

# THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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## First Gustavus TEDx Conference received enthusiastically

Libby Larson  
Assistant News Editor

Gustavus recently served as host and contributor to the globally-renowned organization, TEDx. On April 12, the Center for Servant Leadership (CSL) presented a TEDx program in Wallenberg Auditorium; the first time the event has appeared on campus.

An extension of the TED organization which promotes "Ideas Worth Spreading," the TEDxGustavusAdolphusCollege event was the result of the efforts of Assistant Director for Community-Based Service and Learning Dave Newell '03 and students involved in the Ambassadors program.

The series of eight speakers featured a variety of perspectives focused around the theme, "Creative innovations to address complex problems."

Those invited included current Gustavus Senior Anna McDevitt, Alumni Dan Currell '94, Dean Hyers '88, Ellen Ruiters '97, and Neal Hagberg '81, as well as Mankato native Katie Boone, and Co-Founder of Sovereign Systems Reggie Edwards.

Newell reflected on the va-



Office of Marketing and Communications

Assistant Director for Community-Based Service and Learning Dave Newell speaks at the first Gustavus TEDx Conference.

riety of individuals invited to speak.

"It was an opportunity for us to honor and highlight their work and give them an opportunity to share it with the world, so to speak, and also a way for us to engage students, faculty,

staff, and surrounding community in their work," Newell said.

Many students and individuals involved with the College attended the event, in addition to members of the local community, and the greater region, including Iowa.

Newell also recognized the contributions of the Gustavus Marketing and Communications Department in promoting

**'TEDx' continued on page 3**

## Confronting the where and why of consumption

Rebecca Hare  
Editor-in-Chief

Next year's Reading in Common books, *Where Am I Eating* and *Where Am I Wearing* by Kelsey Timmerman, resonate with the numerous ongoing initiatives at Gustavus to raise consumer awareness. The books chronicle Timmerman's investigation into the sourcing of his clothing and food and take the reader on a worldwide tour featuring garment, coffee, chocolate, banana, and lobster production.

Timmerman's books focus on the people behind the products who provide him with his comfortable and convenient lifestyle. His goal is to educate and share the information he gathered on his journeys to find the source and impact of his consumer choices.

An excerpt from *Where Am I Eating* sums up his concern about the American lifestyle, the



Blake Van Oosbree  
Where Am I Eating and Where Am I Wearing by Kelsey Timmerman, both focus on the sources of clothing and food purchases.

importance of making knowledgeable decisions, and the impact they have.

"Ultimately, our policies, our environmental practices, our appetite for cheaper, fresher food year round—how we eat—impacts the way they live," Timmerman writes.

**"Our policies, our environmental practices, our appetite for cheaper, fresher food year round—how we eat—impacts the way they live."**

—Kelsey Timmerman

Director of Dining Services Steve Kjellgren '86 sees an op-

**'Confronting the where' continued on page 4**

## MayDay! to focus on Tibet

Christine Peterson  
Staff Writer

As Room Draw and registration for the fall semester simmers down, May is just around the corner, and along with it comes Gustavus's annual MAYDAY! Peace Conference. This year's theme is Tibet: Finding Hope in Exile. It will take place on April 30 in Christ Chapel and Alumni Hall.

The first MAYDAY! Peace Conference occurred at Gustavus in 1981. The purpose was to inform students about the rising concern of a nuclear confrontation between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

Ray and Florence Sponberg funded the first conference, and immediately it became a huge success. They continue to fund the informative and popular conference for Gustavus students and the whole public.

Senior Mara Johnson-Groh studied abroad last spring in Nepal focusing on Tibetan studies. She describes the purpose of MAYDAY! as a time for students to come together and talk about important issues.

"The goal of MAYDAY! is to raise awareness and open discussion on a topic of social justice or peace," Johnson-Groh said.

**"The goal of MAYDAY! is to raise awareness and open discussion on a topic of social justice or peace."**

—Mara Johnson-Groh

This year's conference will include a keynote address spoken by Dr. B. Tsering who is the Principal of the Dalai Lama Institute for Higher Education in India and is an elected member of the Tibetan Parliament.

It will also include a discussion panel of Tibetan experts, a ceremonial procession, and reception at the Linnaeus Arboretum.

Visiting Biology Professor Ngawang Gonsar will be participating as a panelist discussing Tibet's democratic future from the Indian and Minnesota perspective.

Gonsar is hoping students will

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# Diversity week continues a proud tradition

**Jessie Yongrong Tan**  
*Staff Writer*

Diversity Week of 2014 took place this past week, from April 22 to April 26. Sponsored by the Diversity Leadership Council (DLC), Diversity Week involved a wide range of events. From educational events, such as Diversity in the Dark, to celebration events like Caribbean Night, Diversity Week's main goal is showcasing the efforts the organizations of the DLC have contributed this year.

Every day of this week features at least one event. On Tuesday, April 22—Earth

Week—the Gustavus Greens led a service event to pick up trash on campus and in the Saint Peter area. Later that same night was Caribbean Night to celebrate Caribbean culture.

On Wednesday, Diversity in the Dark offered the whole campus an opportunity to ask questions about diversity that people may be afraid to usually talk about.

On Thursday, the guest speaker Arn Chorn-Pond provided insights on how music and social justice come across.

Tonight, there will be an International dancing night for people to learn different types of dances from all over the world.

Diversity Week will conclude with the Diversity Ball, also known as Diversity Awards Banquet, on Saturday, April 26 starting at 6:30 p.m.

A signature event occurring every spring, Diversity Week carries the same message every year: promoting diversity at Gustavus. The Diversity Ball is a long-standing tradition as an integral part of Diversity Week. Co-Chair of DLC Becca Eastwood pointed out a main difference of the Diversity Ball from the President's Ball.

"In the Diversity Awards Banquet, we give out awards for outstanding students, outstanding faculty, outstanding staff member, and outstanding event,"

Eastwood said.

Neither is Diversity in the Dark a brand new event. The idea was proposed by Co-Chair of DLC Comfort Dolo last year. The event was such a success, they decided to host the event again this year. According to Dolo, a wide range of questions were raised last year, from "What in the world is white privilege" to "What does LGBTQ stand for?"

However, Eastwood believed that Diversity Week is not the same every year. Bringing in the guest speaker Arn Chorn-

**'Diversity Week' continued on page 4**

# Campus Safety Report

**Tuesday, April 15**

•Campus Safety responded to a report of two students being responsible for a theft of College property. An Adirondack chair was recovered in a room in Sorensen Hall.

**Wednesday, April 16**

•Campus Safety responded to a drug/narcotic violation in North Hall involving one student.  
 •Collegiate Fellows responded to a policy violation in Pittman Hall involving two students.

**Thursday, April 17**

•A student reported a theft of personal property from the Lund Center.

**Saturday, April 19**

•A student was cited by Campus Safety with underage consumption, underage possession of alcohol, drug/narcotic and drug equipment violations, and social host violation in Sorensen Hall. Two non-students were cited for underage consumption of alcohol and failure to comply with campus official and trespassed from campus.

•Two students while in the International Center were cited for an of-age alcohol violation in a non-drinking area by Campus Safety.

**Sunday, April 20**

•Three students while in the Linnaeus Arboretum were cited by Campus Safety for a drug/narcotic violation. Two students were cited for drug equipment violations. One student was cited for failure to comply with a College official.  
 •A student and non-student were cited by Campus Safety in Norelius Hall with a College policy violation.

Case dispositions are available online by viewing the daily crime log on the Campus Safety web page: <https://gustavus.edu/safety/incidents/index.php>

**Tip of the Week:**

Don't thumb it up behind the wheel!

The Saint Peter Police Department has been conducting extra enforcement in an effort to reduce distracted driving. In the last three years distracted teen drivers were involved in crashes that resulted in 25 deaths and 4,505 injuries.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety, driver distraction is a leading crash factor in Minnesota, accounting for around twenty percent of all crashes annually and resulting in at least seventy deaths and 350 injuries.

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts/emails, and access the Web on a wireless device while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic, such as at a stoplight or stuck in traffic. It is also illegal for drivers under age 18 to use a cell phone at any time.

Distractions cause drivers to react more slowly to traffic conditions or events, such as a vehicle stopping or pulling out in traffic. A University of Utah study reports that using a cell phone while driving, whether hands-free or hand-held, delays a driver's reactions as much as having an alcohol-concentration level of 0.08 percent. And when texting, drivers take their eyes off the road for up to 4.6 out of every 6 seconds — equivalent to traveling the length of a football field at 55 mph hours without looking up.

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# Potential international organization chapter excites Gustavus community

**Marissa Haeny**  
Staff Writer

When speaking of Chinese on campus, many jump to the reduction and potential elimination of Gustavus's Chinese classes for the 2014-2015 academic year. For those upset with this decision, the Global China Connection could be a remedy.

Global China Connection (GCC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization for university students looking to engage China's emergence as a global power. They connect future leaders from all nations and assist in developing skills necessary to succeed in China and internationally. GCC aims to develop deep and trusting personal relationships among Chinese and non-Chinese university students, as the world has become increasingly interdependent over the last decade.

The potential governing body for the Gustavus GCC chapter has applied for membership and will know by next fall if they have been approved. The current Chinese Culture Club would morph into a GCC chapter if membership were granted.

Visiting Chinese Language and Literature Instructor Shannon Cannella is excited for this new type of group to be on campus.

"The good thing about the membership and application process is that, because it's based on a set of requirements,



Master Calligrapher Lui Zhenxiong presenting his work at the Chinese calligraphy workshop hosted by Global China Connection.

there becomes a standard for the types of activities and levels of participation required," Cannella said.

Three events a semester are required, allowing Chinese culture to become much more visible on campus. Last week, the GCC chapter hopefuls, along with the Modern Languages, Literature, and Cultures Department, hosted Liu Zhenxiong, an artist from Hohot, Inner Mongolia. His talk and demonstration explored the place of writing and calligraphy in Chinese culture, from early wisdom of Confucius to the continued

primacy of learning in Chinese culture today.

Sophomore Daniel Lee believes these types of events are crucial to a more globalized world and job market.

"Liu Zhenxiong's demonstration presented a global view of China, and highlighted the differences between American and Chinese cultures. I liked the event because it gave me an inside look on part of what Chinese culture is - beautiful art, a set of traditions, and ancient Chinese beliefs," Lee said.

The idea of globalization has become increasingly prevalent

in modern society. One of the benefits of having a Global China Connection chapter on campus is the network of students members would be able to reach out to. There are currently more than sixty chapters globally, including ones at Carleton College and the University of Minnesota. Having a Gustavus chapter would allow for more regional events to be hosted in the Midwest.

