Economic effects on study abroad programs

Each year, hundreds of Gustavus students choose to study abroad. Because of the current economic situation and perhaps due in part to Gustavus’ recent change in the way study abroad trips are funded, students now have to think harder about how much they are able to spend on a study abroad experience.

Theatre and Dance Department at Gustavus puts on numerous shows every year, but the next play is a type that may never have been seen before and may never be seen again. Performances of The Lesson are Nov. 20-22 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets for each performance have already sold out.

The Lesson falls under the genre of absurdist drama, but do not be confused by the word’s connotations. “There is baggage with the phrase ‘theater of the absurd.’ We think of absurd as something that is weird and we can dismiss it. When we label something weird, the conversation ends, and we feel entitled to dismiss something and say, ‘Oh, that’s just weird,’ and then there is nothing else to do,” said Director of The Lesson Henry MacCarthy, who is also an assistant professor of theater and dance.

The play is about a student who goes for a private lesson with a young professor living in town because she wants to take the exams that will qualify her for a doctoral degree. In the process, she has certain expectations, as does the professor, and many scenarios present themselves as a result. “We learn what happens when teaching and learning are set in a structure that is hermetic and doesn’t allow for flexibility,” said MacCarthy.

“The relationships we have and how those form and switch is what the whole play is all about,” said Junior Philosophy Major and cast member Shane Jensen.

The cast is comprised of only five performers. Sophomore Bethany Ringdal is the professor, Jensen is the student and Junior Biology Major Jordan Klitzke is the maid.

The Lesson

Luke Garrison
Staff writer

The Lesson will be performed Nov. 20-23 in Anderson Theater. Three out of the five cast members shaved their heads for their gender-neutral roles.

Anna Dzurik
Staff Writer

The Lesson tickets sell out within first 24 hours
Wallenberg lecturer takes stand against genocide

Kayla Timm  
Staff writer

This year’s annual Wallenberg lecture featured an address by Mark Hanis entitled “Never Again is Again in Darfur: Taking a Stand Against Genocide.” The speech took place on Thursday, Nov. 13, in Wallenberg Auditorium.

Hanis grew up very aware of the horrors of genocide. All four of his grandparents are Holocaust survivors. He grew up in Quito, Ecuador, where “there were a number of Jews that had fled from Europe,” said Ellen Kennedy, Director of the Center for Genocide and Holocaust Studies and a close friend of Hanis.

They fled to recover from marks that the Nazis had left on them. There was a sign above the door of the synagogue that Jews that had fled from Europe,” said Kennedy. “However, we know that it has happened over and over again.”

Hanis founded the Genocide Intervention Network (GI-NET), while he was a student at Swarthmore College: The goal of GI-NET is to “provide the tools to stop and prevent genocide,” said Mimi Gerstbauer, associate professor of political science and peace studies. Gerstbauer explained that the program started out very small. Hanis read an article about the situation in Darfur, which stated that troops did not even have the money to pay for boots. Hanis began to raise funds for the Darfur peacekeeping force. Now, GI-NET has 15-plus employees and a $3 million budget.

Hanis’ goal is to illustrate that “every single [one] of us can take a stand against genocide … every one of us has a moral obligation,” said Kennedy. “He is basically this college student who has founded a huge movement,” said Gerstbauer.

“I love how his organization’s goal is to empower people to make a difference,” said Holly Andersen, senior psychology major.

“In less than a year, I will no longer have Gustavus to guide me into organizations that will help me make that difference. I am going to have to find my own ways to do so, and that’s why I think GI-NET is awesome. It shows people how they can make a difference from where they are,” said Andersen. The conflict in Darfur is very complex, which “makes it difficult for people to care about it,” said Gerstbauer. However, in light of the recent hate incidents that have occurred on campus, Hanis’ words can resonate even more clearly and strongly among Gustavus students.

“Even though genocides kill millions, and the incident last weekend didn’t physically harm anyone, the ideologies behind those acts are the exact same thing. And that’s scary—to hear about the horrendous acts that are happening in the name of hate on the other side of the world, and then to see that those same thoughts run in our community,” said Andersen. That situation makes it even more important to fight attitudes about racism and xenophobia.

“I am so excited about Mark Hanis because he made a huge difference as a college student. I hope [students] are inspired to make a difference as a college student,” said Gerstbauer. Hanis wants to send the message that any person can make an impact.

“Sometimes it seems crippling to be so far away from it and to feel as though I can’t really help. But I can—we all can—and hopefully Hanis [helped] to prove that to Gustavus,” said Andersen.

“The Lesson” from page 1

Senior Biology Major Christine Dornbusch and Junior Communi- cations Studies Major Kelly Nelson are also members of the cast. However, the genders of the cast members are neutralized. Male actors play female characters and vice versa. “[The Director] made that an intentional choice that we knew about during the auditions,” said Klitzke.

The size of the cast presents unique challenges for everyone involved.

“You just have to endlessly work with the text, and two of us have to stay on stage the entire show constantly talking. With this play it is not about the set or the characters,” said Klitzke.

“It is about the language and the people,” said Klitzke. Another unique component of the play is the size of the audience. Each show will take place in Anderson Theatre, but only 42 tickets were sold for each performance.

“It is a small piece that requires a small amount of actors and a small amount of space,” said MacCarthy. Ultimately, the play serves as a comic tragedy. “It is very funny. You notice how sometimes you laugh, you start laughing, and then you can’t stop laughing and then it starts to hurt? That’s this type of play,” said MacCarthy.

“It is something completely unique that I don’t think has been done at Gustavus and probably won’t be again. It is really a unique experience and you don’t see art at Gustavus like this very often,” said Klitzke.

CORRECTIONS

“Nine vehicles vandalized on Halloween Weekend” in the Nov. 7 ISSUE OF THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY incorrectly said that the petition printed was to instate a “zero tolerance policy.” The statement functions in a really good way that makes...
Hunger and Homelessness sleep-out to take over campus

Starting Nov. 16 and lasting until Nov. 20 is Gustavus’ eleventh annual Hunger and Homelessness sleep-out. Actions Supporting All People (ASAP) sponsors the event, and the purpose of the activity is to simulate homelessness by sleeping outside for three days. The whole campus is invited to participate.

