The fact that Gustavus has a set plan of action to follow in the event of disaster or emergency involving students is often taken for granted by the average Gustie. Distant memories of the F3 tornado that tore through campus more than a decade ago serve as the sole reminder of how College officials are prepared to respond quickly to a disaster on campus. As a result, rarely do our minds wander to what might be in store for us if we were to find ourselves in a similar scenario while studying away from St. Peter.

This is why the same mindset of the 21 Gustavus students and two faculty members before they were stranded for four days due to rapid flooding while studying for the Education, Healthcare and Poverty in Peru January Interim Experience course north of Lima into Peru. Alison Oppenheimer, a senior Communication Arts and Literature Teaching major was among the stranded students. “I never thought to ask the question concerning disaster protocol or look for an answer for myself. These aren’t the kind of situations you expect, and they can catch you off guard,” Oppenheimer said.

While that particular crisis in Peru was averted and all of the students and faculty were returned home safely because of the coordinated effort by College officials, it sheds light on the topic of Gustavus’ disaster response protocol and how it works. What is important to note is that the average student is that the College’s plan is defined largely by the circumstances and is applied on a case-by-case basis.

“We try to provide alternative activities,” PLEDGE Council President and Senior Political Science and English Major Ethan Marshausen said. “We stress that [drinking] is a decision that every student has to make for themselves. We cater activities toward those who choose not to drink.”

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The group of Gustavus students trapped near Machu Picchu last month underlines the need for emergency plans.

The events in Peru last month provide a lens through which we can analyze how the established CMP for off-campus travel functions. In the literature provided to parents of students studying abroad, there are four conditions under which emergency measures will be taken to protect the well-being of a student: serious illness, injury or death of a student, emotional or psychological stress that appears to require the removal of the student, being victim or accused of committing a crime (e.g. theft, assault, rape, harassment), or a situation in-country that causes serious concern (e.g. natural disaster). If conditions of the scenario meet one of those circumstances, the CMP will be utilized. In the case of the students in Peru, flooding wiped out much of the transportation infrastructure between Aguascalientes (near Machu Picchu) and Cusco, a distance of approximately 70 miles. It was from Cusco that the students and faculty would fly to Lima before heading back to the United States.

The first steps taken after the faculty members on site in Peru notified the College of the circumstances was in O’Grady’s hands as the director of the CICE, as indicated by the CMP. By no means was she alone in the efforts however. “Sometimes I am the only one who needs to handle it. Other times, as with the Peru situation, the Crisis Management Team (CMT) includes the dean of...”

Continued on page 3

Jan 24, 2019

Continued on page 2

December 7, 2019

Continued on page 2

January Interim under speculation

Andey Setterholm Assistant News Editor

January Interim Experience at Gustavus offers a different campus atmosphere than the full terms between which it is sandwiched. Students are only required to take one credit during January Interim Experience and only two during the credits during their four years at Gustavus. January Interim Experience offers some unique experiences, such as study abroad programs around the world, internships, yoga and dance classes, but it also leaves students with a lot of free time on their hands.

“There is a perception that January Interim Experience is a slack term, and it is that mentality that creates a bad situation,” Director of Residential Life and Assistant Dean of Students Charlie Strey said.

“If that is that general attitude toward January Interim, we have a problem,” Director of Alcohol and Drug Education Judy Douglas said. That is why Campus Safety reported 13 alcohol related incidents involving one or more people. Five of these cases resulted in students and student guests being sent to Detox.

“This January Interim Experience has been a bad one for us,” Director of Campus Safety Ray Thrower said. “We were active in several cases of drinking.”

While January Interim Experience is intended to be a break between semesters, the intention was not for students to fill their free time with drinking. PLEDGE and other campus groups host entertaining events that attempt to free students from the peer pressure to drink that they may feel.

“We try to provide alternative activities,” PLEDGE Council President and Senior Political Science and English Major Ethan Marshausen said. “We stress that [drinking] is a decision that every student has to make for themselves. We cater activities toward those who choose not to drink.”

PLEDGE hosted a weekly game night in the Dive every Thursday night on average January Interim Experience. Saturday Night in Lund, cupcakes and other campus groups host entertaining events that attempt to free students from the peer pressure to drink that they may feel.

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Campus Safety Report

Tuesday, February 9
- A student while walking on Campus drive was cited by Campus Safety for underage consumption and possession of alcohol.

Wednesday, February 10
- Three sexual assaults that occurred over the last year were reported to Campus Safety.

Friday, February 12
- A report was filed about a lost Gustavus key.

Saturday, February 13
- A student in Gibbs Hall was cited for underage consumption and taken to Detox.
- A student in the Student Union was cited for underage consumption and taken to Detox.
- Two students in Sorensen Hall were cited for underage consumption of alcohol by Campus Safety.

Tip of the Week:
During a Winter Storm - FEMA Guidelines

If you are outdoors:
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside.
- Cover your mouth. Protect your lungs from extremely cold air by covering your mouth when outdoors. Try not to speak unless absolutely necessary.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.
- Watch for signs of hypothermia. These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.

If you are driving:
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive, consider the following:
  - Travel in the day, don’t travel alone, and keep others informed of your schedule.
  - Stay on main roads; avoid back road shortcuts.

“January” from page 1

The rise in Detox cases may be related to a positive effect of Gustavus’ amnesty policy.

“Gustavus is unique in that we have the amnesty program that allows students to get help for their friends,” Thrower said. The amnesty program states that students who request assistance for friends or acquaintances who are overly inebriated are exempt from judicial sanctions. Though reporting students may be asked to attend alcohol education seminars, there will be no permanent record of the incident even if they were under the influence of alcohol when requesting help for friends. Though January Interim Experience has gained a negative reputation in recent years, it is not necessarily a true one.

“People come back from our programs saying they have had absolutely fantastic experiences,” Douglas said. Changing the perception of January Interim Experience may take some work on the parts of students and administrators. There have been suggestions of surveying students on how to make January Interim Experience more positive and active, and campus groups are constantly creating programs and events that divert students from drinking situations. Drinking cannot be completely ruled out, however.

“We know students drink,” Thrower said. “We hope they drink responsibly.”

Campus Safety typically has a few main concerns with alcohol use. First, heavy alcohol abuse can lead to alcohol poisoning, which can be deadly. Sexual Assault rates also climb when alcohol is present, along with vandalism and other crimes on and off campus.

