



Welcome Back!



After a long break since May 2023, *The Viking* makes an appearance in early November with its October volume.

Previously named *The Viking Voice*, and originally coined as *The Graphic*, the first issue of the newspaper was released October 6, 1965.

The paper opened with a cover story about record enrollment with 1,355 students. The school averaged over 5,000 the past decade, with more and more programs being offered each year.

The paper also

included the construction of buildings such as the BSM, police station, and the library.

The paper used to be a group project ran by student journalists, but it has always and always will be a student-led paper.

Currently, there is one student working on the paper and two advisors, Dr Joshua Jones, and Dr. Aidan Holtan. Both of them are English professors and want to provide the constant flow of new Vikings a place to learn about their campus.



*Pictures of the first issue and volume of *The Graphic* from the Grayson College archives.

WE NEED YOU!

The Viking is currently run by a freshman on campus and, the only way we can get information is if it's public or sent to us directly.

We want to be able to show of the diversity of both of our campuses, Including sports, fine arts, campus events, local events group and individual rewards.

If a student or organization wants to be featured in the next issue they can email us at: theviking@grayson.edu

We welcome personal submissions, including but not limited to:

poems, photos of art that was personally made, reviews over any kind of media (albums, movies, books, etc.), editorials.

If there's a new club or an old club that wants advertisement don't be afraid to email us.

Follow Us!
@the_viking_voice

Student Resources

The Math Hub

The Math Hub, located in the Student Success Center in room 200, offers students extra help and a quiet place to study.

"The Math Hub provides tutoring for all math courses offered at Grayson College. In addition, we support students enrolled in courses that incorporate mathematical components, such as those in Culinary Arts or Nursing programs." said Math Hub Coordinator Margo Carr.

Open from Monday through Thursday from 9am-8pm, Friday from

9am-2pm, and Sunday from 2pm-6pm. They will also be open on Saturdays November 16 and 30 from 10am-2pm.

In Addition to the quiet space, the hub's tutors are very supportive and patient as they're being driven to always help by Dr. Carr.

"My passion for helping students began when I was a freshman at a community college, working as a reader, writer, and later a tutor for students with disabilities. Eventually, I transitioned to being a general tutor, and I've always loved supporting students both inside and outside the classroom. Running the Math Hub allows me to work



*Math Hub on Main Campus

alongside a team of people who are just as dedicated to student success as I am. Every semester, we build relationships with students who visit regularly, and we get to know them not just as learners but as individuals. What drives

me is the desire to provide students with the support they need to succeed in their math courses, and ensuring the Math Hub is a welcoming, accessible space is an essential part of that mission," said Carr.

The Writing Center

Providing a safe space for writing help, from resumes to ten page essays, the Writing center is a place for struggling students that need guidance for any and all writing assignments.

The Writing Center

is open on the main campus in LA 108 and 110 from 8-5 on Mondays-Thursdays and 8-2 on Fridays.

Students are encouraged to schedule appointments if they're wanting individual help, but walk-ins are also acceptable.

The Writing Center is also available to online students by either scheduling a zoom meeting or submitting their papers through the writing center's website.

"There are so many courses that require writing, and the tutors and I have learned a lot about a wide range of subjects from the students who bring their work in to the Writing Center. As for keeping the Center well-kept and accessible, I know that writing can be an intimidating subject for many. That gap between what you want to say and what you are saying can be difficult to navigate! I

think it's important to make sure the space is inviting and accessible so that all students are able to reach out and get that second pair of eyes on what they're writing. Even if you're confident in your writing skills, having that second opinion from a reader can help take the essay or the application to the next level." Writing Center Coordinator Dr. Aidan Holtan said.

Even if a student feels as if they don't need help, the writing center still provides a quiet study space and free to use resources including computers and a printer.



*Writing Center on Main Campus

New Club Emerging

As the Denison and Sherman area continues to grow, campus begins to see a more diverse group of students each year. Not only of race and gender identity, but also culture and religion.

Math Hub Coordinator Margo Carr wants to provide students a safe space away from antisemitism.

