



# Going Greek: Mykonos Grill

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Six years ago, Steve Papakostas saw that there was a gap in the variety of food available to the Burlington community. There were plenty of American food restaurants and chains, but nothing that resembled the food that Papakostas loved to make.

Living in Kernersville — which has a large Greek community — Papakostas noticed the absence of Greek food in Burlington. So Mykonos Grill, a restaurant also found in Gibsonville, Salisbury and Concord, made

another home in Burlington.

Patty McCauley, a Burlington native who had never eaten Greek food before Mykonos Grill, has been working at this location since it opened and has moved up to the role of manager. In that time, she has watched the restaurant transform from a small, casual Greek restaurant to something much more to the Burlington community.

Though the menu hasn't changed much, the food has been in such high demand that the original space the restaurant occupied was not able to accommodate all of the customers who flocked to try the newest fad on the Burlington restaurant circuit.

Most food trends fade out, but for Mykonos Grill, the hype continues to this day.

"We took over the space next to us last year because we were getting more business than our building could physically handle," McCauley said. "It has helped tremendously. We are still filling it up. It is wonderful."

The physical space of Mykonos Grill is split into two sections and has a very casual feel. The space is set up like a classic New York deli, with a counter that patrons walk up to order at and plenty of booths and tables to fill the space. But at Mykonos, there are flavorful souvlaki and tzatziki sauce instead of thinly sliced deli meats and brown mustard or mayo.

During lunch hours, everyone from construction workers to lawyers look to Mykonos Grill to enjoy the flavorful grilled Greek food. McCauley said though the crowd that comes into Mykonos varies, everyone has something in common: they are looking for some good food.

"We get a mix of everyone," McCauley said. "We do get a lot of Elon students, mostly at nights and on the weekends. We do get people even from Graham and Greensboro coming in. We see everybody."

Other than just a few menu additions, like calamari and a fried cheese appetizer called saganaki, Mykonos Grill has stuck to its roots with Greek classics like gyros, souvlaki and baklava.

"Mykonos is conveniently close, and unlike a lot of restaurants in Burlington, their food is light, nutritious and unique," said sophomore Molly McAdam. "Their spanakopita is truly delicious."

## GUIDE TO GREEK CUISINE

**Baklava:** a phyllo pastry filled with chopped nuts and soaked in honey

**Moussaka:** combination of baked eggplant, potato, tomato, zucchini and spiced ground beef

**Saganaki:** a fried cheese appetizer made in a special type of frying pan

**Souvlaki:** chunks of meat, usually pork or chicken, that are grilled and served in a pita with tzatziki sauce

**Spanakopita:** a phyllo pastry stuffed with spinach and feta cheese

**Tzatziki:** a sauce made of yogurt, cucumbers, and garlic, with some olive oil, salt and sometimes lemon juice and dill

Mykonos Grill is proud of the reputation that comes from the quality of its food. The restaurant focuses on providing a "taste of Greece" in a fresh and healthy way.

Mykonos Grill, located on 2253 S. Church St., Burlington, is open 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The lunch crowd makes up a majority of their customers as there are different lunch combinations offered every day.



A classic gyro, a thin sliced blend of beef, lamb and spices in a pita with tzatziki, is found at Mykonos Grill.

HALL TAUXE | Photo Editor

# 'Luctus: A Teen Drama' where people are people

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The past year saw changes and advocacy for gender equality and acceptance, a topic largely hidden from the public dialogue until now. With public figure Bruce Jenner making her transition into Caitlyn and Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds provoking the conversations of gender-neutral names by naming their daughter James, gender is becoming more of a hot topic.

At Elon University, students, using their classwork and campus resources, have brought a great deal of visibility to the forefront of equality, with a prime example being "Luctus: A Teen Drama," a YouTube show created by senior Valerie Reich and junior Darius Moore.

The show was written so that the main characters were scripted using gender-neutral names like Charlie, Noa, Alex, Jamie and Riley. The creators felt this was a way to build the characters' true selves, allowing them to develop as people regardless of their gender. These unisex names do not strike a masculine or feminine connotation.

Reich said she and Moore went into writing the script with the same idea that "people are people," and by assigning non-gender specific names they were able to look at the characters without preconceived notions of how they should or should not act based on their gender.

"Luctus" is filmed on campus with juniors George Whitaker and Fergie Philippe-Auguste and seniors Caleb Albert, Monica Poston and Kelsey McCabe as the main charac-

ters. The pilot of the show, the only episode out, centers around on the lives of these five students at fictional Luctus University.

To create the first episode, the cast spent a while developing their characters and becoming comfortable with one another.

"We spent a few days on set, which was unusual for me since I'm used to sets only being four hours," McCabe said. "This extra time really helped us become familiar with our characters and build relationships with the other cast and crew members."

Reich said the main goal going into the pilot was to make it as dramatic as possible. This whole episode is filled with relationship and friend drama to make the plot relatable to students.

"There's a scene I have with George Whitaker, talking about mixed vibes from crushes that we've all felt," McCabe said. "The fact that George's character felt the same way made me connect with the gender neutrality concept. Anyone, regard-



Juniors Fergie Philippe-Auguste and George Whitaker play characters with the gender-neutral names Riley and Jamie.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY VALE

basis on which societal structures are formed. With this new gender-neutral naming, some social structures are straying away from the norm and are allowing gender to be a less significant feature of a person. This is something that "Luctus" creators

naming seems to be a new movement, Michael Giordano, a psychotherapist and licensed clinical social worker from Washington, D.C., who specializes in gender identity, calls it a newer cultural phenomenon and suspects it's been around for a long time, but has been kept very quiet and private.

The gender-neutral trend can give people a kind of non-restrictive independence that gendered names do not.

Giordano thinks the idea of "Luctus" is fascinating and original.

"I haven't heard of anything like it," he said. "I suspect it would be of comfort to gender-neutral people who feel alone as well."

Helping to eliminate these preconceived notions about who a person is and what he or she stands for is something the show's creator Reich wanted to bring to the forefront. This story line opens up dialog in so

many other areas — the idea of gender-neutral naming is the first reassuring people to have the age to be true to themselves.

"Subcultures should maintain their own individual cultural identity, but overall we should strive to come a more inclusive human population," Reich said.

Giordano agrees that in the age of a judging culture, belief in something to be admired.

Focusing on her goals of equality, Reich is hoping her story will open doors for gender-neutral people, to help others understand challenges and help gender-neutral people not feel so alone.

As of now, a second episode has not been shot.

"This was one of my favorite projects I've worked on at Elon. It ends on such a cliffhanger," McCabe said. "I hope we get to continue working on this project."

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**VALERIE REICH**  
SENIOR

less of gender, can go through the relationships and issues we face in this show."

Historically, gender has been the

were aiming for — to have characters whose names did not have to conform to restrictive stereotypes.

Though this trend of neutral