A day in the life: Teach for America

Kelly Nelson
Staff Writer

As graduation day creeps closer and senior Gustavus students scurry frantically to plan their futures, they weigh several options: grad school, job search, the Peace Corps. One particular route some Gustavus grads have chosen to take in the past is to sign a two-year agreement with Teach for America (TFA), a national corps of recent college graduates who teach in rural and urban schools in an effort to end educational inequality. According to campus campaign coordinator and Senior Political Science and Spanish Major Erica Koos, “Ten Gustavus graduates signed up for TFA in 2008,” doubling the five that signed up the previous year.

Political Science Major Esther Mulder, a 2008 graduate, is in her first year of the program teaching in Jacksonville, Florida. Mulder explained that the program begins with a 5-week-long Summer Institute in which all TFA corps members participate. “It is hard, but also really fun. You are meeting so many new people, living in a new place and getting really pumped to be working towards the same goal for the next two years,” Mulder said.

Another 2008 graduate, International Management and Political Science Major Matt Toppin, is also a first year TFA corps member who is working in Miami, Florida. Toppin said he was expecting to be working with a diverse group of students who were very behind academically.

Continued on page 2
Weekly Safety and Security Report

Sunday, September 14
A burglary was reported from a residence hall room.

Monday, September 15
A report was filed with Safety and Security about damage to Gustavus property.

Tuesday, September 16
A Gustavus student reported the theft of a personal item from their residence hall room.

A person was trespassed from campus for not complying with a College official.

Thursday, September 18
While in Uhler Hall one student was cited by Safety and Security for public consumption of alcohol. Another student was cited by Safety and Security for underage consumption of alcohol.

A Gustavus employee reported the loss of Gustavus keys.

Saturday, September 20
A 21-year old student was cited in The Dive by Safety and Security for a campus alcohol violation.

Safety and Security was called to a medical assist in the Norelius Circle.

Tip of the Week
You can respond appropriately in an emergency situation if you:

• Know where fire alarm pull boxes are located
• Learn when CFs are on duty and how to contact them
• Know Safety and Security’s emergency phone number
• Know where the emergency phones are located on campus

You can respond appropriately in an emergency situation if you:

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They are the ones who really do not know the basics of mathematics. It’s very hard to teach a student Geometry and Algebra when they don’t know how to add or subtract first. Nevertheless, the students do understand and do get it if you just teach it to them. Yes, it takes a very long time, but if they are committed to it, they will achieve,” he said. When the day is over, Toppin usually spends two hours or so at night doing lesson planning.

Despite their full days and the many challenges they face, both Mulder and Toppin find the experience highly rewarding. “The most gratifying thing about it and the biggest challenge is what I do everyday. These kids are really behind academically. I hope to make incredible progress with them this year—they are not any less capable — they just haven’t been held to the same standards or received the same opportunities as their peers in more affluent communities. The achievement gap in this country is staggering, and the fact that the population at large doesn’t seem to be incredibly outraged by it outrages me,” Mulder said.

Toppin says that while TFA corps members have very different experiences, they all share the common goal of student achievement. “Everything we do is based on that, because as my experience and all other corps members’ experience shows, these kids are far behind.” Toppin said. He also said that to give them the opportunity to catch up is hard work, but very much worth the effort.

“It’s very hard to teach a student Geometry and Algebra when they don’t know how to add or subtract first. Nevertheless, the students do understand and do get it if you just teach it to them. Yes, it takes a very long time, but if they are committed to it, they will achieve,” he said. When the day is over, Toppin usually spends two hours or so at night doing lesson planning.
Unlocked doors have contributed to an increase of theft on campus.

Amber Hanson
Staff Writer

It is not uncommon for Gusties to leave their backpacks and laptops unattended in the library during their study breaks or to leave their dorms unlocked while they run to the study lounge. The level of confidence in our fellow students in order to feel at home on campus is something many of us take for granted. According to the police report in the Sept. 18, 2008 edition of the St. Peter Herald, two reported thefts in two separate Gustavus dorm rooms are under investigation by the St. Peter Police. Sometime late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, residents of two dorm rooms on the third floor of Pittman Hall reported items had been taken out of their rooms while they slept. Over $2,500 worth of possessions and cash was taken from both rooms, including a laptop, two textbooks, a digital camera and an X-Box system.

Thefts is not a common occurrence on our campus. According to Safety and Security, there were only 11 non-forced burglaries in 2007. “Gustavus is safer than other schools, because the campus is really confined. However, I still hear of things happening here,” said Junior Spanish major Han- nah Davidson.

Mike English, Assistant Dean of Students, believes everyone of a few simple efforts to improve dorm security: Lock your doors every time you leave your room, even if you are just going down the hall. Lock your door when you go to sleep at night. Do not leave backpacks or computers unattended.

If you believe you have had items stolen, do not hesitate to call Safety and Security or contact your College Fellow for help. English also suggests identifying your personal valuable property (such as make, model and serial numbers of computers, iPods, etc.).

Next time you feel the urge to run to the study lounge in the dorm or leave your laptop in the library to run and get a cookie from the Market Place, take an extra minute to lock your door or pack up your bag and take it with you.

Students elect new senate

New Co-Presidents Garrison and Grygo won with 50.08% of the vote.

Amy McMullan
Staff Writer

Student Senate campaign posters are gone and the elections are over. Co-Presidents Luke Garrison and Shawn Grygo, a senior communications studies major, and Shawn Grygo, a senior dance major, are ready to begin work with the newly elected representatives. The first full-Senate meeting of the semester will convene on Monday, Sept. 29, at 7:00 p.m.

Garrison and Grygo won the co-presidency with 50.08 percent of the vote, 31 more votes than their opponents. Their opponents, Junior Management Major Ashley Melville and Junior Political Science Major Chad Allen, obtained just over 45 percent of the votes. A quarter of the student body turned out to vote in this election. “The voter turnout is obviously not where we’d like it to be. Hopefully by working on reviving the Senate as a group and its reputation, we can get more people interested in not only joining Senate, but voting for it,” Garrison said.

