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THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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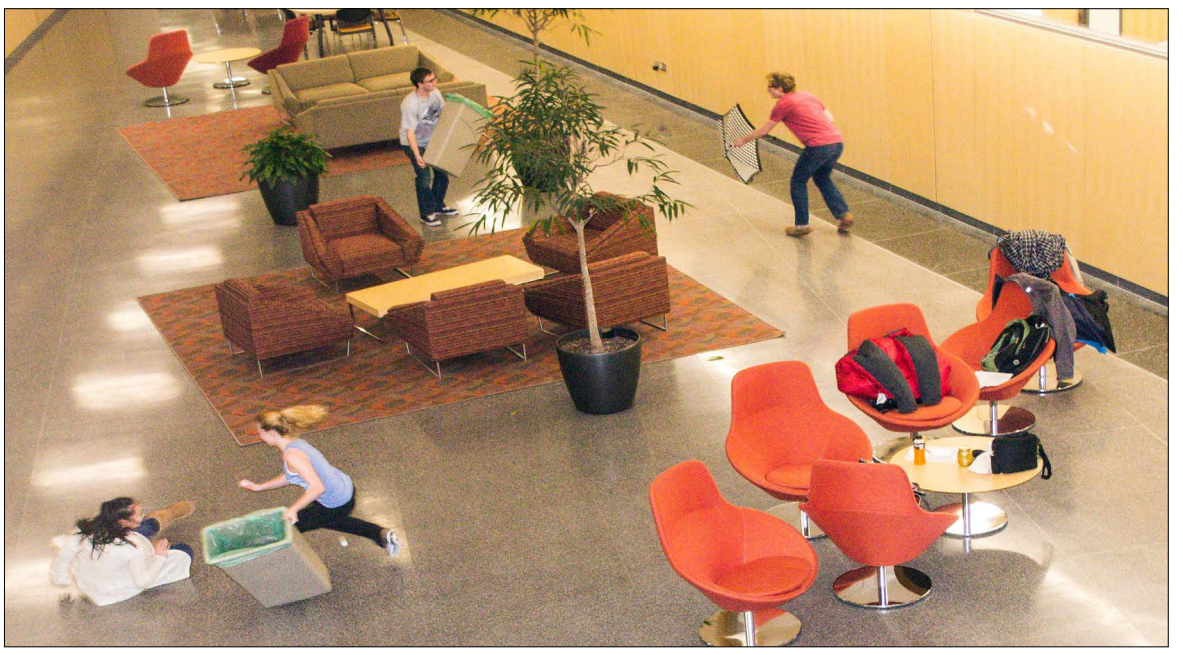
CAB gets creative with January Interim events

McKayla Murphy
News Editor

One look at the Gustavus events calendar will show that the days of January are chalk-full of events meant to keep boredom and the winter blues at bay. However, January Interim's infamous reputation for large amounts of free time (and even larger amounts of Netflix-watching) often provides a challenge for the groups on campus who hope to get students out of their dorms and to on-campus activities. This year, the exceptionally cold weather provided another obstacle for groups hoping to raise their event attendance levels.

"We have so many events over J-Term because we want to encourage students to make positive choices."
— Ben Michalicek



McKayla Murphy

The final survivors of Zombie Week 2014 try to "infect" each other with ping pong balls in order to claim the title of champion as well as the grand prize, a choice of a Kindle Fire or Wiiu.

One of the primary sponsors for campus events, the Gustavus Campus Activities Board, was hard at work this January Interim, organizing many events, including Pinterest Parties, Medallion Hunt, Blazin' Challenge, Knitting Nights, Fear Factor, and Zombie Week.

First Year Ben Michalicek, coordinator of the January Interim Zombie Week, counts his particular event as a success, topping out at 124 student participants. Complete with hilarious "infection" stories posted to a Facebook group page, this popular event mimicked the game, "Assassins," in which participants receive a "target" that they must "infect" in order to receive a new target. The stakes were high for the participants of this ongoing event; Zombie Week's Grand Prize was a choice between a Wiiu or Kindle Fire.

First Year Nicole Pexa, Secretary of the January Interim Campus Activities Board Committee, noted that this year's unique events, such as Fear Factor, really drew in a crowd.

"Fear factor was definitely popular . . . I think it's because people like to see other people in pain. The same was true for the Blazin' Challenge," Pexa said.

Michalicek also reflected on what he considered to be the highlight of the Fear Factor Event. "People had to put crickets into their mouths and then spit them into a bucket, which I thought was the best because when they declared that there was five seconds left, this kid who was really intent on winning, rather than putting one cricket in his mouth at a time, he just took the bag and poured them all into his mouth," Michalicek said.

Aside from the impressive prizes and people-watching opportunities that drew students out to the events, some events that were offered promised to teach a new skill. Knitting Nights and the Self-Defense Class each attracted a good-sized audience. "I really loved going to knitting nights," Pexa said. "It gave me chance to learn something new and all of the people were willing to help me with anything I needed."

First Year Tatianna Thurik, co-planner of the popular Wednesday night Pinterest Parties, enjoyed being more involved in the planning process.

"Over J-Term the roles reverse and the committee members become executives, and so we [the committee members] were actually the ones doing all the planning of the events," Thurik explained.

Michalicek noted that the planning, although time-consuming, was rewarding.

"I spent time looking over everything from last year and deciding if there was anything I wanted to fix or anything I wanted to change, then made additions and subtractions," Michalicek said.

Many of the January Interim event coordinators were younger, first-time planners, however, with the help of Campus Activities Board Executives, they learned how to plan successful events. The younger age of the planners correlates to the age of the students who are usually on campus over January Interim, and therefore, news about many events was easily spread by word of mouth.