Sophomore David Edholm is excited by the prospect of having a GCC chapter on campus to increase connections on and off campus.

"I like to think of the GCC as an advanced Chinese Culture Club. A typical culture club does not have the connection with international Chinese students like GCC does. Also, GCC emphasizes Asian Studies and International Business careers, and we hope to connect with other colleges nationwide," Edholm said.

*"A typical culture club does not have the connection with international Chinese students like GCC does.*

*It is important that Gusties have the chance to learn about a culture outside of our own so we can continue to grow."*

— David Edholm

Edholm also believes in the importance of encouraging and understanding diversity.

"I think it is important for Gusties to learn about a new perspective because there are many different cultures in the world to learn from. Chinese culture has so much to offer, like teaching hard work and strong relationships with family. It is important that Gusties have the chance to learn about a culture outside of our own so we can continue to grow," Edholm said.

## *"TEDx Conference" continued from page 1*

the event, as well as CSL Ambassadors, Katey Nelson, Nicole Smetana, Donte Curtis, Mata Agre, Mandy Schlauderaff, and Graduate Intern Matthew Tollefson.

Junior Angela Gewerth also served as a volunteer through

the CSL on the day of the conference.

"There was a lot of behind-the-scenes dedication that went on to put this conference on in a relatively short amount of time. They were able to get eight really fantastic and motivated speakers, they transformed Wallenberg, and they got students to help out. So just seeing the whole day in action was really

fantastic from start to finish," Gewerth said.

First-Year Katey Nelson helped organize the event. She created posters and designed the set. In addition to efforts of other students, she invited speakers, obtained sponsorship, and ensured that the day ran smoothly.

"It was so amazing to be a part of an environment where people

came together to share their inspiring ideas," Nelson said.

Both Nelson and Gewerth said that among the messages presented by the diverse speakers, they perceived an overarching theme of the importance of relationships, as well as a focus on dreams and the future.

"There are so many ideas and inspirations out there that we are not aware of, and for some-

body so passionate about what they do with their life it's so cool to see them share that with other people," Nelson said.

The event was videotaped and the footage will be accessible online after being edited.

*"It was so amazing to be a part of an environment where people came together to share their inspiring ideas."*

— Katey Nelson

"Our hope was that we would not only bring the conference but we would have these [recordings] that would be accessible, and people would use them and have access to them and watch them. The content is really powerful stuff, and it's people that we know and have access to," Newell said.

Newell expressed intentions to host additional TEDx events in future years, promoting greater campus involvement.

To view the TEDxGustavusAdolphusCollege footage, visit the TED YouTube channel as well as [tedxgustavusadolphus-college.com](http://tedxgustavusadolphus-college.com).



Student TEDx volunteers (left to right): Nicole Smetana, Bruno Rocha, Angela Gewerth, Breanna Schlegel, Sarah Barnes, Katey Nelson, Kyle Bright

### 'Confronting the where' continued from page 1

portunity to consider the connections between the two books and why they were both chosen.

"How do these two things go together? They're both consumerism, and how aware are we of the choices we make on a daily basis," Kjellgren said.

These themes bear a strong connection to Gustavus's various initiatives to responsibly source food and clothing. The BookMark has signed the "No Sweat Shop" pledge and offers Alta Gracia clothing as a responsible alternative to big name vendors. Kjellgren hopes that the books will generate interest in the where and the why of purchasing decisions made by different areas of the College.

"It's not only 'where am I eating,' but we further that conversation to include 'why am I eating,'" Kjellgren said.

With an independent dining service, Kitchen Cabinet advisory board, and an increasing number of fair trade items offered in the BookMark, Kjellgren is enthusiastic about the book choices and how they will involve students in further conversations on these topics.

"I think we're going to have more and more students ask the question, 'Where does our food come from at Gustavus?' I hope that we get some ideas from our students about things we're not doing that we should be doing. Our best ideas come from questions students ask us," Kjellgren said.

Director of the Academic Support Center and Fair Trade Activist Margo Druschel is excited about Timmerman's visit to campus and how his youth will resonate with students.

"He's really appealing and young-ish, so I think that college aged students can look at someone who is not much different than they are and realize that he just thought about this . . . I think he'll be great to get young people thinking," Druschel said.

Kjellgren sees similar pos-

sibility for the books to make an impact on the community because their topics are accessible and familiar.

*"I think we're going to have more and more students ask the question, 'Where does our food come from at Gustavus?' I hope that we get some ideas from our students about things we're not doing that we should be doing. Our best ideas come from questions students ask us."*

— Steve Kjellgren

"This approaches social justice in a different way than our other Reading in Common books. They've all addressed some socio-political, ethical question, but I think this is the first time we've found one that affects our everyday experience, and we have to make that choice right now," Kjellgren said.

Both Kjellgren and Druschel look forward to programming opportunities next year to bring these ideas to campus. Inviting area farmers who supply the Dining Service and hosting a socially responsible fashion show by Mata Traders are two possibilities that are currently being considered. With the goal of educating and involving students in purchasing decisions that are already being made with these ethical sourcing considerations in mind, Druschel hopes that students are inspired to get involved in these campus conversations and forward future efforts.

"My hope is that in combination with efforts that are already going on here, he will advance the conversation, and we'll continue to make incremental changes," Druschel said.

### 'MAYDAY' continued from page 1

take away an understanding of the Tibetans' struggles and be able to recognize this human issue.

"I think the issue of Tibet and Tibetan freedom is a complex one, but I hope that through MAYDAY! students take away some understanding of the Tibetan struggle. At the end of the day, however whatever our opinions on the issue may be, we need to understand that it is human issue, where the lives of millions of people are at stake," Gonsar said.

The MAYDAY! Conference focuses on contemporary and relevant topics associated with peace, which is why Tibet was chosen as this year's topic.

Johnson-Groh explains in more detail the history of the Tibetan exile, and why this topic is going to be brought to Gustavus

this year for MAYDAY!

"Since the Dalai Lama went into exile in 1959, following the Chinese occupation of Tibet, the Tibetan people have sought refuge in India and throughout the world, including Minnesota. They have since struggled to maintain their identity and build a global democratic culture," Johnson-Groh said.

*"At the end of the day, however whatever our opinions on the issue may be, we need to understand that it is human issue, where the lives of millions of people are at stake."*

— Ngawang Gonsar

The only Tibetan student at Gustavus, Tenzin Dolker,

expresses the importance of this year's MAYDAY! Peace Conference due to the lack of consensus and knowledge on the issue of Tibet.

"Some might know, might not know or have any ideas about Tibet. This would be a great opportunity to go and find out more about Tibet," Dolker said.

Dolker anticipates a helpful and informative MAYDAY! this year. She is hoping it will expand to more than just awareness, but a creation of an organization to further the interest of Tibetan issues on campus.

Classes will be suspended or shortened in order for students and staff to attend this event. It will begin with a keynote address at 10 a.m. in Christ Chapel, and proceed until 4 p.m. There is no fee and is open to the public.



Allison Hosman

Campus Center bulletin board displays pictures and information that previews the 2014 MAYDAY! Conference.

### Where Am I Eating at Gustavus?

- Fair trade coffee from Tiny Footprint Coffee
- Liquid eggs from Michael Foods in Gaylord, MN
- Cage-free eggs from Sparboe Farms
- rBGH-free milk from Kemps (MN dairy farmers)
- Grass-fed beef from Thousand Hills Beef Company in Cannon Falls, MN
- Free range turkey from Ferndale Market in Cannon Falls, MN
- Wild caught seafood from alum Kevin Rogotkze
- French fries potatoes from Park Rapids, MN
- Chicken from Golden Plump (purchased regionally)

### 'Diversity Week' continued from page 1

Pond is one of their attempts to creatively engage the Campus in the issues about diversity. Eastwood talked about ChronPond's background.

"He plays the flute. He was in Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge genocide. He is talking about how playing the flute helped him get out of the children's work camps," Eastwood said.

From Dolo's point of view, Diversity Week 2014 distinguishes itself from last year because it corresponds with other events that have happened this year.

"Instead of having a bunch of big events jam-packed every day throughout the week, this year we have more focused events. And they're kind of targeting things that we've done in the past. This year, the Building Bridges Conference focused on environmental justice. That's kind of why the Gustavus

Greens came up with the idea of doing a trash pick-up on campus. So it's kind of referring back to things that we talked about in the past and bringing it back again for people: Hey, don't forget about this important issue," Dolo said.

Dolo encouraged people to participate and she was sure that it would be worthwhile.

"You can come to events that are more focused on educating and actually having a good time. It's a fun way to celebrate diversity," Dolo said.



Office of Marketing and Communications

The 2013 Diversity Ball was very popular among students.

# GUSTIE *of the* WEEK

*Valentina Muraleedharan*



**Clara Wicklund**  
Staff Writer

Senior Valentina Muraleedharan is a key component in the project of making Gustavus a more culturally competent and inclusive place.

Her commitment to this project is manifest in her personal and professional life.

She is a communication studies and gender, women, and sexuality studies double major. She is also an international student, hailing from Botswana, Southern Africa.

Valentina grew up in a multicultural home. Her mother is Persian, and her father is Indian. She attributes much of her passion for diversity and inclusion to her upbringing in a culturally vibrant home and community.

"I was constantly encouraged to explore and learn about people's families, cultures, traditions, beliefs, backgrounds. That's part of how I became immediately involved in the Diversity Center and multicultural programs and organizations

on campus," Valentina said.

Throughout her time at Gustavus, Valentina has been involved in the Pan African Student Organization (PASO), I Am We Are, the Diversity Leadership Council (DLC), Interfaith Advisory Board, Guild of St. Lucia, and she has worked at the Center for International and Cultural Education (CICE).

"My spirit and my heart have really been pushed in every aspect of my involvement at Gustavus. It has been a place that has cultivated and fostered my passion for social justice, which was definitely present in my childhood and household," Valentina said.

The latest campus event Valentina was a lead facilitator in was Africa Night, which took place April 11.

"It is my absolute favorite night on campus because I feel like my homes and lives are existing in coherence," Valentina said.

"I cry every year—with joy of course! I love seeing how much everyone that attends enjoys the show," Valentina said.

Along with her deep involvement in the Gustavus community, her friends describe

her as an extremely genuine person, making her particularly well-suited to the difficult work of promoting social justice and cultural awareness.

"Valentina is exceptional and everyone who knows her would say the same, and I think that speaks greatly to her being. Her sense of self is contagious. She is passionate, ambitious, modest, sincere, thoughtful, loving. Just being around her makes you a better person," Senior Adwoa Afreh said.

As a first-year, Valentina looked up to the upperclassmen and was inspired by their involvement in the Diversity Center and the social justice work they did on campus.

