

THE GIST

BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMMING EVENTS CHAIR



Homecoming week has come and gone, and the GSS was at the heart of the festivities! We had a fantastic time participating in three exciting events: Paint the Union, Chalk PedWalkway, and the Parade. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase our creativity, connect with alumni, and celebrate our shared Volunteer spirit!

As we look back on the success of Homecoming Week, we encourage you to stay connected with us, share your ideas for future events, and remain involved in our ongoing initiatives. Your engagement makes GSS special, and we can't wait to create even more memorable moments together in the future!

Programming and Events Chair Anika Sarkar

GSS INITIATIVES

[GSS Travel Awards](#)



If you are a graduate or professional student who will be presenting research on behalf of UT as the first author at an in-person or virtual professional conference, you are eligible to [apply online!](#)

Reduce, Reuse, Regalia!

We are partnering with the Center for Basic Needs and the Free Store for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Swing by Student Union 192 on Wednesday 11/15 between noon and 3 PM to get some free graduation gear (while supplies last).



Cruze Farm Grad Night Out

Join us for our last Grad Night Out of the semester at Cruze Farm Downtown on November 15 from 5 PM to 9 PM! Visit the [GSS Instagram](#) to learn more!

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Open Graduate Assistantships

Follow the [Graduate School on Instagram](#) to learn about currently available graduate assistantship openings.

Center for Basic Needs

Some of their initiatives include the [Big Orange Pantry](#), [Smokey's Closet](#), and the [Basic Needs Emergency Fund](#).

Office of Ombuds Services

A confidential, safe, and informal space to constructively discuss university-related in marketing or communications.

Counseling Center Support Groups

Free, drop-in, peer-led groups supporting: international graduate students, trans & gender non-binary, and grieving students.

2024 NEXUS Conference Call for Papers

NEXUS is a biennial, interdisciplinary conference hosted by the graduate students in UT's English department.

GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SAMUEL AFFAR



Samuel Affar is a third-year PhD student in Industrial and Systems Engineering, from Lagos, Nigeria. Most notably, he played a key role in establishing UT's Nigerian Student Association and currently serves as the GSS Senate Chair.

In addition, Samuel is a part-time intern with the Power Systems Analytics Team at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, where he researches the application of optimization techniques and data science to enhance decision-making processes in large-scale systems.

Check out the full story on the [GSS Instagram](#) - coming soon!



GA HIGHLIGHT: I-HOUSE'S JENNY OTT

It's [International Education Week](#)! To celebrate, we talked to Jenny Ott, who currently serves as GA at UT's International House (I-House).

Jenny is a first-year master's student studying Human and Cultural Geography at the College of Arts & Sciences. Through her work at the I-House, she plays a pivotal role in promoting cross-cultural engagement and support for students.

Visit the [GSS Instagram](#) to read more about Jenny and GSS's efforts to support international education.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

[Fantasy of Trees Holiday Fundraising Event](#)

☐ November 22-26

☐ Knoxville Convention Center

[Regal Knoxville 5K Turkey Trot](#)

☐ November 23, 8 AM

☐ The Mill & Mine

[Corgi Races at the Knoxville Ice Bears](#)

☐ November 24, 6 PM

Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet

□ December 21 at 4 PM and 8 PM

□ Tennessee Theater

VETERANS DAY ON ROCKY TOP: VETERANS SUCCESS CENTER



In commemoration of Veterans Day on November 11, veteran and PhD student Nathan Vann reflects on his time as a grad student and his relationship with the [Veterans Success Center \(VSC\)](#) and its importance to the university. The VSC seeks to guide veterans in their transition

to students, through resources, experiences, and programs available to them.

Find Nathan's interview on the [GSS Instagram](#).

Contact Us

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