Both sets of candidates feel that they and their opponents ran very successful campaigns. “I thought Luke and I ran a smooth campaign. There was a bit of confusion on exactly what our platform was, but obviously the student body understands what Luke and I hope to accomplish,” Grygo said.

“[Melville and Allen ran a] great campaign. … I saw a lot of original advertising, and they had a fantastic web site. They worked very hard, and I hope they are proud of what they were able to do,” said Garrison.

“I feel that both pairs of candidates campaigned to the best of their abilities,” Melville said.
This year, The Pan-Afrikan Student Organization and The Crossroads Program wanted to give the Gustavus campus community an opportunity to see what it is like to experience an element of the religion of Islam by fasting, something Muslims do throughout the month of Ramadan. So, On Sept. 24, the groups held the 1st annual Gustavus Day of Fasting.

In addition to providing information about Ramadan, the two groups worked together to provide information about the fasting traditions of other religions. "I think just tabling has done a lot," said Junior Accounting Major Abdul Suleyman.

Suleyman said students decided it would be best to hold one big event this year, instead of holding smaller events each week throughout the month of Ramadan, as they have done in past years.

More than 160 students signed up for the Gustavus Day of Fasting in the first three days of promotion. "It has been a success. Hopefully we can make it [even] bigger next year," said Suleyman.

In addition to the Gustavus Day of Fasting, Professor of Physics Steve Mellema gave a reflection on Ramadan during Chapel on Sept. 18 as a part of the Interfaith Observance Program. "This just shows how open our campus is about religion," said Suleyman.

In his reflection, Mellema described the month of Ramadan as a period of self-restraint, in which Muslims strive to live up to the teachings of the Qur’an. Mellema mentioned that the month is also a time when Muslims think about people who are less fortunate.

"It was very well put together," said Sophomore English Major Susan Kranz.

For many Muslims, the benefits of fasting outweigh the challenges. "I become aware of God's presence every year," said Mellema.

For Suleyman, the challenge of fasting is not what some make it out to be. "I don't think about it too much," said Suleyman.

Although the season of Ramadan will conclude on Sept. 30, an on-campus lecture featuring Imam Faheem Shuaibe and addressing the question “Does Islam Oppress Women?” is scheduled for Oct. 9, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.
Gustie of the Week:
First-year Elliot Herdina proves his worth as Gustavus’s wide receiver

Herdina rushed 74 yards and scored a 68-yard touchdown in his first collegiate game.

“Gustavus has really lived up to the stuff that people say about it. It’s all that and more.”
“I’ll probably stay in my hometown after graduating,” said Herdina, when asked about his plans for a career. “I’m really close with my family.”

“I’m not sure what I want my major to be yet, but I’m taking some psychology classes; I might go into that. I’m also looking into pediatric nursing.”

“Football will definitely be a factor, but in the long run it was the academics,” says Herdina.

Ethan Marxhausen
Staff Writer

A

ccording to First-year wide receiver Elliot Herdina, the Gustavus Gusties’ 27-19 football win against Coe College on Sep. 13 can be attributed to the Gusties’ great defensive performance—but he’s just being modest. If you asked any of the people in the audience at that game, they’d probably give most of the credit to Herdina. In his first collegiate game, he scored two of Gustavus’ three touchdowns, rushing for 74 yards and catching three passes for 40 yards.

“We just knew at halftime that whoever had the most heart, whoever wanted it more, was going to win. We wanted it more,” said Herdina. Those 74 rushing yards include a 68-yard touchdown run in the second half, which sealed the deal for Gustavus’ first win this season.

“It was tied 13-13 at halftime, so we knew the rest of the game was going to be a shootout,” said Herdina, “but after the first half the coaches had figured out Coe’s defensive scheme, which really helped.”

It also helped that Gustavus’ defense didn’t give up a single offensive touchdown in the game and held tight in several critical goal line situations, holding Coe to four field goals and a blocked punt return for a touchdown. “We just knew at halftime that whoever had the most heart, whoever wanted it more, was going to win,” said Herdina. “We wanted it more.”

Much of the offensive credit should go to Herdina, whose two second-half touchdowns were made even sweeter because they were his first two as a college student. In spite of his star performance in that game, he complemented his team’s defense, coaching and just about everyone on the team besides himself for a job well done. Herdina is certainly a great addition to Gustavus football, and his respect for his teammates is a credit to both him and his team.

“Everybody on the team is really supportive,” said Herdina. “We don’t usually do the whole ‘touchdown celebration’ thing, but after I scored my first touchdown the whole team came on the field to congratulate me.”

Although Gustavus has never really been renowned for its football team, Herdina and his teammates are optimistic about their prospects. “Over the past few years, the Gustavus team has really been considered average, but now we’re peaking. Everybody on the team has really been clicking.”

Herdina also attributes the team’s win on Saturday to this new positive thinking. “Our coach just keeps saying, ‘take everything one chain link at a time’... If we think we’re going to win, we will.”

Although Herdina’s daily practices are time-consuming, he still finds time every Monday to help out with St. Peter’s flag football team. The team is composed mostly of fifth-graders, and many of Gustavus’ football players volunteer to spend time with the kids and be role models for them.

Has Elliot Herdina always been a talented football player? The short answer is yes. “When I was about ten, my dad would play football with us in our yard. He would be quarterback and my brother and I would play one-on-one. We did that pretty much every day.”

Herdina’s passion for football continued when he started at Blooming Prairie High School, where he played varsity for all four years. It was during that time that he broke Minnesota’s high school record for all-time receiving yards, previously held by Larry Fitzgerald of the Arizona Cardinals. He was also one of only two Minnesota high school wide receivers to be on the Associated Press All-State First Team, a team that Herdina describes as “sort of like an all-star team.” He also played in the Minnesota High School Varsity All-Star game.

What is Elliot Herdina doing at Gustavus, when he could be a starting wide receiver for Notre Dame or some other school that has more of an emphasis on varsity football? “Football was definitely a factor, but in the long run it was the academics,” says Herdina.

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Ratatat live “roars”  
Matt Beachy
Staff Writer

If Ratatat’s recorded material is a playful house cat, then Ratatat live is a ferocious Bengal tiger. There’s that much of a difference.