"We have so many events over J-Term because we want to encourage students to make positive choices, since most schedules tend to be very loose and allow a lot of free time we want to give students the opportunity to use that freedom in a productive and safe way," Michalicek said.

Campus Activities Board will continue to impress during spring semester with events such as, bingo and Gustie Cup, as well as the highly anticipated Big Concert and President's

Summer camp fair offers employment opportunities

McKayla Murphy
News Editor

The Center for Servant Leadership will be hosting the annual Summer Camp Fair on Tuesday, Feb. 11 in Alumni Hall. The fair will feature representatives from almost 30 camps from a variety of states, including Montana, Colorado, Idaho, and of course, Minnesota.

Assistant Director for Vocation and Integrative Learning and Mentoring Program Coordinator Amy Pehrson is organizing the fair.

"Many of the camps are more like a typical church camp, but not all of them. So there is a wide variety in the types of camps and there is also a wide variety of types of positions that they are looking to fill, so from a typical camp counselor to maybe a nurse or a music program director, that type of thing," Pehrson said.

Camp staff at the fair will be available to answer questions, provide applications, and schedule interviews. Students who attend the fair are welcome to bring a résumé and come prepared for an interview. However, the fair is also open to students who want more information about working at a camp this summer or in the future.

Sophomore Logan Boese has worked as a summer camp counselor for the past two years and hopes to move on to a leadership role or work in a related field this summer. Boese, who plans to work in some aspect of ministry upon graduation, has found that working in a camp setting provides valuable work experience.

"I find that it's rewarding to see the impact from the beginning of the week to the end of the week. Depending on what type of camp you have, sometimes campers come in and they are super shy and don't want to talk. Sometimes they come in and they're a terror on your hands, and you don't know what to do with them. But by the end of the week, seeing the bonds that you formed with them, seeing all the different ways that you reached out is great," Boese said.

Although rewarding, Boese agreed that working at a summer camp is definitely an exhausting job. "It takes a toll, it's super long. You're on call 24 hours a day, you technically work about 23 hours a day. There are always different things going on, I mean you wear a lot of different hats; you're a teacher, a counselor, a mentor, a lifeguard, just a whole bunch of different things, it encompasses so much," Boese said.

Pehrson also addressed the monetary concerns that often come with a camp job. "I think that sometimes what people think about is that you don't make a lot of money working at camp, but you actually can, by the time you think about the money that you have saved because you're not commuting and you're not needing to make lunches or you're not needing to buy clothes for an office job or something," Pehrson said.

Submitted

Junior Nate McNab has enjoyed the rewards of working at a summer camp by inspiring and encouraging children.

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Campus Safety Report

Monday, January 27
• A College employee reported an accident that happened involving a Gustavus vehicle.
•Residential Life staff and Campus Safety responded to damage to property/vandalism and a College policy violation in Sohre Hall involving two students.

Tuesday, January 28
•Campus Safety responded to a report of a student missing in North Hall. The student was located and cited for underage consumption.

Wednesday, January 29
•A Collegiate Fellow documented an alcohol violation in North Hall involving two students.
•A Collegiate Fellow documented an alcohol violation in North Hall involving one student.
•Campus Safety responded to a report of suspicious activity in Uhler Hall.

Thursday, January 30
•Collegiate Fellows responded to an alcohol violation in Sohre Hall involving one student.
•A student while in Southwest Hall was cited by Campus Safety for underage consumption of alcohol.
•Campus safety responded to a medical assist in the Physical Plant North shop.
•Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in the Johnson Student Union.
•A student reported a theft from a vehicle in the College View parking lot.

Friday, January 31
No incidents reported

Saturday, February 1
No incidents reported

Sunday, February 2
•One non-Gustavus student was cited by Campus Safety with reckless driving and was issued a citation for driving after hours on permit by the St. Peter Police Department. The juvenile driver and the juvenile passenger were also trespassed from campus.
•Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation in Pittman Hall involving three students. One student was cited for underage consumption and a College policy violation. One student was cited for underage possession. One student was cited for failure to comply with a College official.

Tip of the Week:

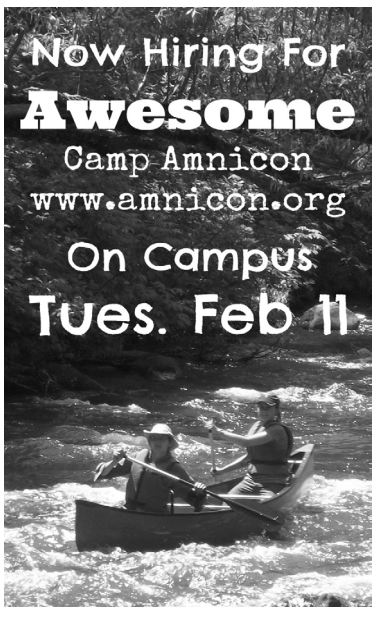
Winter Weather - Pedestrian Safety

Please be aware of pedestrian safety during the snow and ice season. Vehicles have a harder time stopping on slippery surfaces and snow piles can block a driver's view of pedestrians. Keep your eyes and ears on what's going on around you.

Use sidewalks that have already been cleared when available. If you are coming out from behind a snowbank, stop first and check to see if it is safe. You may be less visible because snow piles or glare off of the snow, always check before entering or crossing a roadway.

Stay away from roads and sidewalks when plows are trying to clear the snow, and from sanders as they treat the road surface. Don't walk in front of snow plows! Make sure the driver sees you and wait for them to pass before crossing.

Contact Physical Plant (x7504) to report slippery areas or those that need to be cleared.



'Summer camps' continued from page 1

Aside from church camps, the fair will also feature employment opportunities for day camps, camps for kids with disabilities, and adventure camps. Pehrson reiterated that the camps are looking for enthusiastic students with different interests.

