

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY



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Christmas in Christ Chapel to be broadcast live



Agustin Murillo

The theme of Christmas in Christ Chapel this year is "Tender Rose, Starry Night."

Haley Bell
Staff Writer

For the 42nd time, the annual Christmas in Christ Chapel worship celebration will begin on Friday Dec. 5, 2014, and will continue until Sunday Dec. 7.

As a tradition since 1973, Christmas in Christ Chapel is a time for the community to celebrate the holidays with one another. Each year a new theme is chosen to educate the audience about faith and theology. The choirs and symphony orchestra will lead the five ser-

VICES that host approximately 1,200 people each.

This year, the theme of the service is titled "Tender Rose, Starry Night" and will "ponder the cosmic significance of Jesus' humble birth in light of scientific discoveries about the vastness and magnificence of the universe."

"At first, celebrating Christmas with the cosmos as a backdrop sounds bizarre, but the song 'Earth and Heaven,' has the ability to help listeners come to a place where the boundaries we ourselves have created don't exist. The text in combination with the dance's choreography

really help me visualize worlds, people and ideas coming together to exist simultaneously, just like how God and man came together on Christmas night," President of Chapel Choir and Sophomore Sylvia Michels said.

"People should be very excited for the performances this year."

—Saskia Raether

Students and faculty have been discussing that it will

be one of the most successful Christmas in Christ Chapel services that Gustavus has ever had.

"People should be very excited for the performances this year not only because of the live-stream, which is the first time Gustavus has offered it for off-campus viewers, but also the array of songs, dances, and readings are diverse and entertaining," Soprano section Senior Saskia Raether said.

The production features music, poetry, prayer and dance while exploring cosmos dimensions and the significance of Jesus' birth over 2,000 years

ago, where about three-hundred and fifty students come together with their conductors and other members of the Gustavus community to make the traditional and memorable celebration happen.

"Everyone is really excited. The theme is very Christmas-y and so is our music. People are really getting into it. Chaplain Brian talked about music in C in CC and how it opens doors. I think it transcends a lot, it's a

C in CC Continued on Page 2

Campus organizations offer stress-relief during finals

Rachael Manser
News Editor

As the last weeks of classes come to an end, students can feel the pressure of finals descending upon them. However, in the chaos and stress of all the final papers and exams, Gusties need not fear. Students can always go to the Wellbeing Center for support and can look forward to stress relieving events hosted by campus organizations.

Director of Wellbeing Meghan Krause '00 encourages students to view finals in a more positive light.

"Stress is unavoidable, but that doesn't mean it isn't manageable."

—Meghan Krause

"This is the opportunity to demonstrate what you've learned during the course of a semester, the occasion to cel-

brate a shared musical experience, the culminating paper that encompasses your point of view about a subject you've been fortunate to devote several months to exploring, and more. This time of finals is what you have been preparing for; instead of approaching it with anxiousness or fear, I encourage you to reconsider just how great it is that you get to showcase your insights and talents," Krause said.

Even if all students did see finals this way, it would not

eliminate the stress the end of the semester brings.

"Stress is unavoidable, but that doesn't mean it isn't manageable. By taking care of your body and mind, being mindful about the things in your life that cause anxiety and stress, and training yourself to cope with stressful situations, you can avoid many of the negative side effects. Stress management can be accomplished in so many ways—and often the smallest acts have the biggest impact," Krause said.

In addition to support from the Wellbeing Center, many Gustavus organizations host activities this time of year geared toward relieving some of the pressure of finals.

One of the most well-known and popular of these activities is Midnight Express, sponsored by the Peer Assistants and aided by other organizations. It's a night

Finals stress-relief Continued on Page 3

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Campus Safety Report

Monday, November 17

- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in the Jackson Campus Center.

Wednesday, November 19

- A student was referred to the campus conduct system for a pet policy violation in Southwest Hall.

Friday, November 21

- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in the Jackson Campus Center.

- A Collegiate Fellow responded to a noise violation in Pittman Hall.

Saturday, November 22

- Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department responded to the International Center for an underage alcohol violation involving one student.

Sunday, November 23

- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation in Norelius Hall. One student was referred to the campus conduct board for underage consumption and transported to the hospital via ambulance.

Monday, November 24

- Four students in Southwest Hall were referred to the campus conduct board for drug equipment and drug violations.

- Campus Safety responded to a report of personal property stolen from an unlocked room in the Schaefer Fine Arts Music Building.

