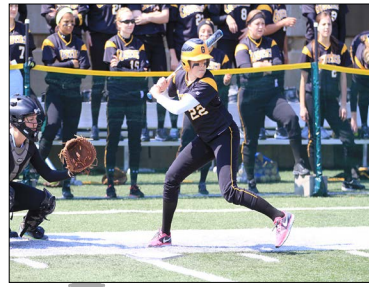


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Est. 1891

February 20, 2015

www.weekly.blog.gustavus.edu

Issue 15

Students involved in planning future Nobel remodel



Submitted

Exterior perspective of what the future Nobel Hall will look like through the help of student visioning.

Kaity Young
Staff Writer

Students and faculty are coming together to plan renovations for Nobel Hall. Built in 1963, the home of the biology, chemistry, geology, and geography departments is due for an update and expansion.

"The way we teach has been changing for a long time. Smaller classes and more engaged teaching methods are what we would like to have, but the building is currently not designed for it," Associate Professor of Chemistry Scott Bur said. "We have transitioned from pretty large sections of things like Principles of Chemistry and Principles of Biology to sections of less than 50 students. That requires more sections, more people, and more space."

Space was one of the major factors which has inspired the push toward renovating the building.

"The programs housed within the building are growing, and there aren't enough offices or research labs to house everyone," Bur said. "This is exacerbated by the reduction in class size."

Though Nobel was renovated in 1997 to create more lab space following the movement of the Physics Department to Olin Hall, there is still much work to be done.

"Science is changing. The building was designed just

after DNA was discovered, for example, and the curriculum has since changed to accommodate new discoveries," Bur said. "The infrastructure of the building needs to be updated to accommodate modern instrumentation used routinely to answer scientific questions."

"Students helped select the architecture firm, students were involved in the strategic visioning process, and students were given the opportunity to review the plans and provide feedback."

—Scott Bur

Students expressed their shared enthusiasm for updating the building, focusing on laboratory equipment as a motivator for the anticipated changes.

"We need nicer labs in the building, especially since a lot of people who initially come to Gustavus come for science related reasons," Sophomore Religion Major Christie Visser said. "If we're becoming known as a good school for science, getting better lab equipment is something we should be work-

ing on. There are a lot of schools which are not known for their science programs which have better labs than we do."

Students and faculty have been seeking renovations to benefit not only the biology, chemistry, geology, and geography departments, but the whole student body.

"The current plans call for a complete renovation of the existing facilities and an addition that wraps around the north, west, and south sides of

the building," Bur said. "The biggest difference that students will encounter every day is the expansion of study spaces and 'informal education' places. We have plans for several small group study rooms and for several larger, open spaces where people can meet and interact."

The planning process has been thorough and those involved have tried to consider all perspectives as they move through the steps of updating Nobel Hall. In particular, there

has been a focus on getting students actively involved in major decisions.

"Students were involved in nearly every aspect of plan development," Bur said. "Students helped select the architecture firm, students were involved in the strategic visioning process,

**Nobel Renovations
continued on Page 4**



Submitted

Updates to the building will include modern instrumentation, more research labs, and expanded study spaces.

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Published weekly on Fridays, except during academic breaks, by the students of Gustavus Adolphus College. Subscriptions are available from THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY for \$40 per year.

Opinions expressed here in are not necessarily those of the institution or of its student body. The editors assume full responsibility for editorial and unsigned material.

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Sustainability discussion inspires conversation and action

Laura Isdahl
Staff Writer

Students, faculty, and administrators gathered together on Friday, Feb. 13 to seriously discuss “meeting global warming’s challenges” and creating tangible forms of action to create a more sustainable community.

Professor Deborah Goodwin has been a long time advocate for environmental issues. She was instrumental in planning the discussion, along with Director of Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation Jim Dontje, Associate Professor in Education Michele Koomen, and Director for Leadership and Community-Based Service Dave Newell. Many professors found that class discussions

about climate change resulted in helplessness rather than empowerment.

“The students were discouraged. Where’s the hope in this? What is it that we are doing when we simply teach students about global warming and not teach them tools for engagement and advocacy? We need to do more than just talk about the problem; we need to lead students to solutions,” Goodwin said.