“Unlike other institutions, usually high schools but sometimes colleges, that do a one-night sleep-out… ours is three days and three nights,” said Associate Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies Richard Leitch.

“There was another organization—not a Gustavus organization—that was doing a sleep-out for one night. That’s fine, but the problem with that is people don’t really know what it’s like to be homeless if you’re staying up all night. Ours is not simply the life of a homeless person, but it makes people think about a lot of things because they cannot take a shower for those three days and three nights; they can’t use their caf card or other ways of getting food without asking or taking food from trays as they head to the dish room,” said Leitch, who teaches a First-Term Seminar class on hunger and homelessness. All of his students are required to participate in the sleep-out.

“I would say that having it longer, especially when having to eat weird donated food for a couple days, and sleeping in the cold outside, and the buildup of that with having to do all your homework and normal life on top of that still is not a real take on homelessness, but it’s still closer than one sacrificial day,” said ASAP Co-President and Senior Communication Studies Major Lauren Fulner.

Part of the simulation will include having the Chapel open all hours for the participants.

“I think it’s good for people who want to be involved in the experience, but might be sick, but still want to be part of the experience. … Some people take it as a cop-out, but most people want to sleep outside,” said Fulner.

“We should encourage everyone to sleep outside if they’re able,” said Former ASAP co-president and Senior Political Science Major Kristin Knudson.

“It’s commitment made by the chaplains and the college. If there wasn’t a public place open, I think a lot of students would have a tough time and would go back to their dorms. So at least we have bathrooms and a warm place. People might think it’s easy, but try sleeping on the floor for three nights and see how you feel when you wake up. … I always remind my students that if they were actually homeless and a public place was open, don’t think a homeless person wouldn’t take it. This is not a camp-out or an endurance test,” said Leitch.

[Homeless people are] “people like us. They’re not any better and not any worse. But the thing is, if they’re from a more low-income situation, their mistakes get punished more than ours,” said Knudson.

“A lot of people have this perception that homeless people are deadbeats, because that allows you to forget about them,” said Fulner. “We encourage all people to participate in it. It’s not a fun time at all, and that’s why most people avoid doing it and avoid going in that area. They don’t want to make eye-contact with the participants because they feel guilty they’re not doing it, or they just don’t know what to do.”

“Homeless people wouldn’t sleep out in a box in Minnesota in the winter,” said Knudson, “but it does give an idea of what homelessness looks like in some areas. And I think it is a valuable experience for people to have just to get a sense of what it’s like to not truly have a home.”

Charles Owens
Staff writer

Alex Messinger

During the Hunger and Homelessness event, students sleep outside for three nights and post signs with facts regarding homelessness in America.

GAC Student Special
Valid every day - No coupon necessary
Jumbo 1 Topping $11.99 * Each additional $9.99
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Delivery Fee May Apply
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Now Hiring!
The college currently contributes more than 50 percent of the tuition towards the study abroad program, and a student’s financial aid goes with them,” said O’Grady.

**The Program Fee**

The program fee is determined by a few different factors. First, CICE receives the cost from the various program directors. Then, a portion of the student’s tuition is applied to the abroad program, and the amount that is not covered by Gustavus is the program fee, for which students are responsible. This often includes on-site tuition, room and board, international emergency insurance, airfare and personal expenses.

The portion of the money that stays with Gustavus essentially saves a student’s spot on campus—ensuring his or her status as a student and seniority in terms of housing. Also, this money makes sure that the student is registered as a study abroad student with automatic credit review and transfer upon the end of term. Finally, the money covers the services of CICE: student advising, pre-departure and re-entry programming, embassy registration, trouble-shooting and emergency crisis management. Another factor that influences cost is the provider of the program, as different programs are more expensive than others.

**Different Places, Different Experiences**

Senior Psychology Major Rita Stevermer studied culture, development and social justice in Chile from late February through early June, 2008, through the School of International Training. To cover the cost of the program fee, Stevermer took out extra loans, worked over January Interim Experience and got support from her local Lions Group.

“Gustavus has a goal to graduate students that are culturally competent. One way of accomplishing this is to encourage students to study abroad. In order to do this, more money should be put towards the study abroad program, and it should be a priority,” said Stevermer.

Senior Psychology Major Kaleb Rumicho spent his study abroad experience in Barcelona, Spain. “It’s important to be responsible and know where you stand financially, but thinking about expenses too much can stress you out,” said Rumicho.

Senior Economics Major Stephen Titcombe studied abroad from February to May this past spring in Rome, Italy, through the IES program. “I think it is outrageous that Gustavus would take that much of the tuition and use it how they want. I’m just uncertain if it is really necessary,” said Titcombe.

Titcombe is working two jobs to pay off the loan he used for his abroad experience. “The hardest part was not knowing how far your money would go. A lot of it would go to everyday experiences. Because you can’t really control the economy, you just have to deal with it,” said Titcombe.

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Titcombe is working two jobs to pay off the loan he used for his abroad experience. “The hardest part was not knowing how far your money would go. A lot of it would go to everyday experiences. Because you can’t really control the economy, you just have to deal with it,” said Titcombe.

Senior Biology Major Brandon Titcombe will study abroad during January 2009, traveling to Australia and New Zealand. “I thought about going abroad [for a semester] in all of my years at GAC, but my parents said it just wouldn’t be feasible. January Interim Experience is my last chance to go somewhere,” said Pruess.

**Slightly Cheaper Alternatives**

If cost is an issue, there are a few less expensive options. “There are student exchanges as well, where they send students here, and we send students there,” said Study Abroad Adviser Melinda McCormell-Unger.

The schools include Uppsala University (Sweden), Växjö University (Sweden), Mora Folkhögskola (Sweden), CAL-Besancon (France), United International College-Zhuhai (China), Kansai Gaidai University (Japan) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia).

Another possibility is to go with a group led by a faculty member from Gustavus. “It depends on the location, but it is usually more reasonably priced,” said O’Grady.

For more information about study abroad, check out the study abroad fair on Wednesday, Nov. 19 in the Heritage room from 4-7 p.m.
Clint Eastwood’s *The Changeling* is powerful in its simplicity and performances.

In Clint Eastwood’s most recent film *The Changeling*, Angelina Jolie’s performance tied with the great directing, writing and production make the film a winner for those who can appreciate a simple but strong story.