In the studio, Ratatat could essentially be reduced to glorified 8-bit Nintendo music, littered with clips and beeps, with layers of guitar and bass stapled on, with the dynamic range of a Gameboy soundtrack. But when bassist Evan Mast and guitarist Mike Stroud take the stage, the infectious, albeit usually restrained, hooks of hits like “Wild Cat” and “17 Years” are made into full blown rockers that induce wild dancing and moshing. And yet, they retain their characteristic sound deeply rooted in hip-hop and electronica.

On my way to their concert, I was doubtful that this two-man band’s live performance would be remotely faithful to their complex, layered studio performance. Nearly every note swepting, bright guitar harmonies a la Brian May of Queen. Nearly every note played for all tour. Indie hipsters fought to keep their ironic, nerdy computer-programmer glasses on as the tightly pressed crowd throbbed like a flock of Brian May of Queen. Nearly every note present in their recordings was there in one way or another.

Aside from Mast on bass, the only other musician on stage was an unnamed keyboard player who also controlled a drum machine. The end result was like a combination between Explosions in the Sky and Daft Punk, with the epic climax of the former and the crowd-pleasing pop sensibilities of the latter.

The set list included many of the band’s hits from their first two albums, as well as newer material from their more experimental third album. Occasionally leaving their posts at guitar and bass, Stroud and Mast also wailed on bongos, floor toms and autoharps to add to the texture of their newer songs.

Both had incredible musicianship and energy on everything they played. Stroud getting more sounds from a guitar than most get from a synthesizer.

The sold-out crowd at First Avenue was, in equal measures, dancing their hearts out and staring awe-struck with jaws dropped during the band’s mid-tempo songs. Stroud commented that this was the craziest crowd they had played for all tour. Indie hipsters fought to keep their ironic, nerdy computer-programmer glasses on as the tightly pressed crowd throbbed like a flock of birds in the wind, minus the grace.

In the end, everyone was pleasantly enlightened. Ratatat is a band that is only fully appreciated live; their studio recordings now sound only like a distant memory of what I saw and heard that night.

Nobel conference incorporates more than just science

Annie Opseth
Staff Writer

What’s the one thing that most people think of when they hear the words Nobel Conference? Science. Every year Gustavus is a host to famous speakers and scientists who give lectures on topics related to the theme of the year. What some people may not realize is not just science, but music, too, plays a significant role in the conference each year.

Every year, on the first night of the Nobel Conference, there is a concert related to the theme of the conference. It used to be a faculty recital, but in 2005, Warren Friesen, the director of the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra, designed a themed concert that included music students in the performance as well. The initial concert was a success, and the tradition has continued ever since. This year’s concert will be held on Oct. 7 at 8:00 p.m. in Christ Chapel. The Symphony Orchestra will be performing other pieces being performed is Beethoven’s interpretation of the Greek creation myth of Prometheus. Another piece, entitled “A Zoo Called Earth,” portrays the evolution of Earth from the outside view of aliens, to whom it looks like a “zoo.”

In addition to Fraser’s pieces, the orchestra will be performing other pieces as well. “Each piece is based on a creation story, one of which represents the Adam and Eve story,” said Friesen. One of the songs being performed is Beethoven’s interpretation of the Greek creation myth of Prometheus. Another piece, entitled “A Zoo Called Earth,” portrays the evolution of Earth from the outside view of aliens, to whom it looks like a “zoo.”

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Burn After Reading lives up to Coen Brothers’ reputation

Ryan McGinty
Staff Writer

Burn After Reading, the Coen Brothers’ first film since last year’s Oscar-winning No Country For Old Men, is not Academy Award material, but it does have many redeeming qualities.

First, it’s a Coen Brothers’ film, and they have yet to make a bad one. You can debate endlessly over whether Fargo or The Big Lebowski is a better movie, but the fact remains that they are both wonderful in their own right, and the same goes for the rest of the brothers’ filmography. It’s like arguing over which Radiohead album is the best: ultimately pointless. It’s hard to describe the plot of Burn After Reading. It’s intentionally confusing. There were very few times when I actually had a grip on what was going on in the film, yet not once was I angry about it. I loved watching these inept characters stumble through their sad lives; it was quite entertaining.

Because the storyline is almost incoherent, the actors have the added weight of carrying the viewer through the film. Thankfully, the all-star cast does a great job in this department. George Clooney plays his classic Coen Brothers’ character, the fool, to perfection. John Malkovich, as the ex-CIA alcoholic, steals every scene he’s in. It’s his first movie with the Coens, and what a wonderful match they are. And Brad Pitt, as the dim-witted physical trainer, is the cherry on top of the sundae that is this movie.

One of the movie’s main themes is stupidity, in all its forms, from the individual to the government. Many will knock the film for its muddled plot, but if you view the film with this in mind, the movie’s message takes shape: we all do really stupid things at times. And further, it’s fun to watch other people do stupid things. Burn After Reading is brimming with hilarity, from the great performances to the intentionally disjointed storyline. Though the film is not one of the Coen Brothers’ best, it’s still a great movie. Burn After Reading is brimming with hilarity, from the great performances to the intentionally disjointed storyline. Though the film is not one of the Coen Brothers’ best, it’s still a great movie. I give it four out of five stars.

Although the story line of Burn After Reading is confusing and hard to follow, the all-star cast shapes the film into a brimming comedy.

Local band: Late Night Rising

Kelli Ludwig
Staff Writer

Meet a group of guys who play for the sake of music, who are dedicated and make every practice their best performance, who are serious about their music, but have fun with it as well. Meet a local St. Peter band named Late Night Rising.

The group, who describes its music as “driving power-pop/indie but with something different added in,” consists of Nate Smith on the MM6, microKORG, and vocals, Mitch Johnson on guitar and vocals, Aaron Smith on drums, and Robb Hawkins on bass.

About three-and-a-half years ago, brothers Aaron and Nate Smith started tinkering with some sounds. Johnson joined shortly after. The three immediately clicked and created their first song, “Memories,” during their first practice. After experimenting with a few different bass players, Late Night Rising found Hawkins about half-a-year ago. Two older recordings already exist from the Late Night Rising, but now they’re playing some new music. If all goes well, they’ll have a new professional recording out soon with their set of six new songs. The band is also hoping to start touring the area in the near future.