The discussion was not all about students, though. Various groups around campus talk about sustainability in different ways, so this discussion intended to bring together these groups to address the issue as a whole, rather than in separate factions.

“We wanted to put together a larger conversation on campus and bring together as many people as possible. It was

an authentic community conversation, not just people lecturing,” Goodwin said.

These groups have addressed climate change in separate ways. This conversation is intended to reach as many of these groups and combine resources and ideas to act.

“We need to do more than just talk about the problem; we need to lead students to solutions.”

—Deborah Goodwin

“There have been sustainability initiatives at Gustavus. The question is ‘how can we move all of this forward?’ Our goal is to make sure that information gets processed quickly and gets turned out into the community with an action plan,” Goodwin said.

One part of the conversation revolved around simply why people came to the discussion that day. It brought up ways that could encourage others to take action by reflecting on why these individuals had stake in the environment.

Sophomore Biology Major Carolyn Del Vecchio attended the discussion and brought up several reasons for prioritizing sustainability.

“There are going to be people after us

that we need to think about. What are we going to do for them?” Del Vecchio said.

Linnaeus Arboretum Director and Naturalist Scott Moeller provided insights for the conversation regarding global warming in the past years.

“I’ve seen a real evolution of this conversation from fifteen years ago where you couldn’t even talk about this without people getting angry to the point now where this discussion is happening. But there’s still not a lot of action. I’m hoping for us to figure out a way to turn this corner to mass educate everybody about what a serious problem so that we can have a global conversation about what we are going to do to fix this,” Moeller said.

Moeller says one reason sustainability is so important is because it affects not only humans, but other organisms that do not have voices to protest.

“It’s not just about us. All plants and animals that are on this planet with us that have nothing to do with how we’ve changed the environment—well, they matter too. It’s frustrating to see humans making all the decisions based on what’s best for us and what’s going to make all the money for us. We forget all the other

Climate Change Continued on Page 4

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Campus Safety Report

Wednesday, February 11

- A Gustavus employee reported the loss of a campus key. The key was later recovered.

- Collegiate Fellows responded to a student of concern in Gibbs Hall.

Friday, February 13

- Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department responded to a motor vehicle accident in the Chapel View parking lot. One non-student was arrested by the SPPD for DWI. Three unoccupied student vehicles and College property were reported damaged, no injuries were reported.

- A student reported a Gustavus parking permit missing from her vehicle.

Sunday, February 15

- Collegiate Fellows responded to a policy violation in Sorensen Hall involving two students.

- a Collegiate Fellow responded to a reported noise violation in Uhler Hall involving three students and also documented a possible policy violation.

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:

How You Doin'?

Find out how you are doing with your choices about your social life and your alcohol use.

Check it out at: http://360proof.org/pfi/gustavus_adolphus_college

You might find out you're healthy. You might find out some areas of concern. You might find out how to make a change in your life. The key is you will find out.

Gusties learn about leadership opportunities



Collegiate Fellows during first-year orientation. Submitted

Haley Bell & Christine Peterson
Staff Writer & News Editor

The Student Leadership Open House took place on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 7p.m. to 8p.m. The event was held for students to receive information or apply to organizations on campus.

Each organization has a special purpose on campus in order to create leaders and help the school run smoothly.

Gustie Greeters help first-year students transition into college during orientation weekend. They also provide resources for the incoming students in order to adjust to college living.

Collegiate Fellows assist residents in all of the on-campus

living halls through enforcing policies and hosting hall bonding events. They are a resource for students on campus for any living needs.

Peer Assistants encourage students to live a balanced, healthy life through educational programs, awareness campaigns, and other events. They are a resource for students as a place they can go to talk to about any range of topics.

Students gathered last Thursday Feb. 19 in order to get information about each of the organizations and find the one that fits them best.

"The open house is simply for students who are interested in applying to the organizations. There is no commitment... it's just a great opportunity to learn more about the programs in a



Peer Assistants encourage the well-being of all Gustavus students. Office of Marketing and Communication



Gustie Greeters welcoming first-years during orientation weekend. Office of Marketing and Communications

casual setting. Interested students can talk to current leaders about what the programs are like and their personal experiences with them," Senior Gustie Greeter Allison Schmidt said.