In a way, Eastwood is more a storyteller than filmmaker. Those who don’t like Eastwood’s films can just as easily substitute the word “simple” for “boring,” and that’s what makes watching a film like *The Changeling* a subjective experience.

Angelina Jolie sheds her si-ren persona to play the fragile, emotionally distant Christine Collins, a product of the male-dominated world of the 1920s. Her position in this masculine society and her personality make her efforts to stand up to an arrogant detective even more difficult.

Christine is a manager of a telephone operating company who returns from a late shift at work one day to find her son missing. She is met with resistance from the authorities. She’s told that she will have to wait 24 hours before the police will start looking. Nothing personal—it’s just protocol—and she’s no different from the dozen other worried moms who call in every day.

The cops finally call Christine’s case holds a special interest for him, and he joins in her fight to expose the truth. Christine’s battle against the LAPD is more than a fight to expose truth among lies, but to uphold justice in a system that has long since stopped caring.

I can’t reveal who or what wins that battle without expos- ing too much, but almost everyone should find something to satisfy them at some point during the film’s 45-minute de-nouement, an interesting pacing decision that I think Eastwood pulls off nicely.

The Changeling isn’t for everybody, least of all those with short attention spans—it clocks in at 140 minutes. For those who are willing to accept the story and film for what they are—a bare-bones narrative—they’ll enjoy every minute, from the nakedy simple “true story” title card to the desaturated fade-in of the urban, ambigu- ous wasteland of 1920s L.A.

I give it 3 out of 3 crowns.

In Clint Eastwood’s most recent film *The Changeling*, Christine’s battle against the LAPD goes to the train station to pick up her son, she is greeted with an unfamiliar face: an impos- ing umbrella. I give it 3 out of 3 crowns.
Gustie of the Week:

Holly Andersen exemplifies Gustavus’ values

For Holly Andersen, a senior psychology major with an emphasis in criminal justice and a minor in peace studies, the last three and a half years at Gustavus have been a jam-packed and exciting time.

The two organizations which she has been involved in the longest, and which she feels have played the greatest role in her life at Gustavus, are Relay for Life and the Gustie Greeters.

As Relay for Life co-chair both her junior and senior year, a committee member her sophomore year and a team leader her first year, Holly has made sure to always be a part of this annual campus event which raises money for the American Cancer Society.

Holly’s favorite part of being in Relay for Life is being able “to work with motivated co-chairs intent on changing the world for the better” and to be “connected to so many groups on campus.”

“I know it sounds really cheesy,” she said, “[but] anything community-oriented I just eat up and love.”

It’s no wonder that Holly loves welcoming new students into the Gustavus community as a Gustie Greeter. Holly has been a Greeter since her sophomore year. She said that the best part of the Greeter experience is “the chance to know people from each of the different classes.” She acknowledges that most seniors don’t get to know any of the first-years on campus. She also appreciates the close bond that develops between the Greeters. “I know that after I graduate, these are people I will keep in contact with for a long time.”

As a senior getting ready to head out into the real world, Holly is not exactly sure where her path in life will take her. But wherever she goes, she hopes to be able to work with people. “I’m obsessed with people,” she said. “I don’t know if I’d ever want to work somewhere that didn’t benefit people directly … for me, that’s where I need to be.”

When she first started school at Gustavus, Holly was thinking of combining her interests in psychology and criminal justice to work in prison rehabilitation, especially with disadvantaged youth who have fallen into juvenile delinquency. However, over her time here, she has found that her minor in peace studies might actually be pointing her more towards where she wants to go in life. “If I could have majored in peace studies,” she said, “I would have.”

For now, Holly is applying to Teach for America, a program that strives to reach educational equality by recruiting college graduates from any major to teach for two years at an underprivileged public school. “I believe in youth,” Holly said. She is waiting to hear if she’s been accepted this week.

“Holly recognizes the beauty in everyone. I have always loved her positive approach to life. She inspires me,” said Senior Environmental Studies Major Eliza Swedenborg who has known Holly since their first day at Gustavus.

Although both her summers and school years for the past three-and-a-half years have been filled with commitments, committees and organization opportunities, Holly feels that sometimes the unorganized and spontaneous moments which make up our experiences as Gusties can be overlooked in the sea of official titles and responsibilities.

“I’m a reflective person. … I think we always ask that about people, [‘What are you involved in?’] … but there are so many other things that define us and our time at Gustavus,” she said.

From her engagement in the community to her dedication to her friends, it is sure that Holly’s time as a Gustie will be unforgettable.
Building Bridges collects books to raise money for school in Uganda

Social justice and action is a common theme on college campuses around the U.S. and Gustavus is no exception. Building Bridges is a student-led initiative that focuses on raising awareness about important global issues and showing students how they can help make a difference.

Each year Building Bridges holds a diversity conference based on a specific humanitarian issue. This year’s theme is “Liberation Through Education,” and special attention is being given to efforts to maintain schools in Uganda.

Uganda is currently home to the longest-running civil war in all of Africa, and Gulu Senior Secondary School is not unscathed from the conflict that surrounds it.

“The school is located near an internal displacement camp (IDCs) [for refugees], so most of the students come from there,” said Building Bridges Co-Chair and Senior Biology Major Alii Linn.

“The students really aren’t safe in either the school or the IDCs,” said Building Bridges Co-Chair and Senior Psychology Major Rita Stevermer. “The dorms at the school house about 80 students, and [Uganda’s]’s rebel army sometimes kidnaps the children and forces them to fight.”

“Even in the IDCs, the guards sometimes harm the refugees,” said Stevermer. “These kids really aren’t safe anywhere.”

Building Bridges is working with another non-profit organization, Invisible Children, to raise money to make Gulu Senior Secondary School a place where students can get an education while being protected from the conflict that permeates their everyday lives.

With the help of Invisible Children, Building Bridges is hosting a book donation to raise money for the school. The books will be sent to Invisible Children, which is working in collaboration with Better World Books, another non-profit organization, to then sell the texts online. The profits will go directly to Uganda to help restore the Gulu Senior Secondary School to working order.

“We already have about 3,500 books from libraries, schools and other donations,” said Linn. “Our goal is to collect 30,000 books. We think we can make it … with student participation, of course.”

