Leaps and bounds: Gustavus Parkour Society

Senior Week festivities

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“I also like that Senior Week is planned by seniors. It’s pretty cool that seniors get to be a part of their last event at Gustavus.”

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Submitted

Matt Beachey
Staff Writer

If the next time you are making your way to the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, you happen across a few students hurling their bodies over the concrete wall that runs from the sidewalk to the front doors, do not be alarmed. They are most likely members of the Gustavus Parkour Society, practicing the death-defying, acrobatic art form that started in France in the “90s and has since taken the world by storm, appearing in countless movies, advertisements and YouTube videos.

What is parkour? It is difficult to categorize because it has no set rules or formal hierarchy. Parkour is perhaps best described as getting from point A to point B as quickly and efficiently as possible. It is often compared to skateboarding without a board and it usually takes place in urban environments, where participants soar under railings, down flights of stairs and over ten foot walls fluidly, with feline-like precision and agility. A practitioner of parkour is called a traceur.

“Parkour is a discipline similar to the martial arts. It’s about having control over your mind and body and reacting to your environment to overcome obstacles in your path. The idea is that this can be carried over into all facets of your life,” said Ben Bickel, a first-year computer science major and founding member of the Gustavus Parkour Society.

“Parkour in its most basic form is getting from one point to another fast and efficiently. It’s not about how you look while doing it—it’s about getting there following as direct a path as possible,” said First-year Griffin Hinwood, a founding member of the Gustavus Parkour Society.

Bickel and Hinwood, along with other members of Parkour Society, practice their skills by clambering over obstacles all over campus and throughout St. Peter. They run full speed toward three-foot-high walls, diving head-first toward what looks like an impending face plant, only to catch the ledge with outstretched hands. Then their legs swing around their weight-supporting arms like a monkey leaping through the trees. Finally, after vaulting their bodies over the wall, they hit the ground rolling to avoid breaking bones and emerge without a scratch.

Many students have seen the society practicing around campus. “It’s an impressive act of physical aptitude, and it’s awesome,” said Senior Psychology major Holly Andersen.

“Probably the most important step is learning how to roll so you won’t hurt yourself when you fall,” said Hinwood. “Learning how to do parkour is a different process for everyone—it depends on your body type and strength. It’s also important to have a good spatial awareness of your own body.”

Bickel and Hinwood started Gustavus Parkour Society with a few others this past fall. “It started with a group of us who were interested in parkour who just happened to find each other at the same time,” said Bickel.

“Senior” and “parkour” are not random words, and there are no official “moves” in parkour, as the idea is that each obstacle is unique and requires a different approach depending on body type, speed and style, there are a few general movements recognized by most traceurs, including the “Kong Vault” described above.

The “Dyno” involves jumping at a wall into a hanging position and from that point leaping to grab an even higher hold.

The “Cat Balance” is running from a sidewalk to the front doors, do

Submitted

Ally Billion
Staff Writer

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Thank you CAB executives for providing
The following events this past year:

-Twins vs. White Sox
-Timberwolves vs. Spurs
-Ice Skating at Depot
-Twins vs. Tampa Rays
-Doggy Dash 5k
-Greek Night
-Wicked
-A Christmas Carol
-Flamenco Dancers
-Raisin in the Sun
-Chapter 6 A Capella Group
-John Pomfret
-Adam Hunter
-Jason Lezak
-Steven Thompson
-RadioHead
-We the Living
-Cloud Cult
-Ben Lee
-The Modern Antiqu
-Michael Palasc
-Ari Herstand
-Gustie Night
-AdriAnne Lenker
-Santa Claus in the Courtyard Café
-Rachel Loy
-Steve Means
-Meg Allison
-Caitlyn Smith
-Tiff Jimber
-Teambuilding
-Randy Lee
-Pat Swetala
-Nancy Johnson-Dahl
-Darcy Matz
-Indian Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
-Step Brothers
-Halloween Movie Marathon
-Hancock
-Pineapple Express
-Hamlet 2
-The Dark Night
-Quantum of Solace
-Twilight
-Role Models
-Doubt
-Seven Pounds
-Curious Case of Benjamin
-Gran Torino
-Revolutionary Road
-Casino Night (2)
-Mentalist Christopher Carter
-First-Year Pancake Breakfasts
-Dancing with the Profs
-Stoplight Dance
-Valentine’s Day Fine Dine
-Comedy Sportz
-Bingo
-President’s Ball
-Mini golf
-Homecoming Week
-Window Painting in the Caf
-Dodgeball Competition
-Trivia
-Air Guitar Competition
-Variety Show
-Bonfire
-Fun Run
-Medallion Hunt

And check out these upcoming events sponsored by CAB:
Midnight Express & School’s Out Carnival (with PAs)

CAB Executives:
Whitney Langenfeld
Kevin Clevette
Charlene Brooks
Jeff Pedersen
Delphine Broccard
Jenny Broman
Adam Toppin
Eleanor Wood
Johanna Olmstead
Lacey Squier
Ashley Grodecki
John Rasmussen
Brian Krahulec

Thank You
CAB Execs
for all of
your hard work!
The "Tic Tac" is executed by running at a wall from one angle, then jumping and kicking off the wall in a different direction.

Traceurs also practice numerous distance jumps, usually followed with a roll. “We practice as much as we can,” said Hinwood. “Sometimes we film various moves. It takes a long time to get a shot right—it took us three hours last week just for one shot.”

As with any physical activity, safety is crucial. Because of its fast-paced and often acrobatic nature, parkour requires special care and extensive training before even the simplest moves can be practiced safely.

“It’s important to always know what you are and are not capable of and to stay within your own limits, and eventually over time you can build up your skills to perform more difficult maneuvers. Part of the philosophy of parkour is staying within your range while gradually pushing yourself to be better,” said Bickel.

Lindsay Leilivelt  
News Editor

Each year at Gustavus, dozens of thefts go unnoticed—and most of these thefts occur during the last few weeks of the semester. Students’ textbooks are one of the most commonly stolen items on campus, especially those that are hardcover, expensive and left unattended, according to Karen Zins, the manager of the Book Mark.

“No one thinks their books would be a target for thieves when they leave them for just a few minutes, but someone looking for a chance to make easy money is watching for an opportunity like that,” said Zins. The library isn’t the only place that books can be taken.

“I left a book in the middle of my section for a little while last year and someone took it. I never got it back,” said sophomore Physics Major Jon Kooistra. “Since I dropped like 500 bucks on books this semester, I’m not going to leave them lying around unattended.”

When a book is stolen, it is important to contact the Book Mark as soon as possible to report the theft. According to Zins, also important is the ability to identify the stolen property, such as circling a certain page in each of your books, to prove ownership.

“The information provided by the victim will be put in the computer system and pop up whenever that book title is brought back. The book buyer will be able to hold the book as “reported stolen” if it has the identifying marks.

Books are most often stolen from unattended tables and desks in the library. To prevent book theft, stick close to belongings.

This year we will be asking for your ID when you sell back books, so remember to bring it with you. No one will be able to sell their book without ID. That will allow us to have a record of all the books sold back by each person and should help deter book thefts,” said Zins.

Even though these thefts occur, they are often not reported to Campus Safety. If you want to report stolen property, call Campus Safety at x8888 or the Book Mark at x7588.

**WEEKLY Campus Safety Report**

**Sunday, May 3**
A Gustavus student was cited by Campus Safety for a liquor violation/underage consumption, failure to comply with a college official and policy violation of social host responsibility. A St. Olaf student was cited by the Campus Safety and St. Peter Police Department for liquor violation/underage consumption and trespassed from campus for one year.

A male was transported by ambulance to Immanuel Saint Joseph’s in Mankato.

**Monday, May 4**
A student while in Sohre Hall was transported to the St. Peter Hospital. Campus Safety issued the student an of-age liquor violation.

Six students while in Arbor View Apartments were cited for drug and narcotic violations. Three students were cited for an underage alcohol violation.

**Thursday, May 7**
Two Gustavus signs were reported vandalized.

An ambulance was dispatched to Gustavus for a person who had a laceration on the leg.

**Saturday, May 9**
The Gustavus sign by the Jefferson Street entrance was reported vandalized.

**Tip of the Week:**
Crime Prevention
1. Be aware. Recognize your vulnerability.
2. Report all suspicious people, vehicles and activities to Campus Safety immediately, using any campus blue light phone or by dialing x8888 from any campus phone.
3. Use the “buddy system,” and watch out for your neighbor.
4. Keep your doors locked whenever you find yourself alone in a building.
5. Report lights that are out and any hazardous conditions immediately to the Physical Plant Office at x7504.
6. If you see someone being victimized, notify Campus Safety.
7. Remember the location of emergency phones in academic buildings. Phones have also been placed in various locations on campus. Inside building phones are silver in color. Outside phones are blue in color with “Campus Safety” (formerly “Safety and Security”) marked on the side. Blue light phones will display a blue light at the top.
May 30.

“Senior Week” from page 1

“it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for graduating seniors. Senior Week is a time to celebrate relationships, accomplishments and four years of Gustavus culture, and it is a time to get ready to transition to life after graduation. For the College, this program is not only a time to support transitioning, graduating students, but it is also the institution’s window to provide reflection, closure and a bookend to the new student orientation program the Class of 2009 participated in back in September 2005,” said Rosenthal.

Megan Ruble, director of student activities, felt much the same way about this event. “It is a very important book-ending period of formal goodbyes. But unlike during [first-year] orientation, everyone is a lot more relaxed,” said Ruble.

Senior Week 2009 begins Tuesday, May 26 and ends Saturday, May 30.

Luke Garrison
Staff Writer

As cases of the Swine Flu (H1N1) started to appear in Minnesota, Gustavus decided it would not take any chances. “A campus team, including senior staff, faculty and health personnel, is meeting regularly to assess the evolving situation and to determine appropriate College responses,” said President Jack Olie in an e-mail to the Gustavus community.

H1N1, believed to have originated in Mexico, is classified as an “Influenza-like Illness,” according to the Center for Disease Control. What makes it dangerous, however, is the novelty of the virus.