"I hoped and prayed that I could do even a fraction of what they were doing, because they were making an incredible and positive impact. I am just happy and humbled that I was a part of the process, a link in the lengthening chain of people that have been a part of the culture that created this climate on campus," Valentina said.

Not only does she care about the current role of diversity at Gustavus, but the legacy she will leave behind for future generations of students.

"She contributes to the Gustavus community by just being here, by bringing about different perspectives to the campus. She is constantly engaged in discussions about how we can leave Gustavus better than when we arrived," Afreh said.

Valentina takes her leadership beyond the borders of Gustavus, by fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for racially underrepresented students through her work in the CICE.

"Valentina has shared her culture and perspectives with the Gustavus com-

munity and beyond. I have learned a lot from her," Jeff Anderson, International Student Services Coordinator said.

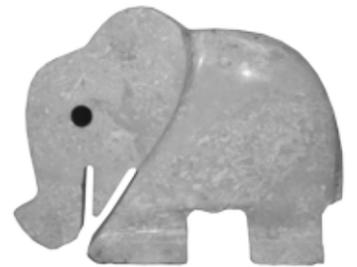
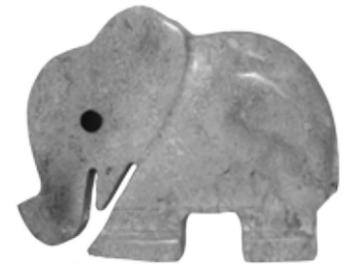
Though her community often looks to Valentina for inspiration, at the end of the day, she looks back to them as the ultimate reflection of progress and hope for the future.

"[My friends] are where I see the true meaning of social justice and oneness; people really looking out for people. These are the people that showed me what Gustavus means and how involvement and diversity/inclusion work matters on this campus," Valentina said.

Though Gustavus contrasts greatly to her experiences in Botswana—especially the harsh winters—Valentina has come to see Gustavus as truly a home away from home.

"I truly care about the future of this institution, of the organizations I have been a part of, and the phenomenal human beings I have met here," she said.

"I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to be a part of this community and contribute to its spirit and being—I'm thankful to Gustavus and, most importantly, the encouragement and support of my parents. This combination is what makes me a Gustie, bridging the gap between my home and my Gustavus."



Vincent Bartella

Valentina considers the elephant her "spirit animal." These figurines sit on her desk and shelves in her dorm room as a reminder of home.



Valentina has remained highly involved in diversity and inclusion efforts at Gustavus.

Allison Hosman



Friends describe Valentina as a truly genuine person.

Allison Hosman

# Mendacity brings secrets and suspense to the stage

Ellyn Sheehy  
Staff Writer

Seniors Comfort Dolo and Rob Ward have been acting together since their first theater class at Gustavus. Now, they have come together once again to create something of their own. Their senior honors project, *Mendacity*, will be performed in the Black Box theatre April 25 and 26 at 8:00 p.m. and April 27 at 2:00 p.m. This is a product of months of hard work and is a testament to how much they've grown as both actors and directors.

*"We want the audience to be in suspense, to feel almost uncomfortable."*  
—Rob Ward

In the Theatre Department, students have the option to apply for and create a senior honors project, this is the equivalent to a thesis. Being the only two actors in their theatre class, Dolo and Ward decided to collaborate on a project. Over the summer, they looked over a number of plays and eventually decided to devise their own. "This means starting from nothing and creating something out of it," Ward said. The pair started with one main idea: secrets. This concept of lies and deceit combined with an exceptional amount of improvising led them to

*Mendacity*. The word mendacity means untruthfulness.

"We wanted the title to reflect the major theme of the play," Dolo said.

For inspiration they looked to everything from their personal lives to Quentin Tarantino films. They wanted to humanize the characters they created and using things from their own lives was the way to do that. While studying in Ireland over J-term, Ward found interest in the works of Irish writer and director Samuel Beckett and drew inspiration from his works as well.

In the endless hours Dolo and Ward spent devising and directing this play, they learned about the strengths of themselves and each other and were able to play off of those.

Every day, they would come together with their ideas and improvise off of them.

"We have very different styles... Comfort is more lighter while I am more sick and twisted. Together that created a dark comedy... it was a very nice clash," Ward said.

Everything needed for this production was done by the two actors or fellow theatre students.

"For the project we were wearing different hats—actor, director, set designer, and marketing... we had to solve all of our own problems," Ward said.

Few details have been revealed about the plot of the play and that is exactly what Dolo and Ward wanted. What has been gathered is that it is about two people trapped in a basement. They don't know how

they got there or why they are together. In the midst of their attempts to escape they come to realize the dangers inside the basement and themselves.

Dolo and Ward have expectations not only for their own performances, but for how the audience will react to them.

"We want the audience to be in suspense, to feel almost uncomfortable," Ward said.

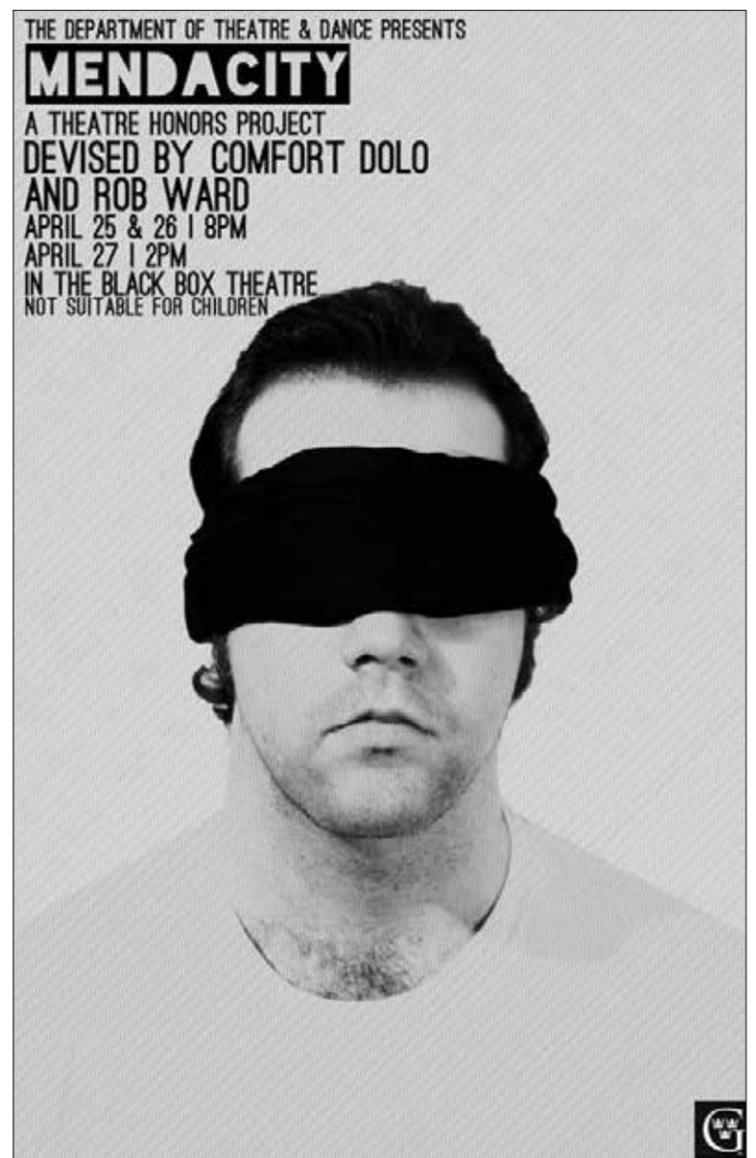
"We want them to see that there is more behind a person than what meets the eye... the idea of withholding the truth is something that applies to everyone," Dolo said.

*"We have very different styles... Comfort is more lighter while I am more sick and twisted. Together that created a dark comedy ... it was a very nice clash."*  
—Rob Ward

Despite the fact that they are performing the play in a few days time, these young directors do not feel that their work is done.

"We devised and directed the entire thing, and the play came out of our improvisations, so we will probably be making changes during the two days of performances," Dolo said.

Their project will reach its completion at the final bow.



Posters for *Mendacity* feature the faces of the two students who star in the production. Submitted

# The Lego Movie builds new Warner Brothers audience



Brady Lass  
Staff Writer

Lego® is one of the few toy brands that has stood the test of time. It encourages creativity among its consumers, and its access to multiple brands widens its appeal to various audiences. There are a number of movies that have been made for marketing purposes and to sell toys, but what happens when the toys become the movie? There have been failed attempts at making toy brands into realistic action movies like *G.I. JOE* and *Battleship*, but when critically acclaimed comedy directors Chris Miller and Phil Lord take the helm, is everything

in *The Lego Movie* awesome?

Emmett (*Guardians of the Galaxy* star Chris Pratt) is a typical Lego construction worker who lives in a seemingly utopian society run by Lord Business (Will Ferrell). One day, he comes across a typical red piece that is the prophesized "Piece of Resistance," and is taken in by the Master Builders: a group consisting of the dashing Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks), the blind wizard Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman), Batman (Will Arnett), and many others. The Master Builders believe that Emmett is the "Special One" who was chosen to save them, but discover that Emmett and his imagination are quite bland. They discover that Lord Business is set on destroying the world with a secret weapon and his henchman, Good Cop/Bad Cop (Liam Neeson). The heroes set out to stop Lord Business' evil plan, while Emmett must discover his full potential.

The film uses the Lego® brand to tell an interesting, action packed, and heartfelt story. It's amazing how little yellow toys can convey a more emotional story than most animated films these days.

The morals taught take full

advantage of the purpose of Legos® to express one's creativity. Despite being a product of his environment, Emmett is able to find out what makes himself and anyone more unique than they could imagine; a great moral to teach to children and adults.

But it's not a completely emotional movie. It has a great emphasis on quick and smart comedy, which is fun and enjoyable for audiences of all ages. Miller and Lord had prior experience with *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and *21 Jump Street*. They've once again proved that their sharp writing and directing is a force to be reckoned with.

It also boasts a large ensemble of memorable characters. Out of the main cast, Batman is the only one from a recognizable brand. However, his popularity and likability can be rivaled by the other Master Builders, such as the enthusiastic Princess Unikitty, the hyper astronaut Benny, and the tough Metalbeard. The voice actors are spot on and sound like they are having a blast with this story. It's great when the actors are having fun with their roles because that positivity can spread to the audience. It does contain Easter eggs from other franchises

such as the DC superheroes and certain cartoons and movies, but like *Wreck It Ralph*, they don't let the oversaturation of marketing possibilities ruin the movie's potential. It's fun to point them out while watching, but like a good story, the references do not dominate what the movie tries to accomplish.