The music of Late Night Rising is a well-rounded experience. They take small parts of a variety of sounds and put them all together to create something new. The band puts a lot of thought into each piece, testing it and getting input from each member.

The guys love what they do and what they play. As Hawkins said, “I play for the same reason that people listen to music: I enjoy every minute that I listen to our songs.”

Johnson said, “I wish that I could just play music all the time. Without all of the other obligations and responsibilities we have, we could really be famous, because we would just spend all of our time playing together.”

Nate Smith said that he loves playing because it’s an “outlet for creativity” for him. Aaron Smith agreed and said that “it makes [him] feel good when it sounds good.”

Every member seems to have a passion and drive for making great music. More than that, the group loves to play together because of the chemistry they share while playing. “It’s not hard for us to stay together,” Johnson said. “I don’t like it when we don’t play. I get anxious.”

Late Night Rising will play on Oct. 18 with Breathe Electrics at the What’s Up Lounge in Mankato. Also look for the group performing this winter at the River Rock Cafe, The Toy Box in Minneapolis or The Depot in Hopkins.

God’s Words for a Life of Virtue, Love, Grace and Truth.

All is a holy and pleasing sacrifice to God. Your body, soul and deeds

Therefore, I urge you, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1

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, Tommerdah@aol.com

GAC Student Special

Valid every day - No coupon necessary
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Large 1 Topping $8.99 * Each additional $6.99 Additional toppings $1.29 each
Medium 1 Topping $6.99 * Each additional $4.99 Additional toppings $0.99 each

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Now Hiring!
Most Gusties are familiar with “the arb,” and now is the time when most of the first-years begin to discover its gravel trails and remote study spots. The Melva Lind Interpretive Center is a place somewhat less well-known to the student body. By their junior year, most students know it as the quaint building nestled in a vegetative thicket on the south side of campus where environmental studies courses are offered.

However, it is a surprisingly little known fact that the north-east corner of this building is now the home to the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation.

According to Jim Dontje, the director and sole staff member of the center, many people on campus came together to make the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation a reality. Don’tje said it was the manifestation of a collective desire to, “put something in place in a concrete way to increase environmental awareness and action” on the Gustavus campus.

Currently, it is a one-man, one-room operation. According to Dontje, the size of the center and the number of people staffing it are not likely to increase in the near future.

That does not mean that the goals of the Johnson Center are small. The center is meant to “enable the community to do their best environmentally,” Dontje said. It is a place of organization, a “focal point” for faculty, students and staff to “get work done.”

Professor of Environmental Studies Cindy Johnson-Groh realizes that many environmentally-concerned individuals and groups on campus “mean well, but [are] also busy. … We needed someone to pull it all together [to] ride on the shoulders of those who have done a lot, but lack time,” she said.

This is where Dontje and the center come into play.

The goals of the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, according to Dontje, are to work towards making this campus more environmentally sustainable, integrate environmental issues into students’ education and eventually raise awareness by engaging the broader community.

Last year, the center worked to make important connections and identify environmental “allies” all over campus. This year, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work to be done.

Dontje has been busy making an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, working on environmental aspects of the strategic plan and configuring an energy report for the campus.

Last school year, the center helped facilitate the Gustavus
Energy Wars, and this year the center is working in cooperation with the custodial staff to put together another on-campus challenge entitled Recycle Mania. "We’re trying to think broadly," said Dontje. "There is a huge array of not only technical innovations, but social, economic and political innovations as well. … It’s not only the GustieWare, recycling, turning the lights off, etc. … It’s about considering environmental topics in classes, discussions, and service projects.”

In time, the center hopes to work with the community on multiple levels—campus, city, county, state and national. Senior Communications Major and active member of the Gustavus Greens Lauren Fulner agrees that Gustavus needs to connect with “the larger world of environmental issues. … It’s easy to become isolated in our bubble up on the hill,” Fulner said.

Johnson-Groh is optimistic that the campus is moving towards a better understanding of the value of environmentally responsible practices, and believes it is already starting with the advent of the center. Although the Johnson Center is only in its second year of operation, it is not a new idea. The Gustavus Quarterly made the proposal public knowledge in the summer of 2006. Donors Glen and LaVonne Johnson were pivotal in providing the funds.

In addition, Johnson-Groh said they have contributed to the center in other ways. The Johnsons have been “helping to craft the vision” of the center, Johnson-Groh said. The Quarterly noted that the Johnsons’ “annual gift commitment of $150,000 in the next several years will provide a working budget to establish the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, and a two-life charitable remainder trust will permanently endow the director’s position.”

What does this mean for students? Fulner sees the center as an “intermediary between grassroots student organizations like the Gustavus Greens and the administration. … It eases the transition” between students and those in administrative power, which makes it easier to “make things happen,” Fulner said.

She also sees importance in “keeping students up on environmental issues.” Johnson-Groh envisions that the center will “serve as a catalyst for us on campus to be accountable. … If we want to be sustainable, individuals need to be responsible for their own actions. We all mean well, but we forget, or it’s not convenient [to be environmental].”

“Students often feel like they’re told what to do,” said Dontje, “but what are you willing to do? We can make huge changes with cooperation, and the Johnson Center will be there to help, encourage and push.”

All of the pictures above were taken in the Linnaeus Arboretum. It seems fitting that Johnson Center Director Jim Dontje’s office looks out onto the arboretum as he coordinates campus efforts to decrease the environmental impact of the Gustavus campus.

—Director of the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation Jim Dontje

Features Editor | Danielle Harms
Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Chris Cox and James Lockhart, III, Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 23, on the current turmoil of the U.S. credit markets.

Offering perspective

McGovern’s financial flip-flop

Greg Boone
Weekly Columnist

It is clear that this crisis is not due to the people who have been in Washington the last few years (though it is worth noting that they were not part of the solution either until recently). Rather it is those who were in Washington twenty-plus years ago when the government deregulated the financial and banking institutions and allowed this kind of insanely risky investing. (As a matter of fairness it is worth noting here that deregulation began under Reagan but Bush Senior, Clinton, and Bush Junior — until now — did nothing to re-regulate the markets, and in fact expanded the deregulation programs.) The Reagan Administration deregulation that John McCain supported, and has been consistently supportive of since, ignited the sub-prime mortgage phenomenon which led us to the economic fallout we are experiencing.