“When something is new, the scary part is we do not know how that virus is going to act, and we do not necessarily have good tools for screening or treating it,” said Director of Student Health Services Heather Dale. Although over 50 H1N1-related deaths have occurred in Mexico, the death toll in the United States is only three.

Symptoms of the virus include a fever over 100.4 degrees, a sore throat and a cough. Fortunately, the virus is treatable. “We were fortunate here because medication already developed in the past does in fact work to kill this virus,” said Dale. But this does not mean that people are not concerned about the virus.

“Last Friday I went to the doctor, and it took an hour to actually see the doctor because everybody . . . is coming in because they have a cough and think it is the Swine Flu,” said Theatre and Dance Administrative Assistant Joleen Nickels.

“The Swine Flu is a pandemic, but that does not mean panic,” said Dale. “It is nothing more than a new virus beginning to grow and spread. Strep throat is a pandemic, too, because everyone has potential access to it, but we never think of strep throat in that way.”

Some feel the college is being too precautious about the virus. “I am not concerned I will get the virus . . . If you treat it right away, it will not kill you, so why did they create a college committee?” said Sophomore History and Religion Major Claire Sagstuen.

If a member of the Gustavus community were to be diagnosed with the Swine Flu, the response would be much less intense now than it would have been a few weeks ago. While some schools immediately evacuated upon learning of possible cases, the Center for Disease Control has now laid out a different protocol. “Currently recommendations are that a diagnosed person self-isolate, so they stay in their dorm room or go home and recover,” said Dale, who reiterated that a campus evacuation would be highly unlikely now.

When it comes down to it, common sense is the best defense mechanism. “The best thing everyone can do to prevent the spread of the illness is to simply keep your hands clean and maintain good health practices,” said Dale. This is why the college distributed bottles of hand sanitizer to members of the community to take and use.

In the case of flu-like symptoms (high fever, cough, runny nose, body aches, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea), students are encouraged to contact the Gustavus Health Services (lower level of the Jackson Campus Center, 933-7630). Non-students are encouraged to contact their own health-care provider(s). Health care professionals are in the best position to determine if you need influenza testing.

The campus team advises students to wash hands frequently with soap and warm water, especially after you cough or sneeze to prevent the spreading of germs.

The Bookmark
Final Days Fiesta Sale

begins on Monday, May 18th & runs through Wednesday, May 27th. Save 20% off most items. Some exclusions apply.

Book Buy at the Book Mark is
May 21 & May 22 8:30 to 4:30, May 23 (Sat) 10-4 and May 25 & May 26 8:30 to 4:30

I.D. REQUIRED (NEW THIS YEAR)
Remember to bring cd’s & other parts with books

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House for Rent

Spacious House
3 Blks from Gustavus
810 Madison
4br, 3 baths, Full Kitchen
A/C, Incl washer/dryer
Large backyard w/deck
$1600/month

Call 651-238-8578
Congratulations Seniors!

The following are messages to graduating seniors provided by their family and friends.

Congratulations Mike!
We are all very proud of you.
Love,
Dad, Kim, Jenna, Tom, & Brittany

Congratulations Laura!
Lisette, if the future seems overwhelmin-
ging, remember that it comes one mo-
ment at a time. Believe in yourself. We
are very proud of you.
Love always, Mom & Don

Congratulations Ashley!
You have worked so hard, and you did
it! We are so proud of you!
Congratulations!
All of our love,
Mom & Dad

Congratulations Britta!
You have had a great four years as a
Gustie. We are so proud of you. God’s
best blessings to you in the future. We
love you!
Mom, Dad, Anna & Christa

Congratulations Asitha/Aiya!
We are so very proud of you. You have
shown that you can achieve your goals
with tremendous heart and spirit.
Love,
Ammi, Thathi, Nangi & Sahan

Congratulations Emily!
You Did It Emme!
You had a dream and you achieved it!
Keep on dreaming all things are pos-
possible! We’re so proud! Congrats to you!
Mom, Dad, A.J. & Nate

Congratulations John!
You’ve worked hard, had fun, handled
adversity with grace, traveled the world
and made GREAT friends - all in four
years. You’re amazing, we are so proud
of you! Love, MDMA

Congratulations Emily!
We know you can accomplish anything
you want. We are so proud of your
achievement and especially the dear
person you are. We love you!
Mom, Dad, Laura & William

Congratulations Tasha!
We are so proud of you. You have been
a talented member of the speech team.
Follow your dreams and be an
inspiration to others. Love,
Mom, Dad, Tara, Romeo & Calli

Congratulations Jenny!
“In the end the love you take is equal to
the love you make.”
Mom, Dad & Jessica

Congratulations Mike!
We are all very proud of you. What an inspi-
ration to look back and see what you
have climbed! Your future is bright!
We love you, Mom, Jason, Nathan,
Josh & Cassie

Congratulations Laura!
Where are 18 down, 3 to go.
Congratulations Laura.
With much love and pride,
Mom & Dad

Congratulations Sara!
Sara, we are so proud of you. You chose
the right profession. Your kindness,
humor, compassion and determination
will serve you well all your life!
Love, Mom, Dad, Kevin & Alex

Congratulations Katie!
We are so proud of you, your
accomplishments, your medical
missions, the goals you met and
continue to meet.
Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Asitha/Aiya!
We are so very proud of you. You have
shown that you can achieve your goals
with tremendous heart and spirit.
Love,
Ammi, Thathi, Nangi & Sahan

Congratulations Seniors!
From Loligo pealeii, Haemopis grandis and Yucca brevifolia
to Odyssey and Aeneid.
The Renaissance Woman!
Congratulations Nathaniel!

Nathaniel, we know how hard you worked. Your brilliant future awaits! “I know the plans I have for your... plans for a hope and a future.” -Jeremiah 29:11

Mom & Dad

Congratulations Joel!

You have brought us nothing but joy. We wish you nothing less. We love you, Mom, Dad, Luke, Claire & Sam

Congratulations Greg!

Your many experiences (KGSM, being a CF, China, presidential search committee etc.) have helped shape you into the man you are today. We're proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad & Tony

Congratulations Dan!

Congratulations on your graduation and congratulations on your perfect 4.0 through all four years. We look forward to your next soulful chapter in your life. We love you.

Dad, Mom, David, Dayna & Megan

Congratulations Brian!

You did it— in your own unique style. We are so proud of you.

Mom, Dad, Erin & Sean

Congratulations Kevin!

Celebrate who you are— what you can bring to this world. This world needs you—the unique abilities that only you can give.

Love—Dad, Mom & Jackie

Congratulations Mikayela!

We always knew you would do it. We are so proud of you! Be the Super Star you are and Shoot for the stars.

Love, Ma & Rusty

Congratulations Anders!

We are so proud of you! You have morphed into such a wonderful young man during your years at Gustavus. You’ve accomplished so much and you’re just getting started! We love you, Mom, Dad & Beck

Congratulations Matthew!

You have truly been a gift given to us from God. You are very loved by us and all of your family. We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Breanna!

We are so proud of you and all you have accomplished in your years at Gustavus. We cannot wait what your future holds, but we know it will be GREAT because of you! We love you so much. Mom, Dad, Bridget & Beccie

Congratulations Lynsi!

From your first day at Norelius to your last day with the 6 pack, you have proven yourself a WINNER! The world is yours... YOU GO GIRL!!

Love, Mom, Dad & Brandon

Congratulations Tony!

Dear Tony, the world is yours. Everest is waiting. We are so proud of you. “God’s grace keeps pace with whatever we face.” Love from Heaven & Earth,

Dad & Mom

Congratulations Shawn!

Shawn, as your journey in life continues we congratulate you on your graduation from Gustavus. We are very proud of you and all your accomplishments.

Love, Mom, Dad & Pop

Congratulations Jessie!

We're so proud of the beautiful, smart woman you've become! Live, laugh, love and continue to learn! One-Two-Three.

Love, Mom, Nikki. Gell, too!

Congratulations Breanna! We are so proud of you and all you have accomplished in your years at Gustavus. We cannot wait what your future holds, but we know it will be GREAT because of you! We love you so much. Mom, Dad, Bridget & Beccie

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Love, Mom & Dad

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Congratulations Laura!

Dear Wawa, we are VERY proud of YOU!

You will make a fabulous teacher.

Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Joel!

You have brought us nothing but joy.

We wish you nothing less. We love you, Mom, Dad, Luke, Claire & Sam

Congratulations Joel!

We are so proud of you. Set your sights high and you can do all that you want to do. We love you!

Mom, Dad, Dan, Kelly & Elsa

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Love, Mom & Dad

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You have brought us nothing but joy.

We wish you nothing less. We love you, Mom, Dad, Luke, Claire & Sam

Congratulations Tim!

Your dreams are coming true.

Awesome!

We love you.

Mom & Dad
Congratulations Lauren!
You were created for a special purpose... those who love you find joy in the wonderful person you are. Get ready to soar-God has great plans for you!
Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Mike!
Your hard work and determination have helped you achieve success in school and in the pool. Those traits will carry you well into the future.
Love, Mom, Dad, Ben & Becca

Congratulations Maria!
"Mr. Stiglitz" Elementary teacher
You always knew what you wanted. You worked hard and achieved your dreams. We are so proud of you. Love always, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Dan!
We are so proud of your many accomplishments at Gustavus. We love you!
Mom, Marty, Sarah & Grandpa

Congratulations Carol!
Hard to believe the day has arrived and you’re on to your next adventure! Can’t wait to see what a great teacher you’re going to be. Much love and pride,
Mom

Congratulations Andrew!
We’ve laughed at your jokes, cheered for you at golf meets, agreed with your articles, and celebrated your achievements. We are so proud of you and love you!
Mom & Dad

Congratulations Matt!
Your hard work and determination have helped you achieve success in school and in the pool. Those traits will carry you well into the future.
Love, Mom, Dad, Ben & Becca

Congratulations Emily!
May there always be a Song in Your Soul and Love in Your Heart!
Love you,
Memz, Grandma Ruth, Grandpa Henry, Godmom Linda, Scott & the Fam!