The animation is some of the best I've seen in years. Recent Lego® cartoons and video games rely on CG animation to show the action. Despite the movie using CGI, it purposefully tries to look like a movie done in stop motion. This not only helps the audience connect to the film with nostalgia of playing with Legos® or making homemade Lego® movies, but it also gives it a distinct feel from other films put out by Disney or DreamWorks. It is also extremely colorful to give it a more energetic feel, and even effects like water and flying on strings make it feel appealingly homemade.

The movie isn't without its issues. In terms of plot, the third act of the movie felt rushed and threw a bit too much of a curveball in the story. It's not a bad curveball, but it certainly could have been handled bet-

ter. The rushed third act also makes the movie feel shorter. It's clear a lot of effort went into the animation, but it's one of those moments they could have fleshed out certain characters or action moments more. The energy is certainly bursting, but in some cases, too much. The action and amount of stuff happening on screen can be overwhelming combined with the film's style of animation. People who get sick by fast moving objects might want to think before seeing this movie.

Aside from a rushed third act and some overwhelming action sequences, the writing, voice acting, animation, and use of license makes *The Lego Movie* one of 2014's best films. It's funny, heartfelt, and has some memorable characters and comedy with breathtaking animation. If we had more people who knew how to make fun and enjoyable movies with a popular license for all ages like Chris Miller and Phil Lord, the world of cinema could be changed for the better.



# Dance company to perform *Graceful Spring Concert*

**Kim Krulish**  
Staff Writer

The school year is drawing to a close and with finals drawing near, students are looking forward to summer. However, there are still several events that should not be missed, including the 2014 Gustavus Dance Company's annual Spring Dance Concert.

Titled *Grace* and open to the public, the concert will be showing May 2-4 in the Anderson Theatre at 8 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The concert is about two hours long and features a broad array of choreography created by faculty members Melissa Rolnick, Michele Rusinko, Sarah Hauss, and Jill Patterson, guest artists and Gustavus Alumni Philip Flickinger '01 and Katy Becker '02, and student-choreographed pieces by Senior Dance Majors Johnny Bates and Kelsey Hanstad.

As the title of the show suggests, all nine dances are centered around, involve, and even bring new meaning to the concept of grace.

"It's really interesting how a lot of the pieces kind of involve that. It wasn't anything planned," Hanstad said.

Hanstad is excited to participate in her final Spring Dance Concert at Gustavus. She choreographed a piece called "Libertà" ("Freedom" in Italian) in the fall as a group piece. She is performing in three other pieces: "Then Here Begin," a senior piece choreographed by Jill Patterson and was selected to be in the Gala Concert at the 2014 American Collegiate Dance Festival Association. She is also performing in a trio called "Jonesing for Grace" choreographed by Michele Rusinko with a lot of scenic elements and grand costumes, and "Abide," solo choreographed by Philip Flickinger.

"This is my last Spring Dance Concert. But it's also kind of what is starting my dance career. This is big for me because I have so much stuff in it, and I'm such a big part in it. This is my Gustavus family, this is my dance family. It means a lot," Hanstad said.

As each of the choreographers expresses different emotions and narratives through the dances, *Grace* will be presenting a mixture and blending of many modern styles. As stated in the recent press release, presented to the public to advertise for the concert, "The pieces are emotionally provocative and physically compelling, eliciting the perception of grace."

The Dance Department con-

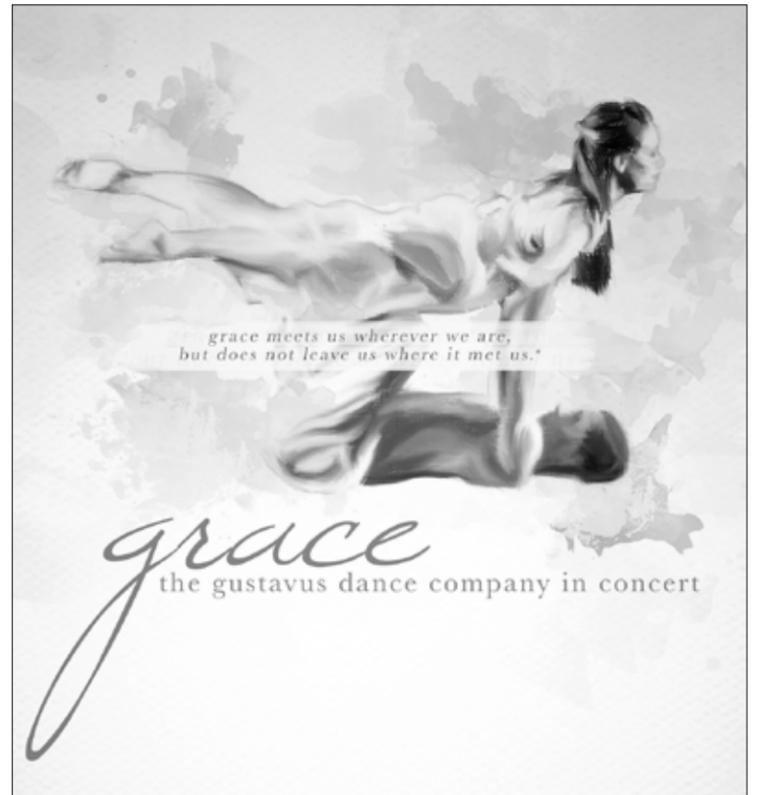
certs and performances do not always receive the publicity and audience that they often deserve.

"I think it's a little underestimated on campus. We've gotten rave reviews, but sometimes not a lot of people know about it," Hanstad said.

Melissa Rolnick and Michele Rusinko are serving as artistic directors of *Grace*. Faculty members Micah Maatman, Terena Wilkins, and Larissa McConnell are serving as Production Manager, light and sound designer, and costume designer, respectively. Senior Anna Michel and Juniors Kit Baumer and Bethany Davidson are designing sound, light, and costumes.

First-year Kate Dudley is performing in guest artist Katy Becker's piece. The cast began working on the piece in the fall and have been rehearsing once a week since. All of the dancers performing this piece helped with the choreography, so it is a collaboration between the cast and Becker's ideas. They worked with interesting ideas, such as inertia, and discussed hips and hip movements, as well as energy and heart energy. The music for the piece was created by a friend of Becker's, who came in and recorded the dancers singing and doing body percussion, making it very unique.

"It's going to be the first performance I've been in at Gus-



Submitted  
Students find posters advertising the concert throughout campus.

tavus, which is really exciting. I'm really excited to be able to perform in a college show that is a show to celebrate dance, and I'm really excited to be able to perform with my cast. We're all pretty close. I'm looking forward to it," Dudley said.

Tickets are available at the Information desk in the campus center or at [www.gustavustickets.com](http://www.gustavustickets.com).

# Letterman welcomes Stephen Colbert to take his seat in 2015

**Dan Vruno**  
Staff Writer

David Letterman is finally ending his career hosting late night television after over thirty years and 6,000 episodes. Letterman has been a prominent figure on television since his 1982 debut and has surpassed Johnny Carson as the longest-serving late-night-talk-show host in television history as of last year. A week after Letterman's announcement, CBS officially announced that Stephen Colbert of *The Colbert Report* will be taking Letterman's chair shortly after his departure.

Letterman began his career as a radio talk show host and weatherman for the local television station in Indianapolis. Known for his offbeat humor in both positions, he moved to Los Angeles in 1975 with the hopes of becoming a comedy writer. He quickly gained recognition for his writing and dry humor, and his career took off. In following years, Letterman was picked up by Johnny Carson, debuted *Late Night* with David Letterman on NBC in 1982, started the *Late Show* with David Letterman on CBS in 1993. This show received critical praise and was nominated for 67 Emmy Awards over the past twenty years and won twelve awards.

On the night of Letterman's retirement announce-

ment, Chairman and CEO of CBS Les Moonves shared his thoughts on the announcement.

"For 21 years, David Letterman has graced our Network's air in late night with wit, gravitas, and brilliance unique in the history of our medium. During that time, Dave has given television audiences thousands of hours of comedic entertainment, the sharpest interviews in late night, and brilliant moments of candor and perspective around national events," Moonves stated.

During the taping of his announcement episode, Letterman stated how grateful he is towards everyone who has made the show with him.

"I just want to reiterate my thanks for the support from the network, all of the people who have worked here, all of the people in the theater, all the people on the staff, everybody at home, thank you very much," Letterman said.

When Stephen Colbert was announced as Letterman's replacement, some were curious how he would take on the role. Known for being a correspondent for *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart and anchor of *The Colbert Report*, Colbert has history in fictional news. In 1997 the "Stephen Colbert" character, played by Colbert, was introduced to *The Daily Show*. Created as a parody of cable news anchors, "Stephen Colbert" communicated his

right-wing personal views and developed a fictitious back-story. After eight successful years as a correspondent on *The Daily Show*, Comedy Central gave Colbert his own show in 2005. Colbert remains in character for *The Colbert Report* and has developed "Colbert" over the years and hopes his guests call out his character's ignorance.

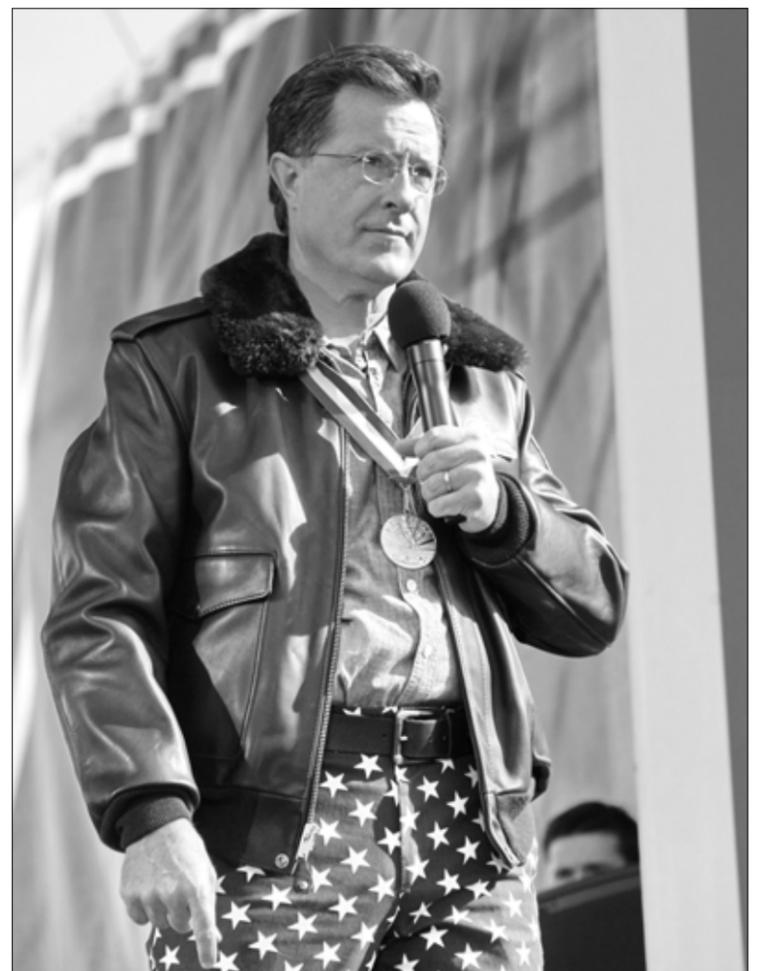
"Don't let me get away with anything. Don't try to play my game. Be real. Be passionate. Hold your ideas. Give me resistance. Give me traction I can work against," Colbert advises.