"In the wake of October 7, 2023, Jewish students have come to feel that they do not have a safe space on

campuses across the country. With the news filled with images of people shouting things like 'Globalize the Intifada' which is, whether they realize it or not, a call to kill Jews, all Jews, and students in particular, are feeling uneasy. I want to provide Jewish students with a place where we can come together without feeling they have to justify themselves or Israel. I am hoping to be able to have Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, and maybe even some



Torah Study. Jews of all levels of observance, or none at all, are welcome. Any faculty on campus is welcome as well. We are mishpacha, family." Math Hub Coordinator Margo Carr said.

Students who are interested in joining the Jewish Student Association should contact Professor Margo Carr to get more information about meeting and events.

Upcoming Club Meetings

Phi Theta Kappa

Every Tuesday
12:30pm-1:00pm
Viking Room

Anime Club

Every Wednesday
4:00pm-6:00pm
Student Life TV Room

Lunch Bible Study

Every Monday & Tuesday
12:15pm-12:45pm
Babtist Student Center

Summit

Every Thursday
7:00pm-8:30pm
Babtist Student Center

True Crime & Crafts

Every Tuesday
3:00pm-5:00pm
Student Life TV Room

Black Print

Every Thursday
12:15pm-1:15pm
Student Affairs Training Room

Pride Alliance

Every Tuesday
3:30pm-4:30pm
Viking Room

Gamers Guild

Every Thursday
3:00pm-5:00pm
Viking Room

Writers Unlimited

Every Wednesday
12:00pm-1:00pm
LA 201

Welding Club

November 18
December 2
3:30pm-4:30pm
CTC Computer Lab

Fun Fact:

Grayson currently has 28 well-established clubs. Some are strictly for students with certain majors, such as Eta Sigma Delta for Culinary Arts and Shears for Cosmetology. New clubs emmerge every semester to make sure each student knows they have place on campus.

National Champions

By: Blaze Webb

The Culinary program at Grayson College sends teams and individuals to compete each year in various competitions. The American Culinary Federation hosts many of these in both hot food, pastry arts, and culinary knowledge bowl. While many are familiar with popular cooking competitions like Top Chef, Chopped, and Hell's Kitchen, the ACF features a lesser-known but equally challenging event: the Baron H. Galand Culinary Knowledge Bowl. This year's competition was held at the national convention in Phoenix, Arizona July 14-17.

This competition is a Jeopardy-style competition. Each game has five categories, where questions vary in difficulty based on their point value. There's even a hidden picture revealed as more questions are answered and daily double questions challenge the player. The spirit of this competition is to showcase student's knowledge about all things culinary related. Questions come from various assigned textbooks. The team pours over

these source materials and makes notecards to study from. The team memorized an estimated 20,000 notecards this year!

This year's team included Bethanie Cox, the two Maggie's (Maggie Pierson and Maggie Bristow) and myself, Blaze Webb, as the team captain. Initially, our practice sessions were relaxed, but as the competition date approached—especially the night before—intensity grew significantly. We were tasked with memorizing hundreds, if not thousands, of facts and vocabulary related to the culinary and hospitality industry. As Bethanie put it, it was “hard but extremely rewarding.” We met several nights outside of classes and designated practices, ensuring we felt comfortable and confident when we stepped onto the competition stage. Our coaches, Chef Bryant and Chef Aleman, constantly took us through practice games and memory drills for months before the competition, on the airplane, and even up to 10 minutes before the competition began!

Each of us had our areas of expertise to avoid burnout while preparing. Maggie P. specialized in pastries and the bakeshop,

Bethanie excelled in fish and aquaculture, Maggie B. focused on herbs, spices, garde manger, business management, and classical garnishes, and I had a strong inclination towards the French Brigade system, safety and sanitation, and culinary terminology.

The event itself was grand, with the national hot food competition taking place nearby. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous, but we didn't show up just for a participation trophy—we came to win. We knew we were the underdogs because we were competing against schools that are much larger than ours. Our first match was against the Culinary Institute of Michigan, a veritable powerhouse when it comes to all things culinary. They were also the team that had defeated us the last time we competed. That loss had been a tough one, especially since one of our coaches, Chef Aleman, had gambled on the final question in a sudden death elimination scenario and unfortunately lost. We knew beating them was essential to set the pace for the tournament and avenge that past defeat.

The first round didn't start well, and we found ourselves in a considerable deficit. However, we managed to clutch victory by identifying an image on

the board as celeriac, which secured our win in the first match. With that victory, we set the tone for the rest of the competition, ultimately going undefeated and claiming the trophy for Grayson College as this year's National Champions!