Tuesday, November 25

- Two students in Sohre Hall were referred to the campus conduct board for drug equipment and drug violations.

Wednesday, November 26

- Residential Life documented a College policy violation in the "Ten-O-Nine" house involving one student.

Note: 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:

Walking can be hazardous at times during the winter season but you can prevent a slip and fall by following a few safety tips: Start by using footwear with good traction and avoid wearing smooth soled shoes. Walk at a slower pace and plan extra time on your schedule to prevent being in a rush. Remove snow from your shoes on entrance mats before entering any building. Always use a handrail when climbing up and down stairs. Avoid cell phone use and texting when on stairs and slick surfaces. Always look ahead to avoid slippery walkways. Report icy spots to Physical Plant at extension 7504.

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C in CC Continued from Page 1

universal language. We sing in different languages and if it is done right it will reach every person. Using music is a great way to showcase our talents and create a welcoming atmosphere," Junior Choir member Kailey Holmes said.

Gustavus students preparing to take part in the celebration are eager to share the experience with the audience after spending numerous hours preparing.

The dates and times of the services occur on Friday Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday Dec. 6 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., as well as Sunday Dec. 7 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

This year, the celebration is especially unique because not only can families, alumni and friends that attend the ceremony witness all that it has to offer, but it will be live streamed for anyone that wants to take part in receiving the Christmas message.

"We are putting a lot more work into it this year because we are being filmed. We are just drilling the material over and over again and practicing everything so we can memorize all of it. We usually have a book with everything there for us. But everyone has been coming together and we know we need to spend the extra time on the songs. We will be ready and we know that what we are doing is presented to a larger audience, and we also have a larger amount of performers," Holmes said.

Students are encouraging people to either attend the event, or stream it to share such a meaningful experience with the Gustavus community.

"People should attend to see how music connects many departments, faculty, and students who are involved in the Gustavus community. It's a very interesting way to see how different passions and how involvement can come alive," Junior Ger Vang said.

"Music connects many departments, faculty, and students who are involved in the Gustavus community."

—Ger Vang

The live streaming for the public will take place the evening of Saturday, Dec. 16 during the 7:30 p.m. service. The video player can be accessed by going online to gustavus.edu/CinCC, and will not be archived for viewers to watch at a later date due to copyright laws.

Anyone who is still interested in attending the service in person can pay \$30 apiece by purchasing online at gustavustickets.com, or by calling the Gustavus Office of Marketing and Communication at 507-933-7520.

Barbara McAfee inspires students to live purposefully

Kaity Young
Staff Writer

Barbara McAfee held a workshop titled "Who You Gonna Be While You Do What You Do?" on Monday, Nov. 24 in Alumni Hall. She drew a small crowd of students and community members and encouraged them to consider the things which make them better leaders and workers.

"Barbara is an engaging speaker and talented musician—so on one level we brought her because she is entertaining," Director for Leadership and Community-Based Service in the Center for Servant Leadership Dave Newell said. "On another level, her messages about using your voice more fully and asking the question 'Who you gonna be while you do what you do?' fits well with our leadership philosophy here in the Center for Servant Leadership."

McAfee had a unique style of presentation, in which she asked audience members to join her in singing a multitude of songs throughout her workshop.

"I think her unique style is beneficial in that it invites the audience to engage beyond what is typical or 'comfortable,'" Newell said. "She aids participants in stepping out of what is 'normal' for a presentation by asking them to sing together, which increases the likelihood that the participants will learn something new and feel connected to others in the room."

"At the end of the day, what matters is not what you did, but who you were."

—Barbara McAfee

While she made it clear that not everyone in the room was expected to sing, all participants were joining in her songs by the end of the workshop. Student participants enjoyed the atmosphere which her open and encouraging presentation style provided.

"Barbara was an engaging, talented, and an overall interesting person," Sophomore Sarah Barnes said. "However, what struck me the most was the environment she helped create in the room: an environment of open mindedness, discussion, and self reflection."

"After her presentation I left with a renewed urgency to live out my life purposefully, and to let my music be heard."

—Sarah Barnes

McAfee asked attendees to reflect on five different aspects of their lives to help answer the question the title of her workshop had asked. She did this by having participants trace their hands and label each finger with a category which would contribute to their behavior.

"We live in a culture that is focused on doing," McAfee said. "At the end of the day, what matters is not what you did, but who you were."

