Building Bridges Conference on Immigration

O n Saturday, March 13, 2010 Gustavus is hosting the 15th annual Building Bridges Conference. This year’s theme is “Immigration: Surviving the Land of Opportunity.” The conference will focus on the obstacles immigrants face upon their arrival, as well as the daily struggles of adjusting to life in the United States.

“Immigration is hugely important for a whole variety of reasons,” Assistant Professor of Religion Thia Cooper said, “From the migrant perspective, it’s important to learn about why people leave their homelands, what their journeys are like and what their experiences of the USA are ... They become part of the fabric of the USA, part of what it means to be an American. This is important from the host perspective, the perspective of those of us who already live here and have been here for a month, or a year, or a generation or two or three. As soon as we arrive, we become the ‘hosts.’ We have to figure out who to welcome and why.”

And, of course, none of this is simple. The Building Bridges committee works to choose a pertinent theme each year, and they felt that this year’s topic was of special importance. “Immigration is an important topic because most everybody here, unless you’re Native American, comes from a line of immigrants,” Junior Health Fitness Major and Building Bridges Co-Chair Maya Jayawardena said. “It’s important for everyone to understand how immigrants come in today. We want to show where they’re coming from and what they go through when they get here.”

This year’s keynote speakers are Kao Kalia Yang, author of The Laos Homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir, and Dr. Paul Hillmer, a professor of history at Concordia College—St. Paul. Yang, a Hmong American, immigrated from Thailand with her family after spending the first seven years of her life in a refugee camp.

A glimpse of African culture

Africa Night took place at Gustavus on March 5. The evening featured traditional dances, clothes and food from various countries in Africa.

Continued on page 4
Campus Safety Report

Tuesday, March 2
• A Gustavus student’s laptop computer was reported stolen from Nobel Hall.

Friday, March 5
• A Gustavus student reported a bias incident that occurred in Jackson Campus Center Building.

Saturday, March 6
• A Gustavus student was cited for underage consumption at the Dive dance and transported to Detox by St. Peter Police Department.
• Campus Safety was called to Sohre Hall for a medical assist call with possible alcohol involvement. The student was transported by ambulance to Rivers Edge.

Sunday, March 7
• A Gustavus student was cited by Campus Safety and the St. Peter police Department for underage consumption. The student was transported by ambulance to the hospital for alcohol poisoning. A second Gustavus student was cited by Campus Safety for underage consumption.

Tip of the Week:
SAINT PETER POLICE DEPARTMENT ISSUES SCAM WARNING

The St. Peter Police Department has recently become aware of a telephone-based criminal enterprise targeting residents in our area. This scam is known as the “Emergency Scam.” The targets of this particular scam are grandparents.

It works like this: The criminal will telephone a grandparent and pretend to be a grandchild who is in need of emergency monetary assistance. In one version of the scam, the caller will say that they are in jail and need bail money. The caller will ask for the grandparent to send money via some type of money wiring service (usually Money Gram or Western Union).

This particular scam seems to originate in Canada, and the caller will want the money wired to a location in Canada. This type of scam is also prevalent as an email-originated scam.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have established a website that contains an abundance of information on this and other scams. You can check it out at www.phonebusters.com.

If you are a victim of this scam, please contact the local police and file a report.

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End of Document
Local filmmaker and Gustavus student focus on farming

Andy Setterholm
Assistant News Editor

Local farming and sustainability topics that affect the Gustavus community and the surrounding communities as well. Where our food comes from, how it is produced and how the industry can move toward sustainability are questions that consumers and producers must ask themselves. Over the last year, one Gustavus professor and one Gustavus student collaborated to take a closer look at these issues.

Professor of Communication Studies Martin Lang ’95 and Sophomore Political Science and English Major Ethan Marxhausen were awarded a Gustavus Presidential Faculty/Student Collaboration Grant, and over the past year they produced an independent film documentary titled Farming Forward. The film premiered at a conference at St. Olaf last month and also showed locally last Thursday at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Marxhausen and Lang met while working at GACTV. After applying for the grant, Lang recruited Marxhausen and the two began an eight-week process, filming and visiting Minnesota organic farms. It was a huge learning experience, especially staying on at the farms, Marxhausen said.

The film focused on highlighting the positive solutions to sustainable farming. Instead of using pesticides and other chemicals, sustainable farming promotes crop rotation, in which farmers change the crop in a specific field each year to literally stay ahead of plant-specific pests that can destroy harvests. Cover cropping, the process of spreading organic plant material over a field before planting the harvest crop, adds to soil fertility without chemical fertilizers. Cover cropping also impedes pests and weeds and retains water. "The opportunities are there for people to get involved and eat locally and support sustainability," Marxhausen said.

Sustainable organic farming contributes to many aspects of the community. Co-ops and other retailers enjoy selling local organic produce because buyers know where it came from and that the product is fresh. "I like to buy local. I like to help my neighbor rather than somebody else I don’t know," Ricky Tollefson ’09, an environmental studies major and employee of Tollefson Family Pack Organic Farms said. "Organic farming is extremely sustainable with a smart farmer.”

Money spent on local organic farming promotes buyer-grower relationships and also keeps the money spent on the food in the community, instead of going to transportation and storage third parties. Consumers enjoy organic food as well, because the produce is fresher and generally tastes better. Local schools are also looking into serving food from local organic farms as part of healthy living initiatives.

One of the farms the documentary team visited was the Big Hill Farm located on the Gustavus campus. The Big Hill Farm was a new addition last summer. The student run operation worked to raise some organic crops that went on to be sold in the Market Place.

