Big Hill Farm enthusiasts take the compost from the cafeteria to the farm five days a week in hopes of enriching the soil for crops.

Gustavus students work to reap what they sow
Big Hill Farm is just one more step in helping to make Gustavus a greener, more organic and sustainable community.

“I am really excited to see sustainability put into practice at Gustavus, because all too often we talk in terms of ideals and aren’t able to act on them in this context,” said Breanna Draxler, a senior environmental studies major and past president of the Gustavus Greens.

“Farm” from page 1

If the topics of interest chosen for the Nobel Conference are any measure of importance, the production of food is definitely a key topic, as the conference for 2010 will focus on a food-related theme.

To celebrate the new beginning of the project, Big Hill Farm extends the invitation to all who are interested to attend the inauguration of the farm on Saturday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. The celebration will include free ice cream sundaes (made from local ice cream).

There will also be a mural painting for the shed, which all are welcome to join in on, even if you feel your painting skills aren’t worth beans. The entire evening will also be peppered with various musical songs by the Gustavus Choir.

Big Hill Farm hopes that the entire Gustavus community can feel some amount of ownership of the farm, and thus wish all to turn up. “Come to farming inauguration. It’s going to melt your face off,” said Walker. It is certain not to squash anyone’s expectations for the farm, but to help to become more enthusiastic and educated about the goals that the organization is trying to accomplish.

“We want people to see the farm now and then come back in the fall for the harvest festival and appreciate how much everything has grown,” said Swedenborg.

Correction:

In last week’s Gustie of the Week article, Assistant Professor Henry MacCarthy was inaccurately referred to as an Associate Professor.
Academic Deans resign
Deans Eric Eliason and Mariangela Maguire announce resignation to faculty on May 5

Becky Krocak
Copy Editor

The Gustavus faculty received an e-mail from Provost Morton Tuesday, May 5 regarding the resignation of both of the College’s academic deans, Mariangela Maguire and Eric Eliason.

According to the e-mail, Maguire and Eliason “have resigned their positions as Academic Deans and will return to their faculty positions for the fall semester. The resignation will return to the Department of English, and Maguire will return to the Department of Communication Studies after a sabbatical leave during fall semester.”

“The College’s loss of Eric in Academic Affairs is the [English] Department’s gain,” said Associate Professor of English Laura Behling.

The Faculty Senate officially recommended the two academic deans for the position of interim provost to fill Morton’s position, but Maguire and Eliason declined the position in a letter to the Senate sent Friday, May 1.

They detailed their reasons for declining, specifically citing the lack of presidential support they received. “We appreciated that the president met with us immediately after the provost’s resignation was announced. But the absence of any further contact with the administration, lack of encouragement or support communicated a lack of support with complete clarity,” the letter said. “Obviously no one can succeed as interim provost without the president’s support and cooperation.”

“Given the lack of presidential support, it would be disingenuous for us to pursue a role when we do not believe we can succeed,” the letter went on to say.

The Faculty Senate voted at its meeting on Wednesday, May 6 to release the letter. No one in the Provost’s Office was able to comment on the resignations. President Ohle did not respond to requests for a comment.

Surprise and uncertainty

This announcement came as a surprise to much of the campus community. “As an individual faculty member, I am reeling because it seems like there is a vacuum in the academic administration,” said Professor of Physics Steve Mellem.

“This is very, very disturbing to me as a faculty member and as the director of an academic program at the college. I don’t know who I’m reporting to anymore after May 31,” said Sujay Rao, assistant professor of history.

Some community members questioned the reasons the deans gave for their resignation. “To get [new] academic deans is not something that is unheard of; it’s a pretty common occurrence. Why we’re getting new academic deans is the point of concern,” said Senior Communication Studies Major and Student Senate Co-President Luke Garrison.

History of the position

The academic deans’ primary function is “to supervise the academic departments, to work with academic departments in developing strategic plans, but also to work with academic departments in hiring faculty, recruiting faculty, managing department budgets,” said Rao.

“The provost and the two deans were essentially [the faculty’s] entire representation at the vice-presidential level, so we depended on them to represent our interests as faculty interests and student interests,” said Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies Elinor Dugdale.

The structure of the Academic Affairs Office changed in recent years, shifting from a one dean model to a new model that consists of a provost and two academic deans.

“The provost had responsibilities that the dean had not had before, including responsibilities off campus for raising money. So that’s why we thought we needed deans under the provost, because we needed more on site day-to-day control of academic issues,” said Curtin.

The deans’ role in the provost’s office

Gustavus recently came up with a plan to find an interim provost for two years until the College finds a permanent president. Ohle and the Faculty Senate reached an agreement that the faculty would nominate several faculty members to fill the position. The president was in the process of contacting each person individually for interviews when the controversy about the deans began.

“Anyone who was either self-nominated or nominated [by someone else] was nominated in a climate where there were two deans in place who know about all the things that need to be done... Whatever plan we had moving forward now has to be somehow revised,” said Mellem.

In light of the recent resignations, some faculty members have doubts about President Ohle’s leadership style. “For faculty members, what was especially important was that we had a provost and two academic deans in place who understood and could advocate for the academic program. Now, [academic leadership] is all gone,” said Rao.

“In my view, that is gone because President Ohle’s style and decision-making process are not conducive to any kind of teamwork.

“I have some sympathy for President Ohle because of the way he was hired. He had no chance to get to know Gustavus before he was announced as our president. On the other hand, that makes it particularly important once he has been named as president to take time to get to know the community he was supposed to be leading, and he didn’t do that,” said Curtin.

“The future depends on his willingness to listen, and it’s not clear to me so far that he is listening to our concerns.” The academic deans expressed hope that Ohle would evaluate his time at Gustavus in the coming months. “We think it important that the president talks about what didn’t work well this year and what he thinks needs to happen for the next two years to work better,” said Maguire and Eliason in their resignation letter.

The future for the position

Much is unknown at this time about what the future holds for the academic deans’ positions. No one is sure how the process of hiring new deans will come about, but the College usually follows certain principles when hiring for these positions.