“We’re really looking forward to student support. Donating to our cause is easy. Almost all books are accepted, even textbooks,” said Stevermer.

This year’s speaker at the Building Bridges Conference will be Erin Gruwell, the woman portrayed in Freedom Writers, a film released in theaters in 2007. The conference will be held on March 14, but the book drive will begin immediately after Thanksgiving break. Book drop-offs will be located on the first floor of the library, as well as in academic buildings.

Jenny Behan
Variety Editor

Every year around mid-November, the walls of Alumni Hall are adorned with colorful flags, the room is filled with cultural displays and a variety of unique dances are performed by students. The occasion: Gustavus’ International Festival.

The International Cultures Club (ICC) hosts the event each year and does all of the planning and coordinating that goes into the festival. This year on Friday, Nov. 14, there will be about twenty country displays set up where students can learn about different cultures from around the world through pictures, cultural information and various objects used within the display to represent the country. There will be people at each country display to talk with students and field any questions they might have. In addition, some displays will include traditional food from the country so that students have the opportunity to taste traditional dress from all over the world. The ICC leaders contact all of the volunteers to make the event possible, as well as asks with dining services to prepare all of the food. They are also responsible for setting up Alumni Hall, publicizing the event around campus and planning all of the details of the event. In addition, many members of the ICC make their own country displays or are involved in the performances or fashion show.

“The format of this International Festival is similar to past years, but the country displays, performances and fashion show will all be unique to the people [who] are involved this year,” said ICC Adviser Jeff Anderson.

The performances, which begin at 7:00 p.m., will include an A.L.A.-style of salsa dance from Professor of Spanish Elizabeth Harsma. Her dance will “emphasize sensuousness, theatricality, aeriophone or ‘Gyil,’ an Indian dance and demonstration, Professor of French Psychology Major Rita Stevermer. “The dorms at the school house about 80 students, and [Uganda’s]’s rebel army sometimes kidnaps the children and forces them to fight.”

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Building Bridges is using the theme “Liberation Through Education” to raise awareness about the dangers facing students in Uganda—like the ones pictured above—and raise money for the schools there.

Ethan Marxhausen
Staff Writer

International Festival brings cultural awareness to Gustavus

The annual International Festival allows students to learn about numerous cultures as well as experience traditional food, dance and various other custom performances from the different countries. Pictured above are participants from the 2006 International Festival.

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The annual International Festival allows students to learn about numerous cultures as well as experience traditional food, dance and various other custom performances from the different countries. Pictured above are participants from the 2006 International Festival.
This is the first time that some anonymous student said remaining uninvolved is the worst thing an individual can do. They want to do something, but it’s all I had to work with,” the anonymous student quoted.

“I am We Are”

The anonymous student quoted said he was interested in Tautin and Thrower and hoped e-mail would help them find the perpetrators. “They were waiting for somebody to talk and that was the basis of their investigation,” Tautin said. “If people don’t talk, they will not get involved. That’s what I feel is the case.”

Another student whose car was vandalized, presumably not to be identified, was also startled by the vandalism of the message. “They’re not just words,” the student said. “I’ve been frustrated. I’ve been frustrated. I’ve been frustrated.”

The anonymous student quoted said, “I’m not just here to talk. It’s about what’s going on here.”

He said he wanted to protect his identity because he was afraid of repercussions. “I feel that our right to privacy is being violated,” he said. “I don’t want to speak my mind.”

A Sonnet for November

The early morning hillside
Where the light refused to dawn
Shadow cast by the pin of a fallen Pin

A handwritten note, a lingered ghost
That refused to get up
d盼望地下

A discrepancy of race and faith
Their dream, their dream,

Now the torches ignite their own
While the picket blocks their own

Their guilt spills through their floors
Like the flames of their own

Heaven and hell are their own
You can hear the rumble of the hate in their bones
By Andrew Cynster

The challenges ahead

For the students of Gustavus, as for all college students, the school can learn from this process. “I believe the people who witnessed or participated in these hate crimes feel as if there’s been nothing that they did, that there was nothing they could do,” said Chad Allen. “I think it’s important that we encourage the students to realize that they are voiceless in many situations, but they can do something to make a difference.”

Senior U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood said the school should encourage students to speak up.

“We need to have a discussion about the hate crimes that occurred, and we need to talk about how we can prevent them from happening again,” she said.

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COMMENTARY

I know, right?

Taking a stand against hate

Tasha Carlson
Staff columnist

Out of sight, out of mind, right? If we clean up the hateful words that give us chills, we can forget about this one issue and just get on with the rest and hope it does not topple over. Our campus was left scarred even after the paint on the victims’ cars was cleaned.

In lieu of the horrifying hate crimes committed Nov. 1 on our campus, I think it is time Gustavus addressed the question: how much hate speech will we tolerate? The hate speech on our campus has included swastikas stamped out in the snow, students experiencing physical and verbal assault due to their sexuality and now the most recent act of hate committed on nine cars across our campus.

Hate speech can be defined as speech intended to degrade, intimidate or incite violence or prejudicial action against a person or group of people based on their race, gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class, appearance or any other distinction which adds to our community’s diversity and uniqueness.

As the first amendment approaches its 217th birthday, one would expect that courts would have resolved most of the difficult questions about its scope and meaning. Two hundred years of experience have failed to yield a consistent and coherent theory of what the First Amendment means and how it is to be interpreted; moreover, the scope of our freedoms is difficult to define, especially free speech. The phrase “freedom of speech” seems never-ending and all-encompassing. Many Americans are ready to use this expression when a prejudiced, out-of-line or judgmental phrase exits their mouth. “I have the right to free speech” is a phrase which is taken advantage of all too often. What our country fails to recognize is that with this freedom comes great responsibility.

How could the men who drafted our Constitution ever imagine the need for a “no hate speech” clause? Is it right for every hateful event in our country to be protected by the First Amendment, which was drafted 217 years ago? Is it right to discriminate against anyone in our community? NO. Do words hurt just as much as actions? YES.

Because Gustavus is a private liberal arts college, we draft many of our own rules, policies, guidelines and punishment methods. Why does our campus not better protect our community from hate speech? We have a harassment policy in the Gustie Guide, but why do these horrible acts continue to occur?