"I have gotten a lot of feedback over the years that summer camps are looking for the type of people that are Gusties. Gusties are hard workers. Gusties are motivated, they follow through, they have all of the qualifications that these camps are looking for," Pehrson said.

The fair seeks to take some of the work of researching and contacting summer camps out of the equation for notoriously busy Gustavus students.

"I think the fair is run especially well. All of the camps just come in and set up. It's sort of like a college fair. The people are really welcoming; they love to chat," Boese said.

The fair will be held in the Jackson Campus Center banquet rooms from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

"It is a great opportunity for our students to think about the world of work, in terms of the summer, especially in places where you can really make your life count," Pehrson said.

Mars's halftime performance out of this world

Daniel Ly
Staff Writer

Amid the massacre known as Super Bowl XLVIII, a young performer took the stage of MetLife Stadium and presented the world with his art. Bruno Mars, coming fresh from a recent Grammy award, offered a show that was as exciting as it was welcoming. Mars's performance had an undisguised feeling of classy showmanship that was reminiscent of classic Michael Jackson. From the quality vocals to his flashy dance moves, Mars might just be in the running for the successor to the late King of Pop.

Initially, when Bruno Mars was selected to perform at this year's Super Bowl, many people had thought the committee had made a poor decision. Being 28, Mars is significantly younger and less established than all of his predecessors from the last decade. Along with that, having only released two albums, many thought he lacked the repertoire to deliver enough familiar songs to the wide age range of the national viewers. The decision to have Bruno Mars perform, though, paid off to the tune of 115.3 million viewers, the all-time largest audience for a Super Bowl Halftime Show.

Rebecca Hare

28-year-old Bruno Mars outperforms audience expectations on the Super Bowl XLVIII Halftime Show.

When Mars took the stage on his drum set following a choral rendition of his hit single "Billionaire," he immediately made the audience aware of his status as a high caliber musician. Watching Mars play the drums reminds me that he is a man of many talents, which should not come as a surprise because the music industry is full of talented artists. The real surprise that I found refreshing was Mars's live vocal talents. After the huge amounts of negative backlash over lip-syncing in the past few years, the Super Bowl made a smart decision booking an artist who could actually perform live. His ability to bellow out notes with such finesse and soul was welcoming in a time when most studio artists rely on heavy amounts of editing and auto tuning to produce their sound. I'm talking about you, Fergie from the Black-Eyed Peas circa 2011.

An important highlight of the show was the use of lights to accent Mars's performance. With all of the backup performers clad in gold and backed by hundreds upon hundreds of dazzling lights, Mars literally shined on stage. In addition, football fans in the stands were given special light-up hats that produced a glittering effect that added something to see for the viewers at home.

Following Mars's "Runaway Baby," the Red Hot Chili Peppers took the stage with "Give It Away." Many viewers found this performance controversial because, on closer inspection, neither the guitar nor the bass were plugged in. When asked about this later, Flea, the bassist of the band, revealed that this was due to an NFL policy and that under any other circumstances, the Red Hot Chili Peppers would have played the show live.

"When we were asked by the NFL and Bruno to play our song 'Give It Away' at the Super Bowl, it was made clear to us that the vocals would be live, but the bass, drums, and guitar would be pre-recorded," Flea said.

The NFL forbids live instrumentals during the halftime performance due to the fear of technical errors ruining the viewers' experience. The band members played their instruments regardless, and though they could have plugged them in to give the audience an illusion of live performance, they chose not to because they didn't want to pretend. Regardless of this controversy, there is something to be said about all of the performers' dedication to showmanship.

The show wrapped up with a heartfelt version of Mars's breakout single "Just the Way You Are" that began with a dedication to the U.S. Armed Forces. During this song, Bruno Mars gave a performance that was enough to bring tears to viewers' eyes and proved to many that he is a performer that has truly mastered the art of singing.

Streep, Roberts star in *August: Osage County*

Tia Gustafson
Staff Writer

Meryl Streep, utterly amazing as always, plays Violet Weston, the silver-tongued matriarch of a dysfunctional Southern family. Suffering from mouth cancer and an addiction to prescription pills, it quickly becomes evident that the mouth cancer is a result of the poisonous remarks she and her relatives sling at each other. This hostile environment eventually drives her husband to suicide and her adult children away. The character is oddly familiar, like everyone's grandmother who unabashedly spews racist remarks at the dinner table, or that cousin who comes around every now and then asking for money.