Past to Present

By: Tim Hanks

Currently I'm one of the custodians at Grayson South Campus. But for 32 years, I worked with bats. Relocating bat colonies from buildings back to caves and releasing them into the wild. I have since retired and now work as a custodian in the south campus and love my job!



Finding The Balance

By: Bryson Bush

Students have developed many tricks and approaches to finding this balance. Cade Patton, a Senior and football player at WestPoint, the United States Military Academy, remarked, "It is important to be really good at time management and being able to get things done when you only have a little bit of time to do it... get stuff done between classes, at lunch, etcetera." Patton, being a current student, believes that it is important to make time during your day to get assignments done without it interfering with other commitments. Finding the ideal balance of school and life is something that students all over the world have to struggle with. Strategies or techniques used to find this balance. Have changed over the years. Jennifer Bush, who got her masters degree while working a full-time job handled her responsibilities differently from Patton. Bush decided that it would be better to make time instead of find time. This meant that she had to change her routines, start staying up late, and sometimes miss out on social events on the weekends. Bush worked on her degree for 15 to 18 hours a week while working full time as an elementary music teacher and being a mother of five children who all are involved in extracurriculars.

Some students have to make school their main focus in order for them to succeed with their goals. Others such as Jimmy Trotter, a long-time teacher, coach, and principal, approached school differently. Trotter mentioned, "...as a [freshman in college] I

didn't care enough. I spent a lot of time playing foosball, in the gym, and just hanging out." School was not much of a priority for Trotter due to the fact that he didn't have a home like other college students. Trotter lived by himself from his senior year of high school until his sophomore year of college. However, he managed to keep himself in school and pass his classes. When his junior year of college rolled around, Trotter's main focus shifted because he got married. Even though it wasn't his top priority, Trotter was able to stay on top of his schoolwork and succeed in his classes. This approach is in stark contrast to Patton, who said, "School is the main focus, especially if you want to succeed after school." Patton believes that school should always be a top priority because it is key to success, whether that be trying to find a good job or to get accepted into a college to earn an undergraduate and/or graduate degree. Trotter coached for 17 years, and has been a school administrator since 1998. Trotter has been able to take care of his family and provide for his grandchildren.

Day-to-day schedules present different challenges. For example, Patton has classes and other school activities from 6:45 am until almost 1 pm. After that, he has to go to football practice until roughly 9 pm. With this schedule, Patton has to work to find the balance. He stays up late to work on his assignments so that he can continue to play football.

Because she is an elementary teacher, Bush had to arrive at Preston Elementary, a 44 mile commute, by 7:00 am every morning, where she worked until 4 pm. Once she was done teaching, she had to take care of her own children

(making them dinner, taking them to sports practices, watching their games). The earliest she ever got to work on her master's degree coursework was 8 pm, and even that was rare.

Trotter, on the other hand, had class from 8-11am, then he had to go to work, where he would be from 12-6pm on weekdays and all day Saturday. When Trotter was not at school or working, he would spend his time with his now-wife, Ri Trotter.

The hardest part about finding a balance between school and life is the mandatory commitments outside of school. Patton had to learn to make time to reach back home. Living 23 hours away from home in New York, meant that he couldn't just stop by for a visit. He had to work to call and visit his family when he could.