Her five categories were titled "Live Your Verb," "Remember Why," "Honor Your Lineage," "Bring Your Toys," and "Give It Up." Each category challenged audience members to draw from their experiences and find reasons to be strong leaders.

"You come from a line of people, and you are part of an ongoing line," McAfee said during the Honor Your Lineage portion of her workshop. "Remember, this is not just all about you. You're carrying something forward from those who came before you."

She facilitated dialogue between all members of the audience and tried to create a sense of community among those in attendance. Between songs, drawings, and breaks for discussion, she made audience members an integral part of the lessons she came to teach.

"Simply put, Barbara's presentation style was engaging," Barnes said. "She



McAfee encouraged students to reflect on their experiences and how they contribute to leadership in their lives. Submitted

had the audience singing, chanting, discussing, drawing, and listening to each other."

Some students left the presentation motivated to immediately apply what they had learned from McAfee to their lives.

"Barbara mentioned a quote by Oliver Wendell Holmes stating, 'Many people die with their music still inside them,'" Barnes said. "After her presentation I left with a renewed urgency to live out my life purposefully, and to let my music be heard."

Finals stress-relief ***Continued from Page 1***

of free food and entertainment. Senior Peer Assistant Matt Wagle explained the purpose of the bi-annual event.

"Students are encouraged to attend in order to get their mind off of school, stress, and studies and focus on having fun for a few hours, and getting their share of music and food," Wagle said.

As tradition would have it, Midnight Express will be held the night before finals beginning at 10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14 in the caf.

"It has always been a popular event on campus, if for no other reason than the free food. I'd encourage everyone who is remotely interested, that hasn't attended, to attend it is a good time to relax, socialize, and if you're thinking of going, get there early," Wagle said.

Another great activity is Winter Therapy Dogs hosted by Pound Pals where students can come to play with dogs and relax. Senior Pound Pals leader Sarah Johnson explained the benefits of the event.

"Various campus organizations have brought therapy dogs to Gustavus for students to interact with during finals week to help relieve stress. Therapy dogs are dogs that are trained to provide

psychological or physiological therapy to individuals other than their handlers. They are basically trained to love and socialize with people," Johnson said.

This year, Winter Therapy Dogs will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12 in the Dive.

"Students are encouraged to attend in order to get their mind off of school, stress, and studies and focus on having fun for a few hours."

—Matt Wagle

Along with these popular activities, Gustavus also offers other stress relieving solutions like fitness classes in Lund, the relaxation room in the library, audio tools found on the Gustavus website, Meditation on Tuesdays, and students can always pick up a stress ball from the Wellbeing Center.

For more information on reducing stress and the finals activities visit the Wellbeing Center or the Gustavus website.

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Festival of St. Lucia highlights Sophomore women

Laura Isdahl
Staff Writer

Gustavus celebrates the 74th annual Festival of St. Lucia on Thursday, Dec. 11 with six sophomore women who have been nominated and voted onto the court by their peers. The six women include Sarah Barnes, Rachel Hain, Janet Jennings, Kendyl Landeck, Sharon Singh, and Lauren Swenson.

Each year, Sophomore women are requested to submit nominations for other sophomore women that uphold qualities and characteristics including courageous leadership, compassion, service to others, and strength of character. Out of about seventy nominations, these six were voted to serve on the St. Lucia Court.

The Advisor to the Guild of St. Lucia Barb Larson Taylor explains why sophomore women are specifically sought out to represent St. Lucia.

"Selecting sophomores means that the campus can honor younger Gusties who are already making a difference on campus," Taylor said.

There are many traditions for the festival that started in Sweden. These traditions have been carried out and adapted by Gustavus as part of the school's Swedish heritage. Lucia Festival, or the Festival of Lights, began when a saint was martyred in the fourth century.

"According to Swedish legend, a ship carrying a maiden 'clothed in white and crowned with light' appeared during a great famine. The maiden, believed to be Lucia, distributed food and clothing to the needy. It is a special part of their holiday season focused on bringing light to the darkness, both literally, since this is a dark time of year in Sweden, and figuratively," Taylor said.

Sophomore Laura Swenson talked about how she was voted on the court. Each woman is "ambushed" by members of the Guild of St. Lucia, senior women who help plan the festival.