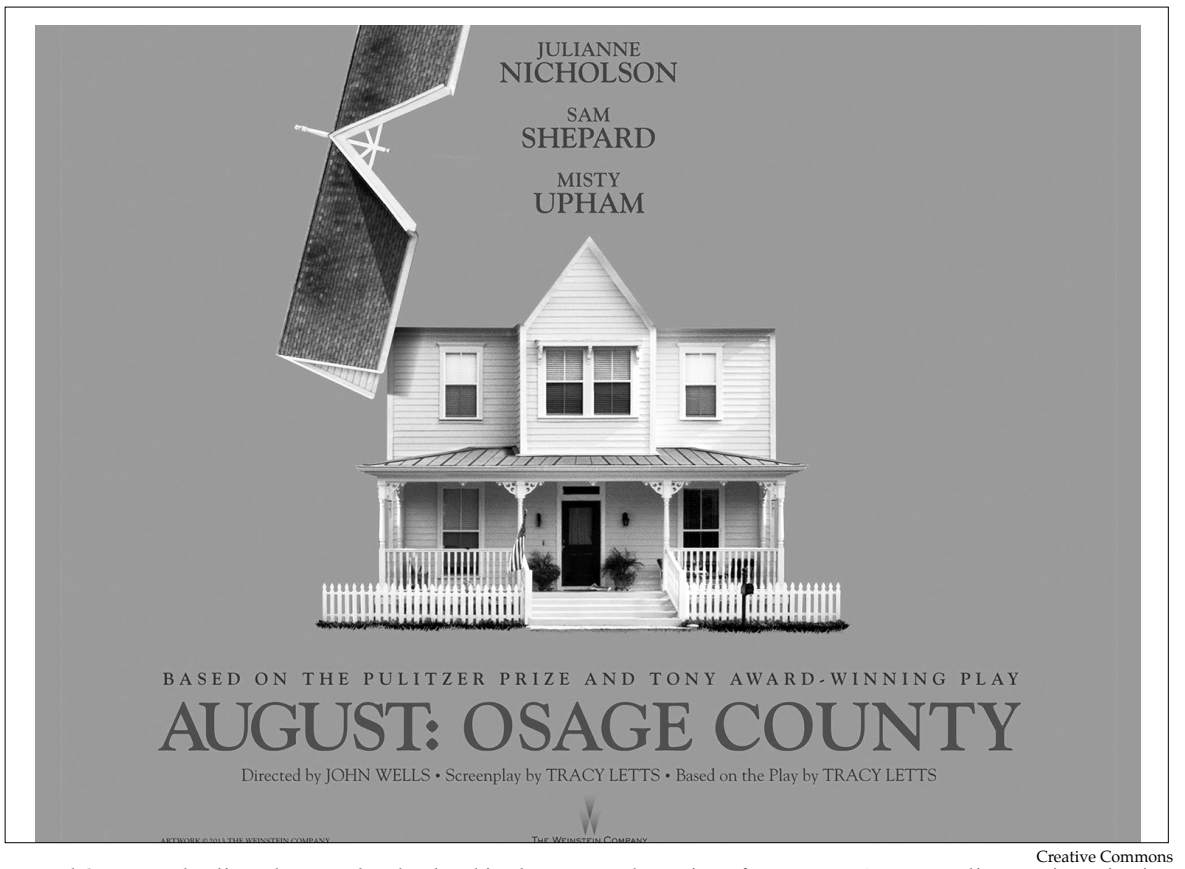
Julia Roberts plays opposite Streep as Weston's eldest, and most disillusioned, daughter Barbara. We watch as Barbara transforms into her mother as her marriage simultaneously dissolves. Barbara exemplifies the unavoidable truth that no matter the imposed distance or amount of concentrated effort we eventually become our parents. Despite the cantankerous nature of the main characters, we in the audience feel their pain (both physical and emotional), loss, and genuinely want to see their problems resolved, yearning for them to be happy, which speaks to the acting ability and screen presence of Streep and Roberts. These women made their characters both scary and loveable.

August: Osage County has drug use, death, divorce, incest, and a little bit of everything, but is by no means a feel-good film.

> "*Watching* August: Osage County *was like watching a car crash or a sinking ship…*"

Supporting characters buoy the plot with some comedic relief: a vegetarian daughter and a flighty aunt got a few laughs, yet their stories all trail off towards disaster with the rest of the film.

Sitting in the movie theater was like sitting in a car driving on the interstate, possibly during a snowstorm, and you see a car slip on the fresh snow and spin into oncoming traffic, you watch helplessly as glass shatters, metal bends and airbags deploy. Watching *August: Osage County* was like watching a car crash or a sinking ship: there was nothing you could do but watch, pity the victims, and be thankful that this time it wasn't you.



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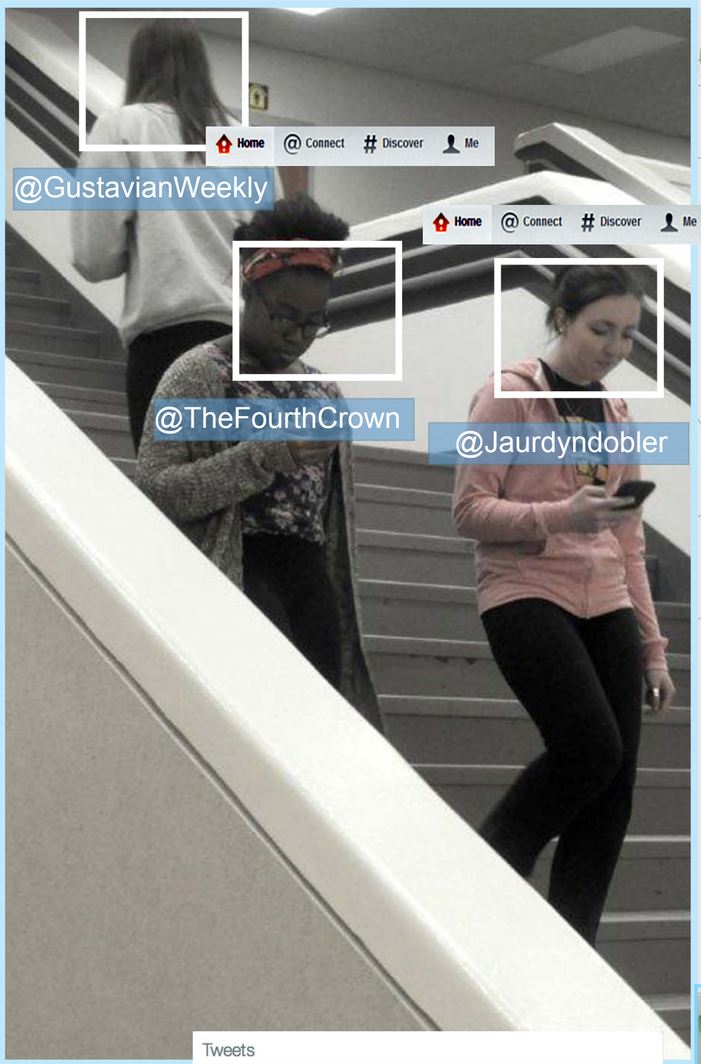
Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts go head to head in the screen adaptation of Tracy Letts's 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama August: Osage County.

