

# Sping Into the Semester

After a month-long break, The Viking returns! We took the time over break to discuss how to better the paper and welcome some new writers!

These writers will be featured more throughout the next issue, but if you want to get to know them better, check out our instagram!

## 691 Celebrates Valentines By: Mary Hernandez

Last month, 691, Grayson College's very own student-run restaurant, hosted their Annual Valentines Dinner Fundraiser, featuring gourmet food and luxurious fine dining ambience. "It's a phenomenon," an attendee said of 691. "I've never had a bad meal here. Everything was delicious, and the steak was fantastic."

In fact, the steak was the highlight of the night. "Sous vide is a big thing we do up here to bring the fine dining aspect," said Cole Gibson, a culinary arts and server at the event, "rather than doing it like a normal steakhouse (for example, Texas Roadhouse). We take a lot of care with our water baths and searing afterwards. So the steak is definitely the thing I'm most proud of for the event."

Of course, steak wasn't the only item on

the menu: "Chef Bryant decided the first two courses, and I decided the dessert course," said Chef Instructor Carrie Kelley. "Then Rusty [Weatherly] chose the wines and designed the dining room. I worked with one of our students, Jefferson, on the look of the dessert plate, such as where the mousse and the ice cream would be placed." Altogether, these meals came to a total \$150 per couple.

While some students might blanch at the price of \$150 per couple — even though the price is still cheaper than most fine dining restaurants — the money is assured to be well-spent. "It all goes back to the students," said Cole Gibson. "We're trying to raise about \$5,000 for our TIPSS Club, which funds all our competitions, trips, and scholarships." TIPSS also hosts food

shows and local charity events, making it the perfect place for a culinary student. "I love it," Cole elaborated later. "It's my life. I get to cook all day."

But supporting students isn't the only reason attendees dined at 691 that night. "Grayson runs deep in my blood," the interviewed attendee said. "I've always tried to encourage support, but quite frankly, this is the best deal around. It's amazing." In fact, there is a wealth of positivity for 691 on their reservations website (Even professors endorse it).

"Come by again," Cole said. "We don't get a lot of students (though some tried to get in today). It's mostly professors." Fortunately, the everyday price for lunch at 691 is broke-college-student-friendly: only \$15. So whether it's for a romantic meal with your partner, as a reward for getting through your exams, or even as a casual lunch during your day, 691 is the perfect place for Grayson Vikings to support their fellow students and receive the best gourmet food in town.



*Culinary students from various classes help each other in prepparing dishes for a full dinning room.*



# BINGO!

By: Jocelyn Stephens

Viking Pride Alliance (VPA) and Student Life hosted Grayson College's annual bingo event this year (February 25, 2025). With black lights and plenty of glowing fashion accessories, glow in the dark bingo was a hit. I was personally decked out in some pretty cool

"fashion statements". Candy, popcorn, and drinks were on the house. Prizes including portable charging banks, hooded blankets, and Stanleys. Competition got a \*little\* heated with the grand prize being a 55" TV. Although I did not win any prizes, I won in experience and friendship (I met several new people). Maybe I \*or you\* will win next year...



Two students accompanying each other at bingo night.

# Presidential Ambassadors

By: Kendrick Gibson

The Presidential Student Ambassadors Program at Grayson College is a student led organization designed to cultivate student leaders who will share the GC experience with current and prospective students. Through collaboration, service and advocacy, the program aims to bridge connections among students, faculty and community.

Students that meet

the requirements for the program are selected through a screening process by an advisory committee. Members are required to commit one full academic year and 10 hours of service each week. Presidential Student Ambassadors 2024-2025 activities and service events include: recruiting and outreach events, commencement ceremonies, fundraising events, and leadership training.



2024-2025 Presidential Ambassadors

Deadline to submit 2025-2026 application to be an Ambassador is **March 12.**

# Your Move

It's white's turn to move, and they can get a checkmate. Can you help them defeat the king?

Solution on page 6

Opening Position: rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR





# Ethan: The Hallmark of Leadership

By: Mary Hernandez

Spring break has just begun for Grayson College, but for Phi Theta Kappans, the academic life continues. With the Texas Regional Convention just behind them, they look to the next goal: Catalyst — and the election of the new coalition of International Officers. But this election is even more exciting for Grayson's Phi Theta Kappa members, because one of our very own students, Ethan Hall, is running for the highest seat: International President. Even better, the presidential hopeful has graciously decided to share his experience and advice with the Viking Newspaper.