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Plans for the new academic building swings into action

After months of brainstorming, negotiating and designing, solid plans are in the works

"Disaster plan" from page 1

Students, the provost, the VP for Finance, the VP for Marketing & communication, [Campus] Safety and some others... depending on the situation," O'Grady said.

According to the CMP, the first steps taken by either O'Grady or the CMT may include coordinating with the U.S. State Department or embassy in the host country, developing an evacuation plan, preparing a list of those who will be notified and getting measures approved by the president of the College. But some of the most immediate concerns for the students are what take first priority. For example, the students in Peru were stranded along with over 2,500 other tourists, so finding appropriate shelter, providing food and getting in contact with parents were among the first actions taken.

According to Oppenheimer, “[The College] was extremely effective. It sent frequent e-mails to all of our parents... made sure that we had enough money to continue paying for hotel rooms and food... and [was] in frequent contact with us, making sure we had everything we needed."

Many of these decisions made through O'Grady and the CMT are relayed to the supervising faculty member traveling with the students. In the case of Peru, Professor of Religion Mary Solberg of Religion and Professor of Education Debra Pitton had to provide the information about the conditions on site. As part of the CMP, supervising faculty members are provided with an orientation and training session, are briefed on responding to a crisis and are given contact information for the College to use in the case of an emergency.

The final facet of the CMP that is particularly important is how the College communicates information to the community and to the media at large. According to O'Grady, "Since the media often had information that was inaccurate, parents were relying on my office to get them the most accurate information we [could] gather." Other information and press releases are handled by the office of marketing & communication at Gustavus.

In any crisis situation involving students, it is impossible to be 100 percent prepared. This uncertainty is magnified when the crisis affects numerous students who are living through a disaster scenario thousands of miles away, as with this particular January Interim Experience situation in Peru. Charlie Strey echoed this sentiment, saying that "nothing is quite the same when you are talking about students being abroad, as it is a situation Gustavus hasn't really found itself in much before." Strey said.

Summer in Admission

Join the Admission staff this summer as a full-time tour guide. You’ll also be a:

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- postmaster
- phoner
- analyzer
- coordinator
- mover
- mingler
- brainstormer
- model
- driver
- and Gustavus representative

Stop by the Admission Office before March 12 to pick up an application and get more information about requirements, pay, and benefits.

Artists’ renderings of the new academic building. The building is expected to be opened by Fall 2011.
Annika Ferber
Staff Writer

A new exhibition is gracing the walls of the Hillstrom Museum of Art at Gustavus. From Feb 15 to April 18, 2010 works from the art forger Elmyr de Hory and a new display in the campus' Focus IN/OUT exhibit, will be on display for art enthusiasts.

Director Don Myers of the Hillstrom Museum of Art has worked with the current owner of all the works on display, Mark Forgy, to bring the newest exhibit to the Museum. Prior to Forgy’s ownership, many of the works were shown other places, such as the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the St. Louis Art Museum. The exhibit is “fascinating because of the nature of the beast,” Myers said in reference to the many stories behind every painting and drawing on display. The artist, de Hory, earned quite the name for himself.

Born in Hungary, de Hory didn’t grow up thinking he would become an art forger, someone who imitates the style of another famous artist. Early on, de Hory studied classic-style paintings in Munich, Germany and later continued his studies in Paris, France. After his schooling, he tried to create original pieces but soon discovered his ability to copy works of art of other famous painters. Selling the forgeries became an easy way for de Hory to make a living during World War II.

The exhibit includes a documentary entitled “Elmyr, the True Picture?” showing de Hory’s career including his first experience with selling a forgery. The documentary recounts how a friend asked to buy one of his sketches, thinking it was an original Picasso. He sold it for 50 pounds.

The exhibit itself contains many works of de Hory’s, the majority being sketches with a few paintings mixed in. Reading the descriptions next to each drawing or painting gives visitors a greater understanding of what the artist did and accomplished. One sketch on display, “Portrait of a Girl,” de Hory signed as Henri Matisse. When it was found, it was known that it was a fake, but sold anyway. In 1970, the sketch was donated as a study piece of de Hory’s style. Neighboring this sketch is an original drawing by Matisse, “Woman with Folded Hands,” from the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and trying to spot differences between the two pieces has proven a daunting task.

Also on display in the Hillstrom Museum of Art is the oil painting “Dominoes” by Henry Schnakenberg, which was chosen to be part of the Focus IN/OUT program. “Focus IN/OUT has two main goals,” Myers said, “encouraging those who are interested in art and getting others outside of the usual suspects, [in addition to] drawing attention to works the [Hillstrom] owns.”

The Focus IN/OUT program was started six years ago by Myers. “Dominoes” is coupled with a “didactic text” written by Carolyn Fillers Dobler, a professor of mathematics and computer Science at Gustavus. All the pieces featured in Focus IN/OUT are works that were previously owned and donated by the museum’s namesake, Richard L. Hillstrom. The Focus IN/OUT exhibits have featured a wide variety of Gustavus’ community members ranging from professors of peace studies to Steven Wilkinson, former Gustavus tennis coach. “Dominoes” will be the fifth work featured in the Focus IN/OUT exhibit.

Myers encouraged Gustavus students to take the time to come visit the exhibit. “Education is holistic. Students shouldn’t focus on only being a math or geology major. Disciplines are interconnected in real ways, not artificial, and Gustavus does a good job of fitting the liberal arts ideal.” Myers said.

“The Hillstrom Museum is hosting the most significant exhibition of Elmyr de Hory’s art in almost 35 years, and the most comprehensive collection of his work on display in North America ever,” Forgy said.

Forgy will be on campus March 21, 2010 for a lecture on de Hory and the exhibit. The Hillstrom Museum of Art is located on the lower level of the Campus Center and is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends.
Gustie of the Week:

Senior Sam Paulson: Big man on campus

Senior Management Major Sam Paulson is a friendly, outgoing Gustie Greeter, a member of the SAE Fraternity and a varsity basketball player. If this doesn’t make him stand out from a crowd, one other thing will for sure: Sam’s height.

“My height is my most defining characteristic; I am the tallest person on campus, six feet and nine inches. It has its pros and cons, but it made me more outgoing — especially when I am in big crowds. I am kind of a spectacle and need to be chill and just roll with it. I have heard all the tall jokes there are, but my height is great for concerts; people get super jealous,” Sam said.

