

# Colin It Like I See It

## The Purpose of your Life



**Colin Rieke**  
Opinion Columnist

**W**hy am I here? What am I supposed to do with my life? Why do I exist? What is the purpose of my life? Why can't I answer the first four questions?

One of life's biggest mysteries is understanding why we are here and where we came from. A reason why life can tend to drive us all crazy is because we don't have the answers to everything; we're only human. There are some big questions that are just too big to answer on our own, which is why we need a little help.

Last school year I wrote an article stating the key to discovering happiness was to first find purpose. Finding purpose meant searching within yourself to find something that brought meaning to your life. In this way I thought one could make his or her own purpose.

Was I ever wrong.

*You cannot make your own purpose because you didn't make yourself. A purpose has already been given to you, it's your job to figure out what it is.*

Purpose is much more significant than what I had previously made it out to be. The term "purpose" means the reason why one has been created, which means we need to think bigger. You cannot make your own purpose because you didn't make yourself. A purpose has already been given to you, it's your job to figure out what it is. If the purpose of your life has already been given to you, then it only seems natural to be curious as to who gave it to you.

God has assigned a specific purpose to your life because He made you, just as He made everyone and everything else.

If you were handed a newly invented gadget, but were not told anything about it, would you know what it does? Would you know its purpose? No.



*If the statement 'You were put on this Earth for a reason' was false, then your life would have zero purpose.*

The only person who would know its purpose is its creator.

"The easiest way to discover the purpose of an invention is to ask the creator of it," says famous pastor and author Rick Warren.

If you believe in creation, if you believe that we aren't here by just random chance, then you need to turn to your Creator to understand your purpose. You need to sit down and have a chat with the Lord.

Warren says "You won't discover your life's meaning by looking within yourself." Instead, we have to look beyond ourselves. We have to turn to God, because only He can see the big picture of the world. Only He has the answers to everything.

You didn't make you, God made you. Thus, you can't choose why you were created. And what a relief this is! No longer do we have to stress about what career we are supposed to choose. No longer do we have to struggle trying to find something we can never find on our own in the first place. No longer do we have to base meaning on the things we accomplish. No longer do we have to constantly ask what we should do to live the good life.

It's not about what you should do with your life. That's pretty selfish thinking especially since your life is a gift that has been given to you. It's about what God wants you to do with the life He so unselfishly granted you. He created you with a specific purpose in mind. It's not like God does things or creates

us by accident. He made you for a purpose. Actually, He made you for His purposes.

That's a pretty humbling thought.

Another way to put this: God is more interested in who you are than what you do. And the person He wants you to be is the person He created you to be. The person God created you to be is a person that loves and

wants to know God. According to Warren, that is the first purpose of your life, to love and to know God.

The second purpose of your life or reason for living is to belong to the family of God. When you have faith in God and take Jesus Christ as your savior, you become a brother or sister to the heavenly family to which God is your Father. Warren explains

that God wants you to be a part of His family, you just have to choose.

The third purpose of your life, according to Warren, is to "become like Christ." In other words, the third reason for why you are here on this Earth is to grow spiritually and to develop character in accordance to Jesus, the model of human perfection.

The fourth reason for your existence is to serve God. You serve Him by serving others, which means not holding the truth of God as a secret to yourself. It means helping others to the light and treating others with the love that God treats you with. Serving others can be done in any context and in any occupation.

For Warren the final purpose God has for you is to make your "unique contribution." God created you to accomplish a mission only you can accomplish in the way only you can accomplish it in. This means using your spiritual gifts to make this world a better place. How do you know what your mission is? Well your mission doesn't start with you, it starts with Him. He created you based on the contribution only you can make. God will guide you to it, which means you are going to have to put a lot of trust in Him.

The only way we can have a conversation about purpose is if God is at the center of it. Purpose is not about doing what's right or doing what makes you happy. Purpose is about doing what's best, and what's best is doing what God made you to do.

And God made you to live a life of purpose.

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## Fancy Ain't It?

## The Invisible Enemy



**Ashley Nickel**  
Opinion Columnist

It is perhaps an inevitable fact that whatever we do, wherever we go, our environment and this earth are slowly killing us just as quickly as we are killing them. But amidst all the death and destruction, there are perhaps a few scanty rays of light (although you can be sure they are not coming from the sun as it is currently being blocked behind giant clouds of pollution). We all do what we can to stay healthy, whether we do it for our health, environmental conscientiousness, or

out of habit. One of the ways that many of us do this is by buying and consuming organic produce.

Buying organic seems like a no-brainer. Eating organically grown produce has often been presumed to make you healthier, but in what might be a surprise to some green-eaters, until this past month there really wasn't a lot of science to back up the claim that eating organic might help you to be healthier. Now that there is science, we can all rejoice in this newly discovered (but already internalized and practiced) piece of knowledge. So let's talk numbers.