Congratulations Dave!
What an incredible 4 years you’ve had. You have worked with determination & accomplished much. Cherish the friends and memories you’ve made. We are very proud of you. Love always, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Dana!
Congratulations Dana, enjoy the moment! Each day will bring new dreams. It’s your time to make a difference! We love you very much!
Mom & Dad & David

Congratulations Dan!
We are so proud of your many accomplishments at Gustavus. We love you!
Mom, Marty, Sarah & Grandpa

Congratulations Carol!
Hard to believe the day has arrived and you’re on to your next adventure! Can’t wait to see what a great teacher you’re going to be. Much love and pride,
Mom

Congratulations Ashley!
You were created for a special purpose... those who love you find joy in the wonderful person you are. Get ready to soar-God has great plans for you!
Love, Your Family

Congratulations Mike!
Way to go Mikey! We are so proud and blessed to have you as our son and brother. Dream big. We Love You!
Mom & Dad

Congratulations Maria!
“Mr. Stiglitz” Elementary teacher
You always knew what you wanted. You worked hard and achieved your dreams. We are so proud of you. Love always, Mom & Dad

Congratulations Dan!
We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. We can’t wait to see what you do next! Great job! We love you!
Mom, Dad, Emily, Nigel, Laura, & Anna

Congratulations Dana!
Congratulations Dana, enjoy the moment! Each day will bring new dreams. It’s your time to make a difference! We love you very much!
Mom & Dad & David

Congratulations Dan!
We are so proud of your many accomplishments at Gustavus. We love you!
Mom, Marty, Sarah & Grandpa

Congratulations Carol!
“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.” - Abigail Adams. You’ve seized both living and learning. Love Mom & Dad

Congratulations Jennifer!
Skydiver, scuba diver, bungee jumper, skier, tennis player, hunter, fisherman, world traveler and COLLEGE GRADUATE! You rock! We couldn’t be prouder.
Love, Mom, Dad, & Lindsey

Congratulations Heidi!
From Edelweis to Ave Maria, we’ve enjoyed your progression, every note to the grand finale! May your future be a medley of joy.
Love, Mom and Dean, Dad & Deb

Congratulations Andrea!
We are so proud of you and all you have accomplished.
Love and support to you, always.
Mom & Dad

Congratulations Jennifer!
Education is the foundation upon which you will build your future. Congratulations on a great start!
Love,
Diane

Congratulations Weekly Seniors!
Thank you for all the work you have done over the years. We will miss you and love you all!
Love, The Weekly non-Seniors
Star Trek lives up to high expectations

Ryan McGinty
Staff Writer

I’ve never been too big on Star Trek. I saw a few of the old movies when I was growing up, and I enjoyed them, but I did not love them. To put it simply, I was much more of a Star Wars guy—and proudly so. But now, having experienced the newest installment in the series (appropriately titled Star Trek), I am proud to admit my newfound love for Star Trek. Star Trek comes from the brilliantly geeky mind of J.J. Abrams (Cloverfield, Lost), and it’s quite apparent that he grew up watching and loving the old show. From what I’ve heard from true “trekkies,” the attention to detail is astounding on both the visual and the character level. The main actors do a great job mimicking the actors from the original series in speech, appearance and mannerism, while adding new traits, as well.

This film is not just another chapter in the now 11-movie series; it is a reboot in the same way that Batman Begins jump-started its franchise. We get to see the original stories of Kirk, Spock and the rest of the Enterprise crew. Thus, it’s not essential to have any prior knowledge of the series in order to enjoy the film, although seasoned fans will appreciate the nuances in character, as well as many classic lines from the series. The writers did a great job of simultaneously preserving everything that has come before this movie and giving it a fresh start. They did this by way of a convoluted time travel, black hole, alternate future story line that is often confusing and paradoxical. The best thing to do is to ignore the contradictions in logic and simply sit back and enjoy the film. All you need to know about the plot is that there is an evil Romulan from the future who wants to destroy a whole bunch of peaceful planets. He has a big ship with advanced weapons, and the Enterprise is Earth’s only hope for survival. I haven’t had so much down-right, unadulterated fun at a movie in a long time. I was as giddy as a little kid in the theater, oftentimes wanting to whoop and roar at the screen. The pace of the film is perfect, striking a balance between intense space battles, hand-to-hand brawls, plot developing dialogue and comic relief. It grabs your attention from the moment the first images flash across the screen and never lets go.

Star Trek is not just a great movie—it is an experience. Go see it. On a big screen. As soon as possible. Star Trek fan or not, if you love movies, you will enjoy Star Trek. I give it 3 out of 3 crowns.

Doggie Dash 5K

Drew Yackel-Juleen
Staff Writer

Dog lovers will be pleased to know that their pets will get a lot of attention this weekend. On Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the Gustavus and St. Peter communities are invited to take part in the first annual Doggie Dash 5K. The event is sponsored by the St. Francis Pound Pals Society and Gustavus Campus Activities Board, and it will involve both runners and dog walkers. Proceeds will benefit the construction of the new St. Peter Dog Park. The event will begin at Corman Park (Grace St. and S. Washington Ave., next to the St. Peter Community Center).

“Hopefully this is going to be an annual thing,” said Senior Psychology and History Major and Pound Pals Coordinator Erica Dobson. “We’ve been raising money for the dog park for the past couple of years, and we’ve gotten up to $6,000, which is about a third of what we need, because the total cost is going to be around $18,000. Hopefully we can make good progress toward our goal with the Doggie Dash.”

“Right now dog owners don’t have any space for their pets in town. Anywhere they go [dogs] have to be on a leash. The dog park will have fences so that dogs can run around without the owners having to worry about them running away,” said Dobson.

“Students will be able to register for free at the tables outside the [Market Place] this week,” said Junior Management Major and CAB’s Recreation Executive Adam Toppin. “Students can also register on Saturday at the park. We will be selling T-shirts for $10 to help raise more money.”

“This is a great opportunity for all dog lovers to get out, to enjoy the outdoors with their pets in town,” said Toppin.

Treats will be given to the dogs when they finish the course, and prizes will be awarded to the first three runners. Community registration will take place via mail-in forms which can be picked up at the Kind Veterinary Clinic, the Cornerstone Wellness Center, The Pulse and Anytime Fitness.

Registration for community members is $15 and includes a T-shirt. Event organizers expect participant turnout to be strong and weather to be warm and sunny.

507-934-8993
PJ’s Pizzeria
403 S. Minnesota Ave.
St. Peter, MN

Congratulations Seniors!
Large Topping Pizza & Cheese Bread $9.99
Second Large Pizza $6.99

For Tuesday
Free Large 1 Topping with the purchase
of a Large or Jumbo Calzone at regular price

Toppings $1.00 each

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

To the Class of 2009 and students of Gustavus Adolphus College

“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

“May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.”

Friend in Christ, Tommerdahl@aol.com
The next time you are in the basement of the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, check out the computer by the first printer to your left. This is the favorite study spot of Senior History and Music Honors Major Hannah Wunsch. “I think I’ve written nearly every academic paper for the last four years at that computer,” the Omaha, NE native said. “And when you’re a history major, that’s a lot of freakin’ papers.”

Indeed it is. But history is just one of Hannah’s subjects, and her primary passion lies in choral music. She is the Soprano Section Leader for the Gustavus Choir, a charter member of the Gustavus Cantorum chamber group and went abroad for the spring of 2008 to study the history of opera and performance practices in Milan.

“This Sunday she will be performing her Senior Voice Recital in Björling Recital Hall. It is the culmination of four years of vocal instruction from Adjunct Professor Rebecca McConnaughey. “Hannah is special,” said McConnaughey. “She has that rare combination of qualities: a fine intellect, superb talent, the courage to stretch herself, and a passion for making music.”

The recital will feature guest artists Junior Alison Ulke and Senior Kendra Mays, as well as Hannah’s first printing to the right. This is the first time Hannah has, over the course of her time at Gustavus, been the managing editor for THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY, served as an overnight hostess for admissions, academic assistant for the Department of History and even played intramural softball. As if this were not enough, she also wishes she had tried out for the main stage theatrical productions at Gustavus. “I acted in high school, but here I was way too intimidated,” she said.

But Hannah also acknowledged that her tendency to be over-involved was one of her biggest challenges to overcome at college. “It’s better when you can give 110 percent to a few activities you are extremely passionate about, rather than spread yourself too thin and have no time for anything,” said Hannah.

When she’s not staying busy, Hannah enjoys daydreaming over celebrity crushes Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale, snacking on PJ’s Pizza cheesy bread, watching Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and procrastinating while on mylife.com. Hannah admits, with a mixture of shame and pride, that she has viewed all 8,000 pages of the website. “It’s sad and embarrassing, but I love it,” Hannah said.

Being embarrassed is nothing new to this young lady. She recalls an incident during her first First-year Orientation as a Gustie Greeter: “It was the first day, and my Greeter Group was still a little uncomfortable around each other. We were all in the [Market Place], and some- one started the roser. I stood up on my chair to clap along, and the chair slipped out and I fell over in front of the entire [Market Place]. My group bonded pretty fast after that.”

While not toffeling from stationary furnature, Hannah has been an inspiration to her fellow students. “Hannah is such a wonderful person!” said Sophomore Communication Studies Major Berit Gerheim. “She has a big heart and a contagious smile. She was my Gustie Greeter and I couldn’t have asked for a better welcome to Gustavus.”

Senior Communication Studies Kendra Mays said, “Hannah’s so dedicated to everything she does and is always looking out for her friends and those that she admires.”

Hannah has few regrets for her time at college. She has avidly been checking off activities on her “100 Things To Do at Gustau- vus List,” and claims it is down to five or so items. She urges Gustavus to get involved and try something new, even if just to dabble. She also recommends studying abroad and getting out of one’s comfort zone. “Studying abroad made me more con- fident, more independent and a bigger risk-taker. I’m not scared about next year, because being in a foreign country taught me to trust myself.”