*The Colbert Report* is one of the highest-rated series on Comedy Central and has received three Emmy nominations. In the past few years, Colbert was an entertainer at the White House Correspondent's Association Dinner in 2006, named one of *Time's* most influential people in 2006 and 2012, and has had his book, *I Am America (And So Can You!)* on the New York Times Best Seller List. After seventeen successful years of playing "Colbert," Colbert has announced when he takes over *The Late Show* he will not use his satirical right-wing persona.

With both Letterman's career as a late-night host and Colbert's on-screen persona coming to an end, next year's switch at CBS will be a spectacle to witness. Earlier this week when Colbert appeared on *The Late Show* with David Letterman, Letterman went on to tell him

that he looks right at home. The torch is ready to be passed down as Colbert plans to respect Letterman's legacy in making

such an entertaining and long-lasting television series, while still making the show his own.



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Stephen Colbert sporting one of his many patriotic ensembles.

# Students gather to rejuvenate the meaning of community

Jaurdyn Gilliss  
Features Editor

Today, students of Gustavus Adolphus College will gather together outside the chapel to rejuvenate the meaning of community damaged by the disempowerment of its representatives.

The students will participate in Divest-Fest, a community rally in the pursuit of student voice in investment and administrative decisions that will affect the community's future.

"What we really like to focus on is that it's not us against them. It's about reviving the meaning of community and reestablishing what it means to have a relationship with our administrators who have the role of making a lot of the decisions for our campus," Junior Nicole Ektnitphong said.

Divest-Fest is an event led by students of 'Our Future, Our Voices, #OurGustavus,' a group who came together after advocating for their individual athletic teams, initiatives, classes, and investments that they are passionate about.

"I am on the Nordic ski team and was affected by the cut of that, so we reached out to Nicole, and we decided that while all of these cuts are going on, a collective voice would be much stronger than each of our individual voices coming in different angles," Sophomore Marit Sonnesyn said.

The Board of Trustees Finance Committee is one of the only committees without student representation, so a main goal of Divest-Fest is to advocate for financial transparency.

"As far as our financial issues go, we want to have a voice with the administration. Instead of the adminis-

tration making all of the decisions, we want to be more inclusive as a community. We are Gustavus. The administration exists because we come here, not the other way around, and I think they should act like that," Sophomore Alex Luung said.

Another focus of Divest-Fest will be the fight to dissociate endowment investments from fossil fuels.

"Being in the position of privilege that most of the people here are, we don't really have to see or feel the affects of fossil fuels right away, or if we do, not nearly to the same extent that people in other countries do. But it will eventually affect us in those ways, so it's something we should pay attention to," Luung said.

Ektnitphong believes that as members of the Gustavus community, whether directly affected by the issues presented through the Divest-Fest or not, students still have an obligation to take notice.

"The simple reason is because you are a member of the community by being at Gustavus, but also because '#OurGustavus' is about us and it completely thrives off of including student voices. We need everyone. The care is already open and given to students. It's really simple. Being a part of the community is why people should care, but also knowing that this movement is for students by students," Ektnitphong said.

If you would like to show your support as a member of the Gustavus community, the members of Divest-Fest invite you to show up.

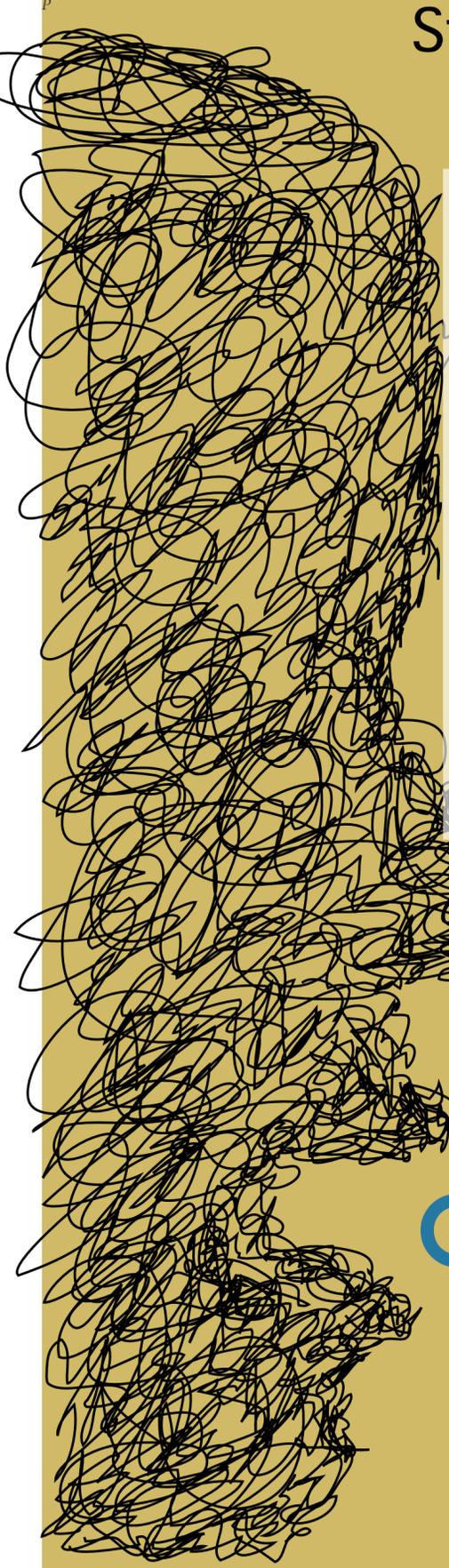
"The best way to help is to show support. Show up today and have your presence known. Maybe you're not involved in the organization of the event, but just showing up and showing that you support the movement and other students on campus is the best way to help. Be there for one another," Sonnesyn said.



Junior Nicole Ektnitphong takes a break from painting a sign for Divest-Fest to pose for a picture.



Students painted drums and signs to prepare to use at the Divest-Fest Rally today.



# Our Future

# Our Voices

# #OurGustavus

## Tentative Schedule

10:25 a.m.

Board exits the chapel following the newly tenured faculty service; drumming and chants begin

10:33 a.m.

Testimonies from groups

10:40 a.m.

Music, dancing, singing, etc. Closing remarks from emcees, One Love

Post-Rally

Presentation on Divestment; invite Board to chat about transparency; jam session

10:30 a.m.

Emcee gives opening remarks

10:35 a.m.

Divorce from fossil fuels skit

10:50 a.m.

Finish rally; move on to post-rally



Nicole Ektnitphong



# The Masonator Two Cents on Minumum Wage



**Mason Kruize**  
Opinion Columnist

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton signed legislation this month that will gradually boost the state's minimum wage to \$9.50 by 2016. Passed with only Democratic support in the state legislature, the new law shall mandate that Minnesota's current minimum wage of \$6.15 per hour, one of the lowest in the country, will rise by more than \$3 over the next few years and stay tied to inflation.

Supporters are delighted that this bill shall help the middle and lower class earn more money per hour at a rate higher than the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

Though lower than President Obama's proposed \$10.10 per hour rate as mentioned in his most recent State of the Union Address, it is irrefutable that this increase is a milestone victory for the advocates of livable wages. Based upon the worth of the American dollar due to inflation, the \$9.50 rate

is comparable to the rate in 1968 where \$1.60 per hour was worth approximately \$10.00 today.

Critics and opponents of the bill, most vocally those of the conservative and Republican sect, have argued that this bill shall be detrimental to small businesses and hurt a still recovering economy. Additionally, the argument has been made that due to a higher cost for workers' wages, fewer jobs will be available thereby raising the unemployment rate. While these arguments against the bill may appear logical at a first glance, there are several considerations to take which may dissuade that opinion.

Primarily, one must consider the inequality of wealth in the United States. From 1979 to 2007, the income of the wealthiest percent of Americans has risen 281 percent. For the top fifth, income has increased 95 percent. The rate is 25 percent for the middle fifth, and the bottom fifth has seen a paltry rise of 16 percent in income. The top 20 percent wealthiest in the nation own 93 percent of the nation's wealth, the top 1 percent own 50.9 percent of stock, and since 1978, the average CEO has had their salary grow one hundred and seventy times faster than the typical worker's salary. Ladies and gentlemen, this is not a debate over opinions; it is a debate over facts.

The American Dream, at the most basic level, is the belief that by working hard and fairly, one can hope for a better future for their prosperity. By putting up with the difficulties of today, we are conformed to believe



A livable wage is too important to be tossed aside for greed. Creative Commons

that things will be better and the natural curve of humanity leans toward moral equality and opportunity.

However, by creating an ever-increasing gap between the most and least wealthy, we ripen the conditions for despair and conflict amongst ourselves in this nation. A system cannot exist in which the "elite" grow

ever more privileged and the "bottom" must fend for themselves like animals. Capitalism has been viewed in America as a shining example of free marketing where anyone can prosper. In reality, the rich become richer and the poor become poorer should it remain unchecked.

Critics shall speak of trickle down economics. Should the

rich gain even more money, some of that wealth will eventually make its way down the social ladder to the less fortunate.

While this ideology of throwing the dog a bone paints an optimistic picture of human character, wealth inequality has been proven to be a terrible threat to economic security both during the Great Depression and the Financial Crisis of 2008, the latter of which has led to us being situated in a state of economic recovery. Trickle down economics has always proven to be a false belief in the moral good of the wealthy.

Corporations and businesses shall always require workers, people will always require a set amount of money to make ends met, and this country shall always at its core lean toward the belief of the American Dream. Fights and revolutions have at times been necessary, countless individuals and groups have impeded on the natural curve of progress and there will always be those who will attempt to paint a pretty picture through sugar coated words as they attempt to take advantage of the less fortunate. However, America has proven to be resilient toward adversity.

The right course of action does eventually emerge, despite the impending roadblocks making it slower than we'd ideally desire. Money is a tool every individual requires in this capitalistic, consumer society. If we want to give everyone a fair shot, we have to give everyone, especially the poorest, the means to survive in the world we live in.