"We sell directly to the [Market Place]." Big Hill worker and Senior Environmental Studies Major Lucas Neher said. The money raised will go toward next year’s farm operation. Big Hill Farm currently operates on one acre of land and raised 20 varieties of fruits and vegetables last harvest.

"By supporting sustainable farming we’re investing in renewable resources, and I’m glad we can be part of that,” Neher said.

Farming Forward is still in the process of being converted to DVD format, but the team hopes to continue showing the documentary and also distributing it to local farmers.

“The goal of the film is to educate, not portray a political message or promote any way of eating. It’s just presenting an option,” Ethan Marxhausen said.

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A trailer for the film can be seen on YouTube or on the Make Your Life Count Blog at www.makeyourlifecountblog.gustavus.edu.

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The Building Bridges Committee has been working all year in preparation for its annual conference taking place on March 13. The Conference’s theme for this year is “Immigration: Surviving the Land of Opportunity.”

In complement to Yang is Dr. Paul Hillmer, the organizer of the Hmong Oral History Project and author of A People’s History of the Hmong. In 2006, Dr. Hillmer was awarded a “Save Our History” grant by the History Channel and with it created a six-part documentary focusing on the resettlement of Hmong families in the Twin Cities. “[Paul and Kalia] work together well because Kalia talks about her personal experience and Paul brings in the other side, since his family came here generations ago,” Schulz said.

The decision to focus on Hmong immigrants in the keynote was deliberate, but according to Schulz, still required much thought. “We struggled because we didn’t want to make it just about one group of immigrants. But, in the end, we figured someone who talked about a specific experience would be more powerful than someone who didn’t have a personal immigration experience,” Schulz said.

Cooper pointed out that there are many Hmong immigrants in our own state. “In Minnesota, our population is growing and becoming more diverse because of our influx of immigrants. The Hmong are one group, among many others, who have settled here and are now part of what it means to be Minnesotan.”

“It brings the issue home for the students,” Jayawardena said. Saturday’s events kick off with registration at 9:00 a.m. in Christ Chapel. Before the keynote speakers, the social justice theater campus group “I Am, We Are” will be performing as part of the introduction. “Every year, ‘I Am, We Are’ is a really big help. They start off the introduction and come up with portrayals of different stories or experiences with immigration. They always brainstorm from their own experiences or from the experiences of people they know,” Jayawardena said.

“It forms a good backdrop for the keynote address. They talk about the things that are hard to talk about, which people will then have in their head when they listen to the keynote,” Schulz said.

At a lunch break at 12:30 p.m., a series of hour-long afternoon workshops begins at 1:30 p.m., with each focusing on different aspects of immigration and the lives of immigrants. “While the keynote is Hmong, the workshops focus on all different groups of immigrants,” Jayawardena said.

One workshop, titled “Through the Eyes of an Immigrant,” will give attendees the chance to hear the immigration stories of Gustavus students and faculty, as well as local residents. Another workshop, “Immigrants in Minnesota and the Refugee Experience,” will provide information on immigration laws in Minnesota and the United States, debunk myths and validate facts related to immigration and immigrants and explain how immigration to America has changed over time. A third workshop, “No Second Chance, brings a representative from the Immigration Law Center to the conference to discuss the legalities of immigration, and how a person’s immigrant status can affect whether or not he or she will be deported. In addition, there will also be a Keynote Q&A with Yang and Hillmer.

Other activities lined up for the afternoon include an Action Piece at 3:30 p.m., which allows attendees to actively participate by making care packages for immigrant families, writing letters to Congress about three aspects of immigration that need to be addressed, or donating money for a scholarship to be given out to an immigrant student graduating from St. Peter High School. There will also be a formal walk-through set up in Almen Hall that gives participants a chance to see firsthand an immigrant’s story.

“It’s similar to the Holocaust Museum [in Washington, D.C.], where you get a passport, and follow the journey of an actual immigrant story as you walk through. We make it as realistic as possible, so many immigrant stories end with deportation,” Jayawardena said.

In recent years Building Bridges has tackled large current issues in the United States and around the globe, such as education and genocide. “It reminds us that we aren’t just a little bubble on top of our hill. It brings real-world issues to us,” Jayawardena said. Senior English Major Sam Maranell said, who has attended the past three Building Bridges Conferences and plans to attend again this weekend. “This year is especially exciting because people from our community are being recognized.”

“I think it’s important [to attend] because this conference is organized by students on a topic of their choosing, so in that way it’s about supporting your own work,” Cooper said. “Second, I think it’s an incredibly important and complex topic and the conference organizers have chosen some interesting ways for us to learn more about it.”

Ultimately, this year’s Building Bridges student organizers are hoping to increase awareness about immigration, as well as help students, faculty, and other Building Bridges attendees realize how much immigration affects our country. “We started researching this topic in May, and now [it seems as if] immigration pops up in my classes, in my text books,” Schulz said. “We started researching this topic in May, and now [it seems as if] immigration pops up in my classes [and] in my textbooks [all the time]. Our country is a country of immigrants.”
Gustie of the Week: Evan Curtin: Balancing school and parenthood

Evan Curtin has been a Gustie since day one. The son of Department Chair and Professor of Philosophy Deane Curtin, Evan really got to know his way around campus before most students were in kindergarten.

"I've grown up here. [Gustavers] is my home. My first day on campus was before I was three months old, and I went on a study abroad trip to Kansai Gaidai in Japan before I was one. In high school, I took PSEO classes up here, and it saved me from going crazy. So really, I've been a Gustie all my life," Evan said.

Evan is a senior history major and devotes a lot of his time to the history department. "In my opinion, it has by far one of the best faculties at the College. I think history allows you to have a truly well-rounded liberal arts education that really isn't available in other majors. Through history classes alone, I can have in-depth conversations with people in fields as far apart as economics and philosophy, and everything in between," Evan said.