Next year Hannah will put this self-reliance to the test as she moves out west to Boulder, CO. There she will be enrolling at the University of Colorado and studying for her Master’s Degree in Choral Conducting with an emphasis on Vocal Performance. So next year, if you find yourself at the computer by the first printer to your left in the basement of the Folke Bernadette Memorial Library, understand that a very talented and gifted Gustie once shared your seat.

The Gustavus Symphony Orchestra will give its last performance of the year on Saturday, May 30 during Senior Week.

**Gustie of the Week:**

**Hannah Wunsch: Ending on a high note**

**Maggie Sotos**

**Staff Writer**

As trumpets blare and cymbals crash, the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra will end another year of performances with its Season Finale on Sat- urday, May 30. The event, held every year during Senior Week as a way of sending off the graduating class, will include an eclectic variety of works from Johannes Brahms to John Williams and will feature the winners of this year’s concerto and aria competition.

“This concert is a last thing to offer the community, and when I say ‘community’ I mean the greater Gustavus community: students, alumni and people from St. Peter,” said Director of Fine Arts Al Behrends. “Most students are away from campus at the time—the only seniors are left—so the audience is mostly the extended part of the Gustavus community.”

The orchestra will be selecting pieces that kind of have the feeling of looking forward and making new decisions,” said Warren Friesen, conductor of the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra.

Most of these pieces are clas- sical in nature, but all have been specially chosen to send a particular message to this year’s graduating class.

“For example, one of these pieces upon receiving an honor- ary doctorate in music, and it was actually a bit of a scandal when he performed it,” said Friesen. “It incorporates tunes from four popular drinking songs from the time, so it’s sort of Brahms’ way of mocking academia and what it stands for. In other words, because it’s Brahms, it’s never quite a work of gen- ius.”

Also on the program is a portion of John Williams’ Theme from Superman,” and Aaron Copland’s “Prayer of Living.”

The two winners of this year’s concerto and aria competition, Senior English Major Azra Halilovic and Junior Biology Major Tom Oelke, will be performing with the orchestra. Oelke will be playing a Gordon Jacob piece for trombone, and Halilovic will be playing a Johann Sebastian Bach Concerto on the piano.

One unique aspect of this year’s program is that the Gustavus Choir will be joining the orchestra on three pieces. The combined performances include a musical arrangement of Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken.”

“This year’s performance is also very different for the many stu- dents who have played under the guidance of Conductor Fri- esen’s baton, as this is Friesen’s last year at Gustavus and his last time directing the Symphony Orchestra.

“That makes it a sentimental thing,” said Behrends. “It will be a bittersweet concert and the last of 180 events this year, so it’s an end of the year celebration, but it will be sad to see this era of Symphony Orchestra end.”

“He’s really grown the pro- gram since he came here,” said Senior Honors Communication Studies and Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies Major Katie Mason. “He’s the reason a lot of students came here to Gustavus. ... There will be a void there next year.”

Although this year’s Season Finale is a bittersweet affair for those at Gustavus who have grown to love and respect Friesen, those who attend will certainly enjoy a beautiful send- off for Warren Friesen and the Class of 2009.

“It’s amazing that each year we get to this point. ... It’s an absolute dead heat from the first day to the end of the year, and then you get ready to do it all over again in the fall,” said Behrends.

The Gustavus Symphony Orchestra Season Finale will be on Saturday, May 30 at 8:00 p.m. in Christ Chapel.
As summer approaches and the urge to break out of the Gustavus bubble and into the world beyond sets in, don’t let the broke student, recession-time blues get you down. With gas prices on the rise, news anchors clamoring about the dismal state of our economy and student loans pending, what is an antsy Gustie to do? Hit the road, of course. If you caught the travel bug and thought you didn’t have the money to travel around the world, don’t worry. If you took the time to look into it on a budget and you can too. So make some peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, grab a stack of crossword puzzles, throw an almanac in the car and let the soul-searching, eye-opening, wrong-turning, open-roading adventures begin.

Looking for literary inspiration? This is the route for you. When Jack Kerouac hit the road with his poet pal Allen Ginsburg, both of them found artistic inspiration. If it worked for Jack it’ll work for you. You’ll be writing lines like this in no time:

“The air was soft, the stars so fine, the promise of every cobbled alley so great, that I thought I was in a dream” (from On the Road, Kerouac).

Maybe you want a route to guarantee soul-searching philosophical revelations? Burn rubber on the route that inspired thoughts like these:

“We lay on our backs looking at the ceiling and wondering what God had wrought when He made life so sad. (from We lay on our backs looking at the ceiling and wondering what God had wrought when He made life so sad. (from We lay on our backs looking at the ceiling and wondering what God had wrought when He made life so sad. (from On the Road, Kerouac)."

Warning: This trip involves a high level of historical intensity. Not for the faint of heart.

What’s in Hodgenville, KY anyway?
The cabin Abe was born in, of course — or at least a replica of it. At least it was made from cabins from Austin Gollaher’s home. Never heard of Gollaher? He is Lincoln’s schoolmate, of course.

Don’t miss Springfield, IL’s Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. It is a premier repository for all artifacts Lincoln.

Must-see stops along the way?
The Devil’s Tower in North Dakota, the Pacific Ocean in Washington, Crater Lake in Oregon, Chinatown in San Francisco, the mouth of the Klamath River in Eureka, California.

Any advice for road-trippers on a budget?
The more people you travel with, the more money you save. We always had five guys, and that really helped minimize the costs. We spent most nights in either a tent at a public camping ground or national park, which are very cheap if not free.

Any last bit of money-saving insight? Say off your friends and family whenever possible. They are usually willing to feed and shelter you for free (and you can usually get a shower this way, which might be the only one you get).

Road-trip philosophy?
Cover the most distance possible during Spring Break. We drove about nine hours a day.

Vehicle driven?
We borrowed my uncle Webster’s mid’ 90’s white minivan. It wasn’t the coolest vehicle, but it had enough space for the five of us and all of our stuff.

Highway 1, which is right along the coastline.

Memorable experiences others are sure to have if they drive from San Francisco to Portland?

In a cool, three story bookstore called Powell’s books in Portland, OR.

Decent way to pass an afternoon out of the car?
The Redwood Forest, the Golden Gate Bridge and the awesome coastline.

Sights to break up the monotony of hours on the highway along the way?
The Devil’s Tower in North Dakota, the Pacific Ocean in Washington, Crater Lake in Oregon, Chinatown in San Francisco, the mouth of the Klamath River in Eureka, California.

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Minneapolis to Portland to San Francisco on Highway 1, which is right along the coastline.

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As graduating seniors, we are constantly bombarded with queries like, “What will you be doing next year?” “Have you found a job yet?” or “Why aren’t you wearing pants?” These are valid issues to inquire about, but they are surpassed by the far more frequently asked question: “What are you going to be when you grow up?”

By no means should we limit our answers to career options, like teacher or doctor or accountant. I interpret this question more as, “What are you going to do when you grow up?” And here’s my list:

I plan to go to my ten-year high school reunion; but it won’t be “Maggie” who goes to the party. It will be RoboMaggie. Yes. I shall biologically replace all of my major organs with metal gears and plates thick enough to survive a nuclear holocaust. I shall retain my human en-doskeleton but fuse it with a liquid metal so that I may take on the form of anyone I touch. I will basically become the bad guy from Terminator 2.

Now the first question you ask is, “Who the f@#$ would do that to themselves? And why are you still not wearing pants?” Patience, my pet, and I will explain. When people go to their high school reunions, it can easily become a “one upmanship” competition. But I will out-doe them all with my android anatomy.

Think about it! With my super-strength and morphing shape, I’ll be stronger than the old quarterback; I’ll be hotter than the most buxom trophy wife and I’ll drink every boozer under the table, since the alcohol will not affect me whatsoever (save for a little rust). You plan on going back to your stomping ground with a CEO hubby and a Corvette? That’s nice; oh, did I mention I can make my arms turn into metal objects? Boo-ya.

At some point in my life, I will also get back at my sister Mary. Mary, being older and naturally tyrannical, filled my childhood with hand-me-down clothes, Barbies with cut-off hair and the constant nagging that I wasn’t eating healthily enough. If my sister should decide to have children, I shall exact my revenge through them. I will become the “Wow, You’re So Much Cooler Than My Mom!” Aunt Maggie.

When my nieces and/or nephews come over, they shall have nothing but pizza, brownie batter and soda; I will forbid them from eating vegetables. We’ll watch cartoons all day in our pajamas as I regale them with tales of how their mother used to wet the bed (not true, but an entertaining story). At the end of the weekend, I’ll send them home with obvious toys that emit loud, high-pitched noises and have a million separate pieces that will hurt when stepped on by unsuspecting adults.

And to top it off, those kids will be begging to visit again. How do you like them apples, Mary? This will make us even for the time you left my P.J. Sparkles at the park. Betch.

But most importantly on my bucket list is to become that creepy old lady down the block who everyone is afraid of but really has a heart of gold. I will let my garden grow out of control and allow the paint on my house to peel, giving it a certain abandoned look. I’ll have a rocking chair on our front porch, and if kids pass by I’ll scream at them, “Gert owa mah lawn, punks!” A BB gun might be a handy prop to have for that.

Oh, and I will have cats. Thousands of cats.

At Halloween, children will dare each other to run up and touch “Old Lady Sotos’” front door. And maybe I’ll occasionally catch one of these young scamps, drag him into my house, terrified and shaking, but then serve him caramel apples or something. We’ll talk about how the kids at school are mean to him, how he’s sad his dad is always on business trips and how there’s a really nice girl in his class who he doesn’t have the guts to talk to. When he leaves, he’ll have my permission to tell his friends that I tortured him in my dungeon, and be only managed to escape by brute strength and raw courage alone. He’ll be a hero on the playground for months.

Ah, but those days will come soon enough. For now, my sights are set on a yet-to-be-determined future and a good chance of crashing on my parents’ couch between jobs. Oh, well. At least they’ve got cable. Thanks for three years of putting up with my rants. It’s been a pleasure. Interpret that as you will.

On the lighter side... When I grow up

I’ll get you, my kitties!