Sam was recruited by Division I and Division II schools to play basketball, but he chose to come to Gustavus. “St. Peter is a lot like my home town, Waseca. I love the rural area, and the town is super supportive of the College. My friends from home and my parents are able to come to a lot of my games,” Sam said.

He has played on the Gustavus Men’s Basketball team all throughout college and thinks it is interesting to see how a team interacts on different levels. “Each year has a different feel, but I think this has been our most successful year since I have been at Gustavus. We are hoping to take the Playoff Championship,” Sam said.

Sam has been a Greeter for the past two years, and has been one of the most influential decisions he has made. His friends encouraged him to apply and told him he would be good at it. Sam was only involved in basketball at that time and was not sure if he could handle anything else on top of it. He decided to take a chance, applied and received a Greeter spot.

“I got really nervous because I didn’t know a lot of the people, but it sparked my desire to get involved more,” Sam said.

During his first year as a Greeter, Sam met Dave Christians, who was helping start the SAE fraternity and asked him to join.

“It was a really great decision. I met a whole different group of people,” Sam said.

During his junior year because he was not allowed to start classes until he declared one. “I like working in teams, and I wanted something broad; I was between management and communication. Management, I see it like The Office, being like Michael Scott, but not as dumb,” Sam said.

“St. Peter is a lot like my home town, Waseca. I love the rural area, and the town is super supportive of the College.”

As Sam’s final semester at Gustavus is just starting, he is not spending too much time planning out the future, but focusing on the present. “Maybe when it gets closer to spring I will worry more about what I will do after I graduate. I haven’t worried much about it. I will figure it out after I graduate because Gustavus has been such a good experience I want to [soak] it up in the next few months,” Sam said. He is continuing to seek out new experiences, including trying out for track in the spring.

“I am going out for track in the spring; I ran cross country in high school, and I am excited to see what happens,” Sam said. “The main reason I am joining track is to get to meet more people and to get to know them. I want to make a positive impact, whether that is being a friend or just helping someone out,” Sam said.

Standing at six feet nine inches tall, Senior Management Major Sam Paulson is easily spotted around campus. According to Sam, his height has allowed him to become more outgoing and relaxed in crowds.
Senior art studio majors host mid-year exhibition

Katie Volney
Staff Writer

This past Thursday, Gustavus’ 18 senior studio art majors hosted an exhibition of their works, titled “Advance Screening: Mid-Year Senior Art Show,” in the Schaefer Art Gallery located in the Fine Arts building. This show preceded their final show, which is set to take place in early May 2010. The show consisted of works from all of this year’s senior studio art majors. Each student chose two to seven pieces, both finished and unfinished, to display. Because the number of studio art majors this year is nearly double that of previous years, the pieces filled the entire gallery.

This exhibition, unlike the final show, was meant to show the process each artist goes through upon undertaking a project. Senior Art Studio Major Kristina Kelly, whose art was featured in the show, knows this process well. “Making art is much like writing a paper. There is research, an outline, a rough draft and much editing,” Kelly said. Fellow Senior Art Studio and Biology Major Kate Wiedman also described the show as a “teaser,” insisting it was meant to pique the viewer’s interest in the projects and thus encourage them to attend the final showing in May. The show also proved largely beneficial to the artists themselves. Displaying unfinished works showed the progress that each artist has made so far and allowed for friendly critiquing. “It helped us prepare for the final show and also get feedback,” Senior Art Studio Major Amanda Skarphol said.

If you missed the mid-year showing, you will have yet another chance to see the works of these seniors in the spring. The pieces that were shown on Thursday will be on display again as finished products on May 1, 2010 in the Hillstrom Museum of Art. “Unfinished works show a piece in action,” Senior Japanese Studies and Art Studio Major Caitlin Peterson said. Peterson says that she herself will continue to work on her own unfinished painting for the final show.

So why should students attend the show in May? “Well, there will be good food!” Peterson said. In addition to these incentives, students will be able to see the “best of the best” of our own Gustie artists. It will also give the artists themselves a chance to display their works on campus for one last time. “It will showcase everything we’ve learned here,” Skarphol said.

Senior Art Studio Major Rachel Pedersen mounts one of her silkscreen prints to the Schaefer Gallery wall for the opening of the mid-year exhibition.


Avatar: You won’t believe your eyes

Directed by James Cameron, Avatar is one of the most visually stunning movies ever made. The incredible cinematography relies heavily on computer-generated sequences, which make the film both engaging and seem natural for the viewer.

Despite the long run time, Avatar is a movie which simply must be seen in theaters. I highly recommend killing a few hours indoors on a windy day treating your eyes to a visually spectacular cinematic accomplishment. I give Avatar three out of three crowns.

Healthy relationships and you

Healthy Relationships and You workshop seeks to accomplish. Although the workshop will answer many questions, it will not give you all the answers. “I would encourage students to find the answers for themselves. They are the best judge of what they need,” Rinehart said. As Rinehart put it, “We all are in relationships.” So it is worth your while to visit the Linner Lounge this Feb. 24 at 3:30 p.m. However, counseling on healthy relationships can be found anytime. The Counseling Center welcomes students to stop by during daily office hours from 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Healthy Relationships and You workshop seeks to accomplish.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, the counseling center is sponsoring a workshop for students to learn about how to create and maintain healthy relationships with a significant other.

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Kevin Dumke
Staff Writer

In case anyone has not heard, there is this movie out called Avatar. One of the most expensive movies ever made, it is directed by James Cameron, the man behind such blockbusters as The Terminator, Aliens and Titanic (the top grossing movie of all time). Oh, and one other thing, it is one of the most visually stunning movies ever made.

The basic plot of Avatar should be somewhat familiar to anyone who has studied their American history. A New World is discovered, rich in resources. The local population is quite different from the explorers. The explorers want the natural resources and start stripping the New World. The locals don’t much care for this, and chaos ensues.

There are a few minor divergences from American history, though. This “New World” is literally a new world, a completely new planet called Pandora. The locals are about ten feet tall and blue. Also, mind-controlled, biological robots are quite common place.

Into the war raging between human “aliens” and the indigenous population steps Jake Sully, a paraplegic Marine recruited to operate one of these robots, called “avatars,” which are made to resemble the local population, the Na’vi. The movie follows Jake’s adventures on Pandora. The story, while mirroring the struggle of Native Americans against foreigners, has enough plot twists to keep it interesting.