Having to balance the stress of college life with the responsibilities of raising a child is not something which many students at Gustavus deal with. But, Evan has learned to make it work and is making the most out of his time at Gustavus.

"Evan is an upstanding fellow. He works hard in balancing the responsibilities of a father and a full-time student simultaneously," Senior History Major Keegan Fraley said.

Friends and professors have been a big help to Evan.

"The saving grace has been my adviser, Sujay Rao. If I have a problem I usually go and talk to him. He's spent an absolutely ridiculous amount of time helping me deal with balancing college and a child. There's absolutely no way I'd still be in college without him," Evan said.

Friends and professors have been a big help to Evan.

"It's great that Evan can balance education with fatherhood. The ultimate educator is a parent, which shines through in his vested interest in everyone's success, not just his own," Senior History Major Natalie Baker said.

Evan attributes much of his college success to his advisor, Sujay Rao, who has helped Evan strike a balance between college and raising a child.
Mr. Gustavus pageant

Katie Volney
Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 18, the women of the Theta Xi Gamma sorority will host the long-awaited annual Mr. Gustavus Pageant. The pageant, which will be held in Alumni Hall at 7:00 p.m., will feature the talents of several junior and senior men. The participants, who are nominated by the student body, will compete against one another to earn the title of “Mr. Gustavus.”

The competition will incorporate fashion, talent and, of course, humor. Attendees can expect a group dance, talent show, both formal and spirit wear portions, and a question-and-answer session. The contestants of the Mr. Gustavus will compete in a group dance, talent show, both formal and spirit wear portions, and much more. Contestants will be judged by a panel of faculty and members.

“The event is very funny, exciting and worth the couple of dollars [it costs] to get in,” Sophomore Theta Xi Gamma member and Political Science and History Major Bekka Steinwand said.

This competition is one of the largest events taking place during the sorority’s annual “Theta Week,” which will also include a co-ed flag football tournament on Friday, March 19, along with several other events throughout the week.

“The event is very funny, exciting and worth the couple of dollars [it costs] to get in.”
-Bekka Steinwand

“Solid Gold Rock & Roll,” from the Hollywoods is described as “a co-ed flag football tournament.” The music played by the Hollywoods is provided by the Rockin’ Hollywood band. The event was so exciting. It started as a way for students and their professors to be together outside of the classroom,” Crouse said. Both she and Watt were eager to talk about why the dance was so exciting.

“It’s a fun, alternative thing to do,” Watt said. “It’s a great opportunity to have a fun night dancing with your friends, with great music and a great meal.”

This year, food will be catered by D’Amico and Sons, with music provided by the Rockin’ Hollywoods. The music played by the Hollywoods is described as “Solid Gold Rock & Roll,” from the 50s through the 80s.

President Ohle will deliver an opening speech at the event, but the evening is more geared towards entertainment. The event begins with a social hour at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. and dancing at 7:00 p.m. Both Quintessence and the Gustavus Swing Club will be performing dances during the evening.

This year’s President’s Ball will include a social hour, formal dinner, dance and performances from Quintessence and the Gustavus Swing Club.

“A couple of dollars [it costs] to get in.”
-Becket Steinwand

The contestants of the Mr. Gustavus will compete in a group dance, talent show, formal and spirit wear portion and question and answer session.

Andrew Lilja
Staff Writer

Back in 1985, then CAB Co-President Brad Duhaime had an idea. At the time, the only way to attend a formal dance was through a Greek organization.

“He got to thinking about the other 80 percent of the campus and how if they weren’t involved in a sorority or fraternity they had no opportunity to attend a formal dance,” Sophomore Communication Studies and Music Major Chris Duhaime said, who is also Brad Duhaime’s son. “The first President’s Ball was a success with a couple hundred people in attendance.”

“It is a really fun event. It’s like a beauty pageant for guys ... It should be entertaining,” Junior Health Fitness Major Riley Blythe said, who is also a member of the committee in charge of planning the event.

Advance tickets will be available for purchase closer to the date of the event and will cost $2. Tickets will also be available at the door for $3.

“Advance tickets will be available.”
-Erin Watt

There will be a social hour at 3:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 5:00 p.m., and the bus will leave from Three Flags on Saturday, March 20, and the Ball is an additional $5. The Ball is at the International Market Square.

Tickets for President’s Ball cost $30 each, and transportation to the International Market Square is an additional $5. The Ball is on Saturday, March 20, and the bus will leave from Three Flags at 3:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale until Friday, March 12, and can be purchased at the Student Activities Office desk or online at www.gustavustickets.com.

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“The event is very funny, exciting and worth the couple of dollars [it costs] to get in.”
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“It’s a great opportunity to have a fun night dancing with your friends, with great music and a great meal.”
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God’s Words for a Life of Virtue, Love, Grace and Joy.

You are a wonder of God’s creation. Love, believe, live.

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him” 1 John 4:16

Hold dear in your heart the teachings of the Bible. For scripture of yesterday is today in thought, word and deed. It is not generational, but everlasting.

Friend in Christ, Tommerdahl@aol.com
**Author Erin Hart comes to St. Peter for book signing**

Erin Hart is an author who held many interviews and came to the St. Peter campus in order to give live performances and private lessons to Gustavus students. Jenny Behan

Erin Hart is a busy writer with many interviews and talks scheduled for the campus. Her books will be available at the library and St. Peter Reads committee will sell the books we are reading, said. Barbara Fister, who is the academic librarian at Gustavus, said. "This event will bring in music and book lovers. It will be a rich experience," Barbara Fister, said. The academic librarian at Gustavus and St. Peter Reads committee member said.