I give this film three out of five stars because the roles were well cast, well acted, and the characters were real and believable, but I deduct two stars because the plot was a touch monotone and despite the weight life can inflict upon us in the worst of times, this film lacked any hope or forward momentum. We were trapped right alongside Violet and Barbara in Osage County, left to endure the late summer heat of August without hope or relief.

★★★☆☆

THE SOCIAL NETWORK @GUSTAVUS



Jaurdyn Gilliss

Social media changes social networks in college

Jaurdyn Gilliss
Features Editor

It was a normal December afternoon when Alex Peck returned home to find a freshly sealed letter from Gustavus Adolphus College waiting for him on the counter. His ordinary December afternoon soon turned extraordinary when he opened the letter to find a confirmation of his acceptance to Gustavus Adolphus College.

Like most prospective students, he was thirsty to find out exactly what he would be committing to before he made a final decision. The tempting pamphlets and official letters were all fine, but Peck needed insight from real students. So he sought the guidance of his older cousin who had graduated in 1996. She was able to share with him her experiences, solidifying, for him, his place at Gustavus.

"I realized that hearing my cousin's first hand experiences were much more benificial to me than the brochures and pamphlets I had been receiving from Gustavus," Peck said.

Peck, who is now a first-year, is just one of many students who utilize a more hands-on approach to discovering information about their college. Today, face-to-face discussion and social media provide an uncensored peek at universities. For colleges competing to attract first choice students, brochures and letters no longer suffice on their own.

Schools like Gustavus are reaching out to engage with prospective students on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. They're also finding that creative features such as student blogs and videos are more effective lures to students than a purely informational online presence.

College admissions officers are learning to seek and interact with students where they hang out best: online. They're also learning to utilize a creative online presence for those who need a substitute to physical college visits.

As social media continues to expand within universities, so do the social platforms utilized. As students look for new places to explore, Facebook is no longer the only social giant that colleges are learning to use.

Since 2012, institutions have began using apps such as Instagram and Twitter mostly to cater to three distinct groups: prospective students searching for a home away from home, current students sharing their own residential experiences, and alumni reminiscing about their time on campus.

These three distinct groups have been utilized by Gustavus through their Facebook and Twitter pages, including Overheard at Gustavus and Gustavus Adolphus College, among others.

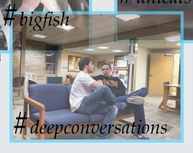
While these platforms have just begun to be utilized by universities on the computer, the attention has shifted to platforms that are optimized for mobile use and excel at one task like Instagram does with photography.

By creating and maintaining Instagram accounts, universities have found a simple, not to mention free, way to interact with students where email and other forms of communication could go unnoticed.

Submitted

Submitted

Submitted



Tweets

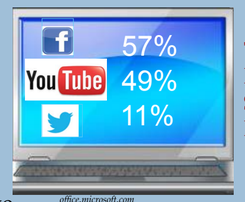
Alex Peck @Alex_Peck21 · 51s
Social media has helped me stay connected to high school friends who I otherwise wouldn't have.
Collapse
Reply Retweet Favorite ••• More
1:30 PM - 5 Feb 2014 · Details

Tweets

Noah Nelson @NoahNelson7 · 2h
Social media is a great way to connect with people and kill time, but it has the ability to steal my attention from more important matters.
Collapse
Reply Retweet Favorite ••• More
1:54 PM - 5 Feb 2014 · Details

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

94% of first year college students use social meda sites



office.microsoft.com

THE MOST POPULAR SITES FOR PROFESSORS

Number of **100%** colleges using social media to recruit prospective students, connect with current students and alumni, and raise money

91% of college professors engage in social media as a part of their job

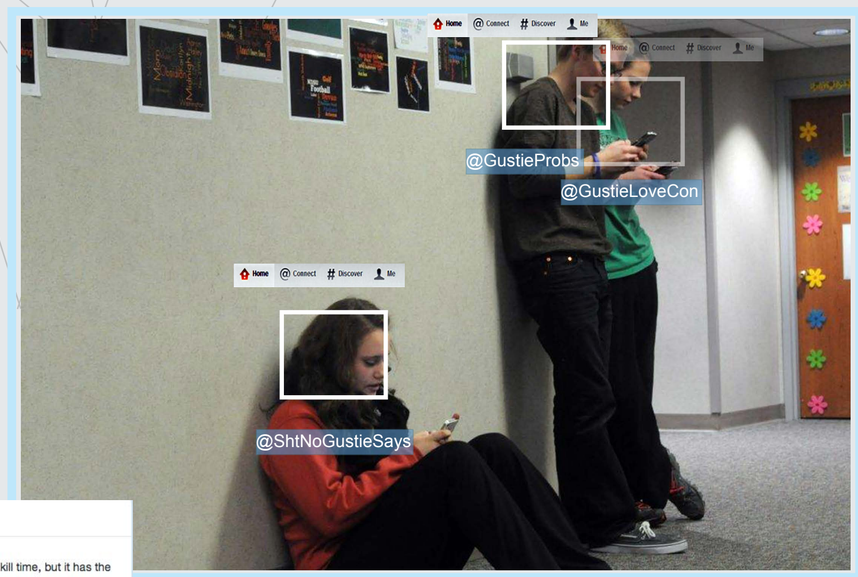
HOW ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA BENEFITS

Recruitment
78% of people trust peers
14% of people trust ads

Visibility **30.4** million monthly searches for "Colleges"

Tweets

Melissa Nelson @MelissaNelson2 · 55s
Social media made keeping in contact with my friends at home much easier. Which is important since I'm an out of state student.
Collapse
Reply Retweet Favorite ••• More
4:27 PM - 5 Feb 2014 · Details



Jaurdyn Gilliss

The download

If you give a child star attention...