"There were ten women that came up



The St. Lucia Court includes Sarah Barnes, Rachel Hain, Janet Jennings, Kendyl Landeck, Sharon Singh, and Lauren Swenson.

to me and they were holding a rose and gave it to me saying that I was on the court," Swenson said.

Many events take place during the festival. The festival starts out early in the morning, with the Lucia court making its way through all of the dorms.

"The Festival starts at 5 a.m. with the St. Lucia Court caroling through the residence halls. Some students set out treats or open their doors to greet the Court. Others enjoy the singing from bed, some sleep through it and a few are less thrilled about being woken up and are happy that this only happens once a year," Taylor said.

The Lucia Service is during Daily Sabbath on Dec. 11. One of the women on the court will be chosen as St. Lucia for this year who will then wear the crown with real candles. The previous St. Lucia will participate in the festival by providing

the homily for the service.

After the service, a Scandinavian Smörgåsbord luncheon will take place in Alumni Hall. Tickets for the luncheon are being sold for \$25.

Sophomore Rachel Hain is another member on the St. Lucia Court.

"We all have leadership positions on campus. The people that are nominated are positive people and role models on campus. We have a lot of people that do different things on this campus, from Greeters, to CFs, to other leadership positions," Hain said.

Besides representing different clubs and groups on campus, the St. Lucia Court brings positivity to Gustavus daily.

"The Court has leadership qualities that aren't based on what they are involved in, but how they act on a day-to-day basis," Swenson said.

The St. Lucia court does not fit into one

stereotypical Gustavus student. The six students all embody the characteristics of St. Lucia, but do so in different ways.

"All aspects of Gustavus are represented, which makes it special," Hain said.

St. Lucia has a long history that has recognized thousands of outstanding women at Gustavus.

"Gustavus started celebrating St. Lucia in 1941. This means that virtually all 26,000 living alumni have experienced this Gustavus tradition. There are very few traditions at Gustavus that have such a long and continual history," Taylor said.

Voting for the St. Lucia takes place between December 1-5. All students and employees are encouraged to vote for this year's St. Lucia.

First-year, first-generation college students gather for dinner

Libby Larson
Staff Writer

First-year first-generation college students gathered on Thursday, Nov. 20 to share a meal and join in a community event during the First-Year, First-Generation College Student Dinner and Conversation sponsored by the Diversity Center and the Office of Multicultural Student Services.

The meal offered a chance for first-year students who are the first in their family to attend college to share experiences and discuss topics ranging from stereotypes, expectations, goals, stigmas, jobs and careers, and family involvement in the students' college experiences.

Sophomore Andi Twiss said that this year's event was inspired by a similar dinner hosted by Kate Knutson and Martin Lang last year.

"We felt like it was such a productive meeting, and so a few of us decided to host a second one. Since I'm an intern in the D-center and they are focused on serving historically underrepresented students, they're definitely taking on the first-generation as a population which

they serve," Twiss said.

Kata Traxler, Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs and Services in the Diversity and Multi-Cultural Office also addressed the motivations for hosting the dinner.

"First generation students are definitely a noticeable population on Gustavus' campus, and we really wanted to reach out and make sure that we were being encompassing in our diversity initiatives," Traxler said.

First-years Sam Gibson and Allison Hansen were in attendance at the dinner.

"I thought it was a great experience. I'm glad I came. It was really great to see just where everyone's coming from, learning about the different resources that are available to us," Hansen said.

Gibson also reflected on her experience.

"I learned that there's many different types of first generation students and that there's a lot of resources including the Diversity Center that help with first generation students," Gibson said.

Traxler and Twiss noted that such resources in the future will include weekly events during J-term hosted by the Diversity Center for first-year, first-generation students.

"Overall, people were just really open and honest about their experiences, and were able to laugh about stuff and just be ourselves as first-gens as well as talk about how that makes us different, but also unique and the same," Twiss said of the gathering.

Twiss also encourages students inter-

ested in learning more about resources available to first generation students to contact the Diversity Center for more information.

"If it's a first-generation student just seeking community or anything like that, just walk into the D-center any day of the week," Twiss said.

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GUSTIE *of the* WEEK

Jaurdyn Dobler
Staff Writer

The double bass is the largest and lowest pitched bowed string instrument used in the modern symphony orchestra. It's a sizeable challenge to play, easily met by the stronger fingered, broader-built stature of Senior Michael Eastwood, who began playing the double bass in 5th grade.