Pesticides of all varieties are bad for you. Can we all agree on that? The part that we perhaps cannot agree upon is how much of our food is grown in, near, or around pesticides. The short answer: a lot. The slightly longer answer lists several fruits and vegetables—that we all know and love—as being chalk full of pesticides if not grown organically. The list includes, but is not limited to, apples, peaches, blueberries, lettuce, sweet potatoes, spinach, strawberries, and grapes. The list really does go on and on.

But here is the cincher, the glorious statistic borne to us



*"The food you eat can either be the safest and most powerful form of medicine or the slowest form of poison." -Ann Wigmore*

from scientific research and lots of survey work: those who reported not eating organic had twice the levels of pesticides than those who stuck to organic food. Isn't that gross? What makes it worse is that it isn't even just in the food. If you live near a farm that uses pesticides

of any form—which, hello, we live in prime farmland here in Minnesota, yeah?—then there is a possibility that your water has some level of pesticides in it.

Not to mention all those poor farmers and farmhands who are working in close proximity to pesticides on a daily basis. They

take the brunt of the exposure.

There are several side effects to using, being near, and consuming pesticides. For us who probably consume a moderate amount of pesticides, the side effects can be as mild as headache and nausea and as severe as weakness or irregular breathing patterns. But for those poor souls who farm with the pesticides, consequences can be very serious: neurological dysfunction, loss of cognitive abilities, and over time, lowered IQ's, especially in children.

It is a good thing that organic produce is now widely available, in a grocery store near you.

But alas, this ray of hope is slightly dimmed by a disheartening realization. As valiantly as we struggle, as much effort as we put into living a clean, balanced, and fruitful life—full of organic vegetables, eight hours of sleep every night, and at least an hour of exercise—it is not enough. Pesticides, like an invisible enemy, are everywhere, just as germs cover every surface of this earth. And though we struggle and rage against the madness of toxic food, water, and air, pesticides hold us firmly within their hold.

Support your local farmers! Buy locally, eat organically.

## That's so Witty

## Gamergate: Too Far?



**Cory Witt**  
Opinion Columnist

In light of recent news topics on campus regarding feminism and this weekend's Building Bridges conference, I thought it would be good to cover a related topic in the world of video games.

While I'm not as active in the world of feminist rights as I truly should be, if there is one thing I know, it's video games. Ever since I got my first Gameboy Advance with *Pokémon Crystal Version* back in 2003, I've been hooked on the idea of falling into a virtual world as a means of escape. Nowadays,

I still play *Pokémon*, but I also play everything from *Skyrim*, to other Nintendo classics: *League of Legends*, *Terraria*, *Minecraft*, *Halo*, and pretty much anything else I can get my hands on.

I'm part of the gamer community in both online forums and Facebook, and I even go to conventions/tournaments whenever one pops up in my area. While I stay away from sights like 4chan because I don't generally like arguments or "trolling," I do love Reddit and some of the Facebook groups I'm a part of.

Needless to say, I really enjoy being a part of the communities I have and I'm really happy that I've met some of the people I've played games with in the past.

However, lately I've found myself ashamed to be a part of that community. The thing that makes me so ashamed at the moment is in part due to the increase in "flaming" and "trolling," but mostly due to the viciousness and toxicity that has overcome our community and how it is directed in part towards guys, but mostly toward "girl gamers."

The idea of "girl gamers" in itself baffles me, since I don't understand why girls who play video games need to be labeled and separated into a category of their own.

While this in itself bothers me, I have become aware of a recent situation that shows how girls in the gaming industry are really treated.

Recently, a female game developer by the name of Zoe Quinn developed a free-to-play, interactive video game where you play as someone who suffers from depression. The game provides you with scenarios that teach you to manage your illness, a relationship, work, and possible treatment options that those who are depressed must manage in real life. The game is genius and has really hit home with critics, despite its simplicity.

Shortly after releasing the game, however, Quinn began to receive hate mail over the game and enough spam that she even had to change her phone number. After a nasty break-up with her boyfriend, Quinn hooked up with Eron Gjoni from Kotaku, which is a popular online gaming news source.

The problem started when Quinn's ex-boyfriend, Nathan Grayson, accused Quinn of cheating on him with Gjoni, so that Gjoni, who wrote a review of the game before they started dating, would give the game a good review.

This sent male gamers on 4chan, 8chan, and Reddit into

an uproar of hatred directed at Quinn that included doxing (broadcasting personal identification information on the internet), threats of rape, hacking of Quinn's Tumblr, Dropbox, and Skype accounts, and death threats that have ruined her life.