Organizations that made an appearance at the open house included Peer Assistants, Collegiate Fellows, and Gustie Greeters. These organizations are considered the premier student leader groups on campus.

"We represent the students on campus who want to be leaders and are passionate about what they do. As far as the PA's go, we are certified peer educators. This means we go through extensive training during the week before everyone moves back to campus to learn how to best educate, inspire, and learn with our peers about issues such as chemical, physical, and sexual health," Sophomore Peer Assistant Rachel Haefliger said.

According to student leaders, these organizations are important for Gustavus for the lasting impact the student leaders have on others. The opportunity is helpful in gaining experience while contributing to campus.

"Student Leaders on this campus have been known to make lifelong friends and connections within these programs, all while making a difference for others. Together, the Student Leaders all contribute to the needs of the campus in their own unique ways, and that is a very reward-

ing experience that helps build skills that go far beyond college life," Junior Peer Assistant Johnna Bottila said.

"Student Leaders on this campus have been known to make lifelong friends and connections within these programs, all while making a difference for others."

—Johnna Bottila

The groups stay busy and work to improve of the lives the Gustavus community each year. Collegiate Fellows, for example, have responsibilities that include facilitating student learning through actively engaging residents all year in creating community and developing responsibility for their residence hall environment. Their purpose is to enhance the student learning experience and emphasize the College's mission and core values.

Peer Assistants have been busy throughout the 2014-2015 academic year as well. PAs have developed the Power of Positive Action presentation about bystander intervention, and

claim that they will continue with this program in the future. The group also helped sponsor various events such as the Fall Midnight Express, Glowga, as well as a social norming campaign. In addition, they also ran ACES, a workshop for level one alcohol violations.

"The Peer Assistants have been busy this year and we have been brainstorming fun new ideas for spring semester!" Bottila said.

Gustie Greeters have been involved on campus before the academic year even began. The group of upper-class student leaders planned, organized, and led incoming students through New Student Orientation. Each Greeter was responsible for leading activities, discussions and events throughout the four-day orientation program. The Gustie Greeters have also been involved in various events on campus and such as SNL, Family Weekend, and on Saturday Feb. 21, they will be hosting a mini golf event.

"We do this while still keeping in touch with our Greeter group from the fall, and having bi-weekly meetings with all Greeters and our Greeter coordinator," Schmidt said.

All applications for the leadership organizations are due on February 23. If students are interested in applying you can contact Andrea Junso, Director of Campus Activities Office.



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Nobel Renovations continued from Page 1

and students were given the opportunity to review the plans and provide feedback. When the finances are figured out and the project moves forward to construction, there will be another review of the plans."

"We need nicer labs in the building, especially since a lot of people who initially come to Gustavus come for science related reasons."

—Christie Visser

There is some concern within the student body about the costs of the renovation. Students are hesitant to support the project without reassurance that the costs will not fall upon them.

"It would be nice have up to date technology as long as we aren't paying for it through our tuition," First-year Tyller Robert said.

Aware of the large financial strain this could put on the institution, the goal is to fund raise as much as possible, as was done with Beck Hall.

"This has the potential to seriously impact the operating budget of the college, and we don't want to put the College in a bad financial position," Bur said. "We also don't want to simply pass the cost off to students in the form of tuition increases. As you can see, it's not an easy set of variables to optimize, but please be aware that everyone involved is very sensitive to the financial implications for students."

Though the renovations have yet to be financed, Bur is looking forward to the day when Nobel is up to date and large enough to accommodate the department.

"Much of the addition and renovation will help us do what we already do, only we will be able to do it better," Bur said.

Climate Change Continued from Page 2

living things that we share this planet with," Moeller said.

The meeting hopes to bring the conversation to action. Education and discussion are parts of creating change, but it cannot stop there. Climate change has been a topic on campus over the years, but the results and discussions that occurred often were not taken further.

"We forget all the other living things that we share this planet with."