The real crowning jewel of Avatar, however, is the cinematography. The basic premise of this movie makes it fairly difficult to film in the conventional sense, and live action scenes are quite scant.

That being the case, Avatar relies heavily upon computer-generated sequences. To do honest, this concerned me walking into the film. James Cameron is quick to put these fears to rest, however. Quite simply put, his vision is genius, and it shines through from the very beginning. Avatar is beautiful. Period.

The graphics, far from feeling heavy-handed, are engaging and seem quite natural. All times is easy to forget that you are watching a scene where everything on the screen has been created by a computer. In fact, the movie was so breathtakingly gorgeous I experienced a very rare phenomenon: at the movies throughout the film, there were audible gasps and exclamations from the audience. What was truly astounding about this was that it was not contained to one or two scenes, but happened repeatedly. The “ooohs” and “ahhhs” from the audience stood tribute throughout the movie to the awe-inspiring brilliance of Avatar.

When it comes to finding flaws with Avatar, the run time is about all I can come up with. At close to three hours, it is a bit lengthy. The sheer awe factor of the movie keeps you engaged throughout, and physical discomfort from a particularly old theater seat was my only reminder of the passing time.

Despite the long run time, Avatar is a movie which simply must be seen in theaters. I highly recommend killing a few hours indoors on a windy day treating your eyes to a visually spectacular cinematic accomplishment. I give Avatar three out of three crowns.

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On Wednesday, Feb. 24, the counseling center is sponsoring a workshop for students to learn about how to create and maintain healthy relationships with a significant other.
It’s as if you’re getting a care package from Mom, except that it’s not a care package, and you paid for it, but the magic’s still there.

It’s two in the morning, I’m perched at my desk, my arched shoulders illuminated by the muted blue glow of my computer screen as I sip my cappuccino and wait and watch and wait and watch and wait and wait... It feels as though I’m being held over a flame, as if I’m trying to imagine myself buying something. But that’s just a part of the ritual. The rest is based on the hope that it’ll feel the same. The Gustavus is perfectly poised for a thrilling relationship with the consumer. It’s a manifestation of economic backgrounds with the greatest demographic of college students, and although Gustavus customers generally have at least some buying power. That being said, students are always looking to spend the least amount of money possible. “The best deals are always online, hands down,” Demol Holm, senior economics major, said. In these days of economic woes, we’re trying to find ways to save, and shipping on-line is one of those ways. “There’s no way you can go to Best Buy and buy the same thing for the same price if you get it on Amazon,” Holm added. Real deals are just part of the multi-faceted charm of ecommerce.

Beyond economics, there are other factors that come into play. Professor of Economics and Management Lawrence Wohl said, “The campus is located in St. Peter. I think if we were in the metro area there would be slightly less drama [in online shopping] because there are so many more shopping opportunities that are just right in your back yard.” But the appeal doesn’t stop at geography. “For students who have the ability to do it in your home, in your pajamas or whatever… it’s a convenience factor. You can do it at midnight, at 3 a.m.” Wohl said.

One of the most frustrating things is to try to keep track of how quickly you can learn about what your looking for. Aside from details like the delivery time, product features, and whether or not the vendor offers sales and returns, the product vendors often have other user reviews which provide a multitude of opinions with which to compare. Gustavus said, “It's the thrill of buying, of spending money,” and it's those impulses of necessity that get students in trouble. Students graduating with credit card debt over “normally around the $4,000 range … and you ask them what they bought, and… it’s just been frivolous things.”

My purchase of camera gear was useful, but I was high on the thrill of it. A few minutes later, a white rectangular frickly covered its way into my game of “Call of Duty,” telling me I’d saved $200 on consumer interest. I minimized the window and waited for my order confirmation: “Gustavus said, “Every year it seems like there are more books left and yet there are classes where we have to rush because we don’t have enough.”

For the students, the section on the left shows the rush to buy books online. It’s a no-win situation. It’s impossible because I don’t know the particular classes on that day and whether or not they’re the type who would go online to buy their books or not. To Wohl, the economic impact of e-commerce is huge. “We talk about the cost of acquiring information, that’s a huge area,” Wohl said. “We’re estimating [we distributed] about 900 in one day, which is twice what we’ve ever done before.”

I’d rather forget about it, I had a few carts on a few different sites, and it’s just another way of protecting both parties. However, those extra layers of complexity can seem unnecessary to customers who are external to the process. “Sometimes it’s nice to just go to the store and pick up whatever it is I want and just have it,” said Holm. “It’s a no-win situation. It’s impossible because I don’t know the particular classes on that day and whether or not they’re the type who would go online to buy their books or not.”

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Examining life
Tales from Europe

with Dr. Emmert of the History Department, where we learned about the prevailing influences on that region of the world from the collapse of the Roman Empire to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Between our 90-minute class, three and a half hour group rehearsal, sectional rehearsals and individual practice-time, we all had much chance to take part of the more “traditional” activities of January term, but we gladly traded them for a more rewarding experience in Europe when we got there.

Getting 80 people around anywhere is quite a task, but add your instruments, luggage, equipment and traveling internationally with them is really something else. As anyone who has traveled abroad knows, flying across the pond is hard enough to figure out on your own or with your family; the logistics required to keep all of us students organized is so far above my ability to comprehend, especially considering how in the world we didn’t lose much and got places relatively quickly. When in Europe, we had two coach buses that would take us from place to place, which wasn’t the most comfortable or quick way of getting around, but it kept us together with our things and gave us a lot of time to talk. (Countryside as well as experience what a gas station in Europe is like to see in).

As some of you know, I spent spring semester last year in Sweden, traveling with 13 other Gusties on a college-led program as an aside. The Sweden 2011 program is taking applications until March 1, and if you want to know more about it, come to Fika at the Swedish house Thursday nights at 9 p.m. or check it out online) and I spent a lot of time comparing my experience there to the one I was having in Central Europe. Outside of the things you’d expect like currency exchange—my friend’s Swedish friend managed to get things were different and hard to get used to. For one, I had learned some Swedish before traveling to Sweden, and even if I couldn’t communicate in Swedish well, everyone under 65 in Sweden speaks perfect English (I’m almost not exaggerating when I say it).
The furor over The Vagina Monologues

At first I thought it was a joke. The “monopoly” of The Gustavian Weekly?! You have got to be kidding me. If The Weekly does have a monopoly, it is the fault of the student body of Gustavus, not of the newspaper. The articles and commentary sections are all written and edited by students. This is OUR newspaper, and every single student voice can help make it better.