Later, the whole incident was given the name "Gamergate" after actor Alex Baldwin coined the term in his critique of the media attacking Quinn.

Just from reading that, you should be able to see how horrible this situation is. First off, we have a successful woman accused of sleeping with a man to get where she is. Second, we have retaliation for something that isn't even true. Finally, we have the ruining of a young woman's life just because she started a relationship with someone that interviewed her for a magazine.

That's pretty disgusting and I can't help but be ashamed of belonging to a community that has no form of ethical or social judgment and accountability.

Rather than assault them back, I say that now, more than ever, we at Gustavus need to take a moment to think, and educate ourselves to see how wrong this is and how horrible situations like this can become if we let them.

There is a limit on speaking

your mind, ladies and gentlemen, and this has been taken too far. While any man or woman can speak his peace whenever he wants, and can even say it anonymously, a smart person will hold his tongue and only speak when the moment is right, to further his cause in relation to society.

In relation to the Female Power Hour issue that is going on in Lund, consider Zoe Quinn and how that all relates to the topic at hand.

As you see the negative outcome of this situation, please learn to respect your peers and not see them through gender, but as equals beyond that so that we don't follow the gaming community on their path to ruin. We cannot allow our community to fall apart like the gamer community is right now.

So please, respect your peers and move forward with the knowledge that threatening to ruin another's life with violence or horrible words will only destroy everything that we have worked for on this campus.

I encourage you to attend the Building Bridges conference this Saturday, as well, and better arm yourself with the power to prevent this situation from arising again in the future. Hopefully, I will see you there.

Soul Sustenance With Nicole

# Urgency Urgency: It's All About the Intersectionality



**Nicole Ektnitphong**  
Opinion Columnist



Submitted

*"There are two paces to organizing for change: the speed with which our systems are collapsing and the slow intentional time that is necessary for deep movement building."*

There are two paces to organizing for change: the speed with which our systems are collapsing and the slow intentional time that is necessary for deep movement building.

Civil rights organizer and wise woman, George Friday once said those words and in today's fast-paced, got-to-be-doing-something-otherwise-we're-not-productive mentality, there is a harsh truth revealed in those words. This is our reality. A sense of urgency is the unavoidable companion of crisis. Movements for racial equity, climate and environmental justice, peace, equal opportunity, consent culture, whatever it may be, demand immediate attention and response. This is where we are right now.

We are hurried and rushed to create solutions and make decisions because of the injustice, oppression, and environmental degradation we are seeing, learning about, and experienc-

ing. Often times, the more we know about a topic, issue, or situation, the more urgent we become. Sometimes it's the opposite experience for other individuals. They learn and see, yet are nervous about what they should do. They become anxious about where to even begin and what that looks like for them, individually and collectively.

There are many broad base "change makers" at Gustavus.

Let us open up the scope of who those people and groups are. Let us transcend the notion of what an "activist" is. I would argue that a majority of the people here at Gustavus and beyond want to make some sort of a positive impact and/or take action and contribute to their communities. And while it's a common understanding of activism, it is not just the individuals and groups who are protesting in the streets.

While that is important, it's the educators in our rooms who do things a little differently who are also activists, empowering each student to find his or her voice. It's the musicians in our world who write music, that connects with our souls. It's the theatre that engages us to rehearse the revolution and provoke images that words could never describe. It's also organizers who are on-the-ground mobilizing communities to stand for change. It's people who just take the time at meals to ask what's up in your life and support you in nourishing your being. Let us begin to notice these individuals, everywhere in our life as agents of change.

What are the ways we live out our commitment to a better Gustavus and an even better world? From our early years, we've been conditioned to prioritize multitasking and constant "doing" as a measure of our fundamental self worth. So many social norms and school climates keep us all focused in these fast-paced lifestyles. We have to do something now! If our concern and love isn't translated into immediate action, it will seem as if we don't care.

Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington

gave this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture at Gustavus and he spoke about living the legacy of MLK. A huge aspect of living the legacy of MLK in the 21st century, and beyond, is taking the time to understand your impact on an individual or group vs. explaining your intentions of what you intended your actions or words to mean. We proceed full force, agenda in hand, shoving people out of the way, ignoring emotions and behaviors.

*From our early years, we've been conditioned to prioritize multitasking and constant "doing" as measures of our fundamental self worth.*

An example I've been thinking about a lot is the loud voices of privilege, who claim to "get it" and stand for equity, equality, etc., yet dominate spaces and overshadow voices of the historically marginalized.

Where do we want to go from here? This fast-pace lifestyle, which has become an accepted reality for many of us, places little to no value on slow time. I'm not proposing the end all, be all, yet it's worth giving ourselves time to think intentionally about the people involved in the process of change. What is slow time? The kind of time needed for the constant transition into a just, fair and sustainable society. The kind of time needed for healing. The kind of time needed for widening and deepening a collective movement for change.