Eliza L. Swedenborg

Commentary Editor

I am collecting beautiful things. Mix CDs, photographs, Catalpa pods and campfire smoke. Spontaneous sing-alongs and potentially embarrassing dance-scapes. Late nights with deep mugs of coffee, sunsets on Physical Plant Mountain and dirt under my fingernails. And wind.

It’s about time I pack ‘em all up.

I know a good number of students who made the decision to come to Gustavus simply because of a “vibe” or a “feeling,” and I am no different. I think that was a pretty solid decision on my part.

As a soon-to-graduate senior, it’s essentially obligatory to be a bit nostalgic, think back through the last four years and even tour memory lane with the help of everyone’s favorite social documentation station: The Facebook. I feel a little stupid mentioning it, but hey! Our class was the first to experience all four years with this state-of-the-art time-sucking tool, and when nostalgia is the goal, The Facebook is pretty darn effective.

Anyway, thinking back through the last few years, I think it’s safe to say that it went all right. I didn’t experiment with the D-word (dreadlocks), so my dad is happy about that. I survived Organic Chemistry II (sick) and Cell and Molecular Biology (barely), so now I can play that card for the rest of my life. I never successfully persuaded anyone in power to add “sheepherder” to the list of work-study positions (to cut the cost of mowing the lawn, of course), but I suppose that’s what alumni power is for.

Speaking of alumni, imagining what my fellow seniors will be doing next year is a fun game. I suppose I feared that we would all take off and disappear like water on a wood-burning stove, and that is somewhat the case. I know seniors who will be starting med school, baking, leading trips in Patagonia, farming, teaching special education through Teach for America, teaching English in China, going to graduate school in Alaska and maybe even singing for the Minnesota Opera. Wow, we’re pretty awesome.

Gusties like to talk about how we’re too involved. On top of class work, we all have at least ten extracurriculars. For the most part, I believe that we do this because we believe in what we’re doing. We enjoy being engaged and being a part of whatever change we wish to see in the world. When I look at my fellow graduating seniors, I see good people. I sincerely hope that we will continue to be as engaged and passionate wherever we end up as we are here.

We’re not exactly graduating into any sort of economic, environmental or political paradise, so we’ve got our jobs cut out for us. Or our lack of jobs, if that’s how you want to put it. This may not be particularly reassuring to you, but my mom believes in us. All of the energy and engagement people devoted to the election last fall gave her a lot of hope, and I think that a good number of other adult-type people felt the same way.

I am collecting beautiful things. Clouds of cherry blossoms, catalpa pods and campfire smoke. Monster bars and Coldplay in the cafeteria (thank you, Jesus). Cilantro. Black and gold face paint. And a little more wind.

Thank you, Gustavus. I’ll be seeing you.

Perks of being a wildflower

This I believe

Maggie Sotos

Staff columnist

I’ve been at Gustavus just long enough to stop and smell the cherry blossoms — and to know that I’m going to miss them.

Eliza L. Swedenborg

Commentary Editor

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As a soon-to-graduate senior, it’s essentially obligatory to be a bit nostalgic, think back through the last four years and even tour memory lane with the help of everyone’s favorite social documentation station: The Facebook. I feel a little stupid mentioning it, but hey! Our class was the first to experience all four years with this state-of-the-art time-sucking tool, and when nostalgia is the goal, The Facebook is pretty darn effective.

Anyway, thinking back through the last few years, I think it’s safe to say that it went all right. I didn’t experiment with the D-word (dreadlocks), so my dad is happy about that. I survived Organic Chemistry II (sick) and Cell and Molecular Biology (barely), so now I can play that card for the rest of my life. I never successfully persuaded anyone in power to add “sheepherder” to the list of work-study positions (to cut the cost of mowing the lawn, of course), but I suppose that’s what alumni power is for.

Speaking of alumni, imagining what my fellow seniors will be doing next year is a fun game. I suppose I feared that we would all take off and disappear like water on a wood-burning stove, and that is somewhat the case. I know seniors who will be starting med school, baking, leading trips in Patagonia, farming, teaching special education through Teach for America, teaching English in China, going to graduate school in Alaska and maybe even singing for the Minnesota Opera. Wow, we’re pretty awesome.

Gusties like to talk about how we’re too involved. On top of class work, we all have at least ten extracurriculars. For the most part, I believe that we do this because we believe in what we’re doing. We enjoy being engaged and being a part of whatever change we wish to see in the world. When I look at my fellow graduating seniors, I see good people. I sincerely hope that we will continue to be as engaged and passionate wherever we end up as we are here.

We’re not exactly graduating into any sort of economic, environmental or political paradise, so we’ve got our jobs cut out for us. Or our lack of jobs, if that’s how you want to put it. This may not be particularly reassuring to you, but my mom believes in us. All of the energy and engagement

The Gustavian Weekly
During an interview last week with television personality Charles Grodin, Fox News' Sean Hannity agreed to be water-boarded for charity. A bold pledge no one is sure to hold him to, but it is an interesting one to think about. Perhaps after he is water-boarded, Hannity will learn the golden rule the rest of us learned as four-year-olds back in preschool: treat others as you would like to be treated.

It is not my typical fare to make such a simple point, but Hannity and his minions' ignorance of this rule are threatening the American Dream. They approach torture the way most people approach fun runs: as if beating the hell out of people is an important part of finding out who cheated on the trigonometry final. Colleges should start allowing students to put courses on "enhanced interrogation" toward graduation so that they are prepared to compete as citizens of the nation and the world. This is, according to Hannity and his ilk, the ideal world—the world that will keep us safe from evil and terrorism.

Something tells me that Sean Hannity, the family man, would not actually agree to instilling these values in our children and creating that world, but therein lies the root of the issue. He does not understand the judicial disconnect that allowing torture—or "enhanced interrogation"—has on broader society. He does not understand that the same arguments that OK torture would OK those lessons above. We are not a nation that tortures, nor are we a people that beats our enemies to get answers. We should be ashamed and demand that justice be brought to all those who tortured, even if they were just following orders.

This is the last time I will be writing for THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY, and I thought I would take a moment to reflect on the issues and purposes of my commentary. I was having a hard time figuring out what, exactly, my purpose was writing here for this publication until I saw this clip from Hannity's show, just days after watching him and many others criticize President Obama for using Dijon mustard on a ham sandwich.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should note that I voted for Obama, but that does not make me a blind loyalist. When I heard a few weeks ago that not a single American would be prosecuted for torturing our enemies, I was appalled. The mainstream media is criticizing Obama for taking a page from Chavez' book and being respectful toward the people with whom we disagree, but when we are a people that subs those with whom we do not get along?

Obama's willingness to talk and reason with other nations should be seen as a strength, but the media should be going after him for not prosecuting any of the people involved in approving and carrying out the "enhanced interrogations"—let's also start being honest, it's torture—that now weighs like a badge of shame on our nation. It makes us no better than our so-called enemies, and our war against them no more just. Ending these torture tactics without bringing to justice the people who blindly carried them out endorses and vindicates those tactics, and that threatens the integrity of our justice system.

In the last two years I never cared about readership. I write these columns for the same reason I do the weekly radio show you never listen to: because someone needs to put this insane world into perspective. I am not so naive to think that anyone should care about what I say, but if I can give a voice to those with no other venue for expression, I have done my job.

The sheer amount of awesome professors here is a great reason to come to Gustavus. I think the best ones have to do with those connections I mentioned earlier. Gustavus, whether we think it needs work or not, has been a community for a long time now. It's the human face of Gustavus that seems to be our biggest asset—the idea that Gusties are people, too.

Up until this last September, there was a woman in the Office of Institutional Advancement who recruited my older brother while she was working for admissions. This woman kept talking to my family well after my brother came to Gustavus and after she stopped working in admissions. That's commitment; my family is not that easy to talk to. She managed to slip away to Concordia; Where it seems, the lesson is the same: Gustavus is, and should be, about people.

But why else should people come to Gustavus? We have amazing professors, professors like—and this is a biased list—Deane Curtin, Lisa Heldke, Doug Huff, Richard Leitch, Alisa Rosenhall and Toshiyuki Sakuragi. While our faculty has been going through a lot lately, the only thing I can hope for Gustavus is that these professors, and others like them, stick around. Gustavus would be a sad place without people like these. I'm sure we all have our lists of awesome professors here at Gustavus, and it's not surprising because this institution is chock full of great professors. I can only hope it stays that way.

So, I guess you can take this last commentary article as a bit of a plea: Please, please, Gustavus don't screw this up.

Stay classy, Gustavus.

Continued on page 15
The way things ought to be

Warning: May Contain Naïve Idealism

Steve Palmer
Staff columnist

You know what is a real problem? When a side claims that selfishness is “human nature,” a common refrain to avoid discussing the idea of a more equitable society. One’s stance on human selfishness lies at the heart of many political discussions, and one’s opinion on the matter is often a sign of where the person lies on many issues.

Saying that human nature is essentially “bad” and selfish is an end-all stance. The problems with this pessimism toward humanity are that it ignores the lofty possibilities for human kind (I really do think we are capable of amazing things), ignores the fact that cultures and societies can change drastically even in short periods of time and assumes there is something called “human nature,” a tangible set of behaviors that define humanity.

I am going to go make a completely contrary claim: there is no such thing as “human nature.” Everything humans do is natural because we humans are a part of nature. Human nature is anything we want it to be. There is no set rule for how humans have to act. We humans may be selfish and can wage pointless, vicious wars, but we can also be loving, creative and kind.

For thousands of years, people around the planet enslaved other people. There was slavery in our country 150 years ago. For those thousands of years, nobody could have conceived of not having slavery. It seemed unimaginable. Yet, most people around the globe look down upon slavery. People have made a moral assertion that other people should not be property and incorporated it into their systems. It started with abolitionists world-wide making a statement and now their sentiment is the status quo.

Less than 100 years ago, women were not viewed as equal to men and couldn’t vote. Likewise, with the efforts of suffragists, they now can. The civil rights movement made advances for minorities that would not have been conceivable prior to that point. Likewise with feminism in the 70s. While these movements have not solved every problem, the point of all this is to show that societies can change. Human beings have the mental capacity to rearrange morality and, as a result, unimaginable things can happen.