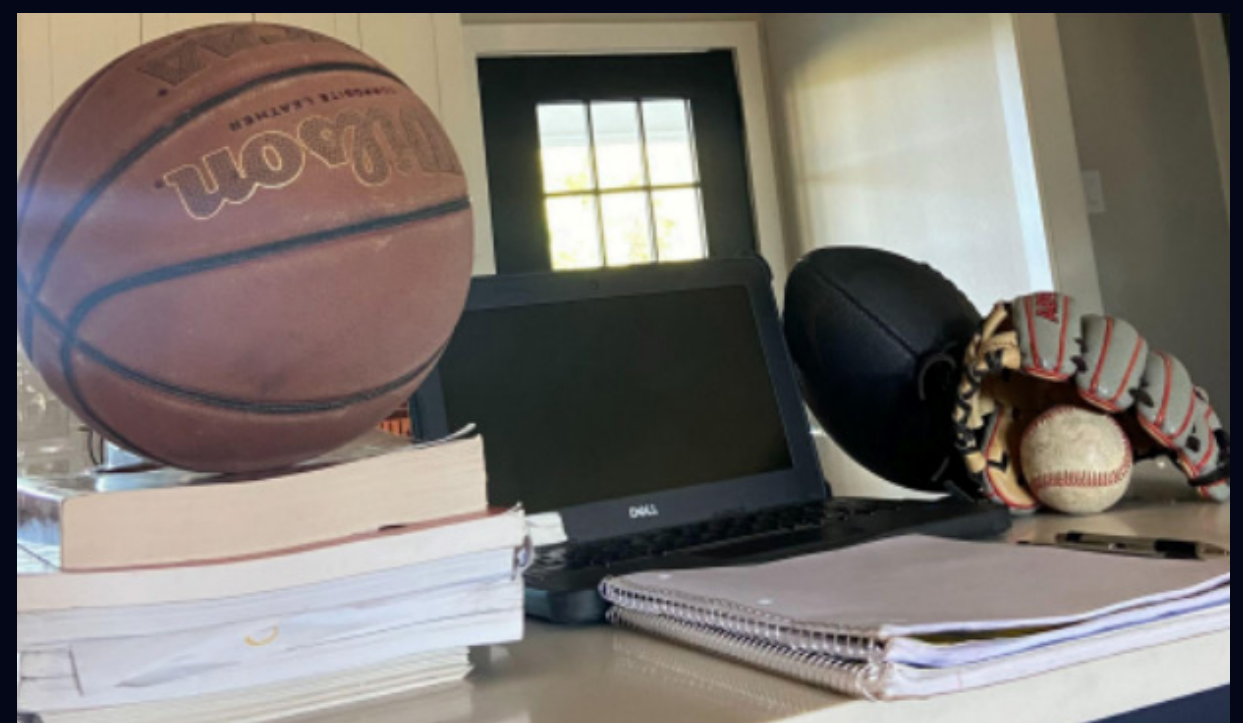
Bush said, "My most important commitment is being a mom. I am a mother of 5 kids who are all heavily involved in extracurriculars." Bush has commitments outside of school such as work and, of course, being a mom. These challenges add to the struggle of finding the balance, but she believes that it is always possible because if you care about something and work hard for it you can achieve it.

As a coach at Hirschi High School, Trotter has come across many students

who struggled with finding the balance because of their non-school commitments. Trotter confirmed, "Yes, [students asked him for help with their struggles] all the time. Athletes had to go from school to practice to work until midnight, to provide for their families, as high schoolers." Trotter coached many athletes who were from poor families. These athletes had to work so that their families could survive.

When asked what to do about finding the balance Trotter told his players that they needed to set priorities. Though family always comes first, they would never be sixteen playing basketball again. Sports last for only a few short years, whereas work will last for the rest of their lives. Trotter worked to help his players see the bigger picture and find the balance of school, work, and life. He pushed them to be the best, not only basketball players but the best men that they could be.

For some, like Patton, the key is to find time; for others, like Bush, it is to make time; and still for others, like Trotter, it is a combination of finding time and making time to do what needs to get done. Bush says, "one of the greatest challenges in life is being able to find balance. However, finding that balance can be extremely rewarding."



*Picture taken by Bryson Bush

If Only I Had Known

If I had only known,
Oh how different things would have been.
The pain that would have been avoided,
The hurt would never have set in.

If I had only known,
I would have gone left, not right.
I would have turned my back
And not held on so tight

If I had only known,
The devastation it all would cause
I would have run the other way,
Never giving a moment's pause

If I had only known,
Life would never be the same
I would have savored the small things,
Instead of dwelling in shame.

If I had only known,
That all that I held dear,
Would be gone in a moment,
To my heart, I would have held it near.

If I had only known,
That I was the reason it all went so bad,
Things would have been different,
I would cherish what I had.

If I had only known,
That there was no going home,
I would loved harder, laughed longer,
If I had only known.