"They had everyone try out all of these different instruments and pick whichever they wanted to play. I was drawn to the base because it sounded lower and it was bigger which was fitting for me," Michael said.

Michael has been musically involved since the age of seven when he began taking lessons in piano. Now the base section leader of the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra and a member of the men's a capella ensemble, G-Sharp, there's no doubt that he's shaped a niche for himself

within the musical community at Gustavus.

"Michael is a very sincere person with 100 percent dedication of his soul to music. On the outside, he seems quiet but he has an inner fire and a strong determination to succeed. He's a great model for all music majors," Associate Professor and Keyboard Area Coordinator in Music Yumiko Oshima-Ryan said.

On top of balancing his involvement on campus and double base performance major, Michael also takes on additional leadership roles such as serving as the Orchestra Librarian and conducting the Gustavus Philharmonic Orchestra in the conductors' absence.

"I think he shows other students who are music majors, considering a music major or simply involved in music how to be a dedicated student and musician and what can be possible if you apply yourself. He also demonstrates to the

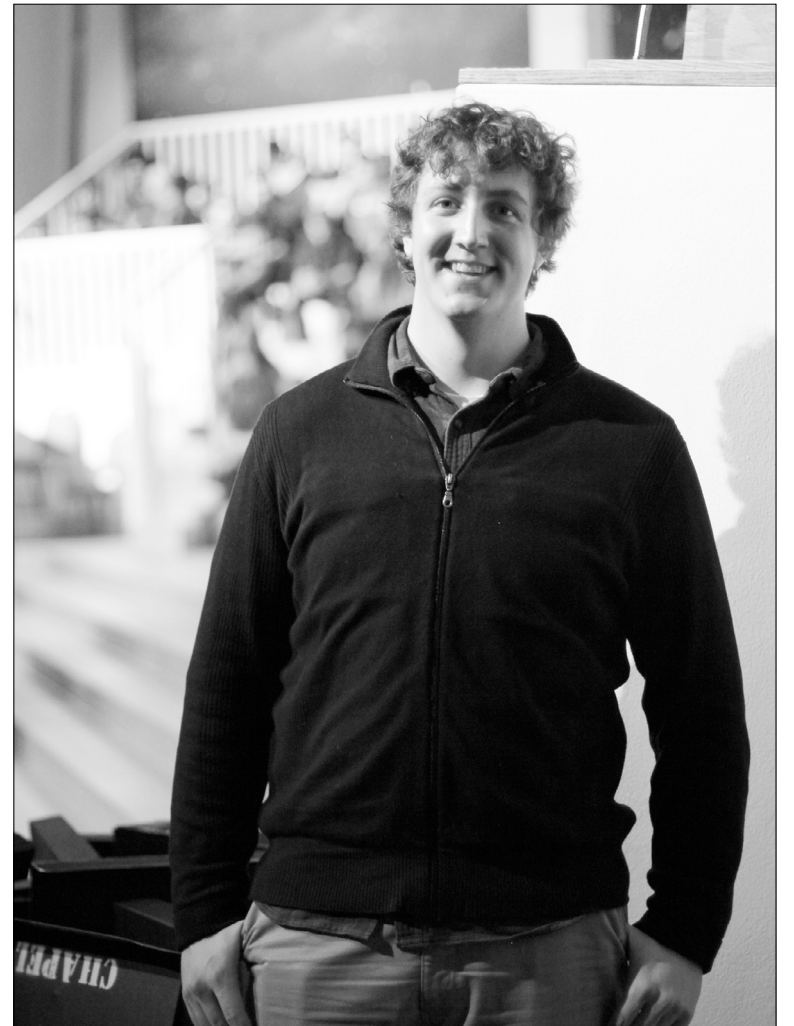
professional music community that Gustavus students are hardworking and professional," Senior Bethany Davidson said.

Michael has been demonstrating those qualities since he was accepted to play in the Mankato Symphony Orchestra as a first year among professional musicians. Since then he's also landed gigs in the Oneota Valley Symphony Orchestra and the LaCrosse Symphony Orchestra.

"These opportunities have definitely solidified my desire to do this as a job. It's absolutely terrifying at times but also I can learn so much playing with people that are higher caliber. Whenever that happens it forces you to play better. There's more competition and less room for error," Michael said.

While Michael dedicates a big portion of his free time to practicing and playing music for fun with his friends, he also enjoys kicking back and watching Netflix, working out, going to trivia, cooking, and enjoying the company of friends when he gets the chance.