—Scott Moeller

"There is a history of these conversations but afterward, where does this information go? We are basically a group of people who are tired of talking about these issues. We want to do something," Goodwin said.

Action can be expected to in-



Cameron Jarvis

Climate Change conversation encourages Gusties to take action.

crease sustainability on campus and in the surrounding communities. It really came down to some envisioned improvements for Gustavus' future.

"I hope that we can be doing a lot more on this campus and we have a lot of potential," Del Vecchio said.

All input and suggestions are encouraged. Sustainability

is not just an issue for certain isolated groups to address.

"If you've got a great idea that you want to bring to the conversation, feel free to email us," Goodwin said.

Information regarding future discussions or action can be found by contacting Deborah Goodwin.

Gusties' Views on World News

Gusties' Views on World News is an ongoing section in which Gustavus students share their opinions on current events.

Taking Steps Towards a Peaceful Two-State Solution



Creative Commons

Palestinian Embassy in Sweden increases Palestine's recognition as a sovereign nation

Mark Siatta
Staff Writer

The first-ever Palestinian embassy in Western Europe was opened in Sweden on Tuesday, Feb. 10. In addition to this newly signed deal, Swedish Prime Minister Lofven has agreed to provide financial support to Palestine for 5 years totaling roughly \$175 million. The implications of this not only affect Palestinians but Israeli and Swedish patrons alike.

In regard to the establishment of the Palestinian embassy "It sends a message that they are a recognized state, and it shows forward thinking on Sweden's part, but

also can be seen as problematic, specifically because of Sweden's unstable current political situation," Cecilia Tiscornia, a first-year Sweden native said.

The news of the embassy disturbed Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman. He criticized the Swedish Prime Minister Lofven on the grounds that, neither a declaration nor other moves by external players can replace the on-going talks between Palestine and Israel.

Sophomore Josh Weisenfeld recognized the importance of this decision, but called caution to what this means for the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"I think it's important that both Israel and Palestine are recognized as sovereign nations, and an embassy is a vital step

in the process of recognition. Instead of having countries decide between which embassy to embrace, there needs to be a truly two-state solution where westernized nations recognize both as their own nations," Sophomore Josh Weisenfeld said.

He continued with his thoughts on the previously two-state solution.

"The two state solution will be a long road. Currently, many countries around the world don't believe Israel should be recognized as its own state or have its own borders, even though its only been 60 years since they were officially recognized as their own nation," Weisenfeld said.

When asked what the future might bring in terms of a peace agreement between the two countries, he laid out a parameter in which all parties could be content.

"I think it's important that both Israel and Palestine are recognized as sovereign nations, and an embassy is a vital step in the process of recognition."

—Josh Weisenfeld

"I do think developing a two state solution is important and will be the best of a bad situation in resolving some of the violence seen in the Middle

East. The establishment of an embassy for each will be seen as being much more sincere," Weisenfeld said.

While Israel currently holds a seat in the UN, Palestine recently submitted an official bid for statehood to the UN Security Council, but failed to be adopted. Relations between Sweden and Israel have soured as of late, and were illustrated when Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom called off a visit to Israel earlier this year.

Late in 2014, the European Parliament voted to recognize Palestine as a state in principle and was strongly supported by the MEP (Members of the European Parliament).

Junior Mahmoud Abu Eid, a Palestinian currently living in Jordan was asked his thoughts on the recent developments.

"The Palestinian issue has been on the radar for a long time, regarding homeless people with no state, and the creation of an embassy is a leap forward. In order to resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine the two state solution is important. When you open an embassy for both states you recognize both of them, and that drives other countries to follow as well. It will help figure out what solutions are beneficial for both sides," Abu Eid said.

"Since 1948 Palestinians have been struggling with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and having an answer after a long time of waiting, its good and it gives the youth something to be happy about," Abu Eid said.

Many are unaware of the travel restrictions that create enormous barriers for stateless

people from moving around freely looking for residence and or other basic necessities. Eid further detailed specifically how this affects stateless Palestinians.

"In order to resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine the two state solution is important."