In order to avoid espousing the merits of the newspaper that pays me to write this, I will end my criticism of the blog’s headline here. Instead, I think it valuable to focus on the blog’s confusing relationship with the controversial play that will be performed on campus next month, The Vagina Monologues.

In a Feb 10 post, the unnamed writer for the Campus Majority claims that “the ‘Pathways to Progress’ group has been working to make sure that Senate cannot prohibit the Vagina Monologues production.” What is Pathways to Progress? I’ve never heard of it before and it is not listed as a 2009-10 SAO recognized group. Is The Vagina Monologues really threatened right now? Is this mysterious new group really needed to protect a well-organized, well-attended and well-established event on our campus?

The plot thickens in a post from Feb 13. Our anonymous writer states the following: “In an email from the ‘DLC Representative’ of the Queens and Allies to their members, it was announced that The ‘Diversity Leadership Council’ of the College (DLC) is ‘Writing a resolution to senate saying that they do not endorse or support Pathways for Progress.” Ah, now that’s interesting. Unlike Pathways to Progress, the DLC is listed as a 2009-10 SAO recognized organization. I have heard of the DLC and its work on campus. So why is this ghost organization attacking an established one and pretending like The Vagina Monologues is in danger?

I believe that the writer(s) of this blog do not support The Vagina Monologues and are only pretending to do so to create a false sense of objectivity. Perhaps they are even the original source of any threat to the production of the play. (If you think this is a bad assumption for me to make, end the “monopoly” of The Weekly! Write in and tell everyone why I’m wrong!) The February 10 post mentions the Vagina Monologues in the same breath as the Eddie James incident, an unfortunate event that allowed people not associated with our campus to say hateful things about a minority group. More evidence can be found in a post from January 29, 2010, arguing that The Vagina Monologues is “disgusting” because it “defines women as their sexual organs” and turns them into sex objects. Yes, of course I don’t want to support a sex object. But that doesn’t mean that I want to be denied the right to consume it. Should it be possible for a woman to be a sexual person and not have her life defined by it?

Continued on page 12

Seriously Satirical

Ode to Case Day

As anyone associated with this college knows, Gustavus is renowned for its many unique campus events, including the Nobel Conference, Christmas in Christ Chapel and Building Bridges, to name a few. These annually held functions celebrate our school’s rich culture of science, fine arts and social justice. However, this is just a small slice of the Gustavus experience, since there’s one upcoming event that truly captures the college spirit more than any other. This special day encourages competition, entertainment, romance and unity.

The objective of Case Day is self-explanatory: to drink a case of beer in one day, or in scientific terms, to consume 24 cans of beer within a duration of 24 hours. Thus the day proceeds with many activities associated with this task, including beer pong and movie-related drinking games.

Although the means and time span of said consumption vary from individual to individual, the pride gained from conquering a case is universal. No one knows exactly how or when Case Day originated but rumor has it that Swedish King Gustav II Adolf, the namesake of our college, once downed an entire keg of Swedish beer at a celebration of his conquest of Prussia. That account may be fictional, but needless to say, the love of dangerous alcohol imbuing continues to this day.

As of now, the campus administration frowns upon Case Day. And by “frown upon” I mean “look the other way, shove cotton in their ears while twiddling their thumbs profusely for 24 hours.” Granted, there is increased security presence—though the focus is more on resuscitation than prevention. The Gustavus Admissions Office is the only department to take a passive-aggressive stand against Case Day by confiscating any print evidence of its existence (i.e. the newspaper you’re holding). I can see why the campus authorities would disapprove a day that promotes underage drinking, but at the same time I think they grossly misunderstand the value and potential of excessive alcohol usage.

You see, Case Day is not just an excuse to get completely stone cold drunk. It’s a day of planning, dedication, perseverance and community. First, you need the skill of acquiring a case of beer—a simple task for those of legal age, yet a challenging feat that requires hours of networking for anyone under 21. Next, you have to arrange the venue for beer consumption. The options range from the solitary comfort of your dorm room, which is free of pressure and distraction, to a raucous off-campus house with seemingly endless supplies of booze and mayhem. The third step necessitates your strategy for the rate of beer-ingesting. Will you start on the stroke of midnight, downing one Bud-Light an hour, or condense the booze fest to the common waking hours? Finally, you need the courage to execute the mass intake of liquid courage.

Thus, the process of consuming a case demonstrates the capacity of a highly developed collegiate mind. Our administrators should recognize that unabashed inebriation is only the product of a cultivated intelligence. As patrons of the arts, we Gusties have absorbed the values of distinguished films such as Animal House or Revenge of the Nerds. And, after all, we are simply exploring various avenues of self-expression, in whatever state of consciousness that may be. Consequently, I move that we expand Case Day into something greater, perhaps an official campus-sponsored event. Case Day has been a tradition at Gustavus for decades now, so figure it’s about time that the College administration embraces it. Instead of spending money on random flat screen TVs around campus, they can supply cases of beer to all who participate. And Case Day shouldn’t be limited just to students, but rather faculty and townspeople can be invited too. Imagine getting washed with your professors and hearing all the hilarious anecdotes they’re afraid to tell in class. Since Gustavus prides itself on promoting diversity, I think this would be perfect way to bring people of all backgrounds together.

Sure, consuming a case of beer in one day can lead to alcohol poisoning, and imbibing large amounts of alcohol on a regular basis can have long-term consequences, but college is the perfect time to learn from these mistakes. I mean, you only live once, right?... Right?
The Sport of "Curling"  
IN THE OLYMPICS  
IN THE UNITED STATES

**Letter to the Editor**

It was just the other week that Gustavus reported three incidents of sexual assault, an issue that Gustavus takes very seriously. However, have we stopped to consider that sexual assault might only be a symptom of a larger problem and not a root issue? Dr. Patrick Fagan of the Family Research Council published an article that associates pornography viewing habits with an increased propensity to engage in sexually aggressive behavior.

Currently, our Internet-usage policies make no explicit statement regarding pornography. However, as an institution that aims to affirm the dignity of all individuals, it would be very easy for us to advance institutional policies that would allocate the use of campus-owned computers and resources in a way that aligns with our faith tradition and our core values. Accordingly, the development of transparent guidelines governing the network usage of campus computers and resources would affirm that Gustavus seeks to provide all students with an environment that respects and values that is both supporting and nurturing. Therefore, I advocate the implementation of the following two proposals:

1) Have pornography filters installed on all campus-owned computers. Public computers in library open space can be exempt from having the software installed to ensure that filtering doesn’t hamper academic research.