In Erin Hart's first book, Haunted Ground, she does a good job appealing to a lot of people's taste. It includes elements of Irish folklore and spirituality, creating a sort of genre blending," Fister said.

Hart is able to include historical information in her novels due to the research she conducts in order to learn more about Ireland and the mysteries it holds. "My experience as a freelance journalist really helped me as a novelist. I needed to interview people for my book, and being a journalist taught me to do my homework before going to interviews. It was helpful to have those interview skills," Hart said.

The St. Peter Reads group was established in September 2003 and is a community reading group that allows community members to read books in common. The group came together informally and represents a wide range of involvement from community members.

"I volunteered to be a part of [the St. Peter Reads group] because I think reading is something to promote," Fister said. The St. Peter Reads group connects St. Peter and the college community together because in the fall both groups participate in Gustavus Reads. In the winter the St. Peter Reads group picks a book that is a little more lighthearted.

"Erin Hart was here for her first book, Haunted Ground. It worked so well that we could bring her back to share her third book," Fister said. "The whole community is so important to St. Peter Reads. Retailers in downtown like the Co-op, Ecmo Pharmacy and Whiskey River buy some of the books and let members of the community borrow them. Many of the other local businesses sell the books we are reading," Schultz said.

On Thursday, March 25, there will be two free book discussion opportunities available to the public. One will be held at the St. Peter Public Library conference room and another at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Peter Food Co-op.

"I am really excited about coming to St. Peter. We had a good time when we were here last, and the people were so nice and warm. It’s a great atmosphere. We are just hoping for a good turnout and to help people get in the St. Patrick’s spirit," Hart said. To learn more about Erin Hart’s novels, visit her website at www.erinhart.com.

**Song Space Japan for Voice and Piano**

Katie Kaderlik Staff Writer

Mystery, culture, history, Ireland and bog bodies. What are they all have in common? Erin Hart. Erin Hart is an author who held many interviews and encountered an eerie Irish story that caught her interest and led her to write her first novel Haunted Ground.

"When I was in Ireland, I heard a bit of a true story about a seved head of a beautiful girl. I immediately thought it would be a great mystery, and I knew it needed to be a story," Hart said. All three of her novels—Haunted Ground, Lake of Sorrows and the newly released False Mermaid—are centered around two main characters, American pathologist Nora Gavin and Irish archeologist Cormac Maguire.

"Hart’s books are set in Ireland and are based on mysterious bog bodies. She explained that the bog bodies are like a jar of pickles: old, yet slightly acidic, especially the peat moss. There is no mold, bacteria or oxygen in the bog, so it preserves things, including bodies. Bog bodies are a great metaphor in my writing. It can represent history, people’s memories and quirky things that lie beneath the surface. Interesting artifacts keep turning up like pieces of gold, weapons and a satchel that I can write about," Hart said.

"These are really fine books. There is a lot of history and culture in them, and to get all of that into a book is pretty neat," Judy Schultz, the trade book buyer for the Book Mark and part of the St. Peter Reads committee, said.

On Tuesday, March 16, Erin Hart will be coming to St. Peter, along with her husband Paddy O’Brien who plays in the Chulurua Irish music trio. All of the events centered around Erin Hart’s novel will be free and open to the public, thanks in part to the grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library System and the St. Peter Reads Program.

At 1:30 p.m., Chulurua, comprised of an accordion player, a fiddler and a guitarist, will be giving a mini-concert at the St. Peter Senior Center. From 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. there will be a reception and book signing with Erin Hart at the St. Peter Public Library.

"An atmospheric reading with music and images," with Erin Hart and the Chulurua group will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church. During this time there will be a book chat and music for people to enjoy.

"Bogs are a great metaphor in my writing. It can represent history, people’s memories and quirky things that lie beneath the surface." - Erin Hart

Hart will also be showing images that relate to her book and places that inspired her writing. "This event will bring in music and book lovers. It will be a rich experience," Barbara Fister, the academic librarian at Gustavus and St. Peter Reads committee member said.

"In Erin Hart’s first book, Haunted Ground, she does a good job appealing to a lot of people’s taste. It includes elements of Irish folklore and spirituality, creating a sort of genre blending," Fister said. Hart is able to include historical information in her novels due to the research she conducts in order to learn more about Ireland and the mysteries it holds. "My experience as a freelance journalist really helped me as a novelist. I needed to interview people for my book, and being a journalist taught me to do my homework before going to interviews. It was helpful to have those interview skills," Hart said.

The St. Peter Reads group was established in September 2003 and is a community reading group that allows community members to read books in common. The group came together informally and represents a wide range of involvement from community members.

"I volunteered to be a part of [the St. Peter Reads group] because I think reading is something to promote," Fister said. The St. Peter Reads group connects St. Peter and the college community together because in the fall both groups participate in Gustavus Reads. In the winter the St. Peter Reads group picks a book that is a little more lighthearted.

"Erin Hart was here for her first book, Haunted Ground. It worked so well that we could bring her back to share her third book," Fister said. "The whole community is so important to St. Peter Reads. Retailers in downtown like the Co-op, Ecmo Pharmacy and Whiskey River buy some of the books and let members of the community borrow them. Many of the other local businesses sell the books we are reading," Schultz said.

On Thursday, March 25, there will be two free book discussion opportunities available to the public. One will be held at the St. Peter Public Library conference room and another at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Peter Food Co-op.