—Mahmoud Abu Eid

"As of right now, they do not have passports, but travel documents, so traveling to different countries and acquiring an education is really hard because there are no official government institutions. It's just the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization), so recognizing the whole issue opens up a whole new perspective, and will help many stateless Palestinians get an education, basic health requirements, and basic living status," Abu Eid said.

While conflict between Israel and Palestine is still prevalent in the news, it is encouraging to see peaceful solutions like this being brought forward for the benefit of the states. It is unlikely that a final resolution will be made anytime soon. Both agree on the importance of Israel and Palestine being recognized as sovereign nations and it would be an integral step in that recognition starts with the establishment of Embassies.

GUSTIE *of the* WEEK



Agustin Murillo

Addie's contagious excitement and enthusiasm has led to her many friendships with students and professors alike.

Jaurdyn Dobler Staff Writer

As a fourth generation Gustie and the ninth member of her family to attend Gustavus, Junior Addie Konnad had considered other colleges after high school with the support of her family, but says nowhere else compared to the friendliness and comfort of life on The Hill.

"I had come to so many events growing up that I came to love the community and the environment. I love that I'm on a personal note with most of my professors. Nothing compares to how comfortable it is here. You know almost everybody," Addie said.

The environment and friendliness of those in the community aren't the only reasons for the comfortability Addie felt right away at Gustavus. Her outgoing personality and infectious excitement for almost anything helped her fit in on the first day of her first year.

"I vividly remember the first time I met Addie. She came to my room to introduce herself during our first few days here. She was full of life and very outgoing. I think I was immediately drawn to her because she was so friendly and made me feel so welcome, even though we were both new freshmen," Junior Lauren Schiltz said.

Now a junior, Addie's personality drives her friendships in everything she's involved in from her classes to being a Student Supervisor in the Caf, secretary of the PageTurners Book Club, Vice President of Uhler Hall, and especially Gustavus Choir.

"Addie is such a welcoming person who gladly includes others and makes friends wherever she goes. It's also pretty easy for

her because she's so quirky and outgoing. There's never a dull moment with her. She tends to give off waves of energy that are just contagious," Junior Hayley Solheim said.

Not only does her contagious and outgoing personality gain the attention of others, but also her positive enthusiasm in classes helps her hit it off nicely with professors.

"Addie took a class from me last spring and we hit it off from the start. I was immediately impressed with her as she sat in the front row and leaned in. She's fun loving, enthusiastic, curious, and one of the nicest people around," Professor of English Joyce Sutphen said.

"She can always make us laugh and bring a smile to our day. She's very involved in the Gustavus community and she is always willing to help others out."

—Lauren Schiltz

As a double major in English and Psychology, Addie is trying to decide if she'd like to attend graduate school for psychology in order to eventually work with special needs children, or if she'd rather delve straight into publishing and editing after Gustavus. No matter what she chooses, her friends say her dedication and unique interests will secure her success.

"She is dedicated to learning about anything that interests her and she is always on the lookout for an adventure," Junior Ashley Haller said.

When she finds free time, Addie likes to read, listen to different music, watch TV, bike, and hang out with friends. Her fondest memories have been made star tipping on the Gustavus soccer field with her core group of friends.

"Addie will go to the mat for her friends. She can always make us laugh and bring a smile to our day. She's very involved in the Gustavus community and she is always willing to help others out," Schiltz said.

In the rest of her time at col-



Agustin Murillo

After graduating, Addie plans to continue her studies at graduate school.

lege, Addie says her one goal is solidification.

"I'm at a stage in which it's important for me to solidify. I want to solidify my knowledge, goals, and relationships. When I leave I won't make many more safety nets for myself so I think it's important to solidify the ones I have now," Addie said.

While she's focusing on existing relationships, Addie also

says that she wants to always continue to make more.

"Those who don't know Addie should get to know her. She is a wonderful friend and a kind and thoughtful listener. While her energy is contagious and uplifting, she is very apt to notice when someone's day might not be going the best," Junior Hannah Walters said.



Agustin Murillo

Addie is a Student Supervisor in the Caf, secretary of PageTurners Book Club, Vice President of Uhler Hall, and Gustavus Choir.

