

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY



Women's Swimming wins 6th straight MIAC title pg 16



Students Today, Leaders Forever pg 16

Est. 1891

February 27, 2015

www.weekly.blog.gustavus.edu

Issue 16

Co-President student Senate candidates debate

Kaity Young
Staff Writer

Candidates for the Co-Presidency of Student Senate met in the St. Peter Room for a short debate on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

The conversation began with questions prepared by Co-Presidents Matt Timmons and Hayden Goldstien. Candidates were given one minute to respond to questions aimed towards elaborating what their goals for Student Senate would be.

"We've both been on senate for 2 years and we see how it can be improved in the day to day operations," Junior English and Political Science Major Delaney Sweet said. "We hear your concerns and the changes you want to make. We see how to make not only the Senate better, but the overall student experience at Gustavus."

Sweet is running alongside Sophomore Biology Major Herchran Singh. They have focused their campaign on representing all parts of the Gustavus community.

"One of the largest issues that we face is regarding equity," Singh said. "On our platform, we want to ensure that each student's voice on campus is represented in an equitable manner. We want to educate,



Co-President candidates from top left to bottom right: Herchran Singh, Delaney Sweet, Sam Panzer, Bobby Rasmussen, Reed Baillie, Sean Kehren, Jake Kmiech, and Taylor Wicklund.

inspire and empower all of the students at Gustavus."

While Sweet and Singh noted they offer diverse perspectives compared to the other Co-Presidential candidates, some were quick to acknowledge their inability to offer such points of view.

"We have experience working

with administrative entities and student organizations to get things done. We operate with a broad variety of involvement and perspectives on campus," Junior History Major Sam Panzer said. "As straight white men, we're operating with an awareness of the lack of perspectives we carry and the drive

to make sure those perspectives are represented on the senate floor."

Joining Panzer in his campaign is Junior Public Accounting Major Bobby Rasmussen. "The biggest part of our platform is getting a lot of students involved," Rasmussen said. "If we want to be the voice, then

we need to hear the voices of our constituents. In the end, we won't decide what gets done. It will be the student senate body who decides what passes and what does not."

"The biggest part of our platform is getting a lot of students involved. If we want to be the voice, then we need to hear the voices of our constituents."

—Bobby Rasmussen

Panzer and Rasmussen focused on who decides which projects will be undertaken by Student Senate. Other candidates concentrated on the process of achieving the chosen goals.

"Any great leader knows he won't be able to accomplish all of their great ideas," First-year Jake Kmiech said. "The best way to get that done is to decide which ideas we think are the most important and go through things more slowly and carefully."

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Communication Studies makes strides to get more classes for students



Caroline Probst

Communication Studies students had difficulty getting into classes, but the department made quick changes for the future.

Christine Peterson
News Editor

As spring registration began last fall, students majoring in Communication Studies were concerned about being able to complete their major due to not being able to get into critical classes. The department quickly took action to ensure students they would be able to get into the necessary classes in order to graduate.

An anonymous Sophomore Communication Studies Major was one such concerned student. She was having difficulty getting into the classes she needed with her late registration date.

"There was a lack of classes when registration came around, and so I wasn't able to get into the classes I wanted. The department has too few professors

for how many majors there are registered."

The student emphasized that she was not the only one with this problem. There had been many complaints from students in the major.

However, Associate Provost and Dean of Arts and Humanities Paula O'Loughlin explained that the number of students graduating with a Communication Studies major has been lower in recent years.

"In 2014, only 32 graduates left the College with Communication Studies degrees which is the lowest number of Communication Studies Majors graduating since 1995," Dean O'Loughlin said.

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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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Campus Safety Report

Monday, February 16

•The Campus Safety Director took a report of an incident that occurred on Friday, February 14 in College View. After investigation, one student was referred to the campus conduct system for a weapons policy violation and aggravated assault.

•Campus Safety responded to a door alarm at North Hall and documented a propped door.

•Campus Safety documented the possible theft of a sandwich board parking sign from College Grounds. The sign was later recovered.

Tuesday, February 17

•Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at Prairie View Apartments.

Wednesday, February 18

•A Gustavus employee reported the theft of campus keys.

•Campus Safety witnessed a theft at North Hall. A person not associated with Gustavus took a newspaper from the entryway of a residence hall and was identified by the Saint Peter Police Department.