Molly Butler
A & E Editor

The young celebrity singer Justin Bieber recently made headlines for yet more infamous behavior. He was arrested for street racing his Lamborghini under the influence of a cocktail of drugs, including alcohol, marijuana, and Xanax. Bieber is just one of many young celebrities following this trend of childhood stardom to adult infamy.

There have been previous complaints about the singer's behavior, reports of spending time and money on prostitutes, assaulting his limousine driver, spitting on fans, being a neighborhood menace, and much more. The internet has erupted with doubtable but hopeful rumors that the singer will be deported to Canada. His parade of f*** bombs and belligerent attitude toward the police after some drunken street racing reveals more than just a bad attitude. Bieber was downright dangerous. There are serious concerns that his celebrity status and deep pockets will save Bieber from facing any real consequences for his actions.

Of course, Justin Bieber is just one of many child stars that has grown from an idol for youngsters to a criminal. Amanda Bynes met a premature end to her acting career after hit and run charges, possession of marijuana, tossing a bong out her window, a brief time in treatment, and a final diagnosis of schizophrenia. Lindsey Lohan pulled a Freaky Friday level personality switch from talented actress to rehab rebounder. Her career started in fashion when she was just three years old. However, her success as an actress, model, and recording artist has been over shadowed by her struggles with drugs and alcohol and her visits to rehab. Lohan's legal issues, including theft, led to sentences of community service and a period of house arrest. She has become the butt of many a late night talk-show joke, and her name has become nearly synonymous with train wreck.

Miley Cyrus is yet another celebrity that started her career in innocent roles and has since, uh, matured to more adult performances. Daughter of country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, she began her singing and acting career as the Disney character Hannah Montana. She enjoyed a flourishing, age-appropriate career, touring her "Best of Both Worlds" and co-writing many of her own songs. She even spent time exploring more mature acting roles.

Then, in 2013, after a called-off engagement to Liam Hemsworth, Miley broke out with a very different image packed with bizarre costumes, wild style, and completely different new pieces to perform. Although Miley has thus far managed to maintain an extremely successful career, her explicit music videos and open drug use have completely changed public perception of the young celebrity. Much of her renewed popularity is rooted in a mixture of talent and controversy. They say any publicity is good publicity, and we can't seem to stop talking about what on earth she is doing.

It's hard to say what the cause of this phenomenon really is. After all, it's not all that unusual for teenagers to experiment and take risks. Perhaps the poor choices made by some young celebrities have nothing to do with their fame. Their behavior is just scrutinized more thoroughly because they are in the limelight. Or perhaps the public develops unrealistic ideas of who these celebs are based on the characters they play. Perhaps it's unfair to expect child stars to grow up to be role models. But there are clear instances of fame and fortune twisting charming children into rotten eggs.

An article by Mara Wilson, the adorable girl we all remember from Matilda, points to some of the reasons child stars go bad. As a child star who managed to move on to a successful career as a playwright and writer without scandal, Wilson points to the support of her parents. Unlike many child star parents, who push their baby into the spotlight, Wilson's parents made sure to keep her grounded.

Creative Commons

Don't believe in bad parenting? Give your child a yellow Lamborghini, and soon you'll be a Belieber.

"My parents tried to keep me grounded: they made me share a room with my sister, kept me in public elementary school, and encouraged me to think of acting as just a hobby," Wilson said in the article.

Wilson also points to the risks of exposing a child to the ruthless and very adult environment of Hollywood. Teenage years are vulnerable enough without the attention of the public watching every step of puberty. Kids brought up in the acting world also have difficulty returning to normalcy. After skimming through their early education, child stars don't know where else to take their lives besides the spotlight.

College and family life is a rare choice for children raised in the spotlight. Pitfalls of drugs abuse and scandal are just too common. Children exposed to such demanding, public, and high paying careers at such a young age have serious struggles achieving stability.

The masonater

What am I really wearing?

Mason Kruize
Opinion Columnist

Though funds are often tight, college kids still seem to take meticulous care when it comes to selecting our wardrobe. Students want to look good, feel confident, and try to catch the attention of friends and potential partners.

While it's sensible for us to care about our appearance and style, it should also be a priority for ourselves to be knowledgeable about the brands we are buying. Abercrombie & Fitch (A&F) has been among the most successful retail chains since it opened in 1892 with a target market of 18 to 22 year olds. Along with its offshoot brands, A&F has over 300 stores in the U.S. and is expanding globally. It continues to maintain steady competition with its rival retailers, American Eagle and Aeropostale, despite having slightly more expensive retail.

A&F is currently run by CEO Mike Jeffries and has been under his leadership since 1984. Since then, A&F has seen some notable changes in employee regulations and marketing strategies. In October 2012, Bloomberg News first reported on Jeffries' unconventional standards for his cabin crew on Abercrombie's Gulfstream G-V Jet. The male models that work as stewards aboard the company jet are required to wear Abercrombie-branded polo's, jeans, boxer briefs, and flip-flops as part of their uniform, as well as a spritz of cologne. This information then came to light as a result of a lawsuit that claimed Jeffries fired his own jet pilot in order to replace him with a much younger man.

In response to the criticisms of his practices, Jefferies had this to say about his marketing strategy: "In every school there are the cool and popular kids, and then there are the not-so-cool kids… We go after the cool kids. We go after the attractive all-American kid with a great attitude and a lot of friends. A lot of people don't belong [in our clothes], and they can't belong."