Importance of *Being Earnest* remains relevant

Dan Vruno
Staff Writer

First performed on Valentine's Day back in 1895, Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* has endured in popularity over the years. The comedy, along with its high farce and witty dialogue, provides an intriguing satire of Victorian ways.

The plot observes the main characters as they attempt to evade several arduous engagements by taking on fictitious persona. Wilde purposely mocks the rigid performances of class, gender, and sexuality that society (still) expects us to play. Finding its way now onto campus, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is the J-term production that the cast and crew are ready to show to the public. Directed by Amy Seham, Professor in Theatre & Dance and Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies, the Theatre and Dance department will be holding performances for *Earnest* in Anderson Theatre Feb. 19-22.

Upon discovering that *Earnest* was making its way on campus, Sophomore Classics and Physics Major, Will Riihiluoma, was more than psyched about the opportunity to be a dramatize. Looking heavily at the background history and setting of the period piece, Riihiluoma spent nearly seven hours per day trying to learn everything he could for a week straight. Studying the specific etiquette and rules during Queen Victoria's reign, Riihiluoma also learned many things about



Lindsey Taylor

This 19th century play has remained relevant and challenged many of its actors to perform as the opposite gender.

Oscar Wilde. Not realizing that Wilde was counterculture during the author's own time, Riihiluoma was surprised to see the continuous relevance of the issues about which he writes. In addition to rehearsals and read-throughs, the cast would listen to his presentations on the Victorian period and Oscar Wilde. Focusing such lessons on topics like gender roles, social structures and manners, Riihiluoma thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Riihiluoma talked about the entire experience as a whole and his hopes for what the audience can take away from the experience.

"*The Importance of Being Earnest* is one of my favorite plays. It's hilarious British theater and it can be very fluffily done, but we are trying our hardest

to make its message clear but still not overhanded. This is my first time being a non-actor in theater production, providing a different perspective and I now have a greater respect for everyone involved that helps makes the show. In addition, I hope the audience will be able to see how great and witty the whole experience is," Riihiluoma said.

For Sophomore English and Theatre Major, Andie Broman, *Earnest* is a performance that she has deeply enjoyed contributing to. Playing Miss Prism, the serious educator that falls in love with a preacher, Andie is one of the few to natively be their gender. What this means in the Victorian period (in 1895) is having to wear a corset for six hours during rehearsals along with huge elegant handmade-

dresses with big sleeves. In addition to getting used to the costumes, the cast had to work on their British accents. Through practice and video tutorials, Andie believes her accent has improved greatly. She also spoke about the experience of working under Amy Seham's direction.

"Amy's direction is very focused on exploring the setting and the location. She very much likes seeing what actors want to do and to try new things. She is very explorative in making us realize that with each movement, a different thing can be communicated. Amy is able to discover what she wants from you to a great extent and is able to bring that into the play itself," Broman said.

For Annie Galloway, this

month is bittersweet and a relief at the same time. As a senior, *Earnest* and the play she is going to direct, *Ctrl*, will be her last two productions here at Gustavus. Finding herself coming full circle where she had to cut her hair for her first production as a first-year and once again for *Earnest*, Galloway will be playing Jack Worthing. Among the things she has learned throughout her four years at Gustavus, Annie learned the role of playing the opposite gender.

"When playing someone of the opposite gender you have to figure out your physicality and place your voice correctly. Especially with a British accent. You have to find an entirely new way of communicating. As I express myself differently with my face, I didn't feel I had that boyish quality until I got my makeup on. One usually starts playing into stereotypes and then builds from there. You begin to ask yourself, how do men eat? How do men walk? It's an experience itself to make the character more than one-dimensional and your own, especially when you aren't in your own shoes," Galloway said.

As a commentary on gender and sexuality, Wilde's *Earnest* still stands as great as it did a hundred years ago. While every line is a packed joke, students will be able to take a lot away from witnessing the production with their own eyes.

Tickets can be ordered at the CAO desk and on gustavus-tickets.com. Students, faculty, and staff are able to receive one free ticket and for others, adult tickets will be \$9.