Change is not just about the end result we get. It's not just what we do, but how we do it; the journey, the processes and time it takes to get us there.


The deep transformational work we need both personally and politically must be rooted in intersectionality. Kimberle Crenshaw coined this term and the theory, which is the study of how different types of discrimination, oppression and power interact. An example of demonstrating intersectionality can be examined through an issue like environmental justice and racial justice.


How in the world is the environment connected to racial justice? The concept is not new. This is exactly what last year's Building Bridges Conference focused on: "Disposable Communities? Demanding Environmental Justice." Much of the environmental degradation happens in low-income, and often times communities of color, which leads to higher contamination of water and health risks in those communities.

Intersectionality is about bringing who we are, the identities we hold and the history that binds our background together and actively "doing the work" everyday, seeking ways to blend that into the spaces, which we organize, live, learn, play and work in; the larger movements for change. This is what will sustain us and commit us to live lives of justice. The month of March will begin personal reflections and writings diving in deeper of the principle and practice of intersectionality in our everyday life.

## The Good, the Bad, and the Meh

 The weather forecast predicts it will be 50 degrees next week. Heat wave!

 To wake up at 9am on a Saturday for Building Bridges or to sleep in...that is the question.

 Dreams of actually doing well this semester squashed by first wave of testing.



THE  
**FOURTH CROWN**



MAKE YOUR NEWS COUNT.

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## Laundry quick-cycle eliminated: riots ensue

### The Fourth Crown

**S**AIN T PETER— Mass hysteria has enveloped campus after the laundry machines' "Quick Cycle" mode was removed from use. President Bergman has declared a state of emergency following the raid of the Bookmark's clothing department this morning.

"Students are advised to remain in their rooms with their eyes on their clean laundry," Director of Campus Safety Song Biermacher announced earlier this morning, "as clothing looting has become rampant."

"When we found out the quick cycle was gone...we didn't know what to do," explained Sophomore Bryan

Dweller. "Waiting 45 minutes for our turn would have meant almost certain inconvenience to us, so we did what needed to be done," he finished, before leaping towards an abandoned sock.

Many students found themselves shell-shocked when the news finally broke. "I really can't remember what happened. I just sort of...wandered the halls. There were clothes strewn everywhere. People clawing at people. Society as we knew had gone to Hell in a laundry basket," Junior Dan Longfurd said, "it was an absolute catastrophe."

With tensions running high and students desperately clinging onto their last pair of clean socks, some students are finding frugal business ventures in the security sector. Senior Ivor Dax has

taken to protecting students' clothing, for a small price. "I go up to the room, I tell them it's time for the clothing tax, and they give me clean clothes. If they disagree, well...it's not my fault if one of my boys likes their clothes," he told the Fourth Crown, with a nod towards three Juniors in the corner splitting a glove into three parts.

*"Students are advised to remain in their rooms with their eyes on their clean laundry."*

—Director of Campus Safety  
Song Biermacher

The rage of affected students can be felt in full force across the campus. "I

can't believe that they would transition to quick-cycle free machines just like that. They should have expected us to react this way when they decided to cause us, like an hour of time waiting for a laundry machine," Sophomore Katie Swillink explained. "Like seriously, I don't have that much free time in my day. I need time to finish the new season of *New Girl*."

Both the National Guard and Gap have both been alerted to the emergency underway at Gustavus Adolphus College, and are expected to arrive with relief supplies within the next two weeks.

## Freshmen continue to post memes to class Facebook page into second semester

### The Fourth Crown

**S**AIN T PETER— As the spring semester has begun, the hopes of freshmen across campus have been dashed as 'dank memes' continue to be posted to the GAC Class of '18 Facebook page.

"I really thought things would be different this semester," said a first year who wished to remain anonymous. "I guess I just shouldn't have gotten my hopes up."

Among posts inviting students to various activities, requests to wash communal dishware, and inquiries to lost items, the Class of '18 page has been filled with memes for the past semester.

While some have been attempts to create memorable reminders for campus life events, most have been student posted and student driven. A small but active group of persons have taken it upon themselves to make the Class of '18 page a hive for meme posting and cultivation. While the page was originally intended for students to get to know each other before starting college, and then to fade into oblivion once the school year started, classic memes such as 'tfw no gf' have remained constant



into the new semester. The frequent posting has created controversy among the members of the page.

"I'm not really sure what Shrek has to do with love, or life, but I guess it's kind of funny?" stated Jordan Zahrte, Area Coordinator for Norelius Hall and member of the Facebook page. "It's

given us a lot of insight towards this cohort."