2) Give students the option of installing this software on their personal computers, much in the same manner that students install anti-virus software before accessing the school’s network. Because this would increase compliance with the intended use of the College’s technology resources of supporting “teaching, learning, research and campus services, the bandwidth allocation connected to a student’s MAC address could be increased by 50 percent.

Clearly, these proposals are two tangible common-sense campus reforms that are non-invasive, hardly restrictive and would go far in promoting a more positive community in the student body.

Phil Cleary '11

**The Market Place**

Overall, we all know we will miss the Marketplace when we graduate and, if you don’t already, think about it. Tasty foo avalilable almost 24/7. Okay?

**Refried Bean Paste**

Refried bean paste, is, at best, a forgettable pastiche, and at worst, a cold melange of the spectres of former beans in the frigid confines of mysterious brown-gray mash.

**Fork Shortage**

Where are the forks at lunch and dinner? We even have to use the plastic ones sometimes. It’s too bad. Why even have plastic forks in the first place? Granted, it might be the Gustieware effect at work. Return ’em, please!
The Calendar Page is considered editorial. The opinions expressed herein are not the opinions of THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY, and are, in reality, encoded schematics of a top secret formula developed by the government that tricks people into thinking they attend a liberal arts college in southern Minnesota.

Friday, Feb. 19

Text Book Returns—Last Day
Wallenberg All Day
Quitter!

Student Leadership Organization Training
Board Room All Day
This is the last meeting they need before The Super Smash Bros. Club is officially recognized. Yes. Sometimes the system is awesome.

Tucson Area Gathering
Tucson, Ariz. All Day
Our president is giving a speech about a college in Minnesota, where it is currently 20 degrees Fahrenheit, in... Arizona? Riiiiiiight.

Recyclenania/Energy Wars Tabling
Campus Center 8:00 a.m.
I’m voting for steam. I’ve got a cotton gin that needs powering!

HECUA Campus Visit
Campus Center 9:00 a.m.
No, heck, you a campus visit! ... see what I did there?

SoTL lunch

Banquet Room C 11:30 a.m.
Professor of Classics Eric Dugdale will discuss his project to assess strategies to foster in students personal responses to ancient drama through performance. ... Which might go over better if he stopped asking the Theatre Department to stage Oedipus Rex.

Fitness Yoga
Lund Center 12:40 p.m.
Find your center ... then bench press it.

Weekend Movie—The Informant
Wallenberg 7 & 10:00 p.m.
Matt Damon in a checkered suit and a tiny mustache ... be still my heart.

Urinetown: The Musical
Anderson Theatre 8:00 p.m.
As musicals go, it’s number one!

Saturday, Feb. 20

Phoenix Area Gathering
Phoenix, Ariz. All Day
When people in Rio start wanting to know more about Gustavus, I might start getting suspicious.

Weekend Movie—The Informant
Wallenberg 7 & 10:00 p.m.
Matt Damon follows and observes a college president in ridiculously nice weather and reports back to a suspicious journalist.

Richard Weber & Esther Wang, Faculty Recital
Bjorling Recital Hall 7:30 p.m.
Weber and Wang: musicians by day, crime fighters by night.

Urinetown: The Musical
Anderson Theatre 8:00 p.m.
If you notice that the first three rows get tarps, its time to leave.

Sunday, Feb. 21

Urinetown: The Musical
Anderson Theatre 2:00 p.m.
It’s as good as gold.

Pavia Wind Quintet in Concert
Bjorling Recital Hall 3:30 p.m.
Blowing five times as hard as any soloist!

Thank-a-Gustie
Lund Center 6:00 p.m.
Ironically, as soon as I become a cyborg and get my circuits, I won’t even need to worry about staying in shape.

CAB Coffeehouse Concert: Jake Ousley
Courtyard Cafe 7:00 p.m.
You know what else CAB is presenting? Not the Decemberists. That’s right, get ready for the big biennial concert and reserve your tickets for not the Decemberists.

Gustavus Swing Club
Alumni Hall 9:00 p.m.
So easy a caveman could do it. (Get it? “Swing club”?) ...Well, what do you want? It’s every week! It’s bleeding me dry.

Thank-a-Gustie
Lund Center 6:00 p.m.
Unless you’re an alumnus, then it’s “Be-thanked-by-a-Gustie.” Or neither, then it’s “Stand-and-watch-people-interact-and-then-move-on-to-shake-hands-with-someone-else.”

Bootcamp
Lund Center 7:30 p.m.
In England, you have to be knighted for a great cultural accomplishment to be called “sir.” ... Where did we go wrong?

Wednesday, Feb. 24

ELCA Summer Camps Recruiting Fair
Heritage Room 10:30 a.m.
Look to your left. Now look to your right. Statistics say that one of you will be that insufferable counselor with the acoustic guitar.

Healthy Relationships and YOU
Linner Lounge 3:30 p.m.
Hey, a perfect relationship?
Everyone who wants a perfect relationship should act like me and my girlfriend! Our relationship is Perfect!
May
Everyone find this kind of happiness.

Real Life Seminar for Seniors
Banquet Rooms 6:30 p.m.
If you die in the Seminar, you die in real life!

CAB Coffeehouse Concert: Jake Ousley
Courtyard Cafe 7:00 p.m.
You know what else CAB is presenting? Not the Decemberists. That’s right, get ready for the big biennial concert and reserve your tickets for not the Decemberists.

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So easy a caveman could do it. (Get it? “Swing club”?) ...Well, what do you want? It’s every week! It’s bleeding me dry.

Thursday, Feb. 25

Visiting Artist, Kirsten Pavelka Ceramic Demonstration and Lecture
Schaefer Fine Arts Building 10:30 a.m.
Of course if you really want to see ceramic in action, go to Urinetown!