“The principles that are usually followed are the principles of shared governance, which say that the leaders of the academic program on the campus need to have the confidence of the faculty, and the faculty should have a predominating role in choosing those leaders,” said Rao.

People acknowledged the College’s recent trouble and the need for a solution. “At the moment, the College has started to lose some of its cohesion and community spirit, which are among its strengths,” said Eric Dugdale, associate professor of classics.

However, Dugdale is optimistic that a solution can be reached. “What I would really like to see is all involved coming together in a really constructive dialogue with direct communication between faculty members and board members,” said Dugdale.

Praise for the deans

Several people praised the deans for their leadership in the academic administration. “During these past four years, Eric and Mariangela have led the faculty with transparency and fairness, building trust between administrative offices and the faculty,” said Morton in her e-mail to faculty.

“For the last two years, we have had the best administrative team we’ve ever had in the history of this college,” said Mellem.

Eliason drew praise for his “work with the provost, Mary Morton, and other academic dean, Mariangela Maguire, which [helped] with thoughtful decision-making that was well-respected among English Department faculty and faculty across the campus,” said Behling.

The student perspective

Some students look forward to receiving more information and having concerns about the ambiguity of the academic deans’ resignation. “Students need to know the reason why they’re resigning,” said Garrison.

Student Senate will bring up the issue at its next meeting. “We are going to talk about it at our Monday meeting.... We’re certainly going to have a conversation about the academic deans in light of the provost situation, because they are somewhat connected. I don’t know what will come of that conversation, but we will certainly talk about it.”

That meeting will take place next Monday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Classifieds

ATTENTION GUSTAVUS STUDENTS / PROFESSIONAL WOMEN:

Wanted: 2 roommates to share Master Bedroom of newer upscale townhouse. Comes completely furnished w/ private bath and many shared features and amenities.

-Living Room Area: leather couch and love seat large picture window coffee table and television

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-Kitchen: Open form Kitchen with center island and stainless steel sinks, food processor, Kitchen Aid mixer, dish washer, plates, pans and more!

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The latest musical event in a flurry of concerts this spring at Gustavus, the Battle of the Bands, will take place on Eckman Mall on Saturday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. and is sponsored by KGSM as part of Media Week.

Sophomore English Major Pete Lindquist, who is also a DJ and staff member of KGSM, said it was fitting that KGSM would host the event. “When Media Board came up with the idea to have a Gustavus Media Week, KGSM thought that a great way to end the week would be to host a Battle of the Bands to showcase some of the talented musicians on campus.”

Sophomore History and Social Studies Teaching Major and KGSM Staff Member Amy Culver agreed, saying Battle of the Bands “is a really cool idea. We are trying to get more connected with students on campus who have bands and love music. We’re trying to get them on our shows, trying to get them out there,” said Culver.

Culver said that the tunes will come from a variety of on-campus talent. “We have three people now: Keith Linné, Pete Lindquist and Kyle Bachmayer. We’re hoping to get more. It’s not set in stone yet. There are going to be judges from each of the media organizations.”

Lindquist will be performing “with a friend of his in a folk-bluesy duo we’ve named ‘Folk You.’ My friend Mike and I have had a lot of fun writing songs and getting ready for the performance, and we think that everyone in attendance will really enjoy our performance.”

The prizes for the winners include “recording time in [the KGSM studio], along with donated gift cards from Patty’s and PJs,” said Culver.

Several Gusties are looking forward to hearing on-campus music. “I think that it is great that there are events like this—we need to feature local talent here more at Gustavus,” said first-year Clark Weyerauch.

Culver agreed, saying that the event is part of an effort by on-campus media groups to foster a more musical climate at Gustavus.

Culver agreed, saying that the event is part of an effort by on-campus media groups to foster a more musical climate at Gustavus.

In reference to the amount of bands on campus, Culver noted that there is no lack of people willing to play. “I think with coffeehouses, they had Keith [Linné] this week, and at Relay for Life they had a lot of bands,” said Culver.

However, the real challenge came in “trying to find people and bands that would play. It’s hard and I’m pretty much stuck. There is a lot of talent—I know there is a lot of talent—it’s just finding it. That’s one of those things that we are working on—getting the bands out there and using that talent because it’s a lot cheaper then getting someone else. Usually they will do it for free,” said Culver.

Lindquist also said he was excited to expose Gusties to their talented peers. “I think Gustavus has some very talented musicians on campus who play in a variety of different genres.” He described the event as a “musical outlet that everyone on campus can enjoy.”

Overall, Culver said that the event will simply be a relaxed, outdoors hang-out. “It’s going to be fun. Come get food and chill,” she said.

Steve Palmer
Staff Writer

KGSM sponsors Battle of the Bands

Photos Submitted

Battle of the Bands is part of Media Week, an effort by on-campus media groups to raise interest in student-produced media at Gustavus. Students will compete for the chance to win recording time in the KGSM studio.

Student Organization Leadership Orientation

Final Student Organization Recognition Step

- Students registering for the training will be permitted to move in to their on-campus rooms one day early.

- One student from every club/organization MUST attend Student Leader Orientation and Training Monday, September 7th to become a recognized student organization.

- Make sure to pre-register at the Student Activities Office ASAP!

Sponsored by Student Activities Office
Cindy Johnson-Groh has led numerous J-term trips to Tanzania and recently received the Fulbright grant to continue her journeys there. Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Cindy Johnson-Groh has led numerous J-term trips to Tanzania and recently received the Fulbright grant to continue her journeys there.

She goes above and beyond just being a professor. She’s a mentor and a friend.”

- Keisha Bates

Over the course of her seven trips to Tanzania, Cindy, who is also the executive director of the Linnaeus Arboretum, saw herds of wildebeests and packs of cheetahs. She had lions visit her campsite and saw termite mounds the size of a house.

“I’ve got such a love for the place, and I just want to expose students to this experience,” said Cindy.

Cindy has led a total of seven January Interim Experience trips with students to Tanzania to study culture, wildlife and ecology, and, thanks to the Fulbright grant she recently received, she will be leading another trip in January of 2011.