"I am really excited about coming to St. Peter. We had a good time when we were here last, and the people were so nice and warm. It’s a great atmosphere. We are just hoping for a good turnout and to help people get in the St. Patrick’s spirit," Hart said. To learn more about Erin Hart’s novels, visit her website at www.erinhart.com.
In the past few months, the website Chatroulette has literally taken the Internet by storm. Launched in November 2009 by Andrey Ternovskiy, a 17-year-old high school student in Moscow, the site now has about 35,000 visitors at a time. But for something that has so many talking, a lot of people have yet to discover it.

Chatroulette is a website that connects random strangers across the globe by way of webcam, keyboard and chance. Upon entering the site, you are connected with a stranger looking back at you. At any point in the conversation, any member of the party may hit “next” and move on to a new random stranger.

The idea of “nexting” is interesting, as it is literally based on physical appearances.

“It bothered me the first time I was nexted,” but then I made the startling revelation that getting nexted on Chatroulette doesn’t really reflect on my character all that much,” Senior Environmental Studies Major Haven Davis said.

Of course, nexting works both ways. If a person looks boring or weird—next. “I have a bit of a trigger finger when it comes to creepy men and penises. I will next those fairly quickly, and honestly I next any pale white kid with headphones on; they never really do anything interesting and just sort of creep me out,” Senior History Major Steve Palmer said.

Most of the time, the other person “looking” back at you is a man masturbating, midstroke. But amid the barrage of extremely inappropriate and voyeuristic perverts, some decent and genuine human beings can be found.

“I have met many people from other countries, mostly Europe, but also South America and one guy from Tunisia,” Palmer said.

The average interaction with each new random stranger doesn’t last very long, a few seconds for some. But, there are occasions when new friendships are made.

“I talked to a couple of guys in college for like fifteen minutes once,” Davis said. “My friend and I were super bored, and so we went on [Chatroulette]. We talked to this guy Robert from Brazil for a good hour or more. We were chatting him up and then went to get sandwiches, came back and he had fallen in love with my roommate. I thought we had something, Robert. But apparently not. He tried to add me on facebook, but he’s a water sign, so there’s no way,” Senior History Major Natalie Baker said.

Like Baker and her friend, most students interviewed choose to chat in groups.

“Playing alone generally is less fun, and feels far creepier and weirder. Also, being a dorky looking white male, I am the least desirable demographic, just barely ahead of fat men masturbating. So nobody really pays attention to me. Doing it in a group is more fun. Honestly the fun of it comes from having a gimmick of some sort. So a group makes this more conducive,” Palmer said.

Chatroulette Bingo has become popular, too. With boxes to cross off like “a sad, shirtless dude,” “a cat sleeping,” “someone wearing headphones” and even “the Jonas brothers” (which really does happen).

However it’s done, each time a person logs into Chatroulette is a unique experience never to be duplicated.
A different approach

Got Faith?

Susan Kranz
Staff Columnist

I’ve often questioned the so-called “Five Pillars of Gustavus” and their applicability to student life. Justice, Community, Service, Excellence and Faith: I see the first four, but it’s the last that feels lacking. These are the Community Service Center, the social justice theatre and Building Bridges, the continual strive for academic excellence, the notion of a tight-knit college community, but where is Faith on our modern college campus?

Gustavus is a Lutheran school, but the extent to which I see faith as an active topic of discussion is limited. Our student reality seems to be based on the here and now, limited. Our student reality seems to be based on the here and now, limited. It comes from looking at you … I think this is a strange outcome. Viewing drinking as an activity in itself is one cause for our Case Day problem and collegiate drinking in general. But why 24 beers? Why is this level of consumption acceptable? The answer comes from Americans’ penchant for excess and cheap beer available in large quantities. These issues inform American college culture, embedded in our cultural fabric.

The conversation has been repeated a thousand times on campus. “What are you doing this weekend?” “Drinking,” comes the reply. This is an acceptable plan of events for an entire evening. You wouldn’t plan an evening around drinking Mountain Dew. But somehow immense consumption of a beverage has become the focal point of people’s weekends and evenings. While some beers that people drink at Gustavus do bear a striking resemblance to soda (Bud Light Lime, I’m looking at you … ) I think this is a strange outcome. Viewing drinking as an activity in itself is one cause for our Case Day problem and collegiate drinking in general. But why 24 beers? Why is this level of consumption acceptable? The answer comes from Americans’ penchant for excess and cheap beer available in large quantities. These issues inform American college culture, embedded in our cultural fabric.

Also, this situation has arisen partially because of the drinking history of America. Before Prohibition, 1,400 breweries existed, brewing regionally distinct and diverse brews on smaller scales than what we conceive of now. Prohibition stamped these companies out, and what was left afterward was what beer snobs/geeks call “BMC,” Bud/Miller/Coors, the big three of American brewing. Able to weather the thirteen years of Prohibition, these companies emerged in the post-war America offering a homogenized, watered down beverage to the newly homogenized, watered down consumer public of the ’50s and ’60s. The diversity of the past departed in favor of light, drinkable (I might be inclined to say water-like) beer available in large quantities. Taste tests indicate that even self-identified loyalists of one company or another cannot tell the difference between a “favorite” and a rival company’s. Combine this with the massive output of these companies, which results in high availability, low price and immense quantities, and you get a nationwide drinking problem.

So we know that Americans drink a lot. But how did the problem become localized on college campuses? Besides our penchant for excess, Americans and the American government have also exercised their penchant for excessive rulemaking, despite the logic. Where the prohibition of the 1930s merely promoted unsafe moonshineries and allowed gangster cartels to rise to prominence, a similar division and prohibition is taking place: the prohibition of responsible drinking and discussion of drinking for those under 21. Just as abstinence-only sex education causes unsafe attitudes about sex, and subsequently unsafe sex, agent discrimination of drinking prevents learning and discussion of drinking for those under 21 and causes unsafe attitudes about drinking and then unsafe drinking.