Now McCain is claiming that “the fundamentals of our economy are strong,” while simultaneously claiming he will burst into the White House with his unsupported Vice President and clean up Washington, Wall Street and finally stop putting lipstick on pigs. In his speech in Blaine last Friday McCain talked at some length about “shaking things up” in Washington and being an agent for reform, but how can we believe someone who has consistently endorsed the policies that allowed for what he now calls “reckless conduct, corruption, and unbridled greed” that have caused a crisis on Wall Street since the early 1980s and refuses to admit he was part of the problem? McCain has been in Congress since 1982 with a self described “long record in support of deregulation.” As recently as April of this year, John McCain said, “I don’t think anyone who wants to increase the burden of government regulation…has any real understanding of economics and the economy and what is needed in order to ensure the future of this country.”

John McCain wants to have his cake and eat it too. This is not flip-flopping on some mundane issue or backtracking on a previous statement; this is a complete reversal of economic philosophy in order to gain votes. Right now it is popular to support regulation because the economy is in turmoil. But what kind of change can we really expect from John McCain? Will he really put an end to the greed and corruption of the system from which he directly benefits? Or will he do it only if it is the popular thing to do when he wakes up that morning?

“I don’t think anyone who wants to increase the burden of government regulation…has any real understanding of economics and the economy and what is needed in order to ensure the future of this country.”

—John McCain, April 23, 2008

Continued from page 12

Everybody loves Reagan

Guided by God

Andrew Evenson
Weekly Columnist

If you don’t mind, I’d like to take off my conservative Republican hat to talk as a Christian member of the Gustavian community. It seems to get the impression that socially conservative Republicans think they are the only “true” Christians, but as a social conservative, I think there are many liberal Democrat Chris- tians who will not be allowed to follow Jesus’ teachings much better than I do. It is my belief that God has given us all many values and principles to guide our thoughts and actions, but as imperfect human beings, we all struggle to prioritize those values the way God intends.

Take the hot button issue of abortion, for example. A lot of social conservatives think that if we allow abortion, we will open the flood gates to the removal of all other values. Others believe that life begins later and God would want us to give women the choice of what works best for them and their life situation. One side thinks they are showing God’s love to children; the other side thinks they are showing God’s love to women. Which side is behaving the way Jesus would want? I believe that is the right question to ask, but only God really knows what’s best. We should never shut people out from Christianity because they have a different way of living out their Christian faith.

The justification for the war in Iraq is another difficult issue where I believe devout Chris- tians can disagree. Thousands of soldiers and civilians have died during the fighting, and many cannot believe that God would want us to kill any of his beloved children. On the other hand, Saddam Hussein’s regime killed hundreds of thou- sands of his own people and constantly threatened the safety and stability of other nations in the Middle East. Will God forgive us for stopping what we believe to be a greater evil? As individuals and as a nation, we are constantly confronted with complicated decisions that force us to prioritize our values and we pray that those affected by our choices and God can forgive us when we make the wrong choice.

Our shared Christian values and virtues also shape how we view everyday things like taxes. A fiscal conservative believes that low taxes across the board encourage innovation and hard work while growing the American economy so that all citizens can have a growing piece of a growing pie. Raising taxes on wealthy Americans and redistributing this wealth to the poor by way of welfare checks and other benefits is seen by some on the liberal side as a way to create greater equality in our so- ciety. Equality, hard work, and virtue are not flip-flopping on some mundane issue or backtracking on a previous statement; this is a complete reversal of economic philosophy in order to gain votes. Right now it is popular to support regulation because the economy is in turmoil. But what kind of change can we really expect from John McCain? Will he really put an end to the greed and corruption of the system from which he directly benefits? Or will he do it only if it is the popular thing to do when he wakes up that morning?

“The justification for the war in Iraq is another difficult issue where I believe devout Christians can disagree. Thousands of soldiers and civilians have died during the fighting, and many cannot believe that God would want us to kill any of his beloved children. On the other hand, Saddam Hussein’s regime killed hundreds of thousands of his own people and constantly threatened the safety and stability of other nations in the Middle East. Will God forgive us for stopping what we believe to be a greater evil? As individuals and as a nation, we are constantly confronted with complicated decisions that force us to prioritize our values and we pray that those affected by our choices and God can forgive us when we make the wrong choice.”

—Barack Obama

Atheists, agnostics, and peo- ple of all religions have a place in this conversation on values as well, but as a Christian, I can really only speak from the perspective of my own belief system. That being said, I be- lieve all belief systems have shared values that guide them in their day-to-day lives. We all want good to prosper in our society even if we disagree on its source. “This is my command: Love each other” (John 15:17) Jesus did not tell us to squabble over each other’s faults or to disan- sociate ourselves with those with whom we don’t agree. The Christian faith is about bringing good into the world and searching for greater understanding of God. We should never let our po- litical or ideological differences distract us from treating each other with the love and respect that God calls us to give. Can I get an “Amen?”
**Commentary Editor | Eliza L. Swedenborg**

I’m going to Neverland.

Forget this. Thanks for your time, in this note. I’ll take my case to Alice; don’t get any letters. Hmm. Now that I think about it, you did say you your mailing address is “Second Star to the and Teach for America next week. I know cause I have interviews with H&R Block federal offense when it crosses state lines. And since you’d be taking me out of state, country and those bastards will find you. Plus, I did some research on Google and I think kidnapping is a away before then. Also, make sure you don’t leave fingerprints or DNA in my room; I’ve seen CSI, and I definitely want to see the Theatre Department’s main stage fall show, so don’t whisk me away before then. I left with arms laden in pamphlets and packets about resume writing, grad schools and - mode. I left with arms laden in pamphlets and packets about resume writing, grad schools and - mode. I left with arms laden in pamphlets and packets about resume writing, grad schools and - mode. 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“McCain” continued from page 9

people across the country who were duped into taking on more debt than they will ever be able to afford. John McCain is an enabler, not a reformer for these crises. He is a deregulator at heart and will undoubtedly sell out any new supporters he gains to Wall Street or anyone else who lent enormous sums of money to people with none. It is not clear to me that either McCain or Palin will hold anyone of these investors responsible for what they have done. But the real people affected by this crisis are the people on Main Street and the investors should be forced to reply to them. Unfortunately, these poor people are too much money, and these companies are too big to fail, and the rich people will be rewarded for taking stupid, foolish and downright sadistic risks. Meanwhile those who have less than anyone else will be forced to pay for an American dream that is quickly being destroyed by the powerful elite.