Some of the most amazing experiences of past groups involved interactions with people from the indigenous tribes in the Tanzanian region. Cindy’s students are always treated to a goat roast on each of their excursions, an indigenous dish that doesn’t need much in the way of explanation. These people, most of them from the Massai tribe, live as hunter-gatherers and are so separate from the “Western” world that many things that we see everyday completely blow their minds.

“One of the things the men of the tribe do to prove their manhood is to kill a lion,” said Cindy, referring to one of the many pictures she has collected during her Tanzanian trips. This one shows a group of about twelve tribe members carrying severed paws and organs from a defeated animal on the tips of their spears.

Fulbright grants are awarded to a total of 1,100 college professors nationwide who plan on traveling abroad for research purposes. Cindy, a recent recipient of this prestigious scholarship, will be using her trip to Tanzania to teach students and to write a new book about the ecology and conservation of the region. The book will be used in her courses as well as other biology courses at Gustavus. It will have a special focus on the interactions of indigenous people and Western inhabitants on the region’s ecological structure.

“For example, in modern Tanzania there are lots and lots of people with small farms. Before it wasn’t a problem, but now there are herds of elephants that need to move through those farms on their way to find water. … I want to put all this together in a story so people can understand and compare history and the modern system [in Tanzania],” said Cindy.

Although the courses she teaches in Minnesota don’t usually involve jungle animals and exotic locations, those who know Cindy know how she can infect students with the same excitement she feels about observing the natural world.

“She knows a lot about her field of study, and she is always willing to incorporate students into side projects,” said First-year Biology Major Matt Martin.

“She makes it fun for students to talk about plants.”

“She knows a lot about her field of study, and she is always willing to incorporate students into side projects.”

-Matt Martin
Singer Ben Lee to play at Gustavus

Hall on Monday, May 11. Lee, who began his solo music ca-
reer at the young age of 16, has a fresh indie pop sound that
will go well with the arrival of

Maggie Sotos  
Staff Writer

For those expecting a run-of-
the-mill, chick-flick, romantic
comedy where there is a zany mis-
communication at the last minute,
calling a sappy, tear-
jerking, soul-searching monologue
by the female protagonist
at the end, look no further. Bride Wars
is not a delightful walk
down the aisle as much as an
hour-and-a-half-long funeral
march of gender stereotypes,
predictable plot-twists and
chuckle-worthy one-liners (99
percent of which you can catch
in the trailer).

Bride Wars follows the tale of
Liv (Kate Hudson) and Emma
(Anne Hathaway, who, like her
co-star, is selling herself short
with roles such as this). The two
best friends have planned their
dream weddings at the Plaza Hotel
since their childhoods.
Now as adults, they become
generally immiediately begin
wedding plans. But wait, here’s
the zany twist: the weddings
are accidentially planned for
the same day! Oh golly, how did
THAT happen?

Bride Wars, while an amus-
ing portrait of Bridezillas and
contemporary wedding-mania,
never delves too far into the sub-
ject matter. It doesn’t inspire any
new perspectives on the issue of
holy matrimony. The majority of
its humor stems from the same
root proverb: “Wow, women
sure can act crazy and bitchy
sometimes.” In the pinnacle of
this nastiness, one bride tackles
the other on her walk down
the aisle. The two scream, roll
around, claw and catfight in
their white veils and gowns. But we in the audience have
seen this coming for ninety
minutes. What we are watching
is the degeneration of women in
comedy, and this is merely the
lowest common denominator
for comediene stereotypes:
boiled down, the film is glamor-
ized mud-wrestling.

Perhaps this is too critical.
After all, anyone attending
a film that Kate Hudson has
made since How to Lose a Guy
in 10 Days cannot seriously be
looking for a thought-pro-
voking movie. To her credit,
Ms. Hudson is a talented actor
who should use less eye-liner
and start taking herself more
seriously; for roles in which she
shows actual depth and comic
timing, I might recommend 200
Cigarettes or Almost Famous. But
I digress.

The plot of Bride Wars
is characterized by nasty chick-
on-chick violence, with pranks
and wedding one-upmanship
that make Mean Girls look petty
by comparison (although Bride
Wars “borrows” the “getting
even by getting you fat” trick).
The film employs the standard
conventions of almost every
romantic comedy that came before
it, and it brings almost nothing
new to the table save for a slight
Twist in the last ten minutes of
the film.

But Bride Wars is not a com-
plete waste. To its credit, it shifts
away from the traditional focus
of “boy meets girl” to a more
refreshing perspective. It cen-
ters on the platonic friendship
between two best friends, and it
stresses that lifelong “partners”
need not be spouses. Interest-
ing.

The film also contains le-
gitimately touching moments,
but it almost feels as if they are
produced by accident. Usu-
ally when the producers want
us to feel an emotion, it blares
sentimental music and a char-
acter articulates something
along the lines of, “I feel so sad
right now.” The truly touching
and entertaining moments are
subtle and understated: the
high-priced lawyer buying her
middle school teacher friend
an expensive Dolce blouse, but
trying to pass it off as a gift;
the drunken, apathetic Kirstie
truly is the degeneration of women in
comedy, and this is merely the
lowest common denominator
for comediene stereotypes:
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ized mud-wrestling.

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an expensive Dolce blouse, but
trying to pass it off as a gift;
the drunken, apathetic Kirstie
Allie stumbling through life;

With big names like Anne Hathaway and Kate Hudson, Bride Wars proves to be a let down to viewers.

... Also, why not go to a free concert? It sounds fun,” said Sophomore Lila Benson.

Lee was supposed to open for Ben Folds last spring, but he was unable to do so due to scheduling conflicts, so we are very excited to program Ben Lee here at Gustavus. We feel that he [will be] a great way to end the concert series for the year,” said Senior Management Major and Campus Activities Board Concert Executive Kevin Clevelett.