Thursday, February 19

•Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in Southwest Hall.

Friday, February 20

•Campus Safety responded to a motor vehicle accident involving a Gustavus employee by the Chapel.

•The Campus Safety Director received reports of no contact order violations that occurred on February 15, February 17, February 19, and February 20. After investigation, one student was referred to the campus conduct system.

Saturday, February 21

•A fire alarm was activated in North Hall by an unknown person.

•Collegiate Fellows documented suspicious activity and reported unauthorized access to a student room by an unknown person in Sorensen Hall.

Sunday, February 22

•One student while on College grounds was referred to the campus conduct board for an of-age alcohol violation.

•Four students were referred to the campus conduct system for possession of marijuana while in the Norelius Parking lot.

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:

Don't be the victim of vehicle-related property crime.

•Lock It - a reminder to always lock your vehicle. Please don't leave a set of keys in your vehicle.

•Hide It - if you must leave valuables in the vehicle, hide them from plain sight.

•Keep It - a positive reminder that personal responsibility can safeguard your vehicle and valuables from theft.

Top Items Stolen from Vehicles:

- GPS Units
- Mobile phones/chargers
- Money (yes, even small change)
- Stereos, radios
- Documents, mail, checkbooks (these items often contain personal identifying information).

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This lower number can be attributed to the decrease in overall enrollment in the college which then leads to a smaller revenue for hiring faculty. Dean O'Loughlin emphasizes that the college's main job is still to see the success of students even through stressful times.

"As the college deals with the fact that our overall enrollment is lower than what we would like, and thus our revenue base for hiring more faculty and offering more classes is smaller, it would probably also be helpful to remember that the faculty and everyone else at Gustavus is doing their best. Student success remains what we all care about," Dean O'Loughlin said.

Although there had been issues, Professor and Chair in Communication Studies Leila Brammer was happy to see the quick turn around the department made once they realized students weren't able to get in classes they needed.

"As soon as we saw that we needed more spots for juniors and level three courses, we repurposed a Public Discourse to be a level three course which took an amazing amount of flexibility," Brammer said.

Brammer also described steps the

Communication Studies Department is making for next year in order to help the major overall.

"For next year, we were able to get a replacement for Professor Patricia English who is going to be on leave next fall, so we were able to replace her three courses and get two extra courses," Brammer said.

She went on to say, "We are looking at three to four more departmental courses across the two semesters, really thinking about putting those at the level two and three experience so we can make sure we are managing our enrollment up there."

The Communication Studies Department is encouraging a continuation of dialogue between students and the department in order to work together and understand the needs for both the students and the department.

"I think we have had some really great conversations with all the majors both individually and also as a group. I think that we will continue that piece of working together," Brammer said.

Although students were having a difficult time registering for some Communication Studies classes for the spring semester, the department acted quickly and are making changes to prevent the problem for the future.

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Gusties celebrate Asian Lunar New Year

Laura Isdahl
Staff Writer

The Lunar New Year Celebration took place last Saturday, Feb. 21 to celebrate ancient traditions and practices with food, performances and music for the "Year of the Goat."

The celebration is also called Spring Festival. The true New Year began Feb. 19, though the campus celebration took place two days later.

Traditionally in China, in preparation for the New Year, many different events and activities take place starting at the end of December and continue well into January. Each day during this time period, there are different activities and rituals that take place to complete the process. These preparations are supposed to bring good luck in the New Year.

"When the clock reaches the New Year, we run outside and set off fireworks."

—Sharron Wang

2015 is the Year of the Goat (or Sheep). This comes from the Chinese tradition of zodiacs. A zodiac is a specific animal that represents one specific year. There are twelve zodiacs, each with different meanings and characteristics. The goat is gentle, calm, thoughtful and honest.

Sophomore Jessie Tan took part in organizing and setting up the festival. She has celebrated the Spring Festival with her family in the past and brings the traditions to Gustavus.

"Chinese people believe that people's zodiacs have certain



Office of Marketing and Communications

Traditionally, families gather during the Lunar New Year to dine together as part of their celebration.

personality traits that fit the person born in that year," Tan said.

Sophomore Sharron Wang has been instrumental in planning the event. She is the leader of Global China Connection (GCC).

