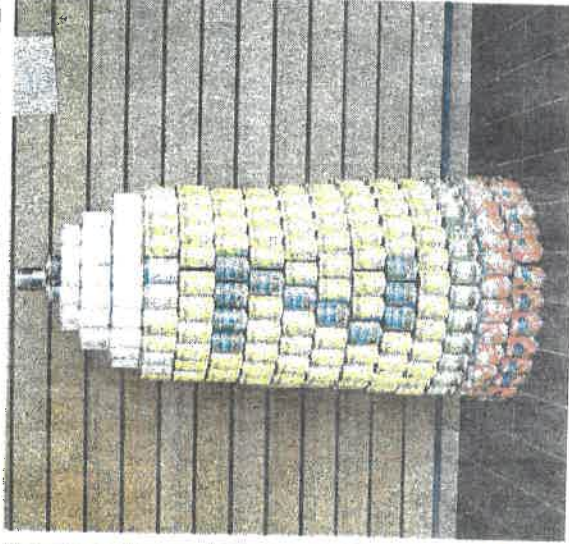
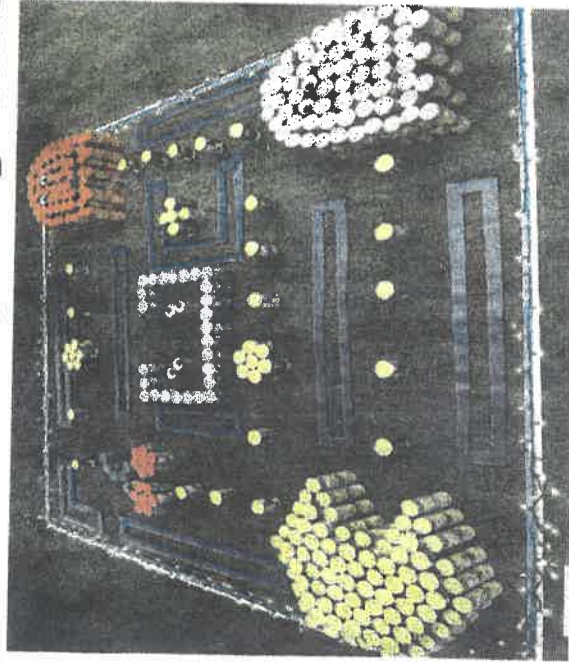
Want to get involved on campus?  
Find a club on pg. 41

What is life like after Grayson?  
Catch up with two Grayson Grads on pg. 3.

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## Stock the pantry! Canstruction sign-ups open until September 30



Grayson College Canstruction is a competition amongst members of the GC campus community as a means of collecting nonperishable food items for our campus food pantry. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students (including student organizations) are encouraged to form teams and participate in our Canstruction competition. Teams will use nonperishable items to build a structure, which will be judged against all entries. The teams designated as 1st and 2nd place will win \$200 dollars and \$100 dollars respectively.

*(Competition Guidelines continued on page 2)*

Previous Canstruction Entries. (Photos provided by Phi Theta Kappa)



runners, and plan an advertising campaign. Our student body has a drive to better our community. As student leaders on our campus, our organization works to serve and motivate this drive any way we can.

### I- International

At Grayson College, we celebrate and share the heritage and diversity of our international



students by hosting International Students' Day. Every fall semester our international students host a fair in which they share with other students their culture and customs from their native countries. Our international students are very active in our Student Life by participating and involving themselves in

clubs and organizations, including Student Government Association.

Students at Grayson College represent many diverse countries from Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. In addition, this year there has been a successful increase for student participation, especially international students. Our Hispanic American Leadership Organization (H.A.L.O) participated in the local Dia de los Muertos Festival hosted by the Art Council of Denison, TX. In this event,



H.A.L.O members not only painted faces for families, they also held discussions about immigration and Latino heritage in Texas.



## O- Outreach

Outreach is a major key to a successful college, it is important to really intake the issues we might face during our lifetime. Preparing students in college for real life problems is a focus we try to bring to light here at Grayson College. This year, we invited a speaker to come and connect with our students about a major dilemma that has affected our society for quite some time. She spoke about the Crisis of Human Sex Trafficking. Students were pleased with her remarks and gained valuable information to remember in the future. We will be hosting more speakers of a variety of topics to affect our community in the years to follow.

Grayson College SGA also hosted our first awareness week, Stop American Violence



Everywhere (S.A.V.E.). This will be a continuous event we put together every year to spread awareness of all concepts of violence in America, whether it be verbal violence, gun violence, or all types of physical violence. We started the week with passing out purple ribbons and students had the

opportunity to express their support by writing on sticky notes words of encouragement and posting them on windows. We capped off the week with planting a fresh, new tree in honor of non-survivors and the survivors



that have experienced violence. Outreach helps our students on campus expand their world and we in return help our community.

### N- Nurture

Grayson College is all about nurturing their students. There are so many resources available that students can take advantage of. As part of the Grayson CARES initiative Grayson enables students to complete their educational goals by combating barriers or obstacles such as money, food, housing etc. One of the new resources that Grayson offers is the Grab n Go. It's where students can stop by throughout the day to grab a snack or just everyday necessities. Students that use the Grab n Go are asked to sign in to help Grayson track usage and better determine campus need and expansion opportunities.

Non-perishables items are provided where a family of four can all enjoy and can be picked up on campus. SGA officers volunteer at the kiosk to make a presence and become the frontline of meeting the needs of the Grayson College students.



Grayson College nurtures their students in other ways, simply by having tutoring on campus and even online called Upswing. Grayson also has a math hub where students can go if they need additional help pertaining to math. We have a writing center that helps students better their essays. We have an organization called student support services. They assist students by

mentoring, academic advising, tutoring, and transfer assistance. Grayson College is all about nurturing their students so they can become the best version of themselves.

This year has been an evolving time for the Grayson College Student Government Association to which we have taken great strides forward and set a path for excellence. What vision means to us is to continue to take the initiative to better our college and give our students the experiences for them to create and expand their own vision for a successful future in whatever they dream to achieve.