Emperor Norton’s Patent of Nobility

You can’t chug a craft beer

Steve Palmer
Commentary Editor

A mid all the furor and hard feelings over The Gustavian Weekly’s coverage of Case Day, I think the widespread anger would be better focused on the existence of Case Day and ways we can change it. Many letters ask us as a newspaper to examine the causes of Case Day. Indeed, what are they? What is it about the Gustavian, collegiate and nationwide culture that allows something like Case Day to occur? Case Day is symptomatic of American drinking culture, which has been informed by our history and consumptive tendencies. I think analyzing how we got to this point might provide the answers that concerned Gusties seek and provide paths towards helping change the problem of collegiate drinking.

I think the main problem comes from viewing drinking as a singular activity. This attitude comes from not respecting beer despite its history and taste in favor of the fact that drinking several could get you drunk. It comes from not knowing how to enjoy a beer responsibly. It also comes from never having had the chance to learn any of these things before being let loose in an environment of inexperience and irresponsibility. It comes from never having the chance to incorporate drinking with other activities because of our dichotomous existence between being a strongly prohibitive nation and simultaneously having societal alcoholic tendencies.

The intention of drinking a beverage of any sort, in my mind, would (or should) be to enjoy it in conjunction with something else. While I don’t doubt that many Gusties and Americans do drink responsibly while doing things, whether it is eating, relaxing or socializing, I think there is a tendency here and elsewhere to view drinking as an activity in itself. The conversation has been repeated a thousand times on campus. “What are you doing this weekend?” “Drinking,” comes the reply. This is an acceptable plan of events for an entire evening. You wouldn’t plan an evening around drinking Mountain Dew. But somehow immense consumption of a beverage has become the focal point of people’s weekends and evenings. While some beers that people drink at Gustavus do bear a striking resemblance to soda (Bud Light Lime, I’m looking at you … ) I think this is a strange outcome. Viewing drinking as an activity in itself is one cause for our Case Day problem and collegiate drinking in general. But why 24 beers? Why is this level of consumption acceptable? The answer comes from Americans’ penchant for excess and cheap beer available in large quantities. These issues inform American college culture, embedded in our cultural fabric.

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Continued on page 12

Americans favor cheap, immense quantities over quality drinks such as Rogue’s Chocolate Stout (above).
Examining life
What’s going on here?

Although those words are eerily reminiscent of what I remember being told numerous times throughout my childhood, my heart no longer jumps at the mere presence of the words “What’s going on here?” In fact, I think I’ve come to appreciate them in a new way; they don’t always mean that you’re in trouble, but can also signal genuine confusion over something that has happened unexpectedly.

Occasionally I manage to pull my head out of the sand and take a look at the world around me, not just here at Gustavus, but also regionally, nationally and internationally, not for the purpose of anything in particular, but to glimpse upon the “real world” I will inherit too quickly in life. I think I’ve come to appreciate “What’s going on here?” in the sense that I am clueless as to what’s been happening, but that something is so clearly wrong that it seems the world outside of the everyday is somehow farcical, almost comically so. As a people, we’ve always found things to upset about, things to go to war with, people who need helping and people who need our help but we ignore. Mistakenly thinking that I knew roughly the rules and trends governing how we as a people act, I thought that all the things I see as utterly outlandish would stay within certain predictable trends—but I was wrong.

Now, rather than summarize all the news articles I found that left me flabbergasted, I would rather point out that something has changed that has reduced our news cycle from the ridiculous to the absurd. I remember when news came from the smooth and authoritative voices, and the reporting had succinct facts and logical, reasonable presentation. Those loud outspoken voices that originally only were watched for their shock value appear now to be the norm, and it frightens me. People like Glenn Beck, who just yell loudly and vigorously point at things while labeling everything with emotive language and sweating profusely, make every day seem like it just might be the start of Armageddon. Why do they act like that? Why are they still on the air? Why do the American people eat out of the palms of those irrational, falsifying, hypocritical fear-mongers? If it were merely the trend of increasingly polarizing media that I saw, I would be just upset, and not confused. I’m confused by how integrated and normal it is now to be emulating this kind of behavior. Let’s take examples to show you what I mean. First, we have the health care bill in Congress. We always have a congress that acts slowly. I’m all for deliberation and can understand why it takes so long to get a budget passed. But they’ve been at this for a long time, and all they have to show for it is some measly scrap of the original ideal that has passed the Senate. What troubles me is how divisive a topic it has become: on one hand you have the party of “no” and on the other you have a uniilaterally acting majority.

The purpose of having a congress is not so that the majority power can push its agenda into law, yet both parties organize themselves as if they need at least partisan filibuster-proof majorities to accomplish anything.

Glenn Beck is among those who sow fear among people and contribute to an overall confusion with the state of the world.

Eye on Gustavus

What’s up and what’s down this week at Gustavus and in the world (and what’s tepid, lukewarm, middle).

Fog

A new sort of dreary atmosphere has taken over campus from the bone-chilling cold, and it sure looks a lot cooler and more atmospheric.

The Great Meltdown

An end to winter is welcome, but the puddles from melting snow and early-March rain is certainly unpleasant.

Prom Cancelled

School in Mississippi cancels prom after girl tries to bring her girlfriend. “Gasp” Yes, she’s a lesbian. Seriously, what year is it again? I suppose they could have “just gone as friends,” but seriously. Ham-listed and unfair.
**“Fatality” from page 10**

The Gustavus website, with me, is an embarrassment to be a Gustavus Learning,” advertises to prospective and current students alike that “those who come [to Chapel] find a place of rest and challenge, of beauty and depth, of ecumeni- cal interfaith conversation and of hope.” I wonder, then, if the Chapel is open to such interfaith dialogue, and if more students challenging themselves? Or is it just the minority of a precious element of drinking?”