The opening act for this con-
cert will be Jamestown Story, a Minnesota band based out of Duluth. Formerly known as And Then I Turned 7, Jame-
stown Story plays alternative,
indie, acoustic rock and pop. “Jamestown Story [was] scheduled to perform in the Courtyard Café as a CAB Coff-

“I’m going because [Ben Lee’s] music is good, and I was really hoping he would have been with Ben Folds last year.” -Whitney Westley

freehouse performer on Wed-
nesday, May 13, [but the band] was excited to hear about an opportu-
nity to open for Ben Lee and agreed to switch performance dates right away,” said Squier.

“I’m going because [Ben Lee’s] music is good, and I was really hoping he would have been with Ben Folds last year,” said Sophomore Geography Major Whitney Westley.

This event is free to the public
and doors open at 9:00 p.m.

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305 S. Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

Bride Wars: Just say “I don’t”

Best known for his song
“Catch My Disease,” Lee has
released seven solo albums to-
night, the most recent being The
Rebirth of Venus which was re-
leased in February of this year.

“I was invited [on] Facebook. I’m going because I know a couple of his songs. ... Also, why not go to a free concert? It sounds fun,” said Sophomore Lila Benson.

Lee was supposed to open for Ben Folds last spring, but he was unable to do so due to scheduling conflicts, so we are very excited to program Ben Lee here at Gustavus. We feel that he [will be] a great way to end the concert series for the year,” said Senior Management Major and Campus Activities Board Concert Executive Kevin Clevelett.

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indie, acoustic rock and pop. “Jamestown Story [was] scheduled to perform in the Courtyard Café as a CAB Coff-
Matt Beachey
Staff Writer

Dan Deacon is absurd. Consider the following: a grown man wearing a sparkly purple hat, oversized, thick-rimmed glasses and a Flintstones T-shirt that looks a size too small approaches you on the street and invites you to watch him and his band play. Would you follow him into a small, dark performance space attached to a seedy bar? What if he asked you to play a game resembling leap frog and London Bridge with a room full of strangers that leads out into the streets of Minneapolis? Deacon and countless fans found the answers to these questions and many more at his May 2 concert at the Triple Rock Social Club in Minneapolis.

Billing Deacon as a musician is selling him short; he is equal parts aerobics instructor, kindergarten teacher, social experimenter, stand-up comedian and bandleader. His live show resembles a performance by the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, except the second violins are all playing toy keyboards and the percussionists have been instructed to break as many sticks as possible. The score has been indiscriminately marked with crayon drawings and Power Ranger stickers and the audience between extravagance and insanity, reaching unparalleled levels of crowd participation, backed by his 14-piece ensemble of drummers, synthesizer players and electronic sound-manipulators. His music is whimsical and experimental, and his vision is as excessive as it is abstract. But Deacon no sooner takes the stage than he is greeted by a legion of hipsters and newcomers alike who are more than ready to become part of his show for an hour or two.

Not once did Deacon’s stage put a wall between him and the audience. After a lengthy delay, with ostensibly troubles setting up for 15 people and their instruments on the meager stage of the Triple Rock, Deacon announced, “We’ve taken our feet out of our asses, and we’re ready to play some music.” Before anyone on stage played a single note, Deacon asked the audience to follow him in a series of movements from behind his table of electronics center stage, starting with a simple fist in the air and ending with everyone on the floor in contrived positions. After he was satisfied that the crowd was ready, he asked everyone to sing with him. Getting his desired sound, he recorded the collective voices and looped it back, immediately sounding his signature blend of the electronic and organic, performer and spectator.

Deacon’s ensemble came into the mix, fusing seamlessly with the electronic sounds he produced. At this point, the concert took a radical turn at the whims of its eccentric ring-leader. Deacon led the audience in dance contests; he had the audience wrapped up in lengthy monologues about nothing and everything; he also convinced everyone to partake in a crowd-swallowing rendition of London Bridge, in which everybody in the house ran through a tunnel of human hands that snaked out onto the street, around the corner and eventually made its way back into the cramped venue, which seemed powered only by Deacon’s perspiration. All the while he and his band pumped out an intoxicating blend of Looney Tunes-inspired baroque pop brimming with enough danceability to uncross the most sober spectator’s arms.

Deacon is as revolutionary in his traveling habits as he is with his music. Parked outside the Triple Rock Social Club, the host to two performances by Deacon and his ensemble last Saturday night, was a modified school bus painted pink and green, the S and the H of the Looney Tunes-inspired baroque pop brimming with enough danceability to uncross the most sober spectator’s arms.

Deacon’s music is perfectly catered to today’s youth. Its spastic nature reflects the current ADD culture that has resulted from excessive internet tab-browsing and twitter usage. But his live shows induce extended euphoria focused on one man, extending concentrically to all surrounding him; the result is a focused epicenter of rowdiness and childlike camaraderie. I can only imagine what the 21+ show was like later that evening.

I give the show 3 out of 3 crowns.

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

To declare you a victim betrays the strength of God’s truth and love.

“Fools make a mock of sin and sin mocks the fools [who are its victims]; a sin offering made by them only mocks them, bringing them disappointment and disfavor, but among the upright there is the favor of God.”

Proverbs 14:9

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

Friend in Christ, Tommerdahl@iol.com

Dan Deacon’s performances are not easily forgotten and his show in Minneapolis last Saturday was no exception. It was filled with human pyramids, chipmunk vocals and electronic pitch-shifters (shown above).
Students and others brought to campus on Honors Day mingle in the Hillstrom Art Museum as Senior Annie Pearce’s art hangs in the background and Senior Alex Stassen’s bronze work peaks out in the corner.

May 8, 2009 FEATURES Editor | Danielle Harms

KALEIDOSCOPE KIDS

Kaleidoscope, the 2009 senior show, opened on May 2. The work of Art Studio Majors is on display in the Hillstrom Art Museum until May 31. Here’s a short introduction to the artists.

Emily Pickford

PARING THROUGH THOUGHTS ON PREPARING FOR THE SENIOR ART SHOW?
I was always excited to go work in the studio, and I think that’s a beautiful thing.