Other members of the Facebook page have been less receptive towards the attempts at humor.

"I don't understand what jimmies are and why a gorilla would have rustled ones and I don't care. Knock it off and

grow up, guys." read one comment on a recent post. The original poster replied to the attack with an image of a twisted cartoon face captioned, 'U Mad, Bro?'

*"I just shouldn't have gotten my hopes up."*

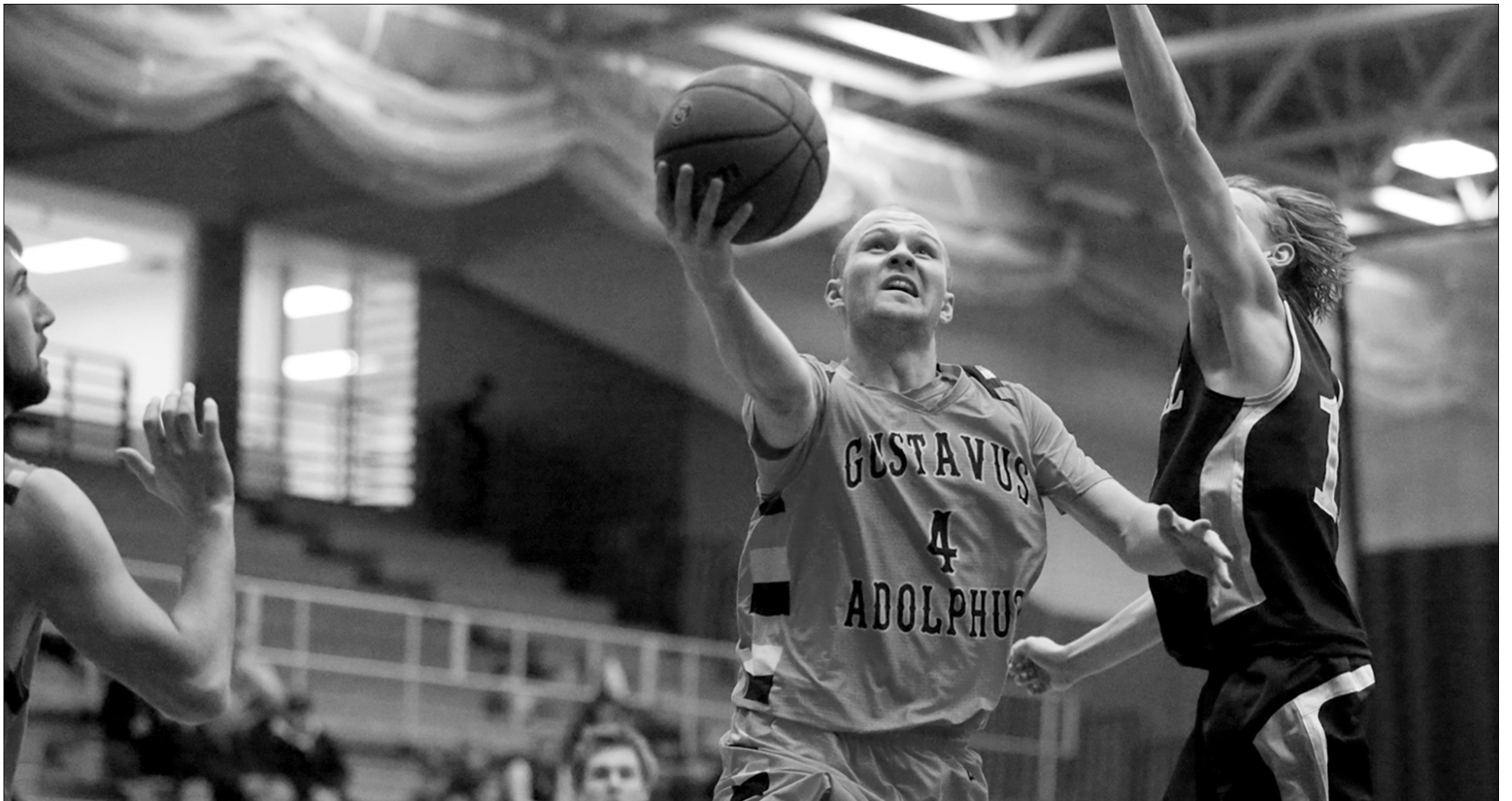
— Anonymous First-year student

Movements to punish the memeposters for their internet crimes have largely fallen on deaf ears. Despite a growing faction of students wishing to have the page members barred from the group, administrative hands have been tied.

"I don't think I've ever seen some of these kids on campus, to be real honest. We're not really sure if they actually go here, but they got invited to the page, so it's not like we can ban them," said an administrator of the page in a released statement.