"In Chinese, New Year is 'Guo Nian.' Guo means to pass; Nian means year," Wang said.

There are a lot of legends and history behind the festival that have been a part of the festival for many years. Wang grew up hearing one particular legend explaining some traditions for the festival.

"One story I was told when I was young was that in ancient China there was a monster named 'Nian' that lived in the countryside and ate babies. One day in the lunar year, the Chinese people would set off fireworks so they could pass the monster. They would set off the fireworks to protect their children and all of the crops in

the land. That is where the name is from. 'Guo nian' means to 'get rid of the monster,'" Wang said.

Wang explained that some of the ancient traditions have been adapted into modern day Chinese culture to celebrate the New Year.

"We watch the 'Chinese New Year Gala' on television. Everybody watches the clock and we count down. When the clock reaches the New Year, we run outside and set off fireworks," Wang said.

Another tradition involves "red bags," something that children look forward to each year.

"Children ask for money from the older generations. We say some good words to them and they give us money in the red bags. It's everybody's favorite part," Wang said.

"This is the time for family reunion and for pilgrims when we would forget and laugh at all the troubles and bad luck that we had during the previous year and think positively about the future."

—Kimmie Hoang

First year Kimmie Hoang, who grew up in Vietnam, says China has influenced many other countries in Asia in their lunar traditions, but there are distinct differences.

"Every country has its own way of practicing the customs and traditions. We eat different things, wear different kinds of clothes, and decorate the house and the street with different things. We have different myths and folklore stories to tell too," Hoang said.

Food is an important part of the New Year across different countries' borders. Families gather to make and eat food

together.

"My favorite part of the lunar celebration is the Feast of the First Morning of the First Day. We have different kind of traditional foods, candies, and fruits. We also have a lot of customs involved in this special first morning of the year. There would be fireworks early in the morning, ancestral worshipping, wishing New Year's greetings, and giving lucky money to children and elderly people," Hoang said.

Traditional foods are prepared for this celebration. For the Gustavus celebration, food was catered to account for the large amount of people interested in celebrating.

"One tradition is making dumplings. It's important to make dumplings with your family so you can feel like you are with them and are not alone. For Chinese people it's an important day to eat well," Tan said.

At Gustavus' celebration of the Lunar New Year, a variety of activities took place that celebrated these lasting traditions and brought the culture to the campus.

"There were a lot of interesting game sessions which a lot of people in the Chinese countryside play during the Lantern Festival in January," Wang said.

Performances by many different students took place throughout the evening. These displayed the different cultures and traditions.

"There are performances involving singing and dancing with traditions coming from China and Vietnam. It is somewhat similar to the International Festival, but this is more focused on Lunar New Year culture," Tan said.

All in all, bringing in the New Year is an exciting and hopeful time for those who celebrate it.

"This is the time for family reunion and for pilgrims, when we would forget and laugh at all the troubles and bad luck that we had during the previous year and think positively about the future," Hoang said.

For more information on the Lunar Festival, contact Sharron Wang.

Study abroad deadline drawing near

Students that want to study abroad for the fall, upcoming spring or academic year are required to turn in applications by March 1 for Gustavus approval.

Sessions on Tuesday Feb. 17 and Feb. 24 covered how to apply and general cost and credit information as it pertains to study away.

Students that study away range from those majoring in a language wanting more experience to students that want to experience another culture.

"As a Spanish major, my time abroad was extremely useful for improving my language skills and gaining a better understanding of how diverse Latin America really is," Senior Hannah Smith said.

"Studying abroad is useful because it helps you become more open minded and willing to try new things while you're there and while you're back at home."

—Annika Olson

Students that have studied abroad claim that the experience was life changing, challenging and completely worth doing, even if it was outside of their comfort zones.

"My study abroad J-term trip to Germany was incredibly useful, because I learned how to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. I feel as though I grew as a person and now I have a better grasp of adjusting to unfamiliar situations," Sophomore Annika Walter said.

The Center for International and Cultural Education (CICE) really pushes Gustavus students to gain the study abroad experience to enhance their educational experience and overall perception of the world. One thing that they want students to know is that studying abroad can be affordable.

"Students should know that study away can be done affordably. There are some programs that are quite affordable and there are several programs that offer scholarships," Study Abroad Advisor Jill Fischer said.