The Shady Character has his ticket to Urinetown. Now, we just wait.
The Gustavian Weekly

2/13

2/14

STANDINGS

MEN’S HOCKEY

SCHOOL MIAC PTS REC
GUSTAVUS 10-2-2 34 16-5-2
HAMLINE 10-3-1 33 15-5-3
ST. THOMAS 8-4-2 28 11-9-4
AUGSBURG 7-7-7 21 9-7-9
BETHEL 7-8-5 21 9-7-9
ST. OLAF 5-5-4 21 11-4-8
CONCORDIA 4-6-4 14 5-14-4
ST. JOHN’S 4-6-2 10 8-14-4
ST. MARY’S 1-13 3 1-12-1

WOMEN’S HOCKEY

SCHOOL MIAC PTS REC
ST. KATE’S 10-3-1 29 14-4-1
GUSTAVUS 10-3-1 32 15-4-3
ST. THOMAS 10-3-1 26 12-7-2
ST. OLAF 8-5-1 25 15-6-3
ST. MARY’S 8-5-1 23 11-6-3
BETHEL 6-8 12 6-4-4
CONCORDIA 5-7-2 22 10-8-2
HAMLINE 3-8-2 15 6-12-3
AUGSBURG 3-9-3 7 2-14-3
BETHEL 6-10-4 8 2-15-4

MEN’S BASKETBALL

SCHOOL MIAC RECORD
ST. THOMAS 17-1 21-2
GUSTAVUS 12-4 14-9
AUGSBURG 11-7 16-7
HAMLINE 11-7 15-8
CARLETON 10-8 14-9
ST. JOHN’S 10-8 13-10
ST. OLAF 8-10 10-13
CONCORDIA 8-11 12-12
BETHEL 7-11 11-12
ST. MARY’S 8-12 8-15
MACALESTER 0-19 2-22

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

SCHOOL MIAC RECORD
GUSTAVUS 17-3 19-4
ST. BEN’S 16-4 18-5
CONCORDIA 15-5 16-7
HAMLINE 14-6 14-9
MACALESTER 10-10 12-11
ST. JOHN’S 10-12 10-12
ST. OLAF 9-12 9-14
CARLETON 9-13 5-18
ST. MARY’S 4-16 5-18
ST. OLAF 4-16 4-19
AUGSBURG 3-17 3-20

RESULTS

2/14

Men's Nordic Skiing @ CCSA Championships

Women's Nordic Skiing @ CCSA Championships

2/13

Men's Hockey @ Hamline

Men's Tennis vs. UW-Eau Claire

Men's Basketball vs. Bethel

Women's Hockey vs. Bethel

Women's Tennis vs. Univ. of Neb.-Omaha

Women's Basketball vs. Bethel

Women's Tennis vs. Missouri Valley

The Gustavus Swimming and Diving teams prepared for Conference

Raisa Carpenter Staff Writer

This weekend the Gustavus Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving teams are looking forward to competing in the MIAC Championships at the University of Minnesota.

According to a poll from CollegeSwimming.com, the Gustavus Men’s team is currently one of the three MIAC men’s teams, along with St. Olaf and St. Thomas, ranked in the top 25 of Division III programs.

The Gustie men recently faced St. Thomas in a dual meet and fell 113-146 in a very competitive meet. “As a team, the guys have lost a couple of meets, but they were really close meets that could have gone either way,” Senior Andrew Michelson said.

Against St. Thomas, the Gusties were able to gain eight first place finishes, including two from Junior Whitaker Davis. Davis won both the 200 butterfly and 500 freestyle, while also finishing second in the 100 freestyle and helping to gain a first place finish in the 400 freestyle relay.

Other first place finishes included Seniors; Skylar Davis, Ross Kleinvik and Kyle Johnsrud, as well as Junior Paul Kirihara and Sophomore William Schultz.

The Women’s team also had a dual meet against St. Thomas but came away with a 168-126 victory. This victory was largely attributed to the ten first place event finishes and eight second place finishes. Senior Carrie Gunderson had four of the wins while Senior Maggie Hansvick had another three wins. In addition to Gunderson and Hansvick, Sophomores Elyde Krammer and Djana Vidovic, as well as First-year Carley Mosher all had individual wins.

The Gusties also finished first in both of the relay events. Mosher, Hansvick, Sophomore Stephanie Korba and First-year Sarah Hund won the 400 medley relay while the 400 freestyle relay was won by Senior Jonna Berry, Hund, Gunderson and Vidovic.

Hund, Vidovic, Berry and Gundersons currently have the best relay time in the 200 freestyle.

Other top times include Mosher, Hund, Korba and Hansvick, who hold the best time in the 200 Medley relay. Other top times include Mosher, Hund, Korba and Hansvick, who hold the best time in the 200 Medley relay. Mosher, Hund, Vidovic and Gunderson also compose a 400 freestyle relay team with the top time. The Women’s team simply dominates in the relays, as it also holds the top time slot in the 400 medley with the team of Mosher, Hansvick, Korba and Gunderson has the best individual times in the 500 and 1650 freestyle.

Recently the Men’s and Women’s Diving teams competed in the MSU Diving Invitational. The Gusties performed well as Senior Bill Klein finished first in both the one and three meter dives. For the women, Senior Britanni Matzke finished second in the one meter and third in the three meter dive.

The MIAC Championships will be very close, with both the Men’s and Women’s teams having more than a chance of success. For the men and women, St. Thomas will pose a big threat. “They really want to win this year and I want to make them cry. Indeed it will be a hard-fought battle,” Michelson said.

“[The MIAC Championship] is one of the crazier fun meets you will ever go to, and everyone should think about coming up to the U of M to watch the Men and Women’s Swimming and Diving Teams,” Michelson said.

Next Meet: MIAC Championships

Date: Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 18-20
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Univ. of MN

Sports Information

Senior Skylar Davis concentrates on his stroke in the pool at the Lund Natatorium. The Gusties will compete at the MIAC Championships this weekend.

A group of Gustavus swimmers cheer on a fellow teammate in the pool at the Lund Natatorium. The Gusties will compete at the MIAC Championships this weekend.
After picking up the first win of the season, the Gustavus Gymnastics team looks to carry momentum into the rest of the season.

Julie Hammond
Staff Writer

After its first victory of the season last weekend versus Hamline, Gustavus’ Women’s Gymnastics team is raising its expectations for the upcoming season. The long-term goal is Nationals; however, right now we are focusing on this upcoming weekend. We need to hit our routines, stick the landings and get the little things right. Accomplishing the small tasks will all pay off in the end,” Sorensen said.

Up to last weekend the girls had struggled getting the little things right. They lost their first two matches by five points, which is a large margin in the gymnastics world. However, despite the adversities they faced, the Gusties also achieved some of their goals this year. Junior Captain Kelly Matthewson was pleased with the recent accomplishments. “Winning our last meet at Hamline was huge for us, not only because it was our first win, but also because we started out shaky and ended strong taking home the win,” Matthewson said.