DREAM JOB? ANY PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR?
My dream job would be making decorative objects. I plan on taking a year off, creating studio space around the city and building an art portfolio to apply for my master’s.

Elizabeth Faldet

DREAM JOB? Graduate artist who could illustrate children books on the side.

FAVORITE MUSIC TO HAVE ON IN THE BACKGROUND WHEN WORKING ON ART PROJECTS?
Hanging in my mind, but if no one is around I might do just sort through a playlist.

Who would win in a fight, Batman or Superman?

Mother: Adam Sandow would throw up in his Spiderman costume and Challenge them to a science/wrestle off and best theme wins.

Tania Schueller

WHAT ARTISTS DO YOU DRAW INSPIRATION OR DIRECTION FROM?
All sorts. Charles DeMuth, M.C. Escher.

FAVORITE MUSIC TO HAVE ON IN THE BACKGROUND WHEN WORKING ON ART PROJECTS?
I go through phases of what I like to listen to, but this year I stilllian’s a list of Red Hot Chili Peppers, Collective Soul, Jack Johnson and Limp.

Anne Pearce

HIGHLIGHTS OF PREPARE FOR THE SENIOR ART SHOW?
I think our class really got lucky in having a reasonable size of senior art majors. It created a great work environment that enabled us to work in a common space while still focusing on our own projects and getting feedback from our peers as well.

WHAT ARTISTS DO YOU DRAW INSPIRATION FROM?
I personally sought inspiration from German painter Gerhard Richter.

Artistic Inspiration?

Since art history lies directly beneath almost all of my work.

Erica Larson

ARTISTIC PHILOSOPHY?
My approach to photography has always been one of the "bystander." I prefer to take straightforward, visually stimulating shots, and do very little manipulating, in the darkroom or digitally.

Where do you draw artistic inspiration?

An interest in art history has directly benefited almost all of my work.

Hannah Erickson

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION?
I really like Albrecht Dürer. He’s got such an imagination!... His work always seems to have something deep to ponder.

Who would win in a fight, Batman or Superman?

Totally Batman, no question. I just say Superman isn’t the brightest bulb, and even in his best creative endeavors (superhuman strength and speed?) Batman would totally outwit him, and creatively from Batman, Batman is fast.
All great things must come to an end. (Sorry for the cheesy cliché.) For the past two years, I have written columns about a wide range of issues, from abortion to Jesus running for President. Now in my final column, I want to express to those of you who actually read my column what I have learned from writing for THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY.

Those of you who know me personally know that I have no great wisdom, and those of you who read this column know I am a right-wing whack-job probably believe I have no small wisdom either, but I offer you a glimpse of this wonderful part of my Gustavus experience and hope that I can inspire you in some small way to contribute to our great community.

The first thing I learned while writing for the WEEKLY was that I would never be as funny or popular as Maggie Sotos. Damn you, Maggie! I spend hours researching news websites for information on crucial political issues and then write my column about how the United Nations has failed to serve the international community. All this work usually gets me an “Interesting article” or “I’d never thought about that issue before!” from one of my friends who feels obligated to read my column. The rest of the day I hear about how Maggie wrote a hilarious column addressed to Killer Whales telling them how much they suck. The usual statement from Bridget Phillips, who work with in the Gustavus Finance Office, is “Did you read Maggie’s column and calendar today? They were hilarious! I haven’t gotten a chance to read your column yet, but I’m sure it was good, too.”

I now totally understand what Jan Brady was going through: Maggie, Maggie, Maggie! The lesson we can all take from this is that we must be content with who we are and try not to be envious of those with more flashy abilities. That’s what my therapist tells me, anyway.

The thing I was most afraid of when I first started writing for THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY was that fellow students and professors with liberal political views would not like me anymore. The great thing is that if anything, they actually seem to like me more! I thought I would be seen as nothing more than the figure-head for crazy white conservative Christian males on campus, but then I realized there is only one Phil Cleary. Ouch! (I’m his friend, so I can say that.) It is true that most professors and students on campus are liberal Democrats, but it has been my experience that most of them are open to differing opinions and political debate. That is awesome.

Gustavus will continue to be an outstanding institution as long as open discussion is encouraged about controversial issues on campus and around the world. In my mind, the most important thing is that people are actively pursuing their passions, and whether or not those passions are in line with my beliefs is only of secondary importance.

The final lesson I have learned from my WEEKLY experience is that everyone does not love Ronald Reagan. Several different people have felt that because of the title of my column they are obligated to come up to me and tell me how much they are not fans of his presidency. For some odd reason, these people have also all been severely intoxicated, but I will explain my column’s title anyway.

Someday when I sneeze I think of the time the Baron Munchausen uses a “modicum of snuff” to make the sea creature sneeze so he and the other heroes escape through the blow-hole ... right?? Oh, shoot, I did it again, didn’t I ...
Uncommon sense

How to be awesome

Tasha Carlson
Staff columnist

As children, we compiled wish lists of desired presents and counted down the days to our birthdays, Christmases and other holidays that involved wonderful wrapped gifts. As we age, presents are fewer in numbers and higher in price. When I look at my full closet, numerous digital devices and endless accessories, I ask myself when I leave this earth, what can I take with me?

“Experiences make us happier than possessions,” asserted Elizabeth Landau of CNN News. As I have matured along with the presents I receive, I have begun to realize that ticked items are more valuable than possessions. By experiencing "Experiences makes us happier than possessions," asserted Elizabeth Landau of CNN News. As I have matured along with the presents I receive, I have begun to realize that ticked items are more valuable than possessions. By experiencing

I know, right?
To do or to have

At least five steps to being awesome of which people ought to be aware. This is a biased list, for sure, but I hope it is of use to you as you go about the rest of your college life in pursuit of the one goal we all share: awesome-ness. So without further ado, five steps to being awesome as I see them:

1. Don’t be mean—It’s just a bad idea to be a mean person. Meanness and lameness directly correlate. For instance: do you know who was a pretty famous mean person in the last century? Hitler. Do you know who else? Stalin. Do you want to know who wasn’t a mean person? Gandhi. Now, tell me which of these three people was awesome. If you don’t answer Gandhi, you are mean. Not even

2. Share with others—Word around town is that people like it when you share things with them. Sharing makes people happy; same thing goes for doing favors. And because being happy is undoubtedly awesome, so are sharing and doing favors. Share something with someone and you know what happens? Instant friendship. Friends are awesome.