Students that have studied abroad agree that the experience was worth going through.

"I think my study abroad experience was a once in a lifetime

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Office of Marketing and Communications

Performances by students added to the traditions celebrating the New Year.

Students Today, Leaders Forever “Pay it Forward”

Rachael Manser
News Editor

Students Today, Leaders Forever (STLF) is an organization new to Gustavus, but well-known within the college community. It is a national non-profit organization created in 2003 by a group of students from the University of Minnesota who wanted to make a difference. The official mission is to reveal leadership through service, relationships, and action with aims to energize generations of student leaders.

Sophomores Management and Sociology and Anthropology Major Grace Holbrook, Elementary Education Major Maisy Schendel, and Sydney Bakken all experienced the organization at their high schools and wondered why Gustavus was not one of the many middle schools, high schools, and colleges involved. In an effort to help students build leadership skills, lasting bonds, and fulfillment through service, they came together last spring to create a chapter of STLF at Gustavus.

Students Today, Leaders Forever has been hosting events all year, but their big kick-off event is the signature Spring Break “Pay it Forward” tour where they travel across the country to six different cities for a number of service projects that will culminate in a final service project with other STLF chapters in Washington, D.C.

Schendel explained the premise of the organization and the community service projects.

“It’s student led, so we plan all of our own activities, we find where we stay, we find where we want to serve, we contact the community, we see where they



Caroline Probst

The new chapter of Students Today, Leaders Forever at Gustavus will kick off the year with their spring break “Pay it Forward” tour.

need us, where they think we would make the most impact in their community, then we show up and help,” Schendel said.

The organization encourages students and gives them ample opportunities to contribute to the good of the national communities through service.

“Service projects range anywhere from nursing homes to lake conservation to tying blankets for children to building homes to helping out at humane societies,” Schendel said.

While service is an important aspect to the group, they also emphasize building lasting bonds and personal connections within the student groups through late night reflection activities and spending hours

road tripping across the country.

“It’s a great way to connect with people and that’s kind of what we’re hoping to bring to Gustavus, a community in which people can connect to other students of different grades and different majors. It’s definitely an all-inclusive group so we really want a whole different variety of people,” Holbrook said.

Schendel described her experience on her first STLF road trip as a freshman in high school.

“Within the first hour on the trip, I met the entire bus and felt like I already had a connection with them,” Schendel said.

The organization also focuses on building leadership skills and personal development by

giving students opportunities to lead at service sites and encouraging them to share their opinions.

“One of the reasons we do all of this is to develop personal leadership skills and figure out your personal identity, through doing hands-on volunteer work and through our late night reflection activities,” Holbrook said.

Holbrook went on her first STLF trip as a senior in high school when she described herself as shy, but now she feels confident in being one of the leaders for this upcoming trip.

“Students Today, Leaders Forever gave me a really good opportunity to stand up and speak my mind,” Holbrook said.

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Kmiech is campaigning with First-Year Taylor Wicklund. While it is unconventional for first-years to run in this election, Kmiech and Wicklund are confident first-year candidates.

“We think our voice is very unique, having not been through Senate for as many years and not being comfortable with the way Senate is run,” Wicklund said. “The conversation has started about how to make Senate more accessible. We’d like to focus on that in our co-presidency.”

Wicklund offered an idea to change the ways the Senate interacts with the student body.

“We really want to see Senators with office hours outside of the Caf. We would like to see at least one hour every school day during a busy time. It would allow students and senators to actually interact. It’s not your job to come to us. We want to come to you.”

Along with accessibility and

public relations, the idea of transparency within the actions taken by Student Senate was an issue addressed by almost every candidate.

“The biggest issues we want to take care of are transparency and accessibility of Student Senate to the general population,” Junior Philosophy Major Sean Kehren said. “We’re here to show that Gustavus has the potential to address our problems.”

Kehren and his running partner, Junior Political Science Major Reed Baillie, offered ideas to address these concerns.

“We want to broadcast a live video feed of the senate meetings,” Baillie said. “What we currently have in place with the minutes being published is clearly not helpful since transparency is being recognized as such a big issue.”

Following the questions posed by Timmons and Goldstien, those in attendance were able to ask questions of their own. The candidates were given another minute to answer these queries.