"Michael is a really good friend. He's very driven and focused on his goals but always can make time if you need to talk or just sit around and laugh. He has a good balance in how he operates. He knows how to put the time in to be excellent and reach his goals, yet still is good about taking time to enjoy life and focus



Caroline Probst

Friends say Michael dedicates his soul to music.

on relationships with his friends and family," Junior Karin Dye said.

Before graduating, Michael wants to be even more involved on campus, help underclassmen realize their potential, and win the concerto competition this February.

"What I've found is that you don't realize it, but time travels so fast especially when you get caught up with things. I'm focusing on enjoying things in the moment and making time for the things I want to do," Michael said.

To those who know him,

Michael already seems to have made the most of the time he's had in the Gustavus community.

"There are many types of Gusties, Michael is one who is a great ambassador for our college. He builds his own community here by investing in people and he knows how to listen. While he may not be the kind of Gustie that is loud and constantly talking about Gustavus, his way of living and interacting with others is a perfect example of how we would want every Gustie to be," Assistant Professor in Music Ruth Lin said.



Caroline Probst

Michael began playing the double bass in 5th grade and now performs with many orchestras.



Caroline Probst

Michael sings for the men's a capella ensemble, G-Sharp.

Hundreds unite for Christmas in Christ Chapel

Dan Vruno
Staff Writer

For years, Christmas in Christ Chapel has been an event that has created many memories for the students involved over the 42 year tradition. Looking at the experience through the perspective of a first-year, a sophomore, and a senior, the significance of Christmas in Christ Chapel is clear.

With nearly 350 students involved and 1,200 people attending each of the five showings, Christmas in Christ Chapel has always been a signature event at Gustavus. Interestingly, First-Year Devyn Wallem had no idea coming into her first semester at Gustavus what Christmas in Christ Chapel was. It was only after she auditioned for Choir and was placed in the Lucia Choir that she learned she would be part of something so significant for Gustavus. Among the 94 other females comprising the Lucia Choir, Wallem is excited to embark on a four year journey of participating in Christmas in Christ Chapel.

"Coming into the Lucia Choir, I didn't know it was this big deal of a thing, nor was I expecting any of it to be so extravagant. Now that I know, it feels amazing. It feels like you are bringing Christmas to Saint Peter. It has been so fun with all of the memories we have made," Wallem said.

Feeling that it brings her the ability to express herself and being a part of something, Wallem is proud to be a member of the Lucia choir and Christmas in Christ Chapel.

"When I hear the orchestra beginning, I can get chills and it provides me a sense of well-being for being a part of it and seeing what we can do. This is something that can mean so much for people and it's an event that provides unity for anyone who witnesses it," Wallem said.

Sophomore English Major Amanda Down, has already experienced Christmas in Christ Chapel once and is excited to experience it again.

"When you are a first-year you don't really understand how much the college really puts in to this entire performance. Now that I'm experienced, I can properly express my enthusiasm for it. This week leading up to the actual performances is one hell of a week but what really comes out of it is a magical experience. It was last year while rehearsing that I learned how powerful the Lucia Choir is. I love it and it's quite the sisterhood of womanly power," Downs stated.

There is a lot of emotional resonance for Downs when performing in the Chapel.

"One thing that really comes out in C in CC is people's work

ethics. We are told to pick someone in the audience who you are singing for. We are getting through this weekend to touch somebody else. I sing for grandpa. He's my best friend and he came last year. I started to cry when I saw him last year while performing and it made it more absolute. After this moment I decided I would be singing for my Grandpa for the next four years no matter what orchestra I'm in. The show rewards you with the rush of emotions of being sentimental and happy at the same time when you are done with the experience," Downs said.

Senior Music Major Daniel Felton has been a part of Christmas in Christ Chapel for three years. He joined Chapel Choir as a sophomore and Gustavus Choir for his junior and senior year.

"Being a part of C in CC all these years has been magical. With the theme and layout changing every year as we prepare for the show, I am always astonished at how the Chapel can come together to look so amazing with all of the lights they hang up. The staple hymn in the end is always the same and is just as magical now as it has been since the first year I sang it in Christmas in Christ Chapel. There's so many wonderful memories I have had so far with this group and I know when I sing 'O Come All Ye Faithful' for the last time... there might be some tears," Felton said.