## The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Game of Thrones, Game of Thrones, Game of Thrones, Game of Thrones, Game of Thrones.



Timeflies with Mike Stud.



Graduation is near, which for some seniors seems like a finish line after four years of hard work, and for others it seems more like a guillotine.

## Letter to the Editor

In response to the removal of Chinese courses.

I am a Gustie Alum and recently I heard from Professor Obermiller about the college in consideration of removing Mandarin Chinese lessons. I sincerely appreciate Gustavus for providing quality undergraduate educations to every Gustie and to have initiated Mandarin courses for our students.

My Gustie friends and my experience told me that Chinese is not as hard to learn as they presume. Conversely, students learn so much from Mandarin courses beyond the language itself, pandas, or fortune cookie notes. Experience like this does not stop at college graduation, as more and more companies start hiring candidates who have experience in Chinese culture and even in Mandarin language.

They would like employees to travel to China and know more about their business opportunities there. If students are not provided a prep-level curriculum option, they will

find expanding their global vision during post-college life more challenging.

Some may argue that Chinese courses are hard to maintain due to the school size and limited funds. In fact, many other liberal art colleges in Minnesota have offered Chinese courses for a while. Those programs have been very successful. Their departments even actively reach out to other colleges and co-host conferences about Chinese cultures, where students and faculties can receive sufficient education about China.

The support from college education can help everyone become more aware of the fact that globalization as an on-going trend has been one of our daily topics since more than half a century ago, while until today people feel stunned by the huge gap between the eastern and western world in terms of public policies, economics, and daily manners. This situation will change with our school's support.

I hope the committee recognizes the accomplishment the department has achieved with students and continue this program for everyone's long-term benefit.

- Martin He '12

## IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE...

First-Year Political Science Major devises a foolproof plan to solve all the world's problems, which conveniently can be explained in five minutes.

Board of Trustees declares a state of emergency after witnessing the chaos of the early-afternoon Caf rush. Martial Law to come soon.

County Housing Inspector walks into the Swamp. House to be condemned.

## The Skvorc Retort The Diff-abled



**Caitlin Skvorc**  
Opinion Columnist

I came across the term “differently-abled” a few years ago, and thought it was just an eye-roll-inducing invention by the hyper politically correct. In the past year, however, I have come to see it in a positive, even necessary light.

Most people in this country have heard of the ongoing debate about the appropriateness of cochlear implants in people who are deaf. Some say, for people born deaf, that to give that person an implant would be to “force” them to be someone other than the person they were born to be. Others say, as they do with artificial limbs, that the enhancement returns the receiver to their “natural” state (“as God intended,” some clarify).

Although I personally do not like the idea of encouraging a deaf child to grow up in an isolated community of deaf people without getting a taste of the “outside” world, there is something to be said for existing among those who respect and understand you. We all do it—people like to be comfortable, and they should not be shamed for it when the world is as cold as it is a lot of the time. However, whether the deaf person accepts the cochlear implant or the war vet accepts a prosthetic limb, the question remains—are they disabled?

I have a friend who broke his back in a four-wheeler accident in middle school and is now on the U.S. Paralympic Ski Team—and dominating. He also works as a radio DJ, professional motivational speaker, and retail salesman with me. He gets around using forearm crutches, and until recently, I thought of him as disabled.

Then another friend, unknown to the previous one, who has a sister with Down syndrome, said to me, “When your friend got in his accident, he was disabled—but is he still disabled?” I hadn’t thought of it that way before.

Rosemarie Garland Thomsen wrote a book called *Extraordinary Bodies*, in which she claims that “the cripple before the stairs, the blind person before



Think about it: does she really seem disabled?

Creative Commons

the typewriter . . . are all proof that the . . . practices of material, daily life enforce the cultural standard of a universal subject with a narrow range of corporeal variation.”

This is a tough sentence, but it strikes at the heart of the issue of “disability.” Is a person disabled because they are incapable of functioning as the majority of society does on a daily basis, or because the current conditions of everyday life do not account for their adaptive way

of performing actions required in everyday life?

For example, I have another friend, who has been confined to a wheelchair since long before we met, who asked me about getting a job at the store where I used to work. If he could stand, he might be four-and-half-feet tall. I encouraged him to fill out an application, but in my head I was thinking, “Really? How do you think you could work here? You can’t reach the desks! You can’t stock most of the goods

we have in the store, because they’re too big or too high on the shelf!”

This sounds like an issue of practicality, but isn’t it possible that the real problem lies in the fact that the set-up of the store is not “handicap-accessible?”

If people feel guilty about not hiring people for their disabilities on the basis of practicality, maybe our notion of what is practical needs to change.

Someone will say, “It’s expensive to install mechanisms which allow for a handicap-accessible store,” or “he’s only one person; it’s not worth it.” But that person believes that it would be worth it. That person has dreams.

Maybe you also have dreams. Maybe this is old news to you, and you have been searching for people to agree with you, to make this kind of equality possible. Perhaps it starts by changing our vocabulary—get rid of “disabled,” and start using “diff-abled” to describe those who have mastered their disability, who have learned to live life fully with a differently-functioning body. It sounds silly, at first, like trying to say “disabled” with a lisp. So what? It starts a conversation. Maybe eventually it will sound “normal.”

## Guest Submissions



**Keenan Madson**  
On the Chinese Program

On July 15, 1979, President Jimmy Carter delivered his “Crisis of Confidence” speech where he addressed American’s fears that the future was not going to be as promising as the present. In echoing President Carter, I, too, am writing because the Gustavus Community is now suffering its own crisis of confidence.

If Gustavus continues with a trajectory marred by eliminated opportunities, the college’s future is dim. This concern arises as seniors, including myself, begin to reflect upon our collegiate journey in loom of graduation.

In examining the last four years, I have come to realize that the true value of a Gustavus education is an appreciation for serendipity or the fortunate occurrence of events. As a tour

guide, in the admission office, I often ask prospective students what they want to major in. A few students already have four-year plans while most have no idea.

Either way, the nature of a liberal arts education breeds serendipity. As a first-year, I wanted to major in physics, however, I was encouraged to diversify my classes.

Prior to Gustavus, I had no interest in China. However, trusting the liberal arts mentality, I decided to take a leap of faith and take Modern East Asia with Dr. David Obermiller.

I gradually began allocating more of my free time to Chinese studies, as my interest in China became my passion. Shortly thereafter, Gustavus administrators decided to offer Chinese language courses.

So again, embodying the liberal arts philosophy, I enrolled in Chinese 101. Now it is clear that these leaps of faith were actually examples of serendipity.

I fell in love with not only China’s history, but also the Chinese language. Four years later, I am nearly fluent in Mandarin, have worked for a Chinese company, and studied at one of China’s best universities, all because of a class I took as a general education requirement my first year. This experience is not an anomaly but is, in one way or another, the experience of most graduates. By providing

students diverse opportunities, Gustavus enables students to experience serendipity for themselves and discover their own passions.

Unfortunately, this fundamental component of our Gustavus education is being threatened. In the past few months, the Gustavus administration has cut funding from Chinese language classes and cut the number of faculty from 218 to 210.

I understand that the budget is tight and difficult decisions must be made, however, language learning represents the very essence of the liberal arts education. With the resources currently available for students to take classes about China, join extracurricular clubs focused on China, and study abroad through one of Gustavus’s direct exchange programs, a knowledge of Chinese is vital to the continued success of these existing opportunities.

The ability to take classes outside of your discipline is what differentiates Gustavus from other institutions. Eliminating opportunities and professors, both of which contribute to the success of students and the discovery of passions, is the wrong course of action. This institution is making a statement that they do not place an importance and priority on diversity education.

A liberal arts institution needs to be expanding opportunities,

not minimizing them. I fear most that by eliminating opportunities of diversity, such as the Chinese language classes, Gustavus is preventing students from experiencing their own serendipity.



**Courtney Train**  
On Divest-Fest

The bursting of the Gustie Bubble left many feeling unease from budget cuts and employee guts. Only time will tell where this financial crisis will take us, because god forbid our administration does. Students’ movement to bridge the lack of transparency with administration is growing stronger with more gusto.

With the Board of Trustees (Gustavus’s Congress) on campus today, it’s vital we make our interactions with them count. Join students, professors, and staff for Divest-Fest, a student

celebration to gather and show the administration of our college that we have a voice and we expect our voices to be part of Gustavus decision-making. The festival will begin outside of Chapel at 10:20 a.m.

As Board members exit Chapel, they are invited to Frost-Your-Owns, music, and open dialogue. Signs and drums are provided; all you need is your Gustie Pride and solidarity. This rally is for student voice in investments and administrative decisions that will affect our future.

Representing those already affected by financial and policy decisions, include Vocation and Integrative Learning, Nordic Ski Team, Divestment from Fossil Fuels, Chinese Department, Diversity Center, CICE, and the lack of institutional policy-making for hate crimes and harassment.

Divest-Fest calls for Gustavus’s divestment from exclusion and instability to its investment in sustainability, future, and community. Our Future, Our Voices, #OurGustavus seeks transparency, collaboration, and inclusion.

We hope that you are able to join us outside the chapel at 10:20 a.m. and every day hereafter as we continue proving “Make Your Life Count” starts right here on campus by using our voices to shape our future and our Gustavus.

# Fancy That World Domination and Other Food Staples



**Ashley Nickel**  
Opinion Columnist

The Incas were a brilliant and vast empire. They had control over substantial amounts of land, flourished without Western conventions, and remained this way for long time. So it is no surprise that the United States, which fancies itself to be a great empire, wants to achieve this same greatness.

After much speculation over the prospect of world domination, the U.S. has finally come to the conclusion that the best strategy in gaining supreme power over the world is through control of production (as well as the mass consumption) of something so powerful, so beneficial, and so tasty, that we are all almost guaranteed to be invincible by the time we finish dinner. I am of course referring to quinoa.

There is, however, a hitch in this plan. It is hard to achieve world domination when the key to this success cannot even be grown on your own land.

The United States was projected to consume 68 million pounds of quinoa in 2013. But very little of this gross consumption was of domestically grown quinoa.

One of the only places in the U.S. that has had any luck in growing this grain is the Colorado mountains. Colorado, which is experienced in the growing of all kinds of things, has been involved in the production of quinoa since the 1980s.

However, the production of this grain is unpredictable and therefore unreliable. Although some of the quinoa production in the world comes from places like Colorado or Canada, the best grain is still found in countries such as Peru and Bolivia, which is not at all conducive to United States' supreme power ploy. Many supporters of world domination have been working on a plan to get around this small hindrance.