One topic raised was Female

Power Hour and sexism on campus. Female Power Hour refers to an hour daily period when the weight room is reserved solely for students identifying as female.

“The biggest issues we want to take care of are transparency and accessibility of Student Senate to the general population.”

—Sean Kehren

“This is a huge issue on campus,” Singh noted. “As women, we can represent you in that and we think that the issue needs to be solved. Female Power Hour is a good way to address that, and we support it.”

Singh and Sweet are the only pairing of women running for the Co-Presidency. Those running against them also showed an interest in the concerns of female students on campus.

“We feel that the formal ad-

There is a total of 55 different chapters traveling across the country during this Spring Break and hundreds of students volunteering their time for great causes.

Students Today, Leaders Forever represents three of the main values Gustavus prides itself on: service, leadership, and community. It also provides another opportunity to demonstrate these values outside of Gustavus.

“It’s a great opportunity for people to step outside their comfort zone and do something they wouldn’t normally do,” Bakken said.

The Spring Break trip provides a cheap alternative to a regular vacation, as well as offering a chance to be part of a cause, to travel the country and tour new destinations, the opportunity for personal development and bonding, and a way to build up a resume.

“The one thing I really fell in love with was this feeling of being part of something bigger than yourself,” Holbrook said.

For students interested in joining Students Today, Leaders Forever on their “Pay it Forward” tour during Spring Break this year, there is no application, simply register at www.stlf.net/chapters/gustavus by March 12. The cost of the trip is under \$500 and it includes everything: the bus rental, hotel, meals, and two t-shirts.

“We’ve gotten a lot of interest and a lot of people to register, but we’re still looking for more students. Once they sign up, they’re on the trip, they’re on the bus, and they can just have a good time and go on the adventure with us,” Holbrook said.

Study Abroad continued from page 3

opportunity and I don’t have a single regret about taking a study abroad. I became very open to different cultures and traditions, and I met some really amazing people on my trip. Studying abroad is useful because it helps you become more open minded and willing to try new things while your there and while your back at home,” Sophomore Annika Olson said.

Students claim to have learned a lot during their study abroad experience and that those experiences helped shape how they live on campus and prosper as students.

“I think Gustavus students should study abroad because it’s good to experience things outside the Gustavus community and outside of where you call home. The things that you experience good or bad on your study abroad you can take those lessons back to your own community,” Olson said.

For more information go to the Gustavus CICE website.

GUSTIE *of the* WEEK

Jaurdyn Dobler
Staff Writer

Senior Lesley Darling describes herself as “not the typical overly involved Gustie.” If you asked her for a list of the organizations she’s involved in on campus, this may seem accurate. However, if you dig a little deeper than the surface level titles and accolades, it’s very apparent that Lesley is just as valuable in the community as a student involved in six different organizations.

“Lesley’s personality is like a warm breeze.”

—Rachel Ackermann

“Lesley makes herself a part of a community and quietly makes her impact. She is humble because she’s just doing what she loves best. Lesley just wants to find an inner happiness and in doing so, has become the epitome of what ‘make your life count’ means,” Senior Rachel Ackermann said.

Lesley is the President of the Vikings Society and an employee at the Writing Center. Most importantly, she’s invested in her Scandinavian Studies major

and Art minor, taking the time to get to know her professors on a personal level and fully explore her studies. She serves as an academic assistant for the Scandinavian Studies Department and has resided in the Swedish House on campus since her sophomore year.

“I first met Lesley when she enrolled in my first-semester Swedish language class as a first-year student at Gustavus. She immediately struck me as wise, smart, humorous, and really invested in what she was in the classroom to study. She’s encouraging, thoughtful, contemplative, tempered, but passionate, and laid back, but very inspired about the topics she takes to heart,” Assistant Professor in Scandinavian Studies Kjerstin Moody said.

Environmental justice and sustainable living are just a couple of the topics she takes to heart, a passion that was sparked largely by her study abroad experience in Sweden.

“My dad is a farmer, in addition to being an art teacher, so I had always been aware and interested in the ‘live-off-the-land’ mentality, but it became very actualized while living in Sweden. You don’t see a lot of people here who grow their own food and knit their own

things. So it really inspired me to see that reality in Sweden,” Lesley said.