As the highlight of the day for Felton is going to choir with friends every day at 4:30. Felton

will be carrying many wonderful memories of Christmas in Christ Chapel.

In addition to the students' participation, this will be the first year Christmas in Christ Chapel is live streamed for anyone to see. Saturday at 6:30 p.m., anyone will be able to feel a magical experience no matter where they come from. In addition both the video and lighting crew assisting are nationally known.

Extending from the campus to an international audience, Christmas in Christ Chapel is an experience of a lifetime. From first-years who are about to experience it for the first time, to seniors who are about to participate for the last time, the tradition of Christmas in Christ Chapel in the Gustavus Community will live in the memories of thousands.



The cosmic backdrop reflects the vastness of students' experience and memories made during this annual tradition.

Steven Yang



Students gather for hours of rehearsal in preparation for this concert.

Steven Yang

The Giver is just another dystopian movie



Brady Lass
Staff Writer

The amount of superhero films produced these days is only rivaled by the amount of young adult dystopian movies. This year we've had *The Maze Runner*, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1*, and *Divergent*, and there looks to be no shortage of them in 2015. While the novels these productions were based on were released in the late 2000s there were plenty of examples before the turn of the century that these works have taken inspiration, including Lois Lowry's *The Giver*. When I heard of a film adaptation this year, I was intrigued, but the more I saw it, the more I wanted to spend my money to go see *Guardians of the Galaxy* again instead. It didn't look different from the other dystopian films released this year and I just had no interest to see it. It didn't seem to have the heart that the original had. But was I wrong not to give *The Giver* a chance?

The plot follows the book relatively close. After a war, the community has rid themselves



Jonas receives memories from the Giver. We wish we could give away our memories of this movie.

of different races and feelings to achieve total equality, so much that the perspective of everyone is visually in black and white. 16 year old Jonas is selected to be the Receiver of Memories, a position in which he gets the memories of various people before the formation of the community by the Giver. Jonas starts understanding how the world originally was compared to what it is now and develops various emotions and a sense of color that he wants to share with everyone, but is not allowed to by the Chief Elder. After learning what death is and its pres-

ence in his world, he decides to journey into the border to spread the memories with everyone in the community.

For those who read the book, you might identify a few changes such as aging the main character and giving him a love interest. Since Jonas was 12 in the novel and his reactions might be more understandable, I don't think it completely destroys the movie and it's interesting to see someone else receive Jonas' memories.

But this is not a complete benefit to the film because of one gaping flaw that ruins the whole

experience: *The Giver* never slows down. The direction, the narration, the dialogue, everything just moves too quickly, making the movie only an hour and a half long, which is shorter than the average of all the animated films aimed for children this year. Any time Jonas realizes or experiences something, the audience is never given a chance to take it in. Minor characters, including Jonas' friend and love interest, do not have the impact they had in the book because they aren't fully developed. Each scene felt like it was under two minutes and viewers

didn't have enough time to understand the characters.

The actors are all right but nothing special. Being that it's a movie where it's important to look uncomfortable or display no emotion, there's not really that much to highlight. Brenton Thwaites does an all right job as Jonas while Jeff Bridges doesn't seem to know what sort of tone he wants to give his character. Oscar nominee Meryl Streep has been reduced to whispering exposition and acting like a female version of President Snow. The security and technology also seem similar to the *Hunger Games*, but thankfully the similarities don't dominate the whole movie like I thought it would.

While *The Giver* is pretty faithful to the novel, it just doesn't convey the message that it's trying to give. The pacing is too fast which leads to undeveloped characters, choppy editing, and never giving the audience a chance to absorb what's happening to care enough about the main character. The acting is mostly mediocre while the visuals range from slightly interesting to generic dystopian society. It made me question if I actually like the novel now that I'm older, which is not good if the adaptation also isn't good. Whether you read the original or not, liked it or not, I can't guarantee you're going to enjoy this movie. I won't be having good memories of it.



Film narrates Dakota Conflict

Kim Krulish
Staff Writer

Ever wondered what was happening in Minnesota during the time of the Civil War? Thanks to the 2014-15 Film Series between the Nicollet County Historical Society and the St. Peter Community and Family Education, the documentary *The Past is Alive within Us: The U.S.-Dakota Conflict* was screened at the Treaty Site Historical Center in St. Peter on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.