Minnesota prohibits some forms of hate speech according to the Human Rights Act, but the Supreme Court continues to protect free speech. In the Supreme Court case R.A.V. vs. St. Paul, the hate speech was protected as free speech, even though our state has a biased motivated crime ordinance. No matter what rules we set in place to protect ourselves from hateful words and actions, our national government has the power to rule in favor of the hate speech.

You might be surprised to learn that countries such as Australia, France, Germany, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and many more have laws against hate speech. You would think that after years of reoccurring hate speech, our country, and also Gustavus, might take a stronger stance on hate speech, particularly because of the disturbance and uproar it causes.

The hateful messages on our campus’ cars involved words such as KKK, nigger, sand nigger, spics, gays and Jews. When one commits such a horrible act and deems it ‘free speech,’ he or she is not only disrespecting what generations before us have fought for and died for, but also pointing out the fact that we still have much to accomplish.

If the point was to tear us down and break us apart, that goal was not accomplished. These events have created important discourse, peace rallies and awareness across our campus and the entire St. Peter community. If anything, our community has grown together, strengthened and is ready to fight for equality, acceptance and peace.

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Page 10

The Rogness Rant

Congratulations, Mr. Obama

Kavan Rogness
Staff columnist

A
other long and conten-
tious election has played out in America, and fortunately it went pretty smoothly. Issues at the polls were few and far between, and the result was clear-cut and decisive. Voter registration saw tremendous gains, and more Americans than ever came together to exercise their right to vote. There is much that both sides of the aisle can jointly celebrate in this election.

As a conservative, I would have liked to see Senator McCain ascend to the presidency in lieu of Senator Obama. Of course, Obama’s victory comes as no surprise. Like many others in this country, I knew that McCain did not have a great chance of victory. I certainly hoped for it, but as I expected, Obama won. It was no landslide, but it was a solid victory for Obama.

Where does this leave a conservative like me? Certainly I am disappointed, but like McCain, I prefer not to lament the outcome but instead look forward. Senator Obama won fair and square, and he will be my president. I do not agree with his politics, but he has been elected as the leader of my country. As such, I will afford him the respect that the office of the president deserves. There is no point in being a sore loser about it.

Beyond that, there is still plenty for me to be excited about with Obama’s victory. As much as I don’t like his politics, I am truly thrilled at the fact that America has come to the point where an African American can ascend to the highest office in the land. For decades, America has been claiming that we offer equality to everyone while not actually making good on that ideal. While Obama’s election will not instantly fix the significant race issues that remain, it’s a tremendous step in the right direction for this country.

I’m excited that this is happening when I am still young. This election proves that one doesn’t have to be a traditional in order to win a presidential election. Obama’s victory opens the door not only to other African Americans, but to anyone of any race or gender. I hope that everyone recognizes that no one, no matter their race, can win an election in this country. Furthermore, I hope that people who otherwise believed that they could not rise very high in politics will now consider their true potential for service to our country. I look forward to decades of new ideas and new candidates who previously may not have considered going into politics.

What makes me even happier in some respects is that I’m not alone in these thoughts. In the days since the election, I have had a variety of conversations with several other conservatives, and we all seem to agree. While disappointed in Obama’s victory over McCain, we are excited for the new chapter in history.

Continued on page 12
Not so common sense
Believing doesn’t make it true

Staf columnist

Galen Mitchell

I t seems the more I write these columns, the less they deal with specific issues, and the more they focus on the overarching problems we face as humans interacting with each other in society. I blame the philosophy department for this, but I hope they understand that this sort of blame only says good things about them.

Before I go further, I should warn anyone wishing to cling to dogma to stop reading right now. There is nothing valuable for a dogmatic person in this particular column, and there may even be a few things that those content with the way things are at this moment would find annoying. Specifically, the sorts of things that just burrow into your head and make normal life difficult. I’m going to talk about intellectual dishonesty and delusion in pursuit of the Truth.

Intellectual dishonesty is probably the biggest problem we encounter when we all sit down to discuss things as a society. It seems people walk up to the table and say, in a very matter of fact voice, “I have the Truth.” Of course, if everyone had the Truth, it’s so many seem to think they do, I highly doubt we’d ever argue over “facts.” But the fact is, we do argue over the “facts” because we don’t have the Truth; we’ve simply convinced ourselves we do.

In the arts, this isn’t much of a problem. One person says to another, “That play was amazing!” and the other responds, “Oh, it was all right I guess.” While there may be a short discussion afterward, everyone tends to go home content that their opinion was heard, even if others did not agree with it.

When we have discussions that bring up religion, for some reason, the day doesn’t end quite so well. One person says to another, “I think your beliefs are stupid,” and the other responds, “I hate you,” or, even more ridiculous, “I hope someday you can know the error of what you are saying.”

So now, if I haven’t already made a controversial statement, I’ll try again. When we say that we have some sort of universal truth, that we know everything there is to know, or at least every-thing that is important, we are lying. Flat-out lying. Not only are we lying to others, we are lying to ourselves; we are either being intellectually dishonest or suffering from some sort of delusion.

It is this sort of lying that prevents us from conducting ourselves in a respectable man-ner when it comes to religion. When we talk about religion, we stop basing our judgments off of what we observe to be the case and start making claims about what “is” and therefore “ought” to be the case for everyone. We mistake our personal truth for the Truth.

If people aren’t tangy enough yet, I should say that there is no religion that serves as an objective standard of the Truth. It’s impossible for religion to discuss objectively issues such as homosexuality, abortion or others’ beliefs about these topics.

Continued on page 12

Letters from Zhuai

Waigouren

Staff columnist

Greg Boone

This semester Boone is writing from Zhuai, China. Podcasts of his travels can be found at: podcast.gusta-

vus.edu/groups/studyabroad/blog/index.rss

E arlier this week, I ate lunch with a contingent of first-year students from Yunnan Province. There were about 12 of them, all around 18 years old, and they were standing in a pack at the bottom of the driveway leading away from campus to Stadium Road. I met my friend Rhea at the library and walked over to this group.

When the students saw us coming, it was as if they had seen the most spectacular sight of their lives. Many of them hid behind the umbrellas they use to shield themselves from the sun, some of them averted their gaze from us and when Rhea introduced myself and her friends, a hushed “woah!” could be heard from the crowd.