After coming back from Sweden and moving into the Swedish House during her sophomore year, Lesley had more agency to really begin carrying out what she had learned. She enjoys doing things like baking her own bagels or knitting her own clothes. Generally, this is how she chooses to spend her time outside of class. She also enjoys painting, singing, going for walks, and hanging out with friends.

“Passionate, and laid back, but very inspired about the topics she takes to heart.”

—Kjerstin Moody

“Lesley’s personality is like a warm breeze. She can be ethereal and not necessarily grounded, but I think that goes with the territory of intense creativity. Her soul is palpable and her compassion is immense. One of my favorite things about her is her wit. She’s able to laugh at herself. She’s also incredibly loyal. She gives her love to her friends unconditionally,” Ackermann said.

For the future, Lesley says her main goal is to simply “be” just as she would at any other time in her life. More concretely, she’s applying for scholarships to continue a research project she’s been working on about a language spoken only by a remaining 400 people in Swe-



Caroline Probst

Friends describe Lesley as humble, smart, contemplative, and inspired.

den, a project she’s extremely passionate about calling attention to.

While Lesley may not look like the typical Gustavus student on the surface, her commitment to and passion for the topics she cares about have allowed her to shape her own unique niche among the other involved Gusties.

“Lesley embodies so many of

the best qualities of Gustavus students: commitment to intellectual growth, valuing the spiritual dimensions of people, sensitivity and curiosity of other cultures, and a commitment to social and environmental justice,” Associate Professor in Religion and Japanese Studies John Cha said.



Caroline Probst

Passionate about Swedish language and culture, Lesley hopes to acquire grants in order to continue studying a language spoken by only 400 in Sweden.



Caroline Probst

Lesley (left) and friend, Psychology and Scandinavian Studies Major Cami Andersen (right), both participated in this year’s Scandinavian Studies Retreat at the Beaver Creek Reserve.

Disney brings Marvel heroes to life



Brady Lass
Staff Writer

When Disney bought the rights to Marvel comics in 2009, the general public did not know what to expect for the future of the famous heroes that have been adored for decades.

Would they all be animated movies aimed for children? Would Storm and She-Hulk become part of the Disney Princess line up? Six years later, Marvel is one of the biggest media names in the world thanks to Disney and Kevin Feige's work in producing the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).

With the recent announcement of phase-three films and collaboration of Marvel and Sony to bring Spider-Man into the MCU, the future is looking bright for both companies. Last November, the public got a taste of a project they were imagin-



Of the six heroes that appear in Big Hero 6, Baymax steals the show.

ing six years ago. A Disney animated film featuring Marvel superheroes.

However, these supers weren't the Avengers or X-Men or any well-known hero team. In fact, hardly any one knew anything about these Marvel characters, but it was time to fulfill the curiosity people have

had for years. With the release of *Big Hero 6*, does Disney's animation do Marvel's beloved characters justice?

The plot focuses on a young teenager named Hiro Hamada, a technological genius who builds fighting robots in the world of San Fransokyo. Hiro's older brother, Tadashi, encour-

ages Hiro to put his skills to good use by applying to college. Hiro is amazed by the classroom environment and meets his brother's friends and creation, a healthcare robot named Baymax. He manages to gain admission by impressing the professors with his swarming microbot creation, but unfortunately his excitement is cut short, when a fire breaks out at the university that ends up killing Tadashi and their professor.

Hiro becomes too depressed to go to school, but with some help from Baymax, they discover that a masked villain has stolen Hiro's invention and is now mass producing it for something evil. To stop the criminal, Hiro teams up with Baymax and his brother's colleagues to become a superhero team with the use of their inventions.

In terms of plot, the film is relatively predictable. It follows the typical superhero origin story and revenge plot, but it is fresh in that it happens to a younger character like Hiro. Hiro's relationship with his brother felt genuine and it is atypical for a siblings death to ignite the fire of revenge.

Despite the title suggesting there are six heroes, the film really focuses on two of them, Hiro and Baymax.

The other four characters are charming and memorable with interesting powers. The villain

has a decent origin, but again it's never fully explored. That's the price that comes with the shorter running time of children's movies.