“Pink” continued from page 10

wrong to exploit women and create a false perception that they are more charitable than they really are. If we could only convince companies to give a penny of every transaction to the breast cancer research. In 2006 the company did the same for breast cancer research. After their first cause marketing promotion in 1983, the use of American Express cards increased 28 percent and the number of card users increased 17 percent. This kind of boost in sales is exactly what companies are looking for when they endorse the breast cancer campaign with various products, since nearly nine out of 10 shoppers would switch from one brand to another if one was associated with a good cause. Thus, Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation must be careful not to lose potential customers, as well as investors, by promoting the wrong company or by promoting too many products at once. It is also important for companies to use cause marketing to increase corporate profit. Only hurting the companies in their pocketbooks will help this exploitation end. Find a breast cancer organization whose cause you believe in and just write them a check. Donate! Send your money to organizations that focus on prevention instead of buying pink products. I am not attempting to cure cancer, but to end the exploitation of this disease by taking the money you would spend on false pink products and instead give it to a charity. Breast Cancer Action started the Think Before You Pink campaign, which encourages customers to research a pink product before purchasing it. Only consumers can put a stop to this pink craziness by not purchasing the products.

The pink may be pretty, but pink frosted version 2 of the American Dream is quickly being destroyed. The pink marketed on breast cancer patients. The pink campaign is part of a larger marketing strategy to sell the American Dream that is quickly being destroyed by the powerful elite.

“Learning from the left” (Not) forgetting Sarah Palin

Despite the fact that the Vice President is not next in line to the Presidency, people seem to forget the importance of the Vice-Presidential nominee’s credentials. As a result, many voters haven’t looked in depth at Governor Palin before casting their ballots. With this in mind, I have compiled the following pieces of evidence to explain why letting Governor Palin get anywhere near the Presidency is an utterly terrifying prospect.

First of all, it is hard to argue that she is even remotely qualified to be President. The accomplishments she cites are illusory; she is advertised as the anti-earmark reformer, but she has requested more than $400 million in earmarks in less than two years as governor of Alaska. While mayor of Wasilla, she hired a professional lobbying firm that obtained $27 million in earmarks for that small town of 6,000 people. Also, she originally favored the infamous “bridge to nowhere,” backing away from it only after getting caught doing it. The McCain-Palin campaign also tries to paint her as experienced in foreign policy, but one of her alleged foreign policy credentials is that Alaska is adjacent to Russia, which she claims gives her some special knowledge of that country. It would be interesting to know what insights Governor Palin has gained concerning Russia’s behavior toward Georgia from that experience.

Even some Republicans, such as Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, have expressed reservations about Palin. Hagel said to the Associated Press on Sept. 18, “I think it’s a stretch to, in any way, say that she’s got the experience to be President of the United States.” Senator Hagel, a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was left bewildered at her lack of foreign policy experience. “You get a passport for the first time in your life last year? I mean, I don’t know what you can say. You can’t say anything.”

Even Karl Rove, President Bush’s political guru, acknowledged in an interview with the Washington Post on Sept. 2 that McCain’s choice of Palin’s running mate was a “campaign decision,” not a “governing decision.”

Lack of qualifications aside, when you look at how Governor Palin has run Alaska you can’t help but be reminded of our current President for the level of secrecy, scandal and contempt for the law she has shown. For example, ex-Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan is the central figure in an investigation into whether Palin abused her power as governor when she fired him. Monegan alleges he was fired because he refused to terminate a state trooper who was involved in a bitter divorce with the governor’s sister. The refusal is key witnesses to testify, including the governor’s husband and administration officials, has left many questions concerning the ethical integrity of Governor Palin.

Sadly, it would appear that scandal and secrecy have been a constant presence in the life of Governor Palin. Interviews with several state legislators of Alaska, both Republican and Democrat, show that Palin puts a premium on loyalty and secrecy. In fact, when Palin was assembling her Cabinet, she surrounded herself with figures from her personal life. She tapped a local assemblyman, Talis Colberg, as her attorney general, provoking Alaska’s legal world to, bewilder, ask: Who? Palin also appointed John Bitney, her former junior high bandmate, as her legislative director, and Joe Austerman, another classmate, to manage the office of economic development. What are these close friends of Governor Palin may lack in qualifications, they apparently more than make up for in loyalty.

Dozens of e-mail messages obtained by the New York Times show that Governor Palin’s staff members have studied whether using personal email accounts for state business would allow them to circumvent subpoenas seeking public records. Since discovering that personal email accounts are in fact immune to subpoenas, the Governor has been sure to have her entire staff use personal email accounts for ALL state business. Clearly, Governor Palin believes that protecting herself from being discovered of any wrongdoing is a top priority.

Since taking office in December 2007, she has spent 312 nights at her Wasilla home, some 600 miles north of the governor’s mansion in Juneau, collecting per diem for those nights spent at home. Some frustrated legislators at the state capitol started wearing yellow “Where’s Sarah?” pins in order to show their frustration. I could go on for another several hundred words about all the seemingly innumerable reasons why Sarah Palin is such a terrible choice as a VP nominee, but instead I’ll simply leave you, dear reader, with the following question to ponder as you go about the rest of your day: Do you want a secretive, scandal-ridden, figurehead a mere heartbeat away from the Presidency?
Friday, September 26

Announcement:
Washington Internship Institute Representative Andrew Knap will be tabling in the lower level of the Campus Center. It’s a funny, thinking about political science usually makes me want to take a nap too! Haha. Get it? ‘Ugh I need some Draino ...