"In one word: life-changing," Ethan said to describe his experience at Phi Theta Kappa. "It has just shaped me

so much as a person and as a leader. I joined at a weird stage in my life. I didn't have the best time in college; I didn't have many friends. I just went to class and left when it was over. But when I was invited to the society by a professor of mine, I was welcomed with open arms by a group of high achieving students like me. I've met so many people from different walks of life, and I've formed deep connections that will last me for a lifetime."

Ethan isn't the only one to describe his experience so positively, yet it's still hard to convince students to join. With the option of the many student clubs and organizations at Grayson, they ask the common question: why should I?

"Well, why shouldn't you?" Ethan laughed. "Obviously the benefits — the scholarships, building your resume,



and all — are there, but it really is a transformative experience. I came from a small town, very conservative, where the thinking was very linear, but with Phi Theta Kappa, I was able to meet people from all over the world and expand my thinking. It forced me to grow as a leader, and it gave me the opportunity to. It's not something that's tangible, but it's the thing that will most impact you."

The impact on Ethan has been made clear: with officer positions at the chapter and regional level, the only mountain left to conquer is the international officer team. "I want to give back to the community," Ethan said. "I have the skillset as a leader to do that. In my time here, I've learned that listening is a lost art. Everyone deserves to be listened to. This is a world where leaders like to talk and talk and they forget to listen. I think this community deserves a leader

that can listen and represent everyone, because this is such an international community."

But running — *against other people* — is a daunting task, but Ethan doesn't see it as an impossible one, not for anyone. "I've had people talk to me about running, and I honestly encourage them to do it, even if they don't win, because the experience alone is worth it. When I first announced that I was running for international office, I got a flood of supportive and enthusiastic messages. Even just that it was worth it: to know that I was so supported and uplifted by my community. But I understand people have a lot of misgivings about running.

They say, 'I don't think I can do it,' and it makes me so sad, because they absolutely can. We have so many members who can make an impact as leaders. Don't let doubt stand in your way."

Students can find and support Ethan on Instagram @ets.hall.





# Zucchini Cake

By: Asher Rushing

## Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour (1 cup Almond flour for Gluten free)  
 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon (Optional)(adds color)  
 2 teaspoons baking soda  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 ¼ teaspoon baking powder  
 2 cups grated zucchini (Do not squeeze out moisture)  
 1 ½ cups white sugar/splenda(36 packets or 1 ½ cups)  
 1 cup vegetable oil  
 3 large eggs, lightly beaten (¾ cup Banana for vegan)  
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
 1 cup chopped walnuts/pecans (Optional)

**Zucchini cake is a family favorite in my house. My mother used to bring it for family gatherings and events. It was well loved and the recipe was shared amongst us kids. As a family favorite, I love to share it with others.**

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## Neon Rush

By: Mo Lowman

I twist the throttle, the world fades away,  
 City lights blur in a neon display.  
 The wind wraps around me, electric and wild,  
 A heartbeat of freedom, reckless and styled.

My bike and I, sleek and fast,  
 Gliding through curves, built to last.  
 Music pulses, bass in my chest,  
 I move with the rhythm, alive at my best.

Side to side, I weave and sway,  
 A dance on asphalt, night into day.  
 Throttle open, adrenaline high,  
 The world is mine when I let it fly.

But danger lingers, quiet, near,  
 A thrill wrapped in a whisper of fear.  
 One mistake, one move too wide,  
 The edge of fate is always inside.

Yet I don't shrink—I take the space,  
 Own the road, set my pace.  
 With every mile, every turn,  
 I let the weight of the world unburn.

No walls, no chains, just endless rush,  
 Two wheels, one heart—painted in blush.

## Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Combine flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, and baking powder in a bowl.

Mix zucchini, sugar, vegetable oil, eggs, and vanilla in a separate bowl.

Add flour mixture to zucchini mixture and stir until just combined. Stir in walnuts/pecans, then pour batter into the prepared pan.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 45 minutes.