The film shines in its depiction of the relationship between Hiro and Baymax. Baymax is comedic, caring, and memorable enough that his name is actually the title of the movie in different countries. He is a physical legacy of Tashidi's work, a reminder of what Hiro should be, and the best moments of the movie are between the two.

The animation and character designs are well done, providing the great quality you'd always expect Disney to bring. It's more action packed than usual, taking advantage of the unique abilities of the characters.

Overall *Big Hero 6* is an enjoyable film, while I don't think it should have won the Oscar for the best Animated Feature, it is still a fun watch. Its short running time unfortunately takes away the potential of some characters, but it doesn't take away from the core story and great animation. It won't be as big as *Frozen*, regardless, it is still a fun film. I was satisfied with the care done with this film.



Tales from Abroad

Ashley Eickhoff
Guest Writer

Hey everyone! My name is Ashley Eickhoff and I'm a Junior Spanish major with a LALACS minor, and am currently studying abroad in Guanajuato, México.

Every local I've met is friendly and always willing to help—which was great in the times I've gotten lost. My host family is an elderly couple, Yolanda and Gabriel, whom I call *mis abuelos* (my grandparents). Neither of them speak English. I could not have asked for a more perfect family. They are calm, sweet and have taught me more about the rich and vibrant Mexican culture within this short period than I have known my whole life. They've made me feel like a member of their family, which makes sense, because I've realized that family and faith are central to the Guanajuatense culture.

Now, let's talk food. First of all, *mi abuelita* (my grandma) is hands down the best cook. Needless to say, with the wide variety of healthy (contrary to what many believe about Mexican food) dishes she prepares, I've been consuming more than I should be. Unlike the U.S., the biggest meal of the day is lunch around 3 p.m. and school is let out so students can go home and



In the city of Guanajuato, Ashley is immersed in the Spanish language and the culture of Mexico.

return after they eat. Seriously, if I could eat her food all day, I would—it's *tan rica* (so delicious)! Eating with *mis abuelos* is time that I will cherish forever. I've had incredible, meaningful talks with *mi abuelito* (my grandfather) who is one of the

most genuinely kind people I've ever met.

Besides going to school, where all of my classes are in Spanish, I've gone to numerous cafés, *jardines* (parks), *plazas*, and *mercados* (markets). I've also gone hiking in beautiful

cerros (mountains) where one time, we met an old man who was about 95 years old and lives up in the hills in a small, two-room home without electricity. Another fun adventure I've had included traveling with two girls to another city in México

called San Miguel de Allende. We stayed in a hostel (which isn't creepy) and visited *museos* (museums), *un jardín botánico* (a botanical garden), *aguas termales* (hot springs), and listened to a mariachi band. It was such a fun weekend!

Funny story to end this: I'm sure you all know what catcalling is. Well, here it's called a *piropo*. One day, I was returning home from a café when I heard whistling. At first I didn't know what it was, but then I saw a man dressed in a promotional, blow-up chicken suit bouncing in time with the whistles. He stuck out his chicken hand (I thought he wanted a high five) and proceeded to grab my hand, lift it up to his beak like he was kissing it, and then whistled even more as I continued to walk away. Who knew chickens could be so flattering?

I can already say that not studying abroad would've been one of the biggest regrets in my life. I'm very shy and don't talk much until I know someone well, but this experience has taught me a lot about myself, made me more confident in who I am, and has deepened my faith. For that, I am grateful. Having lived in this charming city for a little more than a month now, I still have 4 more months to go and am thrilled for what's ahead.

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

Submitted

Student-created play addresses mental illness

Dan Vruno
Staff Writer

The student led play, *ctrl* presents a visual representation of what happens internally to a person with some form of mental illness. Beginning the initial conception nearly a year ago, the one act play, opening this weekend, was created by Seniors Annie Galloway, Autumn Ike, Malia Yang, and Nikki Rom.

The student showcase, originally planned to be performed in the fall, has been transformed into something new. The additional time and resulting changes have made the entire year's process an experience itself.

During the initial meeting between the creators, they discussed their fears and frustrations about mental illness in their lives—either illness that they had known themselves or through others. The biggest frustration they experienced was that the majority of symptoms cannot be seen. Presenting this issue through the four performers, one will represent the body while the other three will be representing the mental illness. Rom spoke to the extent of how much *ctrl* really means to the creators.