Quinoa is a very difficult grain to grow. The countries that have had the most success growing it are countries in South America that have a very specific type of climate; in fact, many of these countries have trouble growing little else. But the demand for quinoa is too high. Currently, there are specialists from all over the world working to develop different types of quinoa that can grow in a plethora of climates, including coastal climates, which are abundant in the United States.

However, what will this do to the health benefits of the grain? It is a well-known fact among health nuts that genetically



Taylor Hager

*The effects of imperialism can be seen everywhere, especially the places you'd least expect.*

modified organisms (GMOs) are not as good for you as the food that can be grown completely naturally; there is even great suspicion that GMO foods can have detrimental effects on the body and mind of those who eat them.

So by genetically altering quinoa in order to increase production, who's to say that the grain might not lose the vital health benefits that make quinoa a super-food, and that ensure the clandestine rise to power of the United States?

But aside from the mutant quinoa that is threatening our future pantries, grocery stores, and dark agendas, there is another issue at large. By all rights, the people of Bolivia and Peru should have the most access to quinoa, as they grow

it and have been consuming it for thousands of years. However, due to the world's gluttonous ingestion of this nutritious grain, the people of these countries are suddenly excluded from quinoa, which has been a staple in their diets for as long as they can remember.

Although most corporations around the world largely justify this through the increasing income per capita and standard of living of previously impoverished farmers, this may not be a good thing. Even for the advancing of world domination.

What happens when the high demands and production for quinoa uses up the land, stripping nutrients and making it impossible to get a good crop from the fields of

Bolivia or Peru? Because there comes a point when, if the land is not properly cared for, or if too many modern agricultural techniques are implemented, the soil becomes useless.

It has happened countless times over centuries, when the natural or careful agriculture of a cultivated land spins out of control, over-production ensues, and the land is ruined for a great amount of time, if not forever (tobacco industry, anyone?).

Due to the world having such high expectations for production in South America, it is plausible to think that at some point the land will be over-cultivated. If this happens, and the land becomes useless, the high standard of living at this time will make no difference to the Bolivian farmers who will again be struggling to eat in 20 years. At that point in time, they won't even be able to afford the genetically modified quinoa that will surely replace the quality product that currently inhabits our shelves and restaurants.

But what does this mean for the U.S.? If all of the quality, naturally-grown grain can no longer be grown, if the land is used up, and if the quinoa in our grocery stores is replaced by mutated, monster quinoa, then how are our plans to take over the world to succeed?

Maybe we should just bide our time and eat our quinoa, while it still contains magical properties, and await the day, not far into the future, when we will need our strength to rule supremely.

## Letters to the Editor Continued

In response to the Caf's plan to go trayless on April 29.

The Caf is the place to be around campus. One small change will take place next Tuesday, April 29. Gustavus will be going trayless for the day. In 1998, Gustavus implemented the a la carte program for the Caf to eliminate food waste that often happens when one swipe of a card allows people to take as much food as they can eat—and more that gets thrown away.

In the late 2000s, trayless cafeterias became popular for many college campuses across the nation, including the University of Minnesota. The point of these programs was to reduce food waste. Gustavus did not implement this program, claiming that they had already reduced as much waste as possible with the a la carte program. But what about water waste?

This is what we are go-

ing to find out. On April 29, Gustavus is having its first "Trayless Tuesday"—a day designed to gather data about the amount of water saved and gain student opinions on the costs and benefits of a trayless Caf.

It is estimated that without trays, Gustavus would save approximately 240 gallons of water a day. For an entire school year, it would be close to 37,200 gallons saved.

Besides the benefits of water saved, the Caf would save more than \$3,500 each year in water, detergent, and heating. The inconvenience of possibly having to go back for seconds into the Caf could counteract the benefits of going trayless.

However, for those concerned more about the environmental benefits, it could be worth it. It is time for students and staff to voice their opinions. There will be a comment box in place of the trays on April 29. Anyone who has an opinion one way or the other, is invited to comment

so we can learn from this experiment.

—Laura Isdahl '17

Response to "Do We Need a Shift?"

Do we need a shift? Absolutely. The shift we need, however, isn't one which focuses more on the achievements of a select few. There is far more to our world than millionaire athletes, actresses, and businessmen—in fact, there is about 99 percent more.

Self-actualization requires us to have some outward focus on the world around us—the whole world, not only one percent of it. I don't disregard the progress resulting from the hard work of individuals such as Steve Jobs nor the dedicated work of athletes and entertainers but I am quick to refute the notion that they are more valuable, talented, or wor-

thy of our attention than those whom we cannot find on a television screen.

As a society, we must shift to valuing people—all people. This would inspire us to find ways to ensure that all people have access to equal resources and equal choice to pursue their talents and passions, as self-actualization intends.

Further, equity of resource distribution would better society by empowering the vast number of disprivileged individuals who possess amazing capabilities to contribute to society.

It takes resources to become the next Steve Jobs, so those with privileged, unrestricted access are going to trample the opportunity for many others to self-actualize, unintentionally or otherwise.

Focusing on the earned or unearned achievements of a select few encourages the idea that those with "lesser" achievements don't matter,

nor does their suffering.

If certain individuals in society can claim to be self-actualized while simultaneously holding any disregard for the suffering of any member of society, then I question their true ability to understand themselves and their purpose in this world; and I blame society's perceived incapacity to address worldwide suffering for teaching us to sell ourselves short.

—Christina Sand '15

\* The Calendar Page is considered editorial. The opinions expressed herein are not the opinions of THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY, but the lyrics of Timeflies' songs. I told you we should have voted Jason Derulo.

## Friday, April 25

### Gustie Cup Floor Hockey

Lund Center Forum  
4 p.m.

I will be in attendance merely for the heated fights. THE CUP IS ON THE LINE.

### Weekend Movies: *Her & The Lego Movie*

Wallenberg Auditorium  
7 & 10 p.m.

If you combine these two movies you get a guy who falls in love with his Legos, AKA my childhood.

### Mendacity - Rob Ward & Comfort Dolo

The Black Box  
8 p.m.

It's also on Saturday and Sunday. The senior slide is even encroaching on this section.

## Saturday, April 26

### Weekend Movies: *The Lego Movie & Her*

Wallenberg Auditorium  
5:30 & 8 p.m.

Using *Her* as the subject in the sentence goes against everything I have been trained to know in grammar classes.

### Diversity Awards Banquet

Alumni Hall  
6:30 p.m.

Speaking of diversity, let's change up the appetizers this year, Diversity Leadership Council!

## Sunday, April 27

### Weekend Movie: *Her*

Wallenberg Auditorium  
2 p.m.

And like that *The Lego Movie* is gone. YOU'RE RUTHLESS, CAB... You're ruthless.

## Monday, April 28

### Take Back the Night

Beck 111  
5 p.m.

But first, they have to take back "Take Back the Night" from Justin Timberlake.

## Tuesday, April 29

### Coca Cola Educational Partnership Grant Reception

Heritage Banquet Room  
3:30 p.m.

I hope they have some Diet Pepsi there!

### Tai Chi in the Arb

The Arb  
7 p.m.

Afterwards, the plan is to play kickball with the ball of energy you leave behind.

## Wednesday, April 30

### MAYDAY!

All Day

I'm really excited for JULYDAY! in September.

### Zeta Chi Phi Recruitment Event (*Mean Girls* Movie Night)

Beck 301  
7 p.m.

This might be the first sorority recruitment event to champion "mean girls."

## Thursday, May 1

### Gustavus Student Life Conference

All Day

If this is open to everyone, prepare for a salty Q&A about off-campus housing, Charlie Potts.

### Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony

St. Peter Room  
6 p.m.

TIME TO BEEF UP THEM RESUMES.

## Feit-sty Not Really Horoscopes

### Aries

I'm all about transparency at Gustavus. Overhead projectors are treasures.

### Taurus

The greatest weapons any of us can wield are *Game of Thrones* spoilers.

### Gemini

I wonder whose Greeter group Rebecca Bergman will be in next year.

### Cancer

If nothing's changed since Orientation, this year's class will have a ton of medical students next year!

### Leo

Good luck to next year's editor. Try writing jokes without Ohle here.

### Virgo

So you're not supposed to wear anything under the graduation gowns, right?

### Libra

Nothing says "I care about this issue" like holding a whiteboard that says so.

### Scorpio

*Toy Story 4* is going to be really sad when Andy doesn't get a job out of college.

### Sagittarius

To get on Gustavus's front page, I guess I need to go to med school or be in a cable miniseries. Easy.

### Capricorn

More college professors should be like Indiana Jones. It's a simple request.

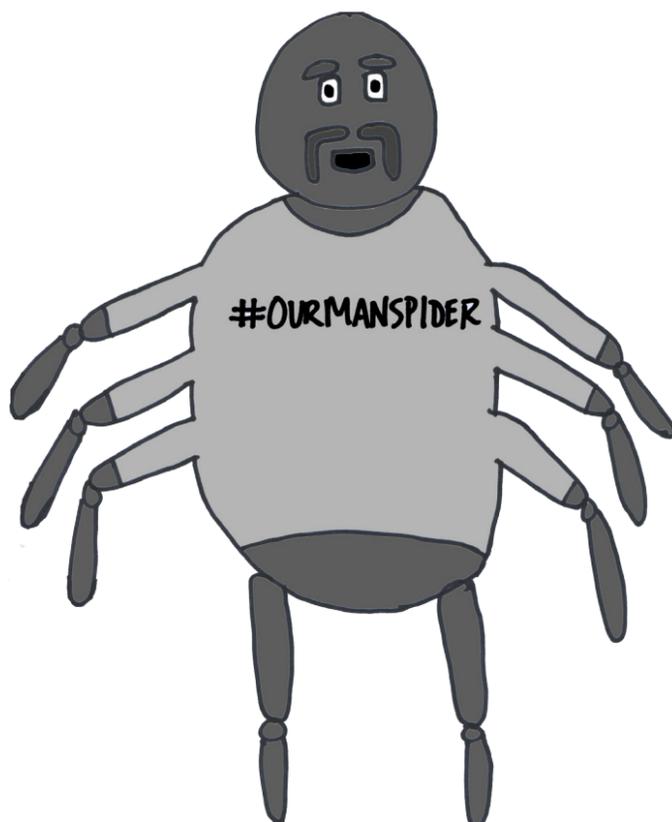
### Aquarius

I need to drop out before the door to becoming the next Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg shuts on me.

### Pisces

I hope Ohle and the Faculty Senate hug it out before he leaves.

Social change to get behind. #OurManSpider



# Sitting: the smoking of our generation

**Haley Bell**  
Staff Writer

The desk-bound lifestyle of a college student can be harmful to one's health. According to *Runner's World's* Selene Yeager, sitting for large amounts of time each day is linked to increased risks of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and even depression. Experts even went as far as labeling this present health epidemic as the "sitting disease."