"All I can hope for is that they'll quit by next year," said the anonymous freshman. "That, or they'll transfer schools."

# Men's Basketball knocked out in close thriller



Gustavus Sports Information

The Gusties put up a heroic performance in the 83-79 loss against St. Thomas. "We did almost everything we had to in order to come out with a win and we had them exactly where we wanted them with only a minute to go in regulation," Martin Feddersen said.

**Jacob Woodrich**  
Staff Writer

The phrase "raising a banner" has significant meaning in respect to the Gustavus Men's Basketball team.

The goal of the team is to add a banner to Gus Young Court every single year. Unfortunately, the goal was not met this season. The Gusties compiled a 16-11 overall record, finishing 11-9 in the conference. Despite

these high points in the season, with a big home win over rival St. Thomas towards the start of the season, the Gusties did not win the conference title or the MIAC Playoff Tournament. A bid into the NCAA Tournament

was another elusive goal. These high expectations and goals for the season show the winning attitude of the Gusties have. With two graduating seniors, the young Gusties gained a lot of necessary experience for the future.

With six conference teams facing off in the MIAC Playoff Tournament, the Gusties snuck in as the sixth seed. Post-season play began with an away win over third seeded St. John's University by a score of 64-54.

"It was great to start the playoffs with a win at St. John's, after they had beaten us only a few nights before. Ending St. John's season two years in a row will always be something to smile about," Senior Martin Feddersen said.

The team next met top seeded St. Thomas. The game between the two rivals was full of excitement. After a hard fight that pushed the game to overtime, the Gusties lost to St. Thomas by 83-79, only five points from continuing their post-season run.

"We did a great job of battling back in the second half and putting ourselves in a position to win a big game in a tough environment. The game obviously didn't turn out how we would have liked, but I think everyone on the team and in the stands knows we gave it all we had," Feddersen said.

Fellow senior and captain Isaac Tapp was also impressed by the team's effort and felt that the Gusties gave everything they had.

"We did almost everything

we had to in order to come out with a win and we had them exactly where we wanted them with only a minute to go in regulation. Unfortunately, we didn't finish enough plays to seal the deal," Fellow Senior and Captain Isaac Tapp added.

The team was backed by a 23 point effort from Junior Guard Gary Cooper.

*"I think I'll miss being around the team the most. I always loved being around my coaches, teammates and fans. It was the people, not playing, that made basketball so great for me. I've been involved in team sports for as long as I can remember and not having that anymore will leave a void that will be hard to fill."*

—Martin Feddersen

"We responded well in the second half of the St. Thomas game, but towards the end of the game, it was just about toughness, and we didn't have that in the end. We didn't rebound, we didn't make free

**Men's Basketball**  
continued on page 15

## Senior Spotlight

This recurring segment will highlight a senior Gustavus athlete each week.

**Carolyn Draayer**

Women's Hockey - Draayer received the Sheila Brown award for the 2014-15 season because of her long-term contribution to the team's success.

**Q: Did this season live up to your expectations?**

A: In a lot of ways yes- I got to play with my sister for the first time in my fifteen years of playing hockey, which was a dream come true for me. Not only have we gotten to be on the same team, but we've played on the same line for most of the year which has been unforgettably fun! I have a lot of other fun memories from this

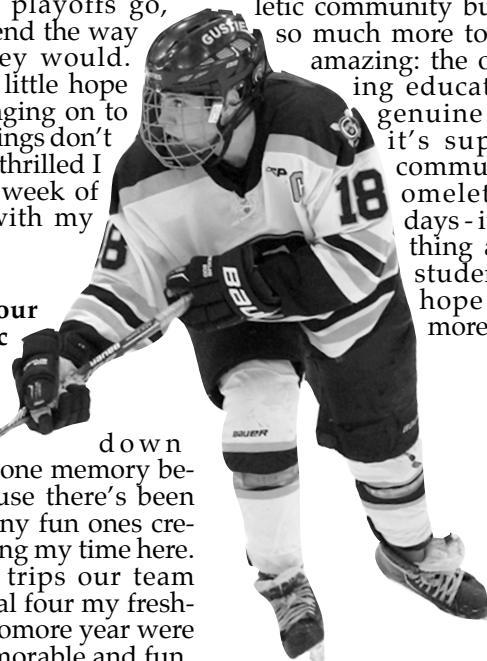
past season too. The girls on the team are my closest friends and like family- in that regard it's been just what I hoped it would be. As far as playoffs go, things didn't end the way we hoped they would. There's still a little hope and we're hanging on to that. Even if things don't work out, I'm thrilled I get one more week of fun skating with my teammates.

**Q: What is your best athletic memory?**

A: It's hard to pin down one memory because there's been so many fun ones created during my time here. I think the trips our team took to the final four my freshman and sophomore year were especially memorable and fun.