3. Disagree with people—There are few things more awesome than disagreeing with people. In fact, I’m pretty sure a lot of good things in the world come from a disagreement of some sort. Example: a long time ago, there was a group of cave people sitting around—in well, a cave—thinking about how nice a good cold cave was. At some point, one of the cave people stood up, presumably brandishing a bone of some sort, and stated that contrary to what was being said by everyone else, a warm cave was better than a cold cave. This cave person then gave an impassioned speech about how nice it would be to have something that made caves warmer, allowed people to cook food and generally prevented death by hypothermia. The outcome of this debate was the use of fire as a tool to be awesome. And it started because some-one disagreed about the benefits of cold caves. This is a lesson all too important for those of us dealing with the occasional cold-blooded roommate inher-    

4. Relax—There’s a reason most of us are always trying to relax: it’s awesome. One time, I sat down in a chair and didn’t do anything for at least a day, maybe more. True story. It was

5. Spend time with awesome people—According to the editor in response to these articles that most everyone here is in agreement on those topics. So, I’m turning to an even more controversial subject: how to be awesome.

This is no Department of Awesome here at Gustavus and, if there were, it’d probably be underfunded and made up of four or five professors. So, because no one is teaching us to be awesome, we have to learn for ourselves. I’ve spent the last few years doing an independent study in awesome, and I’ve found that there are

I can think back to 27 months ago when I saw Josh Groban in concert, and I am still in awe about those amazing two hours of my life. I am sure those of you who have watched your favorite sports team win in person have had the opportunity to travel abroad will never forget those experiences and what you gained and learned. Not only should individuals consider experiences instead of material objects, but policymakers also should. “If you create municipalities with more parks, bike trails, hiking trails ... then I think you are going to have a happier population,” Gilovich said.

If you have any important dates coming up such as birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas in eight months or Valentine’s Day in nine, consider a special dinner, tickets to an event, a physical activity or a short car trip to somewhere special. These events will be remembered forever, while a material object may be quickly forgotten or set aside.
Letters to the Editor

The events of April 22 have led to more cries of “Hate has no place in our community.” A large enough population of this college has misunderstood what this statement means, and it concerns me. A number of students have taken this statement to mean we will not allow opinions we view as hateful to be expressed in any fashion, even going as far as harassing Matt Heider for his impassioned poem.

I wish to let those people know what I perceive as the right for all people. Every member of this community has the right to say whatever they want, to hate whomever they want, to be very vocal about these emotions. I have a right to my thoughts and beliefs. I may want positive moral change, but strong-arm tactics are not the right way to see positive change.

How quick was this campus to deny a constitutional right when we disagreed with a guest of this college expressing his religious views? I am not asking anyone to like what has been said. I do not agree with the statement made at the concert, but I will gladly accept that a number of you now hate me for words like “moral fascist.” I will continue to hate certain people for how they act and to think whatever I wish to think.

Benjamin Schuth ’10

Have you ever found that being around the young and enthusiastic spirits of children has lightened your mood or even acted in a therapeutic way? What if you could volunteer your time to work with children whenever you wanted, right here on campus … Public Discourse, taught by professors in the Department of Communication Studies, is a class that focuses on civic engagement and working to better your community. Each student chooses an issue at Gustavus or in his/her hometown on which to focus throughout the semester and then conducts research for a possible solution. An issue that I feel passionate about and decided to investigate is the lack of accessible and affordable childcare available to students, faculty and employees at Gustavus.

While conducting my research, I came across numerous universities and colleges that currently have on-campus childcare facilities. These facilities cater to childcare needs, but also act as resources for research opportunities. The University of Washington has had a successful childcare center running since 1979, and St. Thomas has a facility that is renowned for its research opportunities. My research has shown that the psychology and education departments of schools with these facilities have an advantage regarding research opportunities, compared to schools without them.

My proposal involves opening a childcare facility on the Gustavus campus. It would be accessible to the faculty, employees and student parents. The cost could potentially be an employee benefit or a portion of the tuition. If you believe this proposal has potential, you are interested in more background information or even if you think it’s unnecessary, please contact me. All feedback is welcome. I am hoping to assess the campus’ opinion of my proposal, so if you have the time, please e-mail me your thoughts. Thank you.

Ashley Baumann ’10

GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY
REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

The GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY is looking for new staff reporters and photographers for the 2009-2010 academic year.

If interested, email weekly@gac.edu for more information.

“Parling” on page 10

My reasoning for the name “Everybody Loves Reagan” had more to do with my love for the TV show Everybody Loves Raymond than for the Republican president who left office when I was 2 years old, but I do think he was probably the best president since Abraham Lincoln. You might not like my title or President Reagan, but I challenge you to find a better combination of a ’90s sitcom and a Republican president. (Maggie, you don’t get to participate in this challenge because your answers would probably be funnier and ruin my point.)

All kidding aside, I have loved my time at Gustavus, and I encourage all of you who are not graduating to take it upon yourselves to become more actively involved in the Gustavus community next year. Whether it’s writing for the WEEKLY, becoming a student senator or giving all the trees on campus a hug, you will never regret giving more of yourself to this college.

I only wish I could have done more during my short time here, but I’m thankful for the time I’ve had. I hope you all have a great summer, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to write for your student newspaper.

“Awesome” page II

I don’t know about you, but I think life is pretty awesome, and it would be pretty cool to get more of it.

So you know what, occasionally just don’t go to class, or deal with your other responsibilities for that matter. There are times for class/work and times for relaxing.