Accomplishing goals during matches boosts the team’s morale. However, First-year Samantha Opsahl feels what they accomplish during practice is just as important as what they accomplish during their matches. “(During practice) whenever someone throws a new skill and accomplishes something individually, it helps the team’s confidence and inspires everyone to try something new and go outside their comfort zone,” Opsahl said.

Practice time is important for gymnasts; they need a lot of time to perfect what they know and master the areas that are a little more difficult. The Gusties have been training since mid-September for their meets in January. The long season has been both a blessing and a burden for the Gusties. They have great chemistry and a team that is important to consider when we’re getting ready for our matches. Next year this team will be a really strong team, and it will definitely be a fun year,” Matthewson said.

The next Gustavus gymnastics meet is in La Crosse, Wis., on Feb. 19.

“The long preseason was definitely helpful for myself and the other [first-years] to transition into college gymnastics. It helped me master some of the more difficult routines that I didn’t know and get better at skills I already knew,” Opsahl said.

However, with the long season also comes a big risk for injury, which definitely plagued the gymnastics team this season. “Some of the upperclassmen got injured early on in our [preseason] practices. We adjusted very well, though, and our [first-years] really stepped up and learned to be ready for anything,” Sorensen said.

Everyone rose to the occasion last weekend at the Gusties’ meet against Hamline, as they defeated the Pipers 172.850-170.325. “Every meet we take steps forward and backward, but this time we nailed our floor routine and kept a positive attitude throughout the entire meet,” Matthewson said.

Even though the Gusties Gymnastics team is young, they have many strengths out on the floor. “We’re a small team, therefore we have great chemistry and a team bond. We’re also great at staying motivated throughout entire meets,” Sorensen said.

“We’re really good at finding the good through the bad and correcting our mistakes. Because we’re a new team, we’re going to face challenging times that we’ll just have to work through,” Opsahl said.

They have certainly faced difficult moments this season but still remain optimistic. “Our season is going well so far. We have been working on building our strength. We have a lot of [first-years], and we want them to be ready to compete. We have also been working on bringing our routines together,” Sorensen said.

Matthewson felt that this year is just a building block for next year’s team. “We’re a new team, and that is important to consider when we’re getting ready for our matches. Next year this team will be a really strong team, and it will definitely be a fun year,” Matthewson said.

The next Gustavus gymnastics meet is in La Crosse, Wis., on Feb. 19.
Skiing with spirit

Seth Wisner
Sports Editor

Minimal funding, Division I competition, youth and somewhat relative obscurity may all plague the Gustavus Men’s and Women’s Nordic Ski team, yet the Gustie ski teams are a spirited group in a very difficult sport.

Both the Men and Women’s teams combined have one senior, Women’s Captain Erin Eppler, and a much larger class of underclassmen. "In general the teams have done pretty well. The women are developing because we have a larger class of [first-years] and sophomores. We are still in that development stage and primarily young and inexperienced. It will be exciting how the team develops in the next two years though," Eppler said.

After a strong team last year, the Gustie women graduated three seniors and are much more focused on developing the younger skiers this year. Therefore, the goal for the Women’s team was simply development. "We were just looking at where we stand with the rest of the MIAC schools and trying to stay competitive," Eppler said. "[The team last year] came in fourth at Regions last year. We want to pass down the knowledge and help the younger skiers get some race experience under their belts."

This past weekend the Women’s Nordic Ski team finished in seventh place at the CCSA Ski Championships at the Al Quall Recreation Area in Ishpeming, Mich. First-year Erica Hett led the Gusties as she placed tenth in the 5km classic race on Saturday. "The course was probably the hardest we have seen yet this year, as it was extremely rigorous, and our race on Sunday was a little longer than usual. Everyone did really well and pushed their bodies because it’s not our typical race length," Eppler said.

Cross-country skiing is another one of the unique college sports that is an individual but also team sport. "To put it into perspective, it’s a dedicated sport that requires hours and hours of training. It takes time to learn how to compete both as a team and an individual," Eppler said.

Despite the youth on the Gustavus Men’s team, they have still posted high results. "We only graduated one senior so we are a young team. We have really stepped up our performances from last year, which is good to see," Junior Captain Andrew Poffenberger said.

Junior Captain Jens Brabbit has been the standout performer for the Men’s team but is equally proud of the team’s success. "The team is probably the best we’ve ever had. We had three guys almost in the top 15 last weekend and [Sophomore] Anders Bowman [Bowman] skied one of the best races in his career," Brabbit said.

Needless to say with such a small team, the results on the course reflect the team chemistry. "The guys always want to make sure we are all on the same page. We don’t want any clicks because we only have 11 guys on the team. I want to make sure everyone gets along, and that’s the biggest factor to start with because we spend a lot of time together," Brabbit said.

Junior Jens Brabbit had two top-ten finishes this past weekend. He led the Gusties at the CCSA Championships in Michigan.

"If we can do that, we can ski faster and improve throughout the season. The Gustie men have definitely improved the course of the season thanks in part to the training plan. ‘I’ve been excited with how our younger guys have been skiing. There have been guys stepping up, which is fun to see, and racing better than they did earlier this year. I think this is due to changing our training plan to peak later in the year,’ Poffenberger said.

"The Gustavus Men’s Nordic Ski team also competed in the CCSA Championships this past weekend in northern Michigan. ‘It was probably the hardest course we’ve skied all year, and there was a lot of elevation change. Overall, we did really well because there were eight teams and there aren’t any divisions, so we ski against Division I schools, but we were still relatively competitive,’ Poffenberger said.

Brabbit led the Gusties with two top-ten finishes, including a fourth place finish in the 10km freestyle and a ninth place finish in the 10km classic. Bowman also had a great weekend with a fourteenth place finish and a sixteenth place finish. "[Bowman] skied probably the best races of his life. The course was so hard that if you weren’t fit you struggled. It’s such a steep learning curve you have to get experience to race at this level," Brabbit said.

Both the Men’s and Women’s teams are looking forward to the most important and last meet of the season for most of the skiers at the NCAA Central Region Championships in Houghton, Mich. this weekend. The Gusties are hoping to finish the season strong as a team.

"However, the season won’t end there for Brabbit as he will be the first ever Gustie to compete in the NCAA Division I Nationals held in Steamboat, Colo. on March 13 and 14, 2010."