# Upcoming Club Meetings

## Phi Theta Kappa

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

## True Crime & Crafts

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

## Pride Alliance

Every Thursday  
1:00pm-2:00pm  
Viking Room

## Writers Unlimited

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

## Anime Club

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

## Gamers Guild

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

## Welding

March 26  
4:30pm-5:30pm

## Art

March 27  
April 24  
12:15pm-1:00pm  
AC105

## Criminal Justice Club

March 6  
March 20  
April 3  
April 17  
May 1  
May 8  
12:15pm-1:00pm  
CIS 205

## Summit

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

## Lunch Bible Study

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

## Job Fair!

By: Alissa Andrews

Did you know that the Grayson College Career Center plans job fairs throughout the year? Our next job fair will be held on Thursday, March 27th from 10am to 1pm in the Student Life Center on the main campus. We welcome all full-time, part-time, and dual credit students, alumni, and members of the community to attend the event to explore career opportunities from employers across the region. This is a great opportunity to network with employers and other professionals across multiple industries. We hope to see you there!!

Looking  
to hire?



GRAYSON COLLEGE  
MAIN CAMPUS

JOB  
FAIR



March 27  
10am-1pm

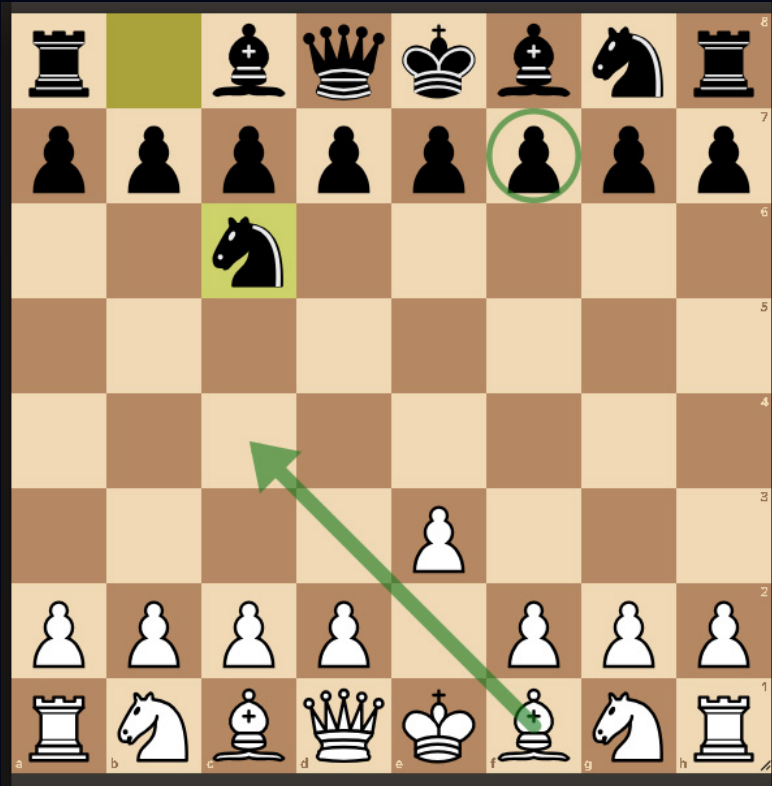
Grayson College Life Center  
6101 Grayson Drive Denison,  
TX 75020

Register online today!



CONTACT: [clarke@grayson.edu](mailto:clarke@grayson.edu) or 903-415-2556

1



2



3



Want to study the moves in depth? Follow this link:

<https://lichess.org/study/WlscZfNL>

1. e3 Nc6
  2. Bc4 e5
  3. Qh5 Nf6??
  4. Qxf7#
- 1-0

## Interested in Writing for the Viking?

The Viking Staff wants to expand its coverage and the best way to do that is through teamwork!

As much fun as the newspaper is, designing, writing, and editing such a big project can become

a big task for one person.

We appreciate all of your contributions and look at all of them, but we also want to feature more cover stories.

If you enjoy writing, taking pictures, and

engaging in interviews don't be afraid to reach out and become a Viking Writer! You can reach us at:

[theviking@grayson.edu](mailto:theviking@grayson.edu)

We will do interviews in January in

the order that people reach out to us. We are looking for ambitious, fast-responding, and talented writers.

# 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](mailto: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](https://www.instagram.com/the_viking_voice)