5. Don’t be a tool—Chances are, if you’re a tool, you’re probably already failing at the preceding four steps. However, this bears repeating if only because no tool can be awesome no matter what he or she does. A tool is defined by the inability to think for yourself, a contentment with the way things are and a penchant for dressing up as Spartans, slutty bunnies, cops/cats/etc. whenever costumes are required. Admittedly, many of you may not agree with me on this last one. If this is the case, I recommend you glance back up at step four and see where it takes you.

So there you have it: the culmination of four years of independent study in awesomeness. Consider my thesis.
Friday, May 8

Softball at NCAA Regional Playoffs  All Day
It’s like baseball, but the pitching looks more complicated.

Arboretum Volunteer Day  2:00 p.m.
Gusties volunteer to pick up garbage, weed the plants and help mulch our beautiful botanical gardens. In the olden days, they used chain gangs to similar ends.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration  5:00 p.m.
Don’t worry, it’s only three days late. “Let’s hope you never have to say THAT to a boyfriend.”

TM Silent Auction  6:30 p.m.
This auction is the capstone to their Suicide Awareness Week. So if you don’t win the item you bid on, it might be considered bad taste to yell, “Ugh, kill me now!”

On-Campus Movie, Confessions of a Shopaholic  7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Technically I’m not a shopaholic since I never pay for my purchases, officer.

The Impresario From Smyrna  8:00 p.m.
Forget Vicki’s Biofit Bra, ladies; the best way to show off the goods this season is with whalebone!

Appetizers with the Sigmas  8:00 p.m.
It’s a black and white affair; no gray area allowed.

Rock-a-Thon  8:00 p.m.
And later the Art Club will provide the paper and scissors.

Saturday, May 9

Habitat for Humanity Fun Run  8:15 a.m.
Hmmm. I was always told not to run with a hammer and nails.

Saturday Showcase  11:00 a.m.
Apparently it’s not just the day for cartoons and sleeping in until 2:00 p.m.

G.I.V.E. DAY.  11:00 a.m.
And don’t forget, ladies, for every one of these, you should demand a R.E.C.E.I.V.E. DAY.

Women’s Rugby vs. St. Olaf  12:00 p.m.
I’m a bit worried that the game starts at the time that it does. This rivalry is bitter enough; we needn’t set it to start at “high noon.”

Sara Halberg, Senior Organ Recital  1:30 p.m.
Looks like someone has a promising future playing Take Me Out to the Ball Game in the seventh-inning stretch.

The Impresario From Smyrna  2:00 p.m.
The play is about high-pitched, self-centered actors sleeping with each other. In the theatre world, we call this a documentary.

Battle of the Bands, Eckman Mall  5:30 p.m.
Watch rival musical groups break it down MORTAL COMBAT style! Oh well, at least the hostess is hot.

On-Campus Movie, Confessions of a Shopaholic  7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
The movie looks lame, but it has that hot reloaded chick from Wedding Crashers. She’s sort of a hybrid between Amy Adams and Reese Witherspoon.

Big Hill Farm Inauguration  7:00 p.m.
Oh dear Lord, the organic hipsters are taking over campus with their liberal media and their alleged greenhouse gases and their environmentally-friendly farming techniques! Hurry, we must counter their progress! Everyone create as large a carbon footprint as you can, now!

David Lick, Senior Voice Recital  7:30 p.m.
With a name like this, he’s halfway to becoming an adult film star.

21+ Dive Night  10:00 p.m.
Now if you dance terribly, you can blame the booze.

Sunday, May 10

Holy Communion  10:30 a.m.
Or, if God worked for AT&T, it’d be Holy Communication. Hehehe ... hehe ... ugh.

Lucia Singers’ Mother’s Day Concert  1:30 p.m.
Might I suggest a choral arrangement of “Stacy’s Mom”? 

Brassworks!  3:30 p.m.
And join us next week for the St. Peter Police Department’s musical performance of Copperworks!

Spring 2009 Senior Religion Majors Poster Presentation  7:00 p.m.
Rumor has it they’ll be sending the majors to climb to the top of Old Main, where they will be given their posters. Then they’ll come down again and share their new theses with the rest of us, who in the meantime will have begun worshipping the Golden Gustie idol and descended into drunken madness.

Genocide Has No Boundaries  7:30 p.m.
No boundaries? Hmm. That’s kind of like Hitler in WWII. Oooh, Rhinelander joke, too soon?

Monday, May 11

College Republicans Meeting  5:00 p.m.
Michele Bachmann, how do you still have a job?

Homophobia, Heterosexism and GLBT Discrimination Discussion in the Dive  7:00 p.m.
Now the challenge will be to make the homophobes and the heterosexists coexist in the same room.

Speech Showcase  7:00 p.m.
Don’t miss the awkward hand gestures, corny jokes, nasally voices and dramas about aborted babies with fetal alcohol syndrome dying of cancer and AIDS during the Holocaust. Hey, there’s a reason we won state, people.

Wednesday, May 13

Phantom of the Opera Bus Departs  5:15 p.m.
For those who wanted to see a self-indulgent musical, but couldn’t get tickets for RENT or Les Mis.

Tree Identification  6:00 p.m.
Um, green tree? Tall tree? Dead tree?

Inside Scoop Reloaded for Seniors  7:00 p.m.
It’s like the Matrix Reloaded, but with extended sex scenes.

CAB Coffeehouse Performance: Jamestown Story  8:00 p.m.
Preceded by the sad history of Roanoke and followed by the eventual success of the Mayflower Compact.

Thursday, May 14

Spring 2009 Senior Religion Majors Poster Presentation  7:00 p.m.
Rumor has it they’ll be sending the majors to climb to the top of Old Main, where they will be given their posters. Then they’ll come down again and share their new theses with the rest of us, who in the meantime will have begun worshipping the Golden Gustie idol and descended into drunken madness.

Genocide Has No Boundaries  7:30 p.m.
No boundaries? Hmm. That’s kind of like Hitler in WWII. Oooh, Rhinelander joke, too soon?

It looks like The Pickle may be coming down with something ...