As we walked to the Guan-dong restaurant, Cynthia and I led the charge, even though we weren’t entirely sure where we were going, with the crowd a good fifteen feet behind us—as if getting too close would in some way be taken as a sign of disrespect. It’s hard for me to imagine why these particular students are behaving different-ly than everyone else we’ve met thus far. Perhaps it is because of how many of them there are, the crowd creating a groupthink mentality that the Americans are best left undisturbed. Maybe it is just the awkwardness of being 18. Regardless of the reason, the whole situation carried an unexpectedly high level of rev-erence toward the waigouren, the foreigners.

Whereas UIC has this kind of celebrity treatment for Ameri-can students, Gustavus seems to take our international students for granted, and it is difficult for me to decide which is better, the UIC-style celebrity treatment, or the Gustavus style. On one hand I am glad these students have accepted me as one of their own. It certainly makes eating at restaurants easier for me, as I have someone to say “fu yu wen!” to flag down the wait staff and get the bill or order some food. It makes living and making friends at this college much easier. Without them I would probably feel an incred-ible sense of loneliness, being one of two students from my college and one of seven other foreigners.

On the other hand, being isolated as a foreigner, left to my own devices to actively make friends and draw my own crowd would certainly be less invasive. If I had to join the basketball club, for example, to tell people I liked basketball, I would be opening myself on my own terms, instead of on theirs.

In some ways I think I would experience the culture of Chi-nese higher education better if I were taken for granted, if I blend in with my surroundings. I cer-tainly would be experiencing a lot more culture shock (other than overeating at restaurants) if I were just another number ex-pected to live up to the Chinese cultural expectations. I would be forced to learn the language on my own, to learn how to deal with the “facts” because we don’t have the Truth; we’ve simply convinced ourselves we do.

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Continued on page 12

Comments
Letters to the Editor

I am writing to the Gustavus community to inform you of two events taking place on Monday, Nov. 17: the Silent Protest and Speak-Out against sexual assau-
lt. During the Silent Protest, participants will wear black and be silent for most of the day in honor of sexual assault survivors, who are often silent about their experien-
ces. The Speak-Out will consist of anonymously submitted sexual assault experiences being read in front of the audience. These stories are ex-
temper--important because many at Gustavus go about their lives thinking that we live in a safe little bubble where nothing bad can happen. This is simply false. Women and men in our com-
munity have been assaulted in the Dive, in classrooms, in com-
puter labs and in their dorms, to name a few. We cannot ignore this problem. Everyone in our community needs to be aware of the devastating effects of sexual assault, and we should not allow it to happen here.

Even if you cannot participate in either of Monday’s events, please be careful. Don’t leave your friends in dangerous situa-
tions. Know that a bystander belongs to him or her alone, and nobody else has rights to it with out explicit permission. Learn how to support survivors, listen to them and help them explore their options. Finally, if you are a survivor, please know that there is support in this community for you and that sexual assault will not be tolerated.

Laura Luce ’09

To the person who vandalized the cars Nov. 1:
The geographic you seem to champion (presumably white heterosexual American males, since you hate “niggers,” “ho-
mers,” “punks,” “gays” and “cunts”) all look terrible because you have employed anonymity. You have made your own broth-
ers guilty by association, simply because they go to this school with you. You’ve dammed your own cause, Einstein.

To employ the sexist, sim-
plistic vernacular you seem to understand, “Grow a pair and own up to your actions like a man.” You’ve crossed your course ebb and flow depending on the time of day? Do you need to punch up the big strong superhero who voices your beliefs? This only highlights your immaturity and cowardice, not your bravery and backbone (well, the latter assumes two ele-
ments of your identity you have yet to show).

Also, the person who claims to “hate homos,” one can’t help but notice your seeming obses-
sion with ejaculating male geni-

talia. You’ve also performed inside and outside of the cafeteria on Tues-
day, Oct. 28, 2008 between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. We are students in the Social Justice Theatre course, which is required to write and perform a street theater skit based on a campus issue. Our group dressed as Gustie Greeters and handed out leaflets of the “new” Gustie Rouser. We skewed the “typical” orienta-
tion week experience, made the language very liberally biased and continiously silenced an actor portraying a “Republican voice.”

Our performance was intended to be a way we were comment-
ing on the immense pressure to vote Democrat on our campus and that pressure begins al-
most immediately upon arrival at Gustavus. We ended the performance with the simple statement, “This campus is not about being a Dem-
ocrat or a Republican, it is about respect, so please respect each other’s opinions and don’t forget to vote.” However, due to recent e-mails, we understand that very few spectators were able to hear us, that many of the perpetrators were unable to understand our intent and that some were offended. This project was meant to be a learning exercise for our class, and we all have learned that if we were to do this again, we would be sure to be louder and clearer with our message, as misun-
derstandings are very common in street theater performance. Please be assured that our intent is to encourage everyone in our community to listen with respect and hear one another. Hate has no place in our community.

Kristen Welser ’10
Jessica Wicks ’11
Kira Wollner ’10
Social Justice Theatre class

As a conservative member of the campus community, I feel I must address the unfounded accusations made in a letter to the editor last week. Many students I’ve talked with feel as I did that the letter unfairly imputed that College Republicans wrote hateful messages on the sidewalks during election week, as well as stating that conserva-
tives were responsible for the hateful messages written on cars over Halloween weekend.

All of the conservatives I know completely denounce the acts of hate that have occurred on our campus and are deeply hurt by those who so foolishly assumed the responsibility of others.

Katie Mason ’09

 Fellow Members of the Gusta-

vus Community

My classmates and I would like to explain the intent of the statements made outside of the cafeteria on Tues-
day, Oct. 28, 2008 between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. We are students spreading rumors and trying to bring in a political group to perform acts of anger with hateful acts with which they have no connection.

Gustavus should be one place where we can explore different backgrounds and beliefs coming together to encourage di-
versity and denounce the hateful forces of intolerance. Spreading rumors and making false accusa-
tions only threatens to keep us separated. Your voice could be so much stronger if we just came together.

Andrew Evanov ’09

In my letter to the editor last week I condemned the negative and dishonest messages written with sidewalk chalk by some campus conservatives. Unfor-
tunately, in my conversations with fellow students this week I found that some students had misinterpreted my message. Consequently, I am writing this letter to address those miscon-
ceptions.

