

## Holiday Memories & More

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"Rest, play basketball, play golf, hunt."  
Jon Presnell

**What is your favorite holiday memory?**

"Going to Tennessee to watch Christmas lights and watching the Grinch with my brother."

Scott Howell

"All Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are special to me because it is a time to remember all the things you have and are thankful for."

Melissa Gregory

"My favorite holiday memory is when I got my puppy."

Jill Stroud

"Last Christmas - We spent it with the whole family but most importantly with my grandmother. Little did we know it would be the last Christmas we would get to spend with her. I love to think back and remember that day, all the memories of her and all the good times we had."

Amanda Prevette

**What traditions does your family observe during the holidays?**

"We go to my grandparent's house on Christmas Eve and we eat dinner and open presents. After dinner, my grandfather passes out nut shells and when you open them some of them have money inside."

Michelle Furches

"We always get together for a large meal on Christmas Day to open gifts and spend quality time with the family."

Melissa Long

"Go to my uncle's house and stay till midnight and sing Christmas songs."

Alicia Blevins

"Everyone goes to my mom's house and eats like pigs."

Amanda Bartlett

# An Interview With Tamara Grayson

By Shelley Schreiber



Tamara Grayson

I had the pleasure of interviewing yet another of WCC's instructors this month, Tamara Grayson, our one and only art teacher. What follows is more than just about her.

SS: Well, let's start off with what degrees you have.

TG: I have a Master's of Art in art education and a BSB (Bachelor of Science) in secondary education in art.

SS: From where?

TG: Appalachian State University.

SS: Did you start out wanting a degree in art?

TG: No - I was going to be a history major and at the same time I took an art appreciation history course, I also met a young man named Larry, and he became a friend. He was so aware of everything on campus. He noticed how many steps were in every flight, when the trees bloomed, the songbirds, everything! And as a result of that, plus taking the first art appreciation course I'd ever had, it made me aware of how much I did not see. The irony of it was that Larry had been blind from birth.

SS: Oh wow!

TG: It made a profound impact on my life in terms that suddenly I was aware of everything that was going on and what could possibly be done if you were aware. In art I was studying the masterpieces of men and women. It was the best that they had achieved, and I just liked that creative flow. So I just sat down one day and looked for about 2 1/2 hours at a print titled "Guernica" by Picasso and when I stood up, I knew I was an art major.

SS: (laughter) Well I think you're a great art teacher. That's really cool. Let me see, you took that art appreciation course as what?

TG: It was a part that was needed for my degree.

SS: An elective?

TG: Mhmm... Also, it was the last of my sophomore year at Appalachian and then suddenly I was switching majors. I had no natural ability, no natural gift. Um, I had to learn from hard work and observation how to draw...and I think that's part of my strength. If a student has a difficulty in seeing something, I think that I can understand it, perhaps more than someone who had a natural ability from the beginning.

SS: That makes sense. How much longer do you think you'll teach...forever?

TG: I feel like I've hit my peak. I feel like in the last two years I've started hitting my stride and so I don't know. There are lots of other things I'm interested in doing.

SS: Like?

TG: Well, I'm taking Tai Chi right now

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