The documentary examines one of the darkest times in Minnesota History; the Dakota War. The War took place in 1862 between white settlers and the Native American Dakota Tribe. The film was designed to build better understanding of the historical interpretation and to encourage critical thinking of the events. It is a mixture of historical information and contemporary stories through the lens of public memory.

The documentary is the result of almost two years of research and production by Twin Cities Public Television. Several hundred hours of interviews were conducted and compacted into a nearly two-hour program. The documentary includes 80 diverse voices from some of the people who were impacted by the War. It also contains the perspectives of experts, community leaders, artists, and historians.

"This is an extremely important story; one that we're proud to share with the citizens of Minnesota," Terry O'Reilly, Senior Vice President and Chief Content Officer of TPT, said.

The TPT website provides more information on the documentary and also has the film posted online. The film is 117 minutes long and it is Not Rated.

The Dakota War resulted in many casualties on both sides and ultimately led to the execution of 38 Dakota men in Mankato, Minnesota on Dec. 26, 1862. These men came to be known as the Dakota 38 and

an annual Pow-Wow is held in Mankato in their honor.

The Nicollet County Historical Society was organized on Aug. 22, 1928. The Treaty Site Historical Center was opened on Feb. 1, 1994 and currently holds three exhibit halls showcasing both permanent and changing displays. The History Center offers guided tours, educational programs, a museum shop, and more for visitors. Admission costs for the History Center are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children ages 6 to 17, and children 5 years old and younger get in free. There are also deals for education tours, adult group tours, and admission to the Cox House in St. Peter. Nicollet County Schools, chaperones, and members of the Nicollet County and Minnesota Historical Societies are free of charge.

For more information on the Nicollet County Historical Society, go to their website at www.nchsmn.org. Or visit their site at 1851 N. Minnesota Avenue in St. Peter.

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WALKING IN A GUSTIE WONDERLAND



Grab a tray from the Caf and cruise down the Old Main hill.



The Kiwanis Holiday Lights in Mankato will be available to walk or drive through until Dec. 31.



Hit the slopes at Mount Kato for some tubing, skiing, or snowboarding.



Campus Activities Board will be sponsoring a trip to the Mall of America in January.



Vinny Bartella

Erika Clifton
Features Editor

Snow has started to accumulate around The Hill and the temperature has started to drop, which means it's time to either curl up in a warm room or make the trek outside to find something to do in the snow during December and January.

There are a wide variety of activities to keep winter-lovers busy in the Mankato/Saint Peter area during the chilly months. The Kiwanis Holiday Lights are open until Dec. 31 at Sibly Park in Mankato. Warm the car up and drive through the lights or take a walk in the park. There is also a skating rink with a warming house so bring your skates to glide around the ice. There is no price for admission, but cash donations and food shelf donations are being accepted. The light show is open Sunday through Thursday from 5-9 p.m. and Friday through Saturday 5-10 p.m.

Also located in Sibly Park is The Exclusively Diamonds Dash 5K, which will allow you to run through the Kiwanis Holiday Lights. The race starts at 5 p.m. on Dec. 7 and

registration is \$30. The top male and female runners will win Exclusively Diamonds gift cards worth \$500.

If you want something to do during a warmer, sunny day, check out Mount Kato for downhill skiing and snowboarding. Bring your own skis and snowboards or you can rent some there. If standing and sliding down a hill isn't your thing, they also have snow tube rentals. For two hours of tubing fun, the price is \$17.

If you need something more to do during January Interim Experience, there are plenty of on-campus events to keep you busy outside and inside. There will be a lot of athletic events to attend for Men & Women's Hockey, Basketball, Swimming, and Women's Gymnastics. Be sure to check the College calendar for home and away games.

January is a great time to get a start on your newly-set New Year's Resolutions by attending the variety of fitness classes offered, including Decade Zumba on Sundays in Alumni Hall, which features different decade

themed music each week.

You can also get your friends together and try a new activity like playing Family Feud on Jan. 23 or getting crafty at weekly Monday night Pinterest Parties.

If you are looking to get off campus for a while, there are trips to Mall of America to do some shopping, cheer on the Timberwolves at Target Center, or go to Wow Zone for bowling, laser tag, and mini golf. Be sure to check the College calendar for more details on these trips in early January.

When the next snow falls across campus, grab trays from the Caf and take part in the Gustie tradition of traying down the Old Main hill. Be sure to return your tray to the Caf when you are finished sliding so that this tradition can continue for future Gusties.

Have fun and stay warm this winter, Gusties!