Last week, I attributed the negative and dishonest mes-
sages found on our sidewalks to the College Republicans. I had never been more wrong. Some students mistakenly assumed that by mak-
ing the statement my intent was to attribute the messages to the College Republicans. “Some students mistakenly assumed that by mak-
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Last week, I attributed the negative and dishonest mes-
sages on our sidewalks to the College Republicans. The latter assumption is partially true in that the College Republicans had written these messages, and I was only trying to make people ques-
tion their own assumptions.

Some students on campus also mistakenly believe that I attrib-
uted the words of hate written on our sidewalks to other conser-
vative students. I can understand how this misconception may have arisen as I did compare my language to the words of those who actually wrote the messages. To clarify, I wrote hateful messages on the sidewalks during election week, as well as stating that conserva-
tives were responsible for the hateful messages written on cars over Halloween weekend. All of the conservatives I know completely denounce the acts of hate that have occurred on our campus and are deeply hurt by those who so foolishly assumed the responsibility of others.

My intent was to simply compare the language, not to attribute the words of hate written on the cars to any particular mar-
cial group. In my letter to the editor I intended to properly infor-
m the community about the problem with sidewalk chalk.

Finally, in no way was my let-
ter intended to be divisive. I only intended to say that we must stop spreading of ignorance, implied that College Republicans wrote hateful messages on the sidewalks during election week, as well as stating that conserva-
tives were responsible for the hateful messages written on cars over Halloween weekend.

All of the conservatives I know completely denounce the acts of hate that have occurred on our campus and are deeply hurt by those who so foolishly assumed the responsibility of others.

Katie Mason ’09

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words and received by Monday at 5:00 p.m. to make it into the next week’s edition. Please write and perform a street theater skit based on a campus issue. Our group dressed as Gustie Greeters and handed out leaflets of the “new” Gustie Rouser. We skewed the “typical” orienta-
tion week experience, made the language very liberally biased and continiously silenced an actor portraying a “Republican voice.”

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Friday, November 14

Announcement:
Application deadline for Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Work Trip. Hurry, they can only fit so many do-gooders on the bus!

International Festival  6:00 p.m.
If it involves mechanical children in lederhosen singing “It’s a Small World,” count me out!

On-Campus Film, Hamlet 2
7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Yeah, Hamlet 2: Revenge of Rosenkrantz and Gildensen!

The Gustavus and Vasa Wind Orchestras in Concert  7:30 p.m.
If you eat enough Friday gyros, you can become your own wind orchestra.

Saturday, November 15

Genocide and Gender-Based Violence Lecture  9:50 a.m.
It turns out not all of those women walked into the door...

Men and Women’s Swimming at St. Olaf  1:00 p.m.
Knowing the nationalities of most Oles and Gusties, I’m sure this meet will be just like watching big blonde Belugas racing in the pool.

On-Campus Film, Hamlet 2
7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Hey, what do you call a child- molester in Hamlet? A pedophile! Ba-doom ching! (awkward silence)

China’s Orchid Ensemble—Road to Kashgar Concert  7:00 p.m.
An “Orchid Ensemble”? What is this, Alice in Wonderland?

LineUs at the Coffee Hag  8:00 p.m.
Careful not to mistake newbie Abby Karl as the Coffee Hag.

We The Living Concert  8:00 p.m.
I’m “living” and I’m not in the band. WTF, mate?

Sunday, November 16

Hunger and Homelessness Sleepout  All Day
Collect several boxes and build a large castle. Include towers, dungeons, chambers and a Great Mead Hall. Heck, bring in Wealthow and Hrothgar, so that Grendel will tear up the joint!

Linnaeus Arboretum Fall Warmer  12:30 p.m.
Jim Gilbert is signing copies of his new book, Jim Gilbert’s Minnesota Nature Notes. I have several graphic sketches involving me and David Beckham; can I publish those as “Notes”?

Laura Lundorff, Senior Piano Recital  1:30 p.m.
The title “Senior Piano Recital” makes me picture the old neighbor from Family Guy saying things like, “Those are some muscle-y hands for piano-playing you got...”

ILS Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner  6:00 p.m.
Maybe the Theatre House will bring the Marshmallowordion Barst for desert.

Monday, November 17

Hunger and Homelessness Sleepout  All Day
Hey, I’m a History Major with English and Theatre minors; I’ll be hungry and homeless soon enough.

Nobel 2010 Planning Meeting  4:00 p.m.
Proactive overachievers.

Phillips Scholarship Information Meetings  6:00 p.m.
Ashley Gibbs will be advising us on how we, too, can become ridiculously brilliant, successful leaders and beauty pageant winners.

Hard Questions, Sponsored by Prepare  7:00 p.m.
Here’s a hard question: What do you do if you’re a Catholic and you fall in love with a Protestant? Answer: Start dancing à la West Side Story.

Sexual Assault Speak-Out in Chapel  7:00 p.m.
So after doing a little research, it turns out people don’t like being sexually assaulted. Like, at all.

Tuesday, November 18

Hunger and Homelessness Sleepout  All Day
If visiting Prospies ask, tell them you’re researching for a Hollywood role as a hungry and homeless person. They’ll think you’re a hard-core Stanislavski Method actor.

Bus leaves for Wicked  4:50 p.m.
You lucky bastards.

Smitten Kitten Party  7:00 p.m.
I think I misunderstood the advertisements. Apparently a French person is going to be there, and he’s going to tickle all of us.

Proclaim  9:00 p.m.
In honor of Wicked, maybe Stefan Van Voorst and Elizabeth Hummicut should sing the Christian-themed version of “Defying Gravity.” It will involve a risen Jesus Boating to the heavens.

Wednesday, November 19

Hunger and Homelessness Sleepout  All Day
You know who else is homeless during really cold weather? Emperor Penguins. I watched this Planet Earth special on them the other day; that sh*t was whack!

Heterodoxy Release Party  7:00 p.m.
It’s a powerful magazine, but calling it a “Release Party” makes it sound like an orca in captivity being released into the ocean.

On-Campus Film, The Dark Knight  7:00 p.m.
It’s a good thing they replaced Katie Holmes with Maggie Gyllenhaal; now we actually care if her character dies.