On-Campus Film, Wanted
7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
You know what I want—Hannah Montana and that guy to get back together. Just saying.

Saturday, September 27

Alpacas of Minnesota Farm Tour
405th Avenue, Le Sueur
All Weekend
Alpacas look like a cross between llamas and Parts Hilton’s dog. Go to the farm tour and tell them in a drunken, detached voice, “That’s hot.”

Volleyball vs. Hamline University
3:00 p.m.
Hamline volleyball, eh? “To spike or not to spike, that is the question ...”

On-Campus Film, Wanted
7:00 and 10:00 p.m.
According to my mother, I was not “wanted;” I was “an unwelcome surprise.”

Amy Korteum, Harp & Her Celtic Band
7:00 p.m.
If they play anything by Flogging Molly, I am so boned. You’re beautiful the way God made you!

Swing Dance
9:00 p.m.
The only part of me that swings with grace and fluidity is my sexual orientation.

Sunday, September 28

Holy Communion
10:30 a.m.
If you get a wine mustache, send me a picture of it with the phrase “Got Christ?” underneath.

Reader’s Theatre, Arabian Nights
2:00 p.m.
It’s Aladdin recreated in Jordan Klitzke’s living room.

Artaria String Quartet & Yumiko Oshima-Ryan Concert
3:30 p.m.
What do Sarah Palin and a cello have in common? They both come with strings attached.

Student Homecoming and Inaugural Kickoff
6:00 p.m.
With live music and free dessert! Throw a tractor show into that and you’re halfway to the Minnesota State Fair!

Sacred Space
8:00 p.m.
Like Stonehenge ... only not 18 inches tall and in danger of being crushed by a dwarf.

Gustavus Youth Outreach
8:00 p.m.
It could be argued that drug dealers and Michael Jackson are also individuals who “reach out” to the youth population. Perhaps a less creepy name for this group is in order.

Monday, September 29

Announcement:
On-Campus Film, Wanted
6:00 p.m.
Student Homecoming and Inaugural Kickoff
6:00 p.m.
Swing Dance
9:00 p.m.

Moodle “Wikis” Training Class
9:00 a.m.
Wikis are tools that help you out on Moodle. It’s basically a class to help understand and navigate Moodle. ... I’ll be waiting outside the classroom with my Nerd Bat.

KGSM, The Silver Lining
5:00 p.m.
Tune in and let Lacey Squier and Mary Pearce attempt to make Monday a less depressing day.

Tuesday, September 30

Meditation
7:00 p.m.
Here’s something I’ve been meditating on: does caring around children’s backpacks for two weeks flirt too much with “hazing”? Let’s meditate on it.

Out of Scandinavia Lecture — Lars Löfgren
7:30 p.m.
It’s a lecture on Scandinavian theatre, where their idea of performing in “blackface” is to pretend you’re Norwegian.

Net Impact
7:30 p.m.
A group that encourages businesses to be more environmentally and socially just. This is about as futile as encouragingophoners to stop tearing down the flyers in Complex.

Wednesday, October 1

W. Soccer vs. UW-Stout
4:00 p.m.
No, no, UW, you’re not “Stout.” You’re just big-boned. You’re beautiful the way God made you!

I’m Here ... You’re There
6:00 p.m.
It’s a seminar on healthy long-distance relationships. I think NSYNC proposed the best solution: “Digital, Digital Getdown!”

SOFA (Student Outreach to Foster Care and Adoption)
6:00 p.m.
We should all adopt children because they could be secretly rich like Oliver Twist.

Holden Evening Prayer
7:30 p.m.
It’s an opportunity to sing out joyfully, then shut up and reflect silently. It’s kind of like a Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde approach to evening services.

KGSM, Humpday Meltdown
8:00 p.m.
Thinking about Spencer Broughton’s voice on KGSM radio makes me nearly melt. But so does Garrison Keillor ...

CAB Coffeehouse Performance: Ari Herstand
8:00 p.m.
He opened for Ben Folds last year. I bet half the women in the audience would gladly have done the same.

Q & A Meeting
9:15 p.m.
More rainbows than a bag of Skittles.

Thursday, October 2

Nursing Department Open House
5:00 p.m.
With Halloween approaching, this is the ideal time to try out potential “Naughty Nurse” outfits.

Physics Talk with Dr. Jason Smerdon
7:30 p.m.
Perhaps Dr. Smerdon can explain the science of sound waves on the silent floor of the Library, which can make a simple page turn into a cacophony of distracting noise.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes
9:00 p.m.
They should pray for the Homecoming Football game; we’ll need the help.

KGSM, Must Be The Moon
9:00 p.m.
Well, maybe it’s not the moon. Maybe it’s a huge freakin’ asteroid the size of Texas hurling towards Earth; maybe it will take the self-sacrificing courage of true American heroes like Ben Affleck and Bruce Willis and a rockin’ Aerosmith theme song to save us. Hmm? What up now, Moon?

Amnesty International Meeting
6:30 p.m.
It’s a group dedicated to World Peace, a goal that is ultimately idealistic and probably unachievable. This must be what working on Ralph Nader’s campaign feels like.

The Pickle goes Greek.
STANDINGS

FOOTBALL

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Gustavus.

REACHING this milestone has meant a great deal to Gustavus Men’s Soccer program. As Senior defender and Captain Todd Johnson said, “I think the tradition that the Gustavus Men’s Soccer program has can’t be overlooked. It is truly an honor to wear gold and black and be a part of something special like that.” said Senior defender and Captain Todd Johnson.

Reaching this milestone has not been an easy task. Last season, the men’s team made it all the way to the first-round of the NCAA tournament only to lose to Whitworth University in a 2-1 overtime finish. The end of the season also meant the loss of 12 key seniors, and for a time it seemed as though an empire had fallen. But the start of a new season always brings new spirits, and hopefully some new skills.

The Gusties traveled to Washington to start off their season. Junior midfielder and Washington native Skyler Schulz said that playing in Washington “was a very valuable experience, and it tested us early and showed that we have a lot of talent, but also that we have a lot of areas where we need to improve.” In their first game they defeated Pacific Lutheran University 1-0. The lone goal came from Senior forward Ben Eriksson.