A free and equal society might not exist now, and indeed, it might be inconceivable to those pessimistic about human nature (or to those who are content with the way things run), but if we accept that human nature is too complex to categorize as “good” or “bad,” and might not exist at all, the realm of possibilities for our planet and personal existence is much wider and would have never ended if nobody had spoken against it.

Here are some ideas I have that might seem lofty and unrealistic and unimaginable, but I sincerely believe we are capable of them.

Number one: renting yourself to be able to survive, like the worker-manager structure of our modern economy, is wrong. This setup causes society to be so unequal as to have those who contribute the least to the world earn the most wealth, while those who are the backbone of our economy and society make up a massive middle and bottom.

Two: war is an unnecessary relic. We need to realize how animalistic it is, how nine times out of ten it is waged in the self-interest of those at the top of society, that most citizens have no self-interest in seeing wars waged in their name.

Three: perhaps we don’t need men and women in suits in national governments to tell us how to solve our problems. The structures of governance need to be reevaluated and the concept of the national-state re-thought. “Nations,” groups of people who share cultural origins, are different than “states”—governments. When governments try to derive a common cultural identity out of hundreds of different cultures within their borders, wars rage and thousands die. Nationalism is the root problem of many ills on our planet. Nation-states command by men and women in suits should be dismantled.

If we have the mental capacity to reason between choices, we should do it. Rather than rely on human history’s record of wars, cruelty and slavery to guide us into the future, we could take lessons from the past as something to not continue doing. Maybe it is inevitable that we will plunder the planet of all its resources, leading to our downfall and possible extinction, but it is also natural for some people to want to resist this.

You can say that humans are naturally selfish and evil, but why not be a little optimistic? The world might seem bleak now, and maybe it has sometimes been a bleak place, but why wouldn’t we want the best for those who come after us? Nothing would have changed in the world if everyone excluded the possibilities for change. Why not at least wish for a better planet than we found?

Kevin Matuseski
Staff columnist

During a recent class discussion, someone brought up the Horatio Alger myth, the belief that anyone can go from “rags to riches” if he or she works hard enough. It was mentioned subtly, amongst a few other overarching points, but when another classmate heard it, she said, “I believe in that completely.” After trying a little further, I figured out that she did not believe in the “myth” of meritocracy, but in meritocracy itself. Furthermore, she believed that the United States is a meritocracy. She said it’s just turned out to be truly inspiring, but did not back up her claim. It was her classic rags to riches story, one where the father grew up having to sleep on the floor because the family could not afford a bed. Then, this father worked long hours at a grocery store to help pay the bills and, eventually, made it out of poverty. Although I strongly believe that the myth of meritocracy is indeed a myth, I was inspired by her story, and I have great respect for her father who made it out of poverty because of his hard work. However, we cannot make generalizations about the whole country based on one story, and we cannot assume that everyone’s life will allow him or her to use rugged individualism to make it to the top. There are too many factors that can go wrong with someone’s life. Individualism can only get you so far, and sometimes the only path to a happy and comfortable life is through the help of others.

Mental illness is one factor that healthy people tend to overlook. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, there are over 17 million American adults diagnosed with depression each year. How can we expect people to go from rags to riches if their mental illness will not allow them to function?

Sometimes we forget that not everyone has the same mental capabilities. We think, “I was in a rough spot, but I pulled through.” It is not always pure laziness that holds someone back. Bad luck and injustice can also play huge roles. I am not trying to rationalize or make excuses for people who do not live up to their full potential. That wouldn’t be beneficial for anyone. I think individual effort is important, and we still can believe everyone can succeed. However, the reason I try so hard to illuminate the Horatio Alger myth is because we are doing the world a great disservice by believing everyone can make it through his or her individual struggles without help. I have heard people say, “My family has always been supportive. In our household, we believe anything is possible.” What about individuals with unsupportive families? How do they muster up the motivation to succeed? Sometimes the only possible way to succeed is to receive help from others.

Movies like The Pursuit of Happyness and stories by Horatio Alger can be inspiring. In fact, The Pursuit of Happyness is one of my favorite movies. However, I also think books and movies that portray rags-to-riches stories can also be problematic. People tend to think, “If this person did it, why can’t everyone else?” This can ultimately lead people to rationalize about not helping someone in need. The fact that one person succeeded on his or her own does not mean everyone else can. We cannot let an optimistic worldview overshadow the pressing need to help each other.

I do believe that the American Dream exists, and I do not want to make it sound like it is impossible for certain people to make it in this country. However, because of all the injustice and ugliness in the world, it is going to take much more than rugged individualism to make the American Dream come alive. This country is a great place to live. It really is the land of opportunity, but that includes the opportunity to help others. I hear it all the time: “Anything is possible if you try hard enough.” I am going to edit that a bit and conclude, “Anything is possible if you try hard enough and have enough support from your fellow human beings.”

Tackling the beast

It’s called a myth for a reason

Warning: May Contain Naïve Idealism

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Staff columnist

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Dear Editor,

Walking into the Market Place, what do most students proceed to do without hardly thinking about it? Grab a tray, of course! Why? Because you have a place to set your stuff, and it’s so darn convenient! But your convenient friend who is always there when you need him may have something to hide.

The overuse of trays in the Market Place is a problem that many students aren’t aware of. Most people are unconscious of what effect it is having on our community. Many students on our campus are unaware that schools across the country are going “trayless” to reduce the impact on the environment and save money in our current economy.

I’m writing about this today to encourage students to think before they pick up a lunch tray. Look around you. How often do you see students in many universities’ cafeterias because of the water and food waste they are committing? A quick count of the time a tray is washed, up to a half a gallon of water is used. Also, taking a tray creates the feeling of needing to fill every square inch of the tray with food, causing excess food waste.

I know it seems difficult to carry all of your food and drinks at the same time or inconvenient to go to the Market Place to get that extra cookie. I’m not saying that we have to ban trays all together, but I encourage you to think the next time you pick up your tray about the effect it is having on our campus. If you don’t need a tray, put it down. If you’re using a single plate and have a single drink, just carry it.

So, loosen your grip on your tray, and go enjoy all the memories. It’s not just about the food and drinks, but the laughs, stories, friendships and new experiences that you accumulate. It’s about the friends you share in the library, the glory of the Nobel Conference, the climate change in the library, the memories of that extra cookie. I’m not saying that you should introduce yourself to your future spouse or get your first job.

Push your boundaries. If you travel abroad, taste the local food. If you don’t want to cook with the locals and try new things. In Fiji, I had the opportunity to jump off a water fall, and it is one of the most thrilling things I have done in my life. Senior Bri Otis explained, “There are some pretty cool life experiences that you’d otherwise miss if you stuck to what you know.”

Keep on keeping on. We all have hectic weeks. It is important to focus your mind, grit your teeth and keep trucking. In order to succeed at Gustavus and beyond, it is imperative to remain studious throughout college. Although if you already studied for your test tomorrow and your friends are baking cookies or watching a movie, put down your books and take a break! Don’t get me wrong, studying is necessary, but use time management to make sure these amazing years are full of laughs, stories, friendships and memories.

Sincerely,
Chloe Goldade ’12

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With the help of some friends, I created the top 10 tips from a graduating senior.

1. Never judge a book by its cover. Always keep an open mind and heart; people surprise you. It is easy to assume anything about a person before you get to know him or her. In college, stereotypes disappear, and jocks become friends with cheerleaders! Like me and my hockey playing boyfriend … who knew?

2. Word travels. On this small campus, people talk!“Bill told Jenny and Jenny told me that Al-li saw John walking out of your dorm room on Sunday morn-ing!”Barf. Someone is always watching, so be careful who you tell your secrets to!

3. The Gustavus Market Place = the freshman 15. Yes, I realize you always have to cook meals at your fingertips, but it catches up! Loves me some ramen but stay away from onion soup, it’s not the same!

4. Save money! As you become a savvy Gustavus student, you will discover money-saving techniques that do not include stealing food from the Market Place. Decorate your room with “Wet Floor” signs, convert the corn the Market Place disposes into corn ethanal in order to run your car and sell the condemned PAs give to high schoolers on the corner of Grace and Washington. Just kidding!

In reality, you should watch movies on campus, eat free food at on-campus events when possi-ble and buy a book from the Bookmark with a friend or on-line. Don’t hate me, Bookmark ladies! Times are hard!

5. Don’t just breathe the air. We pay almost $40,000 a year to attend Gustavus. This large sum does not just include classes, food and housing. This money allows you to travel across the country with teams, view newly released movies on campus, attend music concerts, listen to prize-winning speakers, attend sporting and arts events and much more. Take advantage of everything Gustavus has to offer; you will meet friends and expand your horizons!

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7. Have opinions. It’s hard to believe people who say they don’t like politics or have no opinions on issues. You’re a moderate? Form arguments as to why you ride the fence.

Someone make a sexist com- ment? Challenge him or her! Overhear the words gay or re-tarded? Speak up! As Dr. Leitch argued on Honors Day: every-thing is political. Tabling for a cause is political. If your clothes were made by a child in Taiwan, that’s political. The food we eat in the cafeteria which is shipped in from across the country is political. Be informed and speak up!

8. The friends you live with your first year remain your close friends. I am very thankful for my wonderful 5E girls. At the same time, I am so grateful I met individuals through my major and activities. You never know who might introduce you to your future spouse or get you a job.

9. Push your boundaries. If you travel abroad, taste the local food. If you don’t want to cook with the locals and try new things. In Fiji, I had the opportunity to jump off a water fall, and it is one of the most thrilling things I have done in my life. Senior Bri Otis explained, “There are some pretty cool life experiences that you’d otherwise miss if you stuck to what you know.”

10. Keep on keeping on. We all have hectic weeks. It is important to focus your mind, grit your teeth and keep trucking. In order to succeed at Gustavus and beyond, it is imperative to remain studious throughout college. Although if you already studied for your test tomorrow and your friends are baking cookies or watching a movie, put down your books and take a break! Don’t get me wrong, studying is necessary, but use time management to make sure these amazing years are full of laughs, stories, friendships and memories.