**Q: Why would you recommend Gustavus?**

A: Gustavus offers a great athletic community but there's so much more to it that's amazing: the outstanding education, the genuine people, it's supportive community, the omelet Thursdays - it's everything a college student could hope for and more.



# Baseball team unveils season with double header in South Dakota



Gustavus Sports Information

The Baseball team wrapped up last season with a record of 7-24, earning the victory in 2 out of 20 games in the MIAC. The team will head to South Dakota to face Mount Marty College in two double headers this weekend. With 8 first-years on the roster, the team possesses the competitive atmosphere necessary to rebound from a less successful year. Two weeks from now, the Gusties will head down to Arizona to compete in the Tucson Invitational. The first home game of the season will be on March 28th against Hamline University.

## Men's Basketball continued from page 14

throws, and you are not going to beat the number 6 team in the nation without that mental and physical toughness," Cooper said.

The two seniors know they will miss many things about the game of basketball. For both Feddersen and Tapp, the people associated with basketball at Gustavus is what they will miss most.

"I think that I'll miss being around the team the most. I always loved being around my coaches, teammates, and fans. It was the people, not playing, that made basketball so great for me. I've been involved in team sports for as long as I can

remember and not having that anymore will leave a void that will be hard to fill. It's a special thing to be a part of a team, or a group, and work towards a common goal together. I'm hoping I'll be able to find that same feeling, or at least a similar one, in my professional life after college," Feddersen said.

As a junior, Cooper has his sights set on raising a banner with his friends season at Gustavus.

"I do not want to leave without raising a banner. So whether it's a regular season title or play-off title or both, I am determined to raise another banner here at Gustavus," Cooper said.

For the seasons to come, motivation to accomplish the goals that were not completed this season will drive the Gusties into next season.

## Game Schedule

@ Tucson Invitational, Arizona



MARCH 19TH  
CARTHAGE COLLEGE



MARCH 20TH  
CENTRAL COLLEGE



MARCH 21ST  
UW-SUPERIOR



MARCH 22ND  
OBERLIN COLLEGE



MARCH 23RD  
GRACE UNIVERSITY

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Friday, Mar. 6

Men's Track & Field at Track & Field at MIAC Indoor Championship

Women's Track & Field at Track & Field at MIAC Indoor Championship

Gymnastics at UW-Oshkosh  
6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, Mar. 7

Men's Track & Field at Track & Field at MIAC Indoor Championship

Women's Track & Field at Track & Field at MIAC Indoor Championship

Softball at UW-River Falls  
10 a.m.

Men's Tennis hosts UW-Whitewater  
11 a.m.

Baseball at Mount Marty College  
1 p.m.

Softball vs. Luther College  
3 p.m.

Men's Tennis hosts St. Olaf College  
5 p.m.

Women's Tennis at Augustana College  
7 p.m.

### Sunday, Mar. 8

Baseball at Mount Marty College  
11 a.m.

Women's Tennis at University of Nebraska, Kearney  
12:30 a.m.



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## Steve Wilkinson: the best of Gustavus

**Linnea Moat**  
Managing Editor

Steve Wilkinson, former Head Men's Tennis Coach and Founder and Director of Tennis and Life Camps, passed away on January 21, 2015 after battling cancer for nearly seven years.

Wilkinson started out his tennis journey as a distinguished tennis player. He was the No. 1 singles player at the University of Iowa and was one of the top tennis players in the Big Ten. He was ranked No. 1 in the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) in four senior divisions.

*"He stands for the best of Gustavus and what Gustavus' values are and he lived it out beautifully as he lived a tremendous life of service."*

—Tommy Valentini

Wilkinson originally came to Gustavus to be a religion professor, and despite his own accomplished collegiate tennis career, he had no intention of coaching tennis. When Gustavus lost their tennis coach, Wilkinson stepped up and took on the role of Head Men's Tennis Coach—a position he held for 39 years.

As Head Men's Tennis Coach at Gustavus, Wilkinson became the winningest collegiate tennis coach in history, leading the Gusties to a 334-1 MIAC record in his 39 seasons at the helm of the Gustavus Men's Tennis program. He retired after the 2009 season, after his teams won Division III Cham-

of his players won national singles titles.

Wilkinson took his tennis experience one step further when he founded Tennis and Life Camps along with his wife Barbara in 1977. For over 35 years, the Wilkinsons used tennis as a metaphor for life as they taught campers about the Three Crowns of Excellence—attitude, effort, and sportsmanship—the three keys to success on and off the tennis court.