Q & A Meeting  9:15 p.m.
At least Prepare Ministries is praying for y’ all.

Prepare Ministries  9:30 p.m.
During a moment of “personal prayer and reflection,” does anyone secretly go through your Christmas wish list? I do.

Thursday, November 20

Hunger and Homelessness Sleepout  All Day
We can pretend it’s like that time the cops busted that party our first year here and we all had to sleep in the bushes until the next day! Good times.

Silent Auction—Ceramic Serving Vessels  10:00 a.m.
Just remember the cup you want to make of gold, for it is the cup of a carpenter. And it cannot pass beyond the Great Seal, for that is the boundary and the price of immortality...

Gifts in a Jar at the St. Peter Co-Op  6:00 p.m.
Perhaps Justin Timberlake can sing us a song about a very special type of gift in a jar...

Shared Space  6:00 p.m.
Sometimes I don’t get to shower on Thursdays; you might not want to share space with me.

The Lesson  8:00 p.m.
The actors and the swim team both prepare for the big show by shaving their heads.

Godspell at St. Peter High School  8:00 p.m.
These young actors should come watch our fall production; they’d better be smart and learn The Lesson well.

The Pickle is sad that it could not get tickets to see Wicked.
Experience Gusties look to repeat

Swim team heavyweights Matt Stewart and Carrie Gunderson return to the pool to lead Gustavus.

ANDY KEANEN
Sports Editor

G ustavus’ Swimming and Diving team has been the cream of a very competitive MIAC crop in recent history, and the men have won eight of the past ten conference championships, including last season. On the other side, the women have won four of the past seven titles, and have won back-to-back crowns coming into 2008-09.

“I think we have a really great team this year swimming wise, but also personality wise and to compete for conference we need both to be a great team. It’s going to take a lot of hard work at practice and dedication to compete for conference champs this year, but I think our team can accomplish this,” said Junior Jonna Berry. “Like our coach Jon Carlson says “be a flamethrower, not a rain cloud” and this team is very good at being “Flamers.”

Both squads began the season with the “Ted Mullin Hour of Power” held in honor of the late Carleton swimmer to help raise awareness for cancer and its long-term effects. Together, swim teams across the country raised $43,000 in this event.

First-year Kailllin Ogen swims backstroke in her first collegiate meet against MSU.

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Sports Information

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Continued on page 15

Sophomores Whitaker Davis and Sophomore Paul Kirihara had second place finishes each in the 200 yard freestyle and 100 yard backstroke respectively. Gustavus was outscored 133-103 in the meet.

For the Gustie women, only one swimmer took home a first place finish; Sophomore Anika Erickson finished first in the 100 yard breast stroke while Juniors Emily Allex (1000 yard free) and Carrie Gunderson (500 yard free) and First-year Allyson Hanneman (100 yard backstroke) finished second. Berry finished third in the 100 yard backstroke as did First-years Steph Korba and Dajana Vidovic in the 100 yard butterfly and 100 yard freestyle; respectively.

Another substantial obstacle for the Gusties will be replacing the All-Conference swimmer Christie O’Connor, who transferred to the University of Minnesota after spring semester of last year. O’Connor holds the school record in the 200 yard backstroke.

“She was an amazing swimmer and a great teammate...and she...swam her hardest at every practice and meet and she inspired many people to overcome their struggles and swim their hardest,” said Berry.

This weekend, Gustavus heads to the St. Kate’s Invitational on Friday night only to travel to Northfield the following day for a dual against St. Olaf. The following weekend, the Gusties go to the St. John’s/ St. Ben’s/Bethel Invitational.

“I am not disappointed at our loss from Mankato. It was the first meet of the season and it was really a starting off point to see where we are at,” said Gunderson. “Mankato is a division 2 team and they have been training longer than us so I was not disappointed at all. I think everyone did a great job and now that we have one meet under our belt we can really focus on our St. Olaf Dual.”

Gustavus’ Volleyball team (26-4) played host to UW-Eau Claire in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament this past Thursday. It’s the Gusties first NCAA berth since 1987.

Gustavus Volleyball makes NCAA berth

The Gustavus swim team had many close races in their recent meet against MSU (swimmer pictured above), which they lost 103-133.

The Gustavus Weekly Sports Schedule

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

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, For everyone who believes in Him, will not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 3:18

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.

Sponsored by: Brian Tommerdahl
The Gustavus Women’s Hockey team was ranked seventh in USCHO’s most recent poll of all Division III teams. They are not only the highest ranked team in the MIAC, but of all schools in the western region of the division.

The Gusties were ranked fifth prior to this past weekend’s split with Adrian College. The Gusties lost the first game on an overtime breakaway 2-1, but were able to come back on Saturday for a 3-0 win.

Friday’s lone goal was scored by First-year forward Mollie Carroll during a power play, with the assist going to Junior forward Mari Gunderson. Despite the Gusties’ 41 shots on net, they were unable to score again and suffered a tough loss.

Even though they started the season on a low note, losing the first game of the year is nothing new to these Gusties. In the last four years, the Gusties have lost every season-opener, yet have gone on to have a winning season.

“It was good for our team to see that we aren’t invincible. I think we learned that we can’t overlook teams, and hopefully it won’t happen again in the future,” said Sophomore defen-

Senior forward and co-captain Christine Wicker had three goals and two assists in 14 games last season for Gustavus, but has yet to score a goal in this short season.

“Everyone is going to have to redefine their roles on the team, and different people are going to need to step up to produce and put the puck in the net.”

- Kirstin Peterson

This weekend the Gusties have their first home game against St. Mary’s. However, it will feel a little less homey than in years past, as Don Roberts Ice Arena is still out of commission, and the Gusties will therefore be heading to Mankato on Friday.

Peterson said that part of their less-than-stellar performance this past weekend may have been due to “trouble competing. We need to have the will to win and want to compete and want to work hard.”

Since the Mankato rink will be lacking Gustavus hockey banners, it’s up to the fans to show up decked out in black and gold. Let’s help these nomads feel like they have a reputation to defend.

Highly regarded Gusties are reloaded and ready for another solid campaign

Gustavus is ranked #7 in the country in the preseason poll, highest of any MIAC school.