*People spend an average of 64 hours a week sitting, 28 hours standing, and 11 hours non-exercise walking. This means that on average, people are sitting for more than nine hours a day.*



Blake Van Oosbree

Recent studies suggest that sitting for long periods of time has the same negative effects as smoking. On average, people sit for more than nine hours a day.

All of the time that students spend hunched over in class, at their computer, or 'kickin' it at the crib' is harmful for even the healthiest person. Escalating amounts of research has been showing that those who spend hours at a time sitting die earlier than those who sit less

often, regardless of how active the person is outside of their sedentary lives.

Being inactive with your bum stuck in a seat for hours at a time has been recognized as a practice that is comparable to smoking. While this may be a bit of a stretch, the reasoning

behind this conclusion is that people know smoking is bad for a person's health, just as remaining sedentary for hours at a time can be bad for even an active person's wellbeing.

*Being inactive for hours at a time has been recognized as a practice comparable to smoking.*

American Journal of Epidemiology reports that a man who sits more than six hours a day has an 18 percent increased risk of dying from heart disease and a 7.8 percent increased chance of dying from diabetes compared with someone who sits for three hours or less a day.

**'Sitting' continued on page 16**

In 2012, a study was published in the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity stating that people spent an average of 64 hours a week sitting, 28 hours standing, and 11 hours non-exercise walking regardless of whether or not they exercised the recommended 150 minutes a week. To break it down further, that would mean that on average, people are sitting for more than nine hours a day.

According to Yeager, experts say most people are not running, walking, or even standing enough to counteract all the harmful results from sitting around nine hours a day.

According to a report published in 2013 by the Harvard Business Review, the human body is designed to move, and it begins undergoing metabolic changes after just one hour of sitting. The production of enzymes that burn fat declines by as much as 90 percent. For example, prolonged sitting affects HDL levels (good cholesterol) in our bodies, and research shows that this lack of physical activity is directly tied to six percent of the impact for heart diseases, seven percent for type 2 diabetes, and ten percent for breast cancer or colon cancer.

A study published in the



Creative Commons

Treadmill desks are gaining popularity with those who want to walk at a slow to moderate pace while working at their desk to combat the effects of sitting all day.

## WEEKEND SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Saturday, April 26

Men's golf @ Saint John's Spring Invitational

Track & field hosts Drake Alternative/Alumni Meet

Women's golf @ Carleton Invitational

Men's tennis hosts Carleton College  
12:00 p.m.

Softball @ Hamline University  
1:00 p.m.

Women's tennis hosts University of St. Thomas  
3:00 p.m.

### Sunday, April 27

Men's golf @ Saint John's Spring Invitational

Women's golf @ Carleton Invitational

Men's tennis hosts University of St. Thomas  
10 a.m.

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# Minnesota Twins: better than last season?



**Zac Isaak**  
Staff Writer

Two weeks have passed since the start of Minnesota Twins' 2014 season. Coming off of three straight seasons of losing over 90 games a season, the Twins are trying to turn things around.

During the off-season, the Twins made some interesting moves to help improve their team. The most notable moves the Twins made were directed towards their starting pitching rotation. According to SBNation, the Twins signed free agent Ricky Nolasco to a four-year contract worth \$49 million. The Twins also signed former New York Yankee Pitcher Phil Hughes to a three-year contract worth \$24 million.

In addition to signing Nolasco and Hughes, the Twins also signed Catcher Kurt Suzuki after moving Minnesota Twins' biggest player Joe Mauer from catcher to first base in order to avoid some injuries associated with his former position. The Twins also signed former Twins Jason Bartlett and Jason Kubel to minor league contracts, but both Bartlett and Kubel made the Twins' active roster during training camp. Bartlett has since retired, however, when a rehab assignment following an ankle injury wasn't as effective as he had hoped it would be.

The Twins also addressed the manager position after resigning Ron Gardenhire to a two-year contract, according to CBS Sports.

It's easy to see that the Twins have been busy this off-season in preparation for the 2014 season. After two weeks of baseball, the big question is have the Minnesota Twins improved from last year's team? Or, are the 2014 Minnesota Twins worse than last year's team?

Right now, this question is difficult to answer fully, however the first couple weeks have helped me, as a fan, see what we can expect from the Twins this year.

First, the pitching is still in shambles. The newly acquired pitchers, Nolasco and Hughes, have been nothing spectacular since the start of the season. Both pitchers have had some moments of success, but their performance has been disappointing. According to the Minnesota Twins official website, both Nolasco and Hughes have an ERA above 6.0. Additionally, both pitchers have only won



Creative Commons  
After three consecutive 90-loss seasons, the Minnesota Twins' mascot T.C. Bear may be the only member of the Twins organization who hasn't lost the support of even the most fair-weather fans.

one game.

The Twins also re-signed starting pitchers Kevin Correia and Mike Pelfrey, who have been disappointing this season. Pelfrey and Correia both have a high ERA like Nolasco and Hughes, but have failed to win any games so far this season. The bright spot in the Twins' rotation has been second-year veteran, Kyle Gibson. Gibson won his first three starts and posted a 0.93 ERA. Gibson has made the most of the games he's played in so far this season.

It's clear that the Twins have not made any significant improvements to the rotation other than calling Gibson up to the majors at the start of the season rather than before the All Star Break. It would appear that Correia and Pelfrey are simply placeholders for Twins pitching prospects Alex Meyer and Trevor May. When those two are called up to the majors someday, Twins fans are hopeful that the team will finally turn the corner and start to find the success they had in previous years.

The area that the Twins have shown the most significant improvement in this year is their offense. While it remains unclear if this surge of offense is merely a great streak of hitting or something to expect from the everyday roster, the Twins have had success hitting the ball and scoring runs so far this season.

One of the biggest surprises has been Twin's utility player Chris Colabello. Colabello has seen a lot of time as the designated hitter, but he's also played first base and right field. Colabello was called up towards the end of the Twins' 2013 season and didn't play particularly well during his time in the majors. This year has been a different story as Colabello has been the superstar on the Twins' roster with his ability to get hits when it matters most. After two weeks of play, Colabello had 20

RBI's and nine doubles.

Colabello hasn't been the only big offensive player for the Twins so far. Kubel has enjoyed much success since returning to the Twins. Third baseman Trevor Plouffe has also enjoyed a great start this season and has contributed significantly to the Twins' offense. Mauer has not been hitting as well so far this year and has struck out more than in recent years, but the overall lineup has done well.

So, are the Twins better or worse? Offensively, they are better. Their pitching hasn't been spectacular, but I wouldn't say it's been worse so far than last year's pitching rotation. Pitching must improve in order for the Twins to be considered a contender in Major League Baseball.



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## Volleyball collects backpacks for Nicaraguan children in need

Megan Tuttle  
Staff Writer

This summer, the Gustavus volleyball team will travel to Nicaragua for nine days in early June. The team will travel to the cities of Managua, San Juan del Sur, and Granada to compete and provide community service.

*"We will be doing mobile library book distributions to children in rural villages, English and literacy lessons at local schools like El Carizal, youth volleyball and sports clinics, art projects at the school for disabled students, and rehabilitation of either a church, school, or women's health center."*  
—Becca Woodstra

In preparation for the trip, the team is collecting used backpacks from Gustavus students and faculty, as well as the St. Peter community for the "Backpacks for Nicaragua" fundraiser. The donated backpacks will be handed out at schools



This summer the volleyball team will travel to Nicaragua to compete and provide community service. Part of their community service will include distributing the backpacks they have been collecting this spring.

and in orphanages to children who do not have proper school supplies. So far, the team has collected over 100 backpacks to donate.

"We have been table-ing every Thursday. We have a drop-off site, you can drop it off outside of [Head Coach Rachele Sherden]'s office or at the Info Desk, or you can give a backpack to any volleyball player," Junior Alyssa Taylor said.

In addition to the backpack drive, the team will be actively participating in community

service on their trip.

"We will be doing mobile library book distributions to children in rural villages, English and literacy lessons at local schools, like El Carizal, youth volleyball and sports clinics, art projects at the school for disabled students, and rehabilitation of either a church, school, or women's health center," Sophomore Becca Woodstra said.

As a team that actively participates in community service here in St. Peter, the team is excited to take their volunteer work

elsewhere.

"It's a way for us to give back to them, because they need a lot of things, but we just focused on backpacks because we thought that would be something that a lot of college students would have laying around and could easily donate," Taylor said.

While in Nicaragua, the team will also compete in three or four matches against Nicaraguan junior and national teams. The Gusties will play two of their matches in a sports facility and another match will take place on a concrete court by the ocean.

"The matches generate a very energized and excited atmosphere down there, apparently hundreds of locals come to cheer both teams on," Woodstra said.

In addition to community service work, the team will also partake in tourist activities as an opportunity for team bonding in the off-season.

"There's an international trip every three or four years; it's kind of a tradition. It will be a lot of team bonding, an opportunity to get even closer to each other and realize what we have is valuable here in the United States," Junior Paige Breneman said.

The team will be collecting backpack donations through May 27. Backpacks can be dropped off in Coach Rachele Sherden's office Lund Center 225B, at the Lund Center Information Desk, at the Backpack Drive tables outside of the cafeteria on Thursdays, or given to any volleyball player.

*'Sitting' continued from page 14*

The American Institute for Cancer Research links prolonged sitting with increased risk of both breast and colon cancers. In addition, Alberta Health Services-Cancer Care in Canada linked long periods of daily inactivity to 49,000 cases of breast cancer, 43,000 cases of colon cancer, 37,200 cases of lung cancer, and 30,600 cases of prostate cancer a year.

In order to address the issue, consider standing to do things when sitting is not a necessity. While you're taking time to talk on the phone, checking your email, texting, or even reading for class, use the time to stand up and even walk around. Take study breaks every half hour to move around and take the stairs as often as possible.

For those with a desk job, there are options available to prevent workers from sitting all day while doing their work. Some options include treadmill desks, where users can walk on a treadmill at a slow pace all day long while conducting work at their desk. Another option is a taller desk designed so that users have to stand to use it. Companies all over are adopting these desk styles in order to promote better health for their employees.

Doing these things in addition to exercising, staying hydrated, eating right and sleeping well can help to avoid adopting habits that will compromise your health just as much as the nasty habit of smoking would.

### Notice:

Last week's article about the nordic skiing team's transition from a varsity program to a club team indicated that there would be an article in this week's issue about President Ohle's decision regarding whether or not the team will maintain NCAA eligibility.

President Ohle has yet to make a decision on the matter, so the article will be run when a decision has been made.



The volleyball team goes on an international trip every three or four years. On these trips they engage in both team bonding and community service activities.

Gustavus Sports Information