"I think Steve's brilliance was in the simplicity of his message. That you could encapsulate something that everybody could do in these three simple acts. He always told people to focus on the things you can control, and let go of the rest. You can't control whether or not you win, you can't control how well you play. The things you can control are your attitude on the court, the full effort that you give, and your sportsmanship or the way that you treat others. The simplicity of it is that you can choose these things," current Director of Tennis and Life Camps Neal Hagberg said.

It was through Tennis and Life Camps that current Head Men's Tennis Coach Tommy Valentini met Wilkinson.

"I first met Coach in the summer of 1995 at Tennis and Life Camp. I came here for three summers and that was the start of me being with him for what has been over half of my life. I looked at going to school at a lot of different places, but the opportunity to be around him and to learn from him on a daily basis I think was the biggest part of my decision to come to Gustavus. The chance to come here and play for him was huge," Valentini said.

Valentini played for Wilkinson for four seasons, worked with him at Tennis and Life



Steve Wilkinson was an accomplished tennis player, the winningest collegiate tennis coach in history, and the Founder and Director of Tennis and Life Camps.

in the 2010 season.

"One of the neat things about being with Coach in all of those capacities is that I got to experience a lot of everyday, ordinary moments with him and I cherish those memories with him the most. I got to be with him at a lot of different phases of both of our lives and that created a lot of really special moments and conversations. I got to see how kind and how true to himself he was in all of those ordinary moments and also how incredibly masterful he was in carrying out his values in the most challenging moments," Valentini said.

Vice President of Marketing and Communications Tim Kennedy echoed Valentini's sentiments about Wilkinson's adherence to his values, even in the face of adversity.

"When things are going well in someone's life, it's pretty easy to be the best version of yourself. When things aren't going well in someone's life, that's when you find out their true character. Steve Wilkinson was the same person with the same smile and the same zest for life when he was very seriously ill with cancer as he was when he was winning National Championships and that's the testament

of the man," Kennedy said.

Wilkinson had an undeniably enormous impact on Gustavus. He shaped the tennis program into what it is today, he was instrumental in the fundraising and building of the Swanson Tennis Center, and in 2010 he and his wife gifted Tennis and Life Camps to the College. Beyond these accomplishments, Valentini and Kennedy agree that Wilkinson reflected the very essence of the College.

*"His legacy is sportsmanship. He changed the rules and got people thinking about sportsmanship before anyone else did."*

—Neal Hagberg

"The extent of the reach of Steve's influence is beyond quantification or comprehension. He stands for the best of Gustavus and what Gustavus' values are and he lived it out beautifully as he lived a tremendous life of service," Valentini said.

"If you look at the five core

values of this college, they are the five core values of Steve Wilkinson. He lived the five core values—community, excellence, justice, service, faith. I don't know if one person in the history of our institution has lived out those core values more than Steve Wilkinson. He was Gustavus in an individual," Kennedy added.

Wilkinson's legacy extends far beyond the borders of Gustavus' campus. When Wilkinson passed away, all the major tennis organizations paid tribute to the legendary tennis coach. The International Tennis Association (ITA) immediately wrote a story about Wilkinson and his story graced the front page of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) publication.

Hagberg believes that Wilkinson is known in the tennis community because he changed the rules of the game.

"His legacy is sportsmanship. He changed the rules and got people thinking about sportsmanship before anyone else did. That's why he started Tennis and Life Camps—he wanted to make tennis a metaphor for how we can treat people on and off the court and in doing so, he impacted the world," Hagberg said.

Kennedy believes Wilkinson impacted more than just the Gustavus community and the tennis community.

"There are a few times in your life where you meet someone who you know stands above everybody else, when after you meet them, you know that wasn't a typical person—that person was extraordinary. If you meet three of those people in your life, that's pretty amazing. For Steve, it was always about the game and the way it was to be played, and not about winning, but all he ever did was win. When you can accomplish that, I think you have done something extraordinary, and that's what he did and I think that's what his legacy is—in tennis, at Gustavus, and in his own life. We have witnessed something that you just don't witness everyday," Kennedy said.

Wilkinson's influence is unquantifiable, except in the smile the mention of his name brings to faces, in the memories people will share of the legendary tennis coach for years to come, and in the amount of love for their mentor, coach, and friend that his successors expressed.

"I loved him so much and I miss him. And I'm really grateful to have known him," Hagberg concluded.



Steve Wilkinson was the winningest collegiate tennis coach in history, and led the Gusties to a 334-1 MIAC record in his 39 seasons as Head Men's Tennis Coach.

pionships in 1980 and 1982. Wilkinson's teams won Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) titles in 35 of his 39 years as Head Coach. Six of Wilkinson's players won national doubles titles and four

Camps during the summers, and stayed in contact with Wilkinson throughout graduate school. When Valentini returned to Gustavus, he was an Assistant Coach under Wilkinson, before taking over the program