Yet hopes of an undefeated season were quickly crushed when the same team that stole the team’s chance at an NCAA title struck the Gusties once more. Whitworth defeated the Gusties 4-0, scoring on only 5 shots. “It showed us that we needed to pick our level up further down our schedule,” said Johnson.

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$4.99 Each
Code GAC3
Three or more Medium 1-topping Pizzas

Sports information source: Gustavus Adolphus College

Sports Information Office

Continued on page 15
Nonetheless, the Gusties did not let the loss weaken their stride as they went on to crush their next three opponents. Last year’s bench was full of talent. That, combined with the addition of a new class, including three starters, made the transition from last season easier “Graduating 12 seniors was tough and we had to rebuild a little bit around our strengths that we held on to,” said Sophomore forward Chris Golv, who has helped this effort with two goals and two assists already this season.

The Gusties found enough to build around. “The reserve squad is a lot stronger than last year, and competition and energy at practice is really high,” said Sophomore midfielder Jake Heaps.

Johnson agrees that there is an excess of prowess. “We are still, to this day, after playing five matches, trying to figure out what our team is going to look like for the rest of the year,” said Johnson.

Although this may make it seem as though the team is without a plan, “[The competition] keeps practice intensity high on a daily basis, as everyone brings their best to the table,” said Johnson.

This newfound depth gave the Gusties an opportunity to try a fresh approach. Heaps described it as “a really up-tempo style of play that can create scoring opportunities very quickly.” This year they are “using a new formation from previous years, and the team chemistry is much different with very team-oriented players,” said Schulz.

This past Saturday afternoon, the Gusties took on St. John’s in a tough MIAC match-up. Gustavus Junior Bret VanderStreek gave his team a 1-0 lead early with a little help from a pass off the foot of fellow Junior Fraser Horton. The Gusties added a pair of goals in the second half, one from Mark Adams and the other attributed to Ben Ikeda, ending the contest with a score of 3-0 in favor of the Gusties.

On Tuesday of this past week, the team hosted St. Mary’s University, a game that saw a thirty-five minute delay due to heavy rain. Gustavus went to the locker room at halftime with a 1-0 lead, a goal scored on a Schulz penalty shot in the 33rd minute.

Senior Flynn Stewart-Franzen scored the second Gustavus goal on a header via a pass from first-year Ben Ceder in the 74th minute and Horton’s free kick goal in the 83rd minute put the Gusties up by three, a lead they wouldn’t relinquish. Sophomore goalie Luke Strom had three saves in the contest, and posted his second consecutive shutout.

Over the course of their current five game winning streak, the Gusties have outscored their opponents 21-1. Gustavus will host a pair of contests this weekend. MIAC foe Carleton comes to town on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. and the Gusties take on Simpson College the next day at 2 p.m.

“This season has been a lot of fun so far. The group of guys we have on the team this year is phenomenal. From the first-year we have stepping up, to our senior leaders, to have the success we have on the field, there needs to be some form of unity off the field as well as on,” said Vanderstroek. “The guys this year have the kind of talent, passion and respect for the game you want to see in a team that is in the hunt for a MIAC championship.”

### The Gustavian Weekly Sports Schedule

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Join Us At the General Mills Information Session to Learn More About Sales Operations Positions!

Tuesday, September 30, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
St. Peter Room at the Jackson Campus Center; Food and Beverages will be provided

Resume Drop Deadline: Sunday October 5, 2008
First Round Interviews: Monday October 13, 2008

All Majors Welcome To Attend
Questions? Cathy Ruehl, cathy.ruehl@gencorporate.com
Gusties get off to scorching start on the links

With first place finishes in three of their first four tournaments, the Gustavus Women’s Golf team looks sharp thus far in the fall season.

After closing with a strong sixth-place finish in the NCAA Division III Championship last May, the Women’s Golf team is ready for another great year.

The first meet of the year was the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Invitational on Aug. 30, 2008, where the Gusties got a chance to strut their stuff. They placed first in the tournament of 25 teams, beating out Wartburg and St. Thomas for the victory, but that wasn’t the last of their astonishing play. They also placed first in the following two tournaments they also placed first. On Sept. 6 they crushed Illinois Wesleyan by 23 points at the Wartburg Invitational and the beat home team Wartburg by 24.

Next up for the Gusties was the Carleton Invitational, where they stomped out UW-Eau Claire and St. Thomas by 31 points. At the Mustang Invitational on Sept. 20, they didn’t fare so well. It wasn’t a first place finish for the women, but they did take away fourth in an incredibly tight tournament. After last year’s spectacular finish, the team’s goals are simple: “better team scoring average, winning tournaments and, of course, winning the MIAC championship,” said Senior Kimbra Kosak.

Kosak is also one of the leading scorers for the team. At the Mustang Invitational, Kosak finished in fourth place individually, helping bring the Gusties to a fourth-place overall. This finish, however, wasn’t horrible, considering the fact that Gustavus was one of only two Division III teams in the tournament.

“Take it one day at a time . . . and the results will take care of themselves.”

- Kali Griggs

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“Take it one day at a time,” said Junior Kali Griggs, “and the results will take care of themselves.” This philosophy has led the women to three out of four possible first places so far this year.

“A couple more of our goals are to build on our past successes and improve [at] each tournament,” said Griggs.

While working their way up that victory ladder, the team relies on the help of Coaches Scott Moe and Randall Stuckey. Coach Moe often encourages the women to leave it all out on the field, which is proving to be a good strategy.

Kosak and Griggs are consistently performing well for the team, and Sophomore Katie Schenfeld has been helping out by placing within the top 20 in every tournament so far this year. First-years Taylor Drenttel and Amanda Woodhull have also placed high in play this season.

“I’m really proud of the success our team has accomplished so far. All of my teammates are very hard-working and determined and it shows on and off the course,” said Drenttel.

The Gusties have this weekend off, but next week they will play at the MIAC Championships at the Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids, MN. It is a public event, and all students are welcome. The tee-off is Saturday, Oct. 4, and the time is to be announced.

Senior Captain Kimbra Kosak has finished in the top four competitors in each of her last three events. Kosak is shooting an average seven over par, or an average of 79.5 per 18 holes.