Tales from abroad

Eric Hanson
Guest Writer

The choice to participate in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program was all about the math. The ability to spend a semester completely submerged in the study of mathematics seemed right up my alley, and the fact that the program was located in Budapest was just an added bonus. Now that I'm here, however, I am very glad to be spending the semester in Hungary.

In addition to meeting friends who love math as much as I do, everyone is interested in exploring what the city of Budapest (and the country of Hungary) has to offer. We have discovered many interesting restaurants and had several unique experiences. My favorite experience was in the city of Eger. A group of students from my program had gone for a weekend trip and decided to check out the city's basilica one evening. Outside the basilica was a man holding a bunch of balloons, who seemed very happy to see all of us. He spoke no English, but our tour guide was able to translate and

inform us that this man was the best man at a wedding that was starting in half an hour.

Apparently, it is a Hungarian wedding tradition to hire a best man to manage entertainment. Before anyone really knew what was going on, we had been invited to the wedding and were walking into the basilica to sit down. Two Hungarians made a life-long commitment to each other in front of about thirty family members and close friends, and a dozen American tourists. After the ceremony, we followed the other guests outside to partake in another local tradition: we were handed balloons with sparklers attached, lit the sparklers, and released the balloons into the sky.

Stories such as this one do not exist because of planning. They exist because a group of students were curious about what was going on and were willing to just go along with something a little bit strange and uncomfortable. Stories like this are what make studying abroad such an amazing experience. Of course, throwing in several hours of mathematics per day doesn't hurt either.

Tales from Abroad is an ongoing section in which Gustavus students share the highlights of their study abroad experiences.



Submitted

Hanson (right) took a break from his studies to enjoy the scenery in Budapest, Hungary.

Second Hispanic Film Festival held at Gustavus



Kim Krulish
Staff Writer

Gustavus Adolphus College provides students and community members with opportunities to view different cultures through a variety of mediums. The College is currently hosting its second Hispanic Film Festival during six weeks of February and March. The festival is free and open to the public, featuring screenings of six films from different Hispanic countries and directors. The films will be shown in the Wallenberg Auditorium at 7 p.m. on six successive Mondays beginning on Feb. 16 and ending on March 23.

The Festival kicked off with *7 cajas* (*Seven Boxes*), directed by Tana Schémbori and Juan Carlos Maneglia in Paraguay, 2007. Similarly to the weekend movies that are also held in Wallenberg, the event was complete with free popcorn.

Junior Spanish and Latin American Studies major Emma Jasnoch is involved with the film festival. Students like Jas-

2ND GUSTAVUS HISPANIC FILM FEST

DISCOVER NEW CINEMA FROM LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN
All screenings will be held in Wallenberg Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Feb. 16, 7 cajas [Seven Boxes] | Tana Schémbori & Juan Carlos Maneglia, 2007
Feb. 23, Un cuento chino [Chinese Take-Out] | Sebastián Borensztein, 2012
March 2, Aquí y allá [Here and There] | Antonio Méndez Esparza, 2012
March 9, Pelo malo [Bad Hair] | Mariana Rondón, 2013
March 16, La sombra azul [Blue Shadow] | Sergio Schmucler, 2012
March 23, Wilaya [Tears of Sand] | Pedro Pérez Rosado, 2012

Contributing academic departments: Scandinavian Studies | LALACS | Geology | Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures | Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies | English | Theater & Dance | Comm Studies | Diversity Center | Kendall Center

The Spanish Film Club series was made possible with the support of PRAGDA, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of Spain, and SPAIN arts & culture.

Films will be screened every Monday nights at 7 p.m. in Wallenberg Auditorium until March 23.

Submitted

noch in the Spanish course are in charge of presenting a movie to campus, making brochures, and participating in panel discussions after the screenings.

"It's a really unique opportunity to learn more about Hispanic culture," Jasnoch said. "It's to give the school and the students some exposure to Hispanic culture as represented through film. I think that it's good for people to know that Hollywood isn't the only source of film in the world and that the other countries that are producing these films have their own unique ways of expressing their culture, and you can learn a lot about them through their movies."