“A federal judge threw out Mohammad Jawad’s prosecution, and he left Guantanamo Bay due to mistreatment including excruciating confessions under torture.

**Letters to the Editor**

Every year at around this time, I write the WAC a letter, which may be expected to appear on the front page. A federal judge threw out Mohammad Jawad’s prosecution, and he left Guantanamo Bay due to mistreatment including excruciating confessions under torture.

Dear generous stranger:

Instead of writing the WAC a Gustavian article that masquerades as satire while giving this “tradition” oxygen, it is time to throw on the cold vomit of scorn on it. “Beer” from page 10

If one student challenge themselves? Or is it just the minority of a precious element of drinking?”

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Given a chance to make their own decisions upon arrival at college life, but also life outside of college.

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**Friday, March 12**

**HIT (High Intensity Training)**
Lund Center Aerobics Room 4:30 p.m.
You’re going to tell everyone that you got that workout by walking into a door frame, though.

**Gustavus Idol**
Evelyn Young Dining Room 7:00 p.m.
I’m actually part of a contest to see who can go the longest without developing a talent. It’s called Gustavus Idol.

**Weekend Movie— The Blind Side**
Wallenberg Auditorium 7 & 10:00 p.m.
The tragic story of a football player with tunnel vision.

**Karaoke Night**
The Dive 9:00 p.m.
The tee-ball to Gustavus Idol’s baseball.

**Saturday, March 13**

**Weekend Movie— The Blind Side**
Wallenberg Auditorium 7 & 10:00 p.m.
The story of the Raven’s attempts to deal with that one damn spot just to the back and right where people keep sneaking up and tackling them.

**15th Annual Building Bridges Conference**
Christ Chapel 10:00 a.m.
An immigration conference? I don’t care if all the tickets are sold out. I’m getting in. Even if I have to sneak in.

**Mika Kimula—Guest Artist Recital**
Bjorling Recital Hall 7:30 p.m.
She looks surprisingly like Grace Kelly.

**Sunday, March 14**

**Gustavus Synchronized Skating Competition**
Eau Claire, Wisc. All Day
Best of luck to the Gustie Blades, and any other gangs from the ’80s.

The Shady Character has been on Chatroulette ... and has seen things that cannot be unseen.

**calendar**

**Monday, March 15**

**Circuits**
Lund Center Aerobics Room 11:40 a.m.
Circuits? Sounds great. I like to time the minutes I spend working out in binary. Either one or zero.

**Yogalaties**
Lund Center Aerobics Room 4:30 p.m.
Try not to take yoga too seriously. It’s nothing to get bent out of shape about.

**“Hati and the Earthquake”—Lecture by Prof. Anna Versluis**
Alumni Hall 7:00 p.m.
This talk is sure to shake things up. ... Too soon?

**Juggling Club**
The Dive 7:00 p.m.
Juggling is a very situational talent. For instance, someone juggling pins on the street is cool. Someone juggling pins at the bowling alley is a spoil sport.

**Tuesday, March 16**

**Kickboxing**
Lund Center Aerobics Room 6:30 a.m.
In case you need to defend yourself against the Gustie Blades.

**Wednesday, March 17**

**Health Professions Fair**
Banquet Rooms 11:30 a.m.
A lot of people consider themselves “Pre-health.” Not me. I like to think of myself as current health.

**2011 Nobel Conference Meeting**
Nobel 224 (Biology Library) 4:00 p.m.
Let’s think about this while we have more than a year to prepare. How is the end of the world going to mess with the sesquicentennial?

**Thursday, March 18**

**Servant Leadership Program Open House**
Center for Vocational Reflection 5:30 p.m.
Servant Leadership: it’s a little like backseat driving.

**The Arboretum through the Lens of a Camera**
Melva Lind Interpretive Center 7:00 p.m.
Apparantly there are some legends about witches who used to live in the Arb. Some of my friends and I are going to go investigate and film it. I’m sure everything will be fine.
With experience and talent, the Gustavus Softball team is looking to follow up a National Tournament appearance last year with another strong season.

Julie Hammond
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Softball team is back for more, striving to claim their title as National Champions this year. The team has approached the season differently than in previous years. The women have more confidence coming into this season, and they’re ready to take on any team.

Junior infielder Emily Wendorff feels very passionately about the season. “We’ve set our expectations very high this year, although this is nothing new for the program. We know that when we are playing our best we can take on any opponent. We are shooting to win the MIAC and Regionals again this year and hope to upgrade our third-place spot in Nationals to Champions. We hope to pull the Gusties again this year and hope to improve the MIAC and Regionals again this year and hope to upgrade our third-place spot in Nationals to Champions.”

To accomplish their goals this season, the Gusties had to make some changes from last year to this year. Senior infielder Andrea Brown feels the women’s confidence has changed, which will help them in the long run. “As far as changes from last year, I think this year our team has more confidence to compete and be the best. We have learned a lot about ourselves and what the team is capable of achieving with last year’s third-place finish at Nationals.”

Knowledge of every position and determined to make it back to the National Tournament this spring,” Brown said.

Wendorff agreed with Brown, but also felt the changes made from last year have been directed toward the team as a whole. “This year, instead of aiming for other teams’ targets to dethrone them, we’ve got the targets on our backs. Everyone knows who Gustavus is as a program now and will be pursuing us relentlessly like we have for other teams in the past. In a sense, we have to rethink the way they are going to prepare for the season. Junior outfielder Jenny Ewert elaborated on how the women have prepared for the season so far. “We practice hard every day and are always working on specific skills. We work with hitting off our pitchers because they are some of the best in the MIAC and it’s good to get practice off of them because it’s what to expect from other teams,” Ewert said.