- the pickle -
The enemy under center

In the impending signing of the enigmatic ex-Packer Brett Favre, the Minnesota Vikings are taking a considerable risk to improve their mediocre quarterback position in 2009.

Andy Keenan
Sports Editor

Before this issue hits the stands on Friday, one of the most bitter rivalries in professional athletics may escalate to a new level of hatred. Brett Favre, the 39-year-old focal point of cheesehead disdain from the Packers, is taking a considerable risk for the Vikings. The addition of Favre—a projected $7 million over the next season or two—would not require any amount of salary cap relief, and would most likely prompt the release of Tavaris Jackson. Favre would be stepping into a situation where his competition consists of a John David Booty, a second-year, mid-level college standout; Jackson, the unheralded yet Quarterback of the Week; and Favre himself, the headline-grabbing coarse icon: The Judas of Green Bay.

The initial reaction might be to see Favre as a team savior, but in looking at the roster addition as inevitable, there are highlights to be gleaned from the roster. At the very basic levels, this roster addition as inevitable, there are highlights to be gleaned from the roster. At the very basic levels, this move has very little financial risk for the Vikings. The addition of Favre—a projected $7 million over the next season or two—would not require any amount of salary cap relief, and would most likely prompt the release of Tavaris Jackson. Favre would be stepping into a situation where his competition consists of a John David Booty, a second-year, mid-level college standout; Jackson, the unheralded yet Quarterback of the Week; and Favre himself, the headline-grabbing coarse icon: The Judas of Green Bay.

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The Gustavian Weekly Sports Schedule

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able amount, those individuals will spend their remaining years of contribution elsewhere.

With the season now over after a very successful Thrill on the Hill Tournament, Bussey has found closure to his college career.

“Ultimate has defined me here at Gustavus,” said Bussey. “The end of this weekend was more of a graduation than May 31 will be for me.”

Favre from page 14

While the team may be losing two superb leaders in Bussey and Ebnet, the program now comfortably falls into the able hands of returning captains Pat Gaetz and Erik Huemiller. Each hopes to continue the progress of this up-and-coming program.

Given the current situation, Favre gives them the best chance for the latter, no matter the circumstances of the season.

On the economic front, it is well known that the Vikings were looking at the possibility of having a couple of their games blacked out, and, if nothing else, the electricity that Favre would undoubtedly bring would eliminate that threat.

After his change in uniform last season, Favre’s jersey was the NFL’s top-seller. Favre’s financial upside will make up for paying his salary, and in these economic times, the Wilf family quest for a football stadium in the Twin Cities may ultimately be dictated by the advances for the team’s bottom line.

As for the state of the team, I can’t help but to feel torn in this situation. On one hand, the missing piece could be added to secure the Vikings’ chances at glory with this signing, but I question the flood of Favre on the team and trivializing a championship due to his presence. On the other hand, I have been one of the many advocates for the Vikings to make a big splash at the position, and I could hardly back down on that just because of his affiliation with the Packers.

Frisbee from page 16

While the team may be losing two superb leaders in Bussey and Ebnet, the program now comfortably falls into the able hands of returning captains Pat Gaetz and Erik Huemiller. Each hopes to continue the progress of this up-and-coming program.
One of the largest sporting events on the Gustavus campus took place this past weekend thanks to months of hard work by the Ultimate Frisbee captains. A record sixteen teams from the Midwest and beyond travelled to a pleasant-yet-breezy St. Peter to compete in what is now regarded as one of the best Ultimate tournaments in the Midwest. Senior Captains John Bussey and Nate Ebnet tag-teamed a planning and organization process that occupied valuable hours for at least three months. "Pretty much all of our conversations and interactions with each other for the past month revolved around Ultimate," said Ebnet. The two had to reserve field space, hire Campus Safety officers, ensure an athletic trainer would be on hand, mark fields, organize the Saturday night concert and contact teams to participate, among other important errands. After all the hard work, Bussey reflected on the success of the weekend. "It went really well," said Bussey. "A couple of teams had to cancel last minute, but besides that, the tournament went really smoothly."

The two teams that did not show up (UND and Critical Point) made for a hectic Saturday morning for Bussey, who had to reconfigure the pre-tournament pools and tournament bracket after weeks of working on each. The only other mishap occurred Sunday, as the newly formed Gustavus B-team, full of Bussey’s close personal friends, did not show up.

This unfortunate absence did not affect the mood of the A-team, also known as The High, who went on to win the tournament. The High defeated Minnesota State University-Mankato 13-10 in the final, ending the season on a “high” note. "We made huge progress this year," said Bussey. "We got shut out by Mankato at the beginning of the year, so beating them to win this tourney was great."

The team took a serious approach to conditioning this winter by running track workouts three times a week. This really paid off during the seven ninety-minute games played this weekend. "The athleticism of the players has really improved in the four years I have been playing here," said Ebnet. "It is no longer a sport reserved for long-haired hippies. Ultimate now attracts some extremely talented athletes, and conditioning is increasingly important."

Despite The High winning it all, perhaps the best team on the hill was the Gustavus Alumni team. Full of the best Gustavus players from the past eight years, the alumni team easily defeated Mankato on Saturday, but was forced to forfeit its semi-final game versus Mankato on Sunday due to plane departure times. The devotion of alumni for this program was evident, however, as past Gusties travelled from across the country to play in tournament. Players came from all over the country, including Denver, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles and other distant cities.

The devotion that these visits show seems to be growing, thanks to the leadership of Bussey and Ebnet. "There are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of Gustavus Ultimate," said Bussey. "For example, we have a youth tournament in a couple weeks which should increase interest in Gustavus Ultimate."

Ideas like this really show the interest these players take in their sport. It is this leadership that has helped Thrill on the Hill become a respected Ultimate tournament. "I was thoroughly impressed with the organization of The Thrill," said Senior B-teamer Jorge Munoz. "It is astonishing how much work these guys have put into the program this year."

The Return of the Thrill

A considerable group of both Gustavus students and recent alumni continued a tradition of frisbee this past weekend in an all-day event atop the hill.