Currently, though it offers XL and larger for men, A&F Co. does not include clothing larger than a size ten for women. There have been various occasions where A&F has been forced to remove "offensive" T-shirts, such as in 2004 when there was a line of shirts featuring the phrase, "It's All Relative In West Virginia," alluding to incest, and again in 2009 with the A&F back-to-school collection. The humor tees had phrases, such as "Show the twins," picturing a young woman with her blouse open to two men. Two other shirts A&F removed after protest had the phrases "Female Streaking Encouraged" and "Female Students Wanted for Sexual Research."

An even more controversial piece of Mike Jeffries's legacy is A&F's periodical, *A&F Quarterly*. Initially running from 1997-2003 and having exclusive 2008 and 2010 releases, *A&F Quarterly* received criticism for its sexually graphic pictures and "malicious intent" to a target audience of 18 to 22 year olds. Featuring nude photos of both male and female models, along with photos simulating group sex, the periodical has been deemed obscene by those who have protested the publication. Several former A&F models have revealed that many of them did not want to be sexually exploited or photographed in such a way, but participation was encouraged by the threat of job loss.

This article isn't an attempt to change you or force you to shop at a particular place. What should be taken away from this article is the idea that you should know something about where you shop. Ask yourself; why am I purchasing this merchandise? What am I supporting? Is this clothing really expressing who I am? Am I doing this because it's popular or culturally expected?

Never be afraid to worry about how you look or what you wear; it's natural to treat yourself to something which you believe looks good on you and you feel is worth it. The only thing I ask you to do is to think carefully about all of the factors involved in what clothing you buy.

Roland in the deep

A lasting impression

David Roland
Opinion Editor

Ranging from Miranda Sings to President Obama and even Helen Keller, everyone alive or dead is likely represented on social media. Social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr have given people a vector to communicate their opinions about anything under the sun to the entire world instantaneously. Social media for better, or for worse, has driven its tendrils deep into the lives of our species, and it's not likely to come undone.

Each website has its own gimmick; on Facebook you have a network of all of the people you know, on Twitter you can spill your opinions on an unsuspecting world of readers, and on Pinterest you can look at pictures. However mundane these might seem, social media creates a portfolio of an individual simply based on their behavior online.

This amazing method of mass communication also makes use of the Internet to cover global events, such as coverage of the war in Syria, protests in the Ukraine, and even the hotel horror stories coming out of the Sochi Olympics. This capacity, however, is only matched by its ability to destroy the individual. After all, if you are pouring your soul onto the Internet, is there any room for privacy?

In the professional world careers can be made and demolished in the blink of an eye, for example, the "inappropriate tweet." This concept is not unique to Twitter, but has become common across the Internet. It entails two things, first that someone has posted something that is not socially acceptable on social media, and second that the post became popular enough to make the person in question look bad, and moreover, their company. The result is often a slap on the wrist, but also can include termination, such as a PR executive who reportedly posted a racist tweet about AIDS in Africa, and was subsequently fired from her position in the company. She was quoted as being ashamed of her actions and bought the bullet for public, social faux pas.

In a world with such a complicated mix of overt and covert, it is difficult to grasp the correct way to act online. Even though you might not have your name attached to your Twitter, it doesn't mean people can't find you. When we look at the case of Amanda Todd, a regular teenage girl who looked for friendship online and instead found the cyber bully who drove her to suicide, the identity of the bully was not known until the hack-tavist group, Anonymous, tracked the computer he used and ousted him to the public.

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What do tattoos and texts have in common? Their permanency.

Now these are extreme examples of social media gone awry, but they are not as removed from Gustavus as some might think. Even small cases of students complaining about other students can quickly become big issues. Perhaps it won't be publicized to the entire world and punished for the cruel nature of the post, but it can still do a great deal of harm to other people by unleashing the plague of drama on people who don't want anything to do with it.

Of course people are going to be rude to other people, and I know that we don't live in a perfect world, but that shouldn't excuse people using the relative anonymity of the Internet to create a passive-aggressive paradise to complain about the world they live in. The implications of such actions are at best cruel and unnecessary, and at worst can come back to haunt the author with a vengeance.

So please if you are having a problem with someone, talk to him or her about it, if you are having a problem with the campus or a job, talk to an administrator. But above all else, don't make a bad situation potentially worse by stabbing someone or something in the back online. What is written on the Internet cannot be easily erased, it is lasting, indelible ink.

Fancy that

Who wears the pants?

Ashley Nickel
Opinion Columnist

Jeans have invaded our campus, our closets, and Gustavus. Sitting in the courtyard, almost every person must be wearing jeans, and yet there is an obvious split in the fit and style of all the jeans I can see.

The tighter, shapelier jeans, without exception, belong to the women; the looser, straight jeans belong to the men. Even those few guys walking around in skinny jeans have the luxury of a straight cut and some wiggle room. Thinking this over, it seems silly. Fundamentally, all jeans are made out of the same, tough thick cotton and are meant for casualness, comfort, practicality, and yes—style; but most importantly any type of pants are meant to protect you from the considerably harsh elements we experience here in this frigid wasteland called Minnesota.

The more I look around, the more annoyed I become. After all, a pair of jeans can easily ruin anyone's day. I can see perfectly in my mind's eye a scenario in which I go to the dressing room of a department store with 20 pairs of the most boa constrictor-like jeans, and I proceed to be squeezed to death as if I were a predatory snake's next meal just so that I can look good in a pair of pants. And I am definitely not the only one who does this. Why do girls torture themselves this way? Or maybe the better question is why boys do not.

It is at this point that it strikes me that the reason girls put themselves through this particular type of hell is because most people would cast weird glances at most any girl who walked around in oversized, baggy, comfortable jeans. Where boys, at least until relatively recently, would be looked at much the same way if they walked around in thin, painted-on, low-rise pants.