"I think this is one of the most important plays I have ever been in. 45 minutes may seem brief but for us it has been incredibly significant. Giving someone solidarity with what they struggle with or providing a perspective for those who have no idea, the entire performance is very visceral," Rom stated.

"This collaboration between all of us has found us making something special from the ground up. This is why it is so important for all of us to get everything just right."

—Annie Galloway

As it's pivotal for the crew and cast to represent such a sensitive and personal topic, an incredible amount of effort has been placed into every action. Because it is difficult to represent the extent of mental illness through only four performers, the creators have spent the past four months perfecting

and editing their material. Once the material had been chosen, they then came to a final decision over how even a finger is moved. Annie Galloway, spoke deeply to how everyone collaborated together to make things perfect.

"We don't want to talk about something we think so strongly about and not provide it justice. I'm very independent but once you find others that hold the same values to the subject matter, one realizes just how great collaboration is. As one of the most fulfilling and visceral forms of making art, this collaboration between all of us has found us making something special from the ground up. This is why it is so important for all of us to get everything just right," Galloway said.

Providing both reward and challenge beyond what any of them expected when they met last year, the cast and crew have been intently working with this project while juggling others at the same time. Along with Galloway and Rom are Malia Yang, and Autumn Ike will be performers. Senior Art Studio Major Maren Legeros will be doing makeup, while Senior Theater Honors and Psychology Major Bethany Davidson will be doing the costumes. The only male and sophomore in the

production, Philosophy Major Noah Davis, will be working on the sound. Lastly Senior Kit Baumer, Theater Honors, will be doing the lighting.

"Giving someone solidarity with what they struggle with or providing a perspective for those who have no idea, the entire performance is very visceral."

—Nikki Rom

For Baumer, as the only lighting person in the department, her skills at live mixing and manual queuing are always in demand. For *ctrl* the lighting is different from the normal light plot as the lighting just so happens to be as important as any of the characters. The one and only source of lighting will be hanging light bulbs. Baumer spoke to how important it was to get the lighting down perfectly.

"They have been very flexible with what I've had to work with. Almost as second char-

acters, I spent all of touring week working on them. As the only lighting is from the source of nineteen light bulbs, it has been an interesting challenge working with such a different lighting plot. Ascetically, it's pretty amazing. It essentially represents the brain itself as each bulb represents the neurons that connect everything in your brain," Baumer stated.

Expressing what visually can't be seen, the majority of the show will be non-speaking. Since so many of the struggles of mental illness cannot be communicated with words, the lighting and movement will do the speaking. With everything being shown having meant something to the cast and crew, the show will be ambiguous enough that everyone will have different attachments of interpretation. While so many Gusties may hold a mentality to everyone that they are always okay, *ctrl* is looking to be create a conversation with anyone that has dealt with mental illness in addition to anyone who wants to learn more.

Ctrl will be playing February 27-March 5 in the Black Box. One ticket for students and faculty are available for free online, while tickets will be \$4 for non-student adults.

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THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

Celebrates 95 years

Erika Clifton
Features Editor

Printed student newspapers didn't start at Gustavus until 1891, with the *Annual Messenger* appearing in May. Within a couple years, the name changed to *Vox Collegii*, then *Heimdall*, then *Gustaviana* before settling on *Gustavus Adolphus Journal*.

The paper was published monthly and released over 2,000 copies in six years. The money made from selling the papers was given to the Campus Library. Until 1899, the papers were written in both English and Swedish.

In 1902, the paper was renamed *College Breezes* and was more of a literary journal than a newspaper.

After a political forum, the paper was changed to *THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY* in 1920 to create a more newsworthy paper. All of the editors were chosen and placed under a merit system which hired student employees based on skill rather than political connections.

In 2015, *THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY* will celebrate its 95th birthday. Check out some of our old headlines and learn how *THE WEEKLY* was produced.



The *Gustavian Weekly* office used to be in the Co-ed basement, where the C tower laundry room is now.



John Helmer Olson and Professor A.W. Anderson wrote the song, "Alma Mater" to win a *College Breezes* contest.



Before computers, editors used typewriters to write articles. Then the stories were cut and pasted onto large sheets of paper and sent to the printers.



During World War II, women became the editors of the paper showing they were just as capable as men.