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Letters to the Editor

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Building Operations Managers: are key student leadership posi-tions that serve as the lead person in overseeing the operation of the Campus Center and Student Union during the evening and weekend hours. Focus is on event assistance, security, and situation manage-ment. Stipend may apply.

Dive DJs: this position will run the DJ equipment for Friday night dances. No experience necessary.

Tech Crew: this position supports many different student organiza-tions and will learn technical skills, teamwork, initiative, and be responsible for setting up and taking down event configurations, running sound equipment, showing weekend movies, etc.

Evening/weekend hours avail-able.
The Calendar Page is considered editorial. The opinions expressed herein are not the opinions of THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY, but the expressions and opinions of an immature mind. Readers are advised that none of these rants are to be taken seriously.

**Friday, May 15**

* Campus Safety Director Open Interview Session 11:30 a.m.
  I believe the only creature that can fill this position is Beckett MacCarthy, the eight-pound Miniature Pinscher. He ought to keep those ne’er-do-wells in line.

* Chemistry Seminar—The Analytical Chemistry of Catching Sports Cheats 3:30 p.m.
  Scientists have concluded that the only way to catch them ... is to be faster than them! Quick, take this injection that will increase your athletic abilities.

* On-Campus Movie, *He’s Just Not That Into You* 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
  That’s what an observing third party said!

* Emily Moran, Senior Voice Recital 7:30 p.m.
  You’d be a moron to miss this! Hehe? Get it? Her last name looks like moron!

* An Evening of Monologues, Choreography and Dance Scholarship 7:30 p.m.
  Christine Dornbusch is dancing, and Michaella Cnkovic is acting. The rest of you will be stewing in envy of their talent.

* LineUs Improv Comedy Troupe 8:00 p.m.
  If the seniors break down and cry, feel free to laugh and point at them.

**Saturday, May 16**

* Doggie Dash 5K 9:00 a.m.
  It’s not actually a race. You just spend the whole five kilometers trying to dash your dog’s hopes, dreams and emotions. Whoever’s dog is the most disheartened at the end wins.

* Mark Wamma, Senior Violin Recital 10:30 a.m.
  After graduation he will be joining a Tibetan bell choir. Henceforth he shall be known as Wamma-Lamma-Ding-Dong.

* Plant & Seed Swap St. Peter Co-op 11:00 a.m.
  Now don’t get too excited, gentlemen, they don’t mean your seed.

* Annual Pillow Fight 2:00 p.m.
  And women, you should probably show up in tight shirts and sexy panties. Oh, and bring pillows with feathers that will explode everywhere in slow-motion.

* On-Campus Movie, *He’s Just Not That Into You* 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
  That never stopped my mother!

* India Ink 7:00 p.m.
  Students that study abroad in India make the kids who went to London look like wimps. It’s like comparing John McCain’s Vietnam experience to George W.’s.

**Sunday, May 17**

* Outdoor Dive Dance Johns Family Courtyard 10:00 p.m.
  I don’t know about this. At least when it’s indoors no one can see my horrendous dance moves.

* South Side Bash 4:00 p.m.
  South Side sucks. There. Bashed. That didn’t take long.

* Hannah Wunsch, Senior Voice Recital 7:00 p.m.
  How many sopranos does it take to screw in a light bulb? One, but the world revolves around her while she does it.

* Death By Chocolate 7:00 p.m.
  Since chocolate has apparently solved the mystery of death, its next challenge will be to unlock the secrets of life! If scientists can genetically engineer the DNA of a super-human chocolate baby, I may have to change my major.

**Monday, May 18**

* Market Research Presentation 10:30 a.m.
  According to our exhaustive surveys, polls and questionnaires, 99.89-percent of Gusties have never uttered the phrase, “Thank God it’s Monday.”

**Tuesday, May 19**

* 2009 George Hall Lecture 7:00 p.m.
  The speaker will be discussing homelessness in America, an extremely topical issue for graduating seniors.

* I Am We Are presents “Body Chronicles” 6:45 p.m.
  Social Justice, Schmocial Justice; you just want to see Bobby Croghan naked.

**Wednesday, May 20**

* Announcement: Last day of classes. Now is the chance to tell your profs what you really think of them. Well, you might want to wait until after grades are posted.

* Wellness Wednesday St. Peter Co-op All Day
  Can’t get sleep because your partner snores? Apparently there are less drastic sleeping aids than holding a pillow over his or her face!

* Theatre/Dance Department Picnic 4:30 p.m.
  Since it’s the Theatre Department, they’ll be serving Hamlet and Cheese sandwiches. Othello love of God, I spilled Coke on my shirt! Out, out, damn spot!

* Biology Major Picnic 5:30 p.m.
  Go and find out what food nerds like to eat. I once heard a rumor they like Macadamian nuts.

* Writing Center Tutoring in the Library 6:00 p.m.
  If you have ever uttered the phrase, “I write good and stuff,” then you should probably show up.

**Thursday, May 21**

* Reading Day All Day
  It’s a designated day for reading and studying, which raises the issue: what the heck have you been doing all year with your time?

* 2009-2010 Choral Ensemble Auditions 1:00 p.m.
  It’s a less dramatic version of America’s Got Talent.

* Writing Center Tutoring in the Library 6:00 p.m.
  Learning to write is a grueling, grating process that is quite similar to that of Eliza Doolittle learning to speak correctly. I expect some writers here will break out into spontaneous song, “The verb in Serb stays mainly on the curb!”

**Quotes of the Week**

* Christopher Elveru: Don’t try and scientifically excuse this: you need your pants! 
  Maggie Hedlund: “You’ve never quoted me in The Pickle and it makes me sad!”

Thank you to all the readers who have indulged my ego for the past two years. Your feedback has made this the best job in the world. It’s been a journey filled with crossroads, bridges and that sappy song from Wicked; but ultimately, it’s been a blast. You are in more than capable hands next year—have no fear.

Thank you for everything, and have a great summer.

-Margaret Katherine Sotos

- the pickle -
The Men’s and Women’s Outdoor Track & Field teams both closed out their conference seasons with impressive finishes at the MIAC Championships.

The women’s squad posted a second place finish overall by scoring the most points in a single MIAC Championship meet in the program’s history. Senior Lisa Brown carried the women in the javelin throw by winning her fourth consecutive MIAC title in the event, while Junior Cole Carlson’s win in the 400 meter dash paced the men’s team to a seventh place team finish.

Sophomore Sam Broderius, who won Conference titles in both the shot put and discus events, stated that the goal of beating the St. Thomas ‘dynasty’ helped the team put together the outstanding finish that they did.

Carlson attributes many of the team’s successes over the course of the season to the outstanding work ethic displayed by the seniors, and especially Senior Tyler Geyen, who qualified for Nationals with a second place finish in the 110 meter hurdles. With only three years under her belt at a private liberal arts college in rural Minnesota, Brown competed at the 2008 Summer Olympic Trials, with her 13th place finish just missing the cut for the final round that was open to the top twelve qualifiers from the preliminaries.

“She’s had an awesome career at Gustavus, and everything she’s done here will create a stronger foundation for what she does in the future,” said Broderius.

Regardless of whether or not Brown makes the American squad for the next Olympic Games, she has already proven that through hard work and determination that dreams can come true.

It was a rollercoaster season for the Gustavus Baseball program this year. After getting off to a slow start, Gustavus hovered around the .500 mark for most of the season, finishing the year 17-21 overall and 9-11 against MIAC foes.

In the final weekend of the season, Gustavus needed at least one win in its double-header against St. Thomas, along with some help from other clubs, in order to earn a bid in post-season play. Unfortunately for the Gusties, the Tommies came to play. St. Thomas won the first game 5-2 and the second game 11-2.

Gustavus had only three senior players this season, putting extra pressure on the underclassmen. Junior brothers Andrew and Alan Woitas, who batted .367 and .339, respectively, were bright spots for the Gusties this season.

“As a team we are very optimistic for next year and believe that we will be able to compete at a high level,” said Andrew Woitas. “We have a great nucleus of talent coming back and have numerous kids who have had success in the past.”

With another year under its belt, look for Gustavus Baseball to build on the team’s successes and come back strong next season.

“Our main goal is to win the MIAC Championship,” said Andrew Woitas. “I feel that this is very obtainable with the talent we have coming back.”

While it may be a long time before next season begins, the club already shares the goal of bringing a MIAC championship back to Gustavus.
Senior Christine Wicker was an integral part of a very talented senior group that saw tremendous success in their respective careers playing for the Gusties.

women's hockey

Every year the Gustavus Women's Hockey team comes into the season with the expectation of not only winning the MIAC tournament but competing for a national championship. This year was no different for the Gusties, who followed suit and won their sixth straight MIAC playoff championship. Gustavus saw its season fall short of a national title, how ever, as UW-River Falls came to the pack in all other events. The team started out red-hot against MIAC foes. The Gusties were led statistically on the court by First-year Molly Geske, who made an immediate splash for Coach Mickey Haller’s squad. Geske averaged 10.3 points per game, second on the Gusties behind Nelson’s 10.5, while shooting 43 percent from the field and 41 percent from the land of milk and honey.

men's golf

The Gustavus Men’s Golf team had a disappointing season, finishing fifth out of nine in its final tournament at St. Olaf. The team got off to a decent start this past fall, finishing second out of seventeen at the Augsburg Invitational. Unfortunately, this was as close to first place as the team would get, coming in second only one other time all year, at the MIAC Championships in the fall.

One shining spot for the squad has been junior Alex Woodhull, who was named MIAC golfer of the week in April after firing a one-under par 70 at the St. John’s Invita tional to win his first individ ual tournament at the collegiate level. His 70 was a career low for 18 holes, and it beat his average by 9 strokes.

As a team this spring, Gustavus finished no better than fourth at any event, despite having high expectations. Junior golfers Josh Curb and Greg Palm came up with several goals for next season.

“We want to win the conference, win at least five tournaments overall, erase the thoughts of this year’s season...play like we know how to and to regain the perennial status as a MIAC powerhouse,” said Palm. Palm finished the season averaging nine over par, while Curb averaged six over. Ricky Copeland, a junior from Mahtomedi, led the team with an average of three over par.