In addition to screening the films, two of the directors will be visiting campus for the film festival. Antonio Méndez Esparza, director of *Aquí y allá* (*Here and There*), will be Skyping in to the event. The director of *La sombra azul* (*Blue Shadow*), Sergio Schmucler, will be attending the festival. Schmucler will also be visiting Gustavus later on for a script writing mini-course.

Junior Psychological Science and Spanish major Travis Sigafoos is the academic assistant for the Spanish program. Sigafoos is looking forward to the opportunity to have the directors present for the screenings.

"It is great to see how the

Hispanic Film Festival can bring the campus together to appreciate the diverse cultures that are portrayed in these films and to engage in thoughtful discussion of the current events in Spain and Latin America," Sigafoos said.

This year, a new logo depicting an eye was designed for the event. This image represents looking, discovering, and seeing new things.

Darío Sánchez-González, assistant professor in Modern Languages, Literature and Cultures, Spanish, and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, is one of the organizers of the event.

"It is important to expose students to a wide number of cultural expressions," Sánchez-González said. "We have movies at Gustavus, but we oftentimes lack more daring and independent films, the stuff that students should see. Anyone who comes to see the movies will find them to be enticing, daring, and attractive, and at the same time very entertaining."

The event first began in 2013 and will continue to be held biannually. The film festival is sponsored by many departments and organizations on campus including Modern Languages, LALACS, Literature and Cultures, the Diversity Center, Peace Studies, and others. The event is also supported by PRAGDA, the Ministry of Culture of Spain, and the organization's Program for Cultural Cooperation with United States' Universities. PRAGDA was created to "promote, disseminate, and maintain the legacy of Spanish and Latin American Cinema through unique cultural initiatives." For more information about PRAGDA, visit the organization's website.

"It's great to see the different departments supporting this event," Sánchez-González said. "It's not just our event, but also an event of the larger Gustavus community."

For a full schedule of the event and a synopsis of the films visit the Gustavus website.

The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby



Brady Lass
Staff Writer

This movie is no ordinary romance with its intriguing development history, it is actually two different movies combined into one. Ned Benson's directorial debut focused on the two lovers in their own films, titled *Him* and *Her* (not to be confused with the 2013 film of the same name) and their perspectives on their personal issues and relationships. This version is *Them*, which combines the two projects into one, cutting content to intersect them both. With that in mind, does *The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby* make for a stellar directorial debut, or should Benson have thrown away all three scripts?

Alternating between the past

and present, the plot focuses on the couple of Connor and Eleanor (whose name was inspired by a Beatles song), as they struggle with their marriage following a tragedy in their family, when Eleanor attempts suicide. Following the incident, Eleanor decides to live with her parents and return to college while Connor struggles to operate a restaurant while dealing with the disappearance of his wife. It is primarily a character driven film with each side having their own supporting cast, Eleanor has her parents and an empathetic professor while Connor has his dad and his co-worker.

It isn't groundbreaking in terms of writing, but it is a good examination of characters and relationships. Some scenes dragged on and I felt the two characters were imbalanced, and I felt the scenes with Eleanor surpassed Connor's, thanks to her supporting cast. As ambitious and experimental as the project sounds, it feels like there could have been different scenes in order to make it flow better, rather than have some go on a little too long. While it's fair to judge the movie for what it is, it is frustrating to think that other

scenes that could improve the film exist but weren't included.

Thankfully, any issue with the script is made up by the actors. I've always been a fan of James McAvoy, and I don't think he gets the credit he deserves. As usual he gives a great, dramatic performance here even if his side of the story was not the better one. Jessica Chastain also brings her talent as Eleanor. I'm used to her harsher performances in *Zero Dark Thirty* and *Interstellar*, so it's nice to see she can play a vulnerable character.

The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby is a decent examination of relationships and the character of the main leads with charming actors, but the script felt a little imbalanced. The fact that two movies were centered around the leads shows how much potential Hollywood artists have for exploring characters, and I'm not sure how I would've felt if I saw *Him* or *Her* instead. It's a good debut for Ned Benson and a nice watch for those who want to see a romance movie that doesn't need sadomasochist sex scenes for success.



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