With the season already underway, the women have started off strong with a 3-1 record. How to deal with the everyday ups and downs without a challenge, and this year the team was unanimous about St. Thomas being their biggest challenge.

“As usual we’re gunning for St. Thomas because they’re always our top opponents with us in the race for the MIAC title, but we also have to take it one game at a time so we have the opportunity to win the title. We attempt to never look over an opponent as unworthy because we’ve seen some crazy upsets of other teams along the way,” Wendorff said.

However, St. Thomas is not the team’s only concern right now. The women are preparing to leave for Florida March 12-16. This tournament is invitation-only and is composed of some of the best teams in the country. It is a real honor that the Gusties get to compete there this year. “It will be a different setting because it will be the first time we will be playing on dirt and in cleats, but we adjust pretty well and just need to remember to stick to the basics. We all just need to stay focused and know the teams will all be ready so we just need to play our game and focus together,” Ewert said.

Although the women were very successful last year and continue to be so far this year, there is always room for improvement. “One of the most important strengths we have is chemistry. Our team gels like you would never expect. Everyone agrees we have a good time, and does, but at the same time we can all buckle down and get to work when we’re at practice or in a game. An area I hope we can improve in is that when we play easier teams, we keep our intensity and play at the superior level I know we’re capable of. We should never play down to other teams,” Wendorff said.

Brown agreed with Wendorff. “We have amazing team chemistry and bond with one another on and off the field. I believe this is an aspect of our team that will only help us achieve our goals. We also have one of the best pitching staffs in our conference. I am looking forward to see what Betsie Collins, Erin Truenbach and Callie Nelson can do this year. We are also a very strong defensive team as well,” Brown said.

The Gusties have a title to defend this year and look forward to doing so. “We really thrive under pressure, and we can’t wait to prove to the MIAC and the nation that Gustavus will wear those targets on our backs with pride and we’re not coming down anytime soon,” Wendorff said.

After the Gusties return from Florida, they will play Bethel on March 31. Their first home game will be April 8, 2010 vs. St. Kate’s.
Black and white copy with small fonts.
L ast weekend the Gustavus Women’s Hockey team defeated Saint Catherine’s University 5-1 in the MIAC Championship. The Gusties will now advance to the NCAA Tournament for the ninth consecutive year. This Saturday, the Gusties will host the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in a quarterfinal game. The winner of the quarterfinal game will not only advance further in the tournament but will also be the host school for the tournament.

The Gusties are on a 12-game winning streak and have had a strong season after a somewhat rough beginning. “Our season started off a little slow and we hit a few bumps in the road with some losses at the beginning, but I think we’ve grown a lot as a team from them. We have had a lot of really close games that have taught us how to play with adversity. We seem to be on a roll now, and we have been working really well together as a team,” Junior defender Sarah Yungner said.

The UWRF Falcons are on a winning streak of their own, winning their last 18 games. The Falcons’ last loss was to Gustavus on Jan. 12, 2010. In that game the Gusties were able to defeat the Falcons by a score of 2-1. The Gusties also opened their season to the Falcons on Nov. 13, 2009, where the teams battled to an overtime tie. “Nothing is for certain, and we can’t get too overwhelmed and look too far ahead. One game at a time, one period at a time is our mentality as of right now,” Junior defender Kelsey Johnson said.

With impressive records and two close matches between the two teams, it is sure to be an exciting game. Not to mention that the Gusties and the Falcons also faced each other in last year’s championship game, in which the Falcons defeated the Gusties 2-1, ending their season.

“We have the talent and the drive to go to all the way to the Final Four and even win it. We are unstoppable when we all play our best, which is when we are having fun. If we stay focused and dedicated I think we can win it all,” Yungner said.

The Falcons average 3.62 goals per game this season, while the Gusties average 3.48. However the Falcons allow 1.68 goals per game, while the Gusties allow only 1.22. Although both teams have 30 power play goals, the Gustavus power play is stronger with a .25 success rate compared to the Falcons’ .195. The Gusties also have a stronger penalty kill with a .89 rate compared to the Falcons’ .844.

“Our biggest challenge going into the tournament is our determination and desire. We have made it to Nationals for seven years in a row and seem to always be cut short of the Final Four. We need to dig down deep within ourselves and come out on top. We need to stay focused and play our game and have a short memory. We will never succeed if we count our failures. We need to keep battling, no matter the score or time in our game. We need to be ready to fight for what is ours,” Johnson said.

While the Gusties face the Falcons in the quarterfinals, Trinity College will play at Elmira College and Norwich University will play at Plattsburgh State University.

“We haven’t played any of the teams coming from out East during the regular season, so we’re not as familiar with them as we would be with other teams we play against during the regular season.” First-year Julie Hammond said.

“Nationals is a completely new season in itself. This season is a sprint for every team. Every team is hungry. We all share that one common goal, and that is winning Nationals. We have to come ready to play against every team no matter the name on their jersey,” Hammond said.

In addition to hosting the tournament, the winner of Saturday’s game between the Gusties and the Falcons will advance to the Semifinals and face Amherst on March 19. Amherst is the defending National Champion.

“Hockey is the longest season, so we need to stay focused and realize that we can’t hold anything back—we lose and we’re done for the season, so we have to give it all we have,” Yungner said.

The Gusties have had a lot of success this season; however, their season is not over yet. They have a chance to make school history in hosting the National Tournament and will need everyone to show their support and cheer them on in the process. The first chance to do this will be this Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in the Don Roberts Ice Rink.