Only three seniors graduated this spring, which shows promise for the next few years of Gustavus Golf. One of those seniors is Andrew Evenson, who is proud of his accomplishments as a part of Gustavus Golf.

“Every member of the team practices for hundreds of hours each year just to get [the] chance to contribute,” said Evenson. “In the end, they realize that whether they shoot good scores or not, they will never regret giving full effort to the sport they love.”

This determination and will to succeed is a trait that will stay with these golfers for the rest of their lives. - TD

The Book Mark will be open on Saturday, May 30th and on Sunday, May 31st for Reunion and Commencement weekend of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m on both days. The Stadium shop will be open from 10-5 on Commencement Sunday.

The Book Mark will be closed for INVENTORY from Monday, June 1 through Wednesday noon, June 3. Summer hours will begin Wednesday afternoon – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In case you were wondering about the weather, check out our local weather website: www.msnbc.com/weather

The staff of THE WEEKLY would like to send a very gracious thank-you to the efforts of Tim Kennedy, Adele Burk and the rest of the Gustavus Sports Information Department for their help in making our publication what it is.

Gymnastics

Solid performances have continued a level of success for Gustavus faithful. This program, which has been a Division III best 0.74 goals per game average, finishing second out of seventeen at the Augsburg Invitational. The Gusties, who followed suit and won their sixth straight MIAC playoff championship. Gustavus saw its season fall short of a national title, how ever, as UW-River Falls came to the pack in all other events.

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Women's basketball

The Gustavus Women's Basketball team fought its way to a 16-10 overall record this year, but ended their season on a tough loss in the MIAC Quarterfinals to Bethel. Senior Emily Nelson capped her standout career with a 17 point performance and moved up to fifth on the school's all-time list of three-point shooters.

The team started out red-hot by winning its first five conference matchups, but hit a rough spot in the middle of the season that leveled out its momentum. The team ended the regular season with a fourth place finish in the MIAC, and a 14-8 record against MIAC foes.

The Gusties were led statistically on the court by First-year Molly Geske, who made an impressive splash for Coach Mickey Haller’s squad. Geske averaged 10.3 points per game, second on the Gusties behind Nelson’s 10.5, while shooting 43 percent from the field and 41 percent from the land of milk and honey.

Junior Brianna Radtke served as the floor-leader for Gustavus once again this season, distributing the ball with a .78 assist percentage at the national championships. Gustavus’ finest gymnasts competed at the National Division III competition, which was held at Hamline University. A smaller squad consisting of the six seniors who won the right to compete at the National competition. Arin Bell (vault), Laura Hansen (beam), Meghan Johnson (beam), Jess Dolan (floor) and Christine Askham (all-around) represented the Gusties proudly. Hansen was honored as the WIAC at the end of March for her performance at the Best of Minnesota meet. Askham, in her third appearance at the event in her college career, finished 14th overall in the all-around competition. She missed the cut for the final round of competition by an eyelash, but she still ended her career on a very high note.

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swimming and diving

The Gustavus Men’s Swimming and Diving team put together a very successful season, capped by a trip to the four-day NCAA Swimming Championships (Nationals) at the University of Minnesota. The team finished 15th, while powerhouse Kenyon University went home with the title.

The overall success of the men’s team is due in large part to several individuals who stood out all year as leaders for the program. Two perfect examples of this are Seniors Matt Stewart and Dave Pearson, who have improved every year to become two of the stronger swimmers in the school’s history. Stewart led the team with a national title. Pearson was acknowledged this spring as one of 29 men’s winter sport recipients of a NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. This honor is given to student athletes who perform well in their sport and in the classroom. He maintains a 4.0 and was honored as an All-American, with Stewart, as a member of the 800 free relay team.

The Gustavus Women’s Swimming and Diving team also completed its season as one of the top teams in the country, finishing 35th at Nationals. As one would expect, several individual performances helped lead the team at the highest stage for Division III competition. Junior Carrie Gundersden set not only a school but a conference record with her performance during the 1650 freestyle. Gundersden recorded a time of 17:04.09 to finish ninth, earning her All-American honorable mention.

Also receiving All-American honorable mention at nationals was Sophomore Anika Erickson. She finished 16th in the 200 breast stroke with a time of 2:23.41. This helped the Gusties come back from 44th place heading into the fourth and final day of competition to finish 39th. -TD

women’s tennis

For the 21 consecutive time, the Gustavus Women’s Tennis team clinched a spot in the NCAA Championship Finals. The women walked on St. Scholastica and Wheaton with 5-0 victories to add to their current eleven-game winning streak. The Gusties now head to Lawrenceville, GA in hopes of winning a national title.

Much of the team’s success can be attributed to stellar doubles play. The Gusties have gone 32-1 in doubles during their current winning streak, and they look forward to continuing this success in Georgia.

Although the women hope their success will continue, praise is already warranted after a very successful season. The Gusties barely topped over a 500 winning percentage for the first half of the season before beginning conference play. Since then, they have gone on a eleven-game winning streak.

2009 marked memorable seasons on the football field and the natatorium respectively. In Jay Schoenebeck’s fifteenth and final season as head coach of the Gustavus Football team, the Gusties added more electricity to the hill in the latter stages of the season than they had in recent years. After a 2-2 start, the Gusties rattled off four consecutive wins and stood in a three-way tie for first place in the conference with two games left to play. Gustavus lost in Northfield to the rival Oles in two overtimes with a game to play, devastating its championship hopes, eventually ending the campaign with a 6-4 record, good enough to earn fifth place in the conference.

Seniors Chad Arlt and Jared Thelemann and Junior Joe Welch and Tony Palma were named to the All-MIAC first team while Senior teammates Brian Berglund, Ethan Armstrong, Ray Wilson and Mike Klayum rounded out the second team. Fellow Senior Mike Fabel was Gustavus’ representative on the conference’s All-Sportsmanship Team. Arlt was the focal point of Gustavus’ offensive for three years of his college career and was walk away from the program with 161 receptions (school record), 2180 yards and 22 touchdowns, including last season’s record breaking body of work when his 100 receptions and 1294 yards both broke Gustavus records. Welch was named to the D3football.com All-American team after a stellar junior season in which he was credited with 98 stops, 51 of which were solo tackles. He also had five interceptions and was undeniably the leader of the defense. -AK

women’s golf

After the most dominating of seasons, the Gustavus Women’s Golf team finds itself in prime condition after the first day of the NCAA Championships. The Gusties topped the scorecard seven out of the ten matches they played in this season.

Sparked by the tremendous play of Junior Kali Griggs, whose round average of 80.3 strokes per (+8) leads the charge for the Gusties. Griggs has finished outside of the top ten only once this season and has never finished less than in the top fifteen.

Sophomore Katie Schenfeld, Senior Kimbra Kosak and the First-year duo of Taylor Drent and Amanda Woodhull round out the top flight for the Gusties. Finishing with averages escalating up from Griggs’ 80 to Woodhull’s +12 by one, the Gusties have been nothing short of spectacular on the links this Spring. “We have a strong team this year, with the ability to go low. We’re all excited and ready to go,” said Kosak. “We just need to put four low scores together and let the rest take care of itself.”

“The weather here is hot, a little different than most conditions thrown at us in the Midwest, but we are prepared and let the rest take care of itself.” said Kosak. “We just need to put four low scores together and let the rest take care of itself.”

football

The Gustavus Men’s Tennis team continued its dominance over both MIAC and regional teams the past two weekends, earning their way to Nationals in Claremont, CA. Led by a talented senior class, the Gusties (27-8) cruised through a cupcake MIAC tournament and earned the right to host last weekend’s NCAA Regional tournament. Gustavus was awarded a bye on Friday and faced off against UW-Whitewater on Saturday. A 5-0 win propelled the team’s confidence into the next shut-out win on Sunday over Luther.

Both Saturday and Sunday involved great fan participation in what became a very clear home-court advantage for the Gusties.

“We are really playing well right now as a team,” said senior Mike Burdakin. “Plus, it was great to play both tournaments at home in front of our great fans. The flock was in full force!”

The Gusties picked the right time to get hot, as they will now join seven other teams in the finals for Division III national champion in a few weeks. Riding a nine-game winning streak, the Gusties look to finish this up and down season on the highest note possible—a national championship.

“I’m very excited to go to Call,” said Burdakin. “Missing finals week at Gustavus to play for a national championship in warm California is probably the greatest thing that’s ever happened to me.”

This is the tenth consecutive season the Men’s Tennis has made the NCAA Team Championships. Gustavus will face Washington University (MO) on May 19. -TD

men’s tennis

As the nation’s top-ranked player, John Kauss has lead Coach Wilkinson’s squad to dominance all season long.
End of the Season’s Sports Wrap-Up

The Gustavus Men’s Hockey season was a memorable one. After a second place finish in the MIAC, the Gusties entered the NCAA Championships with a 9-2 mark within the MIAC, earning them a second place finish. Despite losing three sets to one to St. Thomas in the MIAC Championship, Gustavus defeated UW-Superior in the NCAA Tournament at-large berth, eventually losing in the first round by UW-Eau Claire.

Led by Senior Emily Klein and Bridget Burtzel, both of whom were named to the All-Conference team and earned All-Region honors, the departing group of Gusties was one of the best Coach Kari Eckhardt has ever had the privilege of coaching.

Klein leaves Gustavus as the reigning three-time MIAC Defensive Player of the Year and holds every dig record in the school’s history. Burtzel finished second in the conference with 10.71 assists per match en route to being named Academic All-District by CoSIDA.

Softball

The Gustavus Softball team was the jewel of autumn on campus, as the Gusties reached an impressive 26-5 record overall. Their 9-2 mark within the MIAC earned them a second place finish. Despite losing three sets to one to St. Thomas in the MIAC Championship, Gustavus received an NCAA Tournament at-large berth, eventually losing in the first round by UW-Eau Claire.

The trio of Erin Truebenbach (top left, clockwise), Betsie Collins and Callie Nelsen is 39-7 with 300 strikeouts and 72 walks this season.