If a girl wants to buy a pair of jeans, she has to put up with different sizing, rises, lengths, cuts, and washes which vary from store to store. None of these styles are ever loose enough to conceal the shape of girls' legs unless they are not the right size; a girl cannot find a pair of jeans that does not touch her skin almost everywhere. Most jeans rise low on her hips, are rarely comfortable, never practical, and often don't even have functioning pockets. Boys, on the other hand, go to a store and pick out their waist measurement, inseam length, and style. Where as a girl is hard-pressed to find a loose pair of jeans, boys have a plethora of shapes and styles to chose from, whether they are loose or tight, and any of which can be worn in public without a second glance or a raised eyebrow.

The lasting influence of gender roles in our society affects even the pants you purchase. But that is not all.

The Gustavus Wind Orchestra recently went on tour in Eastern Europe. Before they left, they were strongly encouraged to dress-up for their departure at the airport. For girls this meant they were to wear blouses, pencil shirts, hose, and high heels while carrying their instruments, backpacks, purses, luggage, and extra-band equipment through the terminal, in freezing weather no less. Fortunately for them, the fiasco was averted due to the weather and impracticality of exposed skin in such conditions.

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Trying to fit in?

The expectation of how a girl should look when she is dressed-up, appropriated by one of our own faculty members, is proof enough that this campus as well as our society has a growing need for feminism. It is a movement often misused and misunderstood. Old aspects of feminism no longer apply, and new ones, such as changes in gender roles, don't get enough recognition. Women and men unknowingly fuel this, whether they are buying a pair of jeans, reading a recent best seller, or even getting dressed in the morning. Lines blur, and feminism seems to be without a definite concept or definition.

Luckily, campus organizations such as the Womyn's Awareness Center (WAC) and M-PACT work to answer this question through on-going conversations about equality and awareness concerning gender roles. WAC is launching a poster campaign on campus dealing with the importance of feminism in today's society starting this coming semester. The Dove® Real Beauty Campaign, a major corporation trying "to challenge beauty stereotypes," will also be coming to Gustavus later this spring.

For now I'm taking off my jeans. I hope you all do the same.

Nordic skier will compete in Biathlon Junior World Championships

Linnea Moat
Sports & Fitness Editor

Submitted

Tyler (back left) competed in the prone shooting portion of the Biathlon at the Junior World Championships trials earlier this winter in Presque Isle, Maine.

Junior Nordic Skiier Tyler Gustafson has spent the last four winters dividing his time between competing in nordic skiing and competing in biathlons. Over Winter Break, Gustafson flew to Presque Isle, Maine to compete in the Junior World Championships trials, just like he has done for the past several years. Only this year it was different. Gustafson's performance at the trials qualified him to compete for the United States of America at the Biathlon Junior World Championships this February.

"This year's trials was my favorite experience that I've had with the Biathlon. I was surprised to qualify—I surprised myself by skiing really fast," Gustafson said.

Thirty-five countries will be represented at the Biathlon Junior World Championships, which will be held at the same course the trials were held, in Presque Isle, Maine. The two-week event starts the last week of February and runs through the first week of March. Gustafson will compete in three to four events over the two-week period against other 19 and 20 year-olds.

A biathlon is an event that combines cross-country skiing with rifle-marksmanship. Competitors do a lap of skiing before stopping to shoot, and repeat that pattern several times throughout the event. The four types of events are sprint, pursuit, an individual race, and a relay race, each involving a different number of skiing laps and shooting stages. In the sprint event there are two types of shooting—prone, where the biathlete lies down to shoot at the target, and standing, where the biathlete stands to shoot at a smaller target. If the competitors don't hit their target they must ski a penalty loop.

Submitted

Tyler embarked on the skiing portion of the Biathlon at the Junior World Championships trials earlier this winter.

"Biathlons are so exciting because literally anyone can win. It's all about your skill as a shooter—your speed doesn't matter," Gustafson said.

To prepare himself to compete in biathlons, Gustafson has been a part of the nordic ski team at Gustavus for the three years. Gustafson, a routinely top performer, credits the team and Head Coach Jed Friedrich with his success in the biathlon.

"Skiing is a huge portion of the race, so being able to train with talented skiers here is super beneficial. Here I have a coach and teammates, which is so much better than trying to train on my own," Gustafson said.

Gustafson enjoys both of sports and has the support of his teammates.

"We support Tyler through our training and spending time together. The nordic team is very close and we love seeing each other succeed. We have such great hopes for Tyler for the rest of the season and when he goes to the Junior World Championships," Junior Josh Blankenship said.

The nordic team's last race of the season is Feb. 15-16 when they will travel to Houghton, Michigan for the NCAA Central Region Championships. Following that meet Gustafson will depart for Maine to compete against the best young biathletes in the world. Gustafson's teammates are excited to watch him compete in the Junior World Championships.

"We as a team obviously want Tyler to prove that he can race with the best in the world in Maine. I think that he is going to do great. Tyler has proven to be a dependable asset to this [nordic] team, but moreover, to the USA in biathlon as well. This is an excellent opportunity for Tyler and we look forward to seeing what he can do against the best in the world," Junior Scott Williams said.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 7

Men's Hockey @ UW- River Falls
7:05 p.m.

Women's Hockey hosts St. Catherine University
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 8

M/W Track & Field @ MSU Ted Nelson Classic
11:00 a.m.

M/W Nordic Skiing @ CCSA Championships

Women's Basketball @ Carleton College
1:00 p.m.

Women's Hockey @ St. Catherine University
2:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball @ Carleton College
3:00 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 9

M/W Nordic Skiing @ CCSA Championships

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Men's Basketball @ Bethel University
7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball hosts Bethel University
7:30 p.m.

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