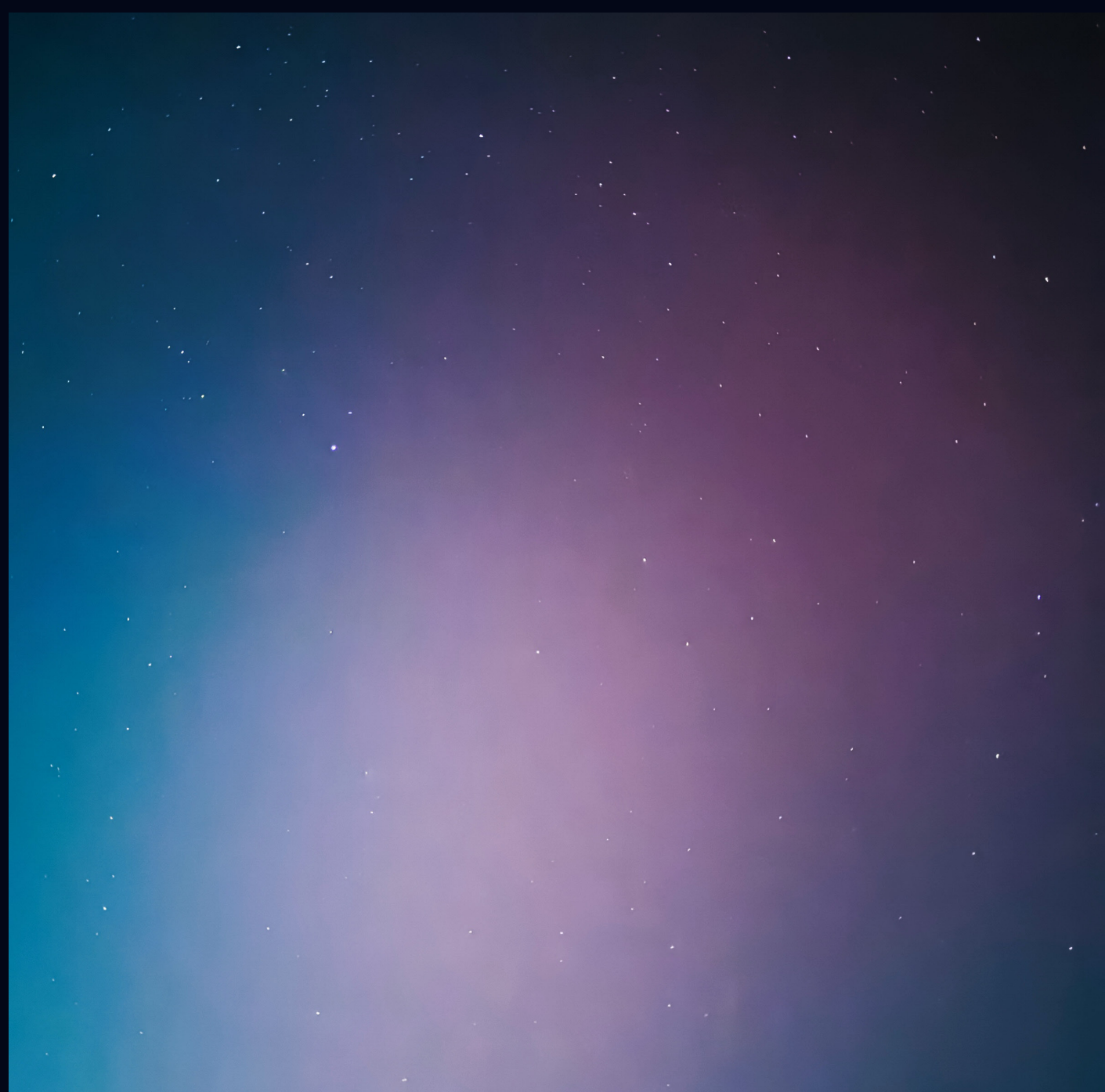
-Kody Emmons

Meet Aurora

As the sun set over
Texas, North Texas
citizens got the
oppritunnity of a lifetime
May 10 and 11. The sun
had set but it was no
where near dark as the
Aurora Borealis




illumiated the starry
night.

Texoma got a
second chance to see
the lights on October 10
after a severe
geomagnetic storm.



*Picture taken by librarian Diane Smith on her roof.

Stories of Strength: Remembering the Holocaust and Genocide

-  Thursday, November 14
-  Grayson College -
Center for Workplace
Learning Auditorium
-  6:30pm



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

