

# Commercial Holidays & Commercial People



**Daniel McCrackin**  
Opinion Columnist



Boxing Day, the day after Christmas Day, is a hectic shopping holiday in Canada much like Black Friday in the United States.

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Snow falls lightly outside, candles twinkle in the window, and dinner sits upon the table. You and your family sit down for a Christmas dinner. A tree stands in the corner covered in ornaments. Beneath it rests some presents for each member at the table, ready to be opened after dinner. Love, joy, and holiday spirit is felt by all, and a wonderful meal enjoyed.

Now rewind.

The candles in the window cost \$12.99. The tree in the corner came from a farm, cut and sold at the price of \$50. The ornaments and lights on the tree are various and altogether the rough cost is around \$100. Over \$160 dollars spent before the various presents are even taken into account.

Though the true cost is the time spent prepare for this day, people spending entire weeks camping out in front of stores in order to try and get the very

best deals before anyone else. People lose time that could be better spent with their friends, family, or perhaps working and making more money than would be saved by waiting for the deals. So what is the true cost of the commercialization of the holidays?

Every year on November 1 the Halloween decorations are taken down, and the decorations for Christmas go up with very few people paying half a mind to Thanksgiving.

No, the true holiday for many sits the day after Thanksgiving, the aptly named Black Friday. A day of deals, commerce, and for many the best opportunity

to buy presents for their loved ones. The deals on this day are incredible, but so is the profit. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, it's a great boost for the economy, but when did holidays become about money, profit, and material possessions.

When did people start caring more about money than people's lives? Almost every year there is a scandal that surrounds some poor soul trampled in the onslaught of shoppers searching for deals. Is this the price that must be paid? Blood? Where did this all begin?

Do not take this the wrong way, I love giving and receiving gifts as much as anyone else,

and in all honesty I'm as guilty as many of spending far too much money on my relatives and loved ones. The problem is when people stop caring about the sentiment behind these gifts, the reason they are given, and rather care more about the money that is spent as though that is a measure of feelings.

Love is not monetary, hope is not a diamond that can be dug from the earth, and kindness turns more strangers into friends than money ever could. The more people that turn to money as their source of happiness in this world, the more unhappiness that is bred for others.

It has been quoted that money is the source of all evil in this world, but this is not the case. Humanity is the source of all evil; it is we who breed greed, hate, and corruption. It is we who obsess over the corporations and buy into their commercialization of the holidays, rather than the values upon which they were founded.

The commercialization of Christmas and other holidays has an even darker impact than the unhappiness of humanity, one that could have lasting impacts on the world. Outside snow rests on the ground, before this in earlier months rain fell to the earth.

The rain and snow are harboring a secret, a dark consequence of the commercial lifestyle. Chemical pollution created by mass production becomes acid rain, contributing to the destruction of life and global climate change.

Climate change has become such a hot issue that many a people have flooded the streets to protest oil companies and legislation such as the Keystone XL pipeline. Yet under the radar the electronics and big box production companies pillage the earth for its precious metals and oil. Their products in turn consume energy produced largely by the oil companies climate change protesters attack.

Black Friday, Cyber Monday,

and the entirety of the commercial holidays are another way that humanity assists in the destruction of the planet.

Commercial products are by no means the only thing reeking havoc on the earth's ecosystems and the global temperature, but by taking apart in the annual commercial festivities humanity is certainly not doing here any favors. People are always looking for a good bargain, without taking into account the long term costs of their actions. These long term consequences are far reaching, but not necessarily visible upon purchase.

If you take offense at this, I feel sorry for you, but I don't apologize. The world is falling into an abyss. Even the days we hold in highest regard are corrupted by dark emotions and hungry greed. As long as humanity is selfish and cares more about the almighty dollar sign than its brothers and sisters, corruption will exist. As long as corruption exists, no person will find peace during the commercial holidays.

Corruption is both a cause and consequence of the lifestyle to which so many are accustomed. This does not mean corruption on a personal level, necessarily, but rather people contribute to the corruption of others and society.

These contributions come through the purchase of products, the pandering to advertisements, or perhaps the occasional campaign donation. It is something humanity has had to deal with since the beginning, those in power using their power to gain more. This began with warfare, and then it became empire and politics, and now it is through wealth and products.

We are a commercial people, people who love to consume material wealth and dispose of it, as though it gives us a sort of power. My only advise comes in the words of the estimable Henry David Thoreau "Our life is frittered away by detail... simplify, simplify."

## The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



It's C in CC Weekend! All the Christmas! All the family and friends! All the emotions!



December means the beginning of winter; beautiful snow, freezing weather, warm drinks, no sunlight. Some love it, some hate it.



Finals are less than 2 weeks away and not doing anything all weekend because of C in CC is really not helping with writing that paper.

# Being Wary of Refugees



**Matthew Glaser**  
Opinion Editor

There are currently thousands upon thousands of refugees flooding into Europe from war torn parts of the Middle East, predominantly Syria. Many European countries have been trying to welcome refugees and provide them with safety and shelter.

The recent terrorist attacks in Paris have called into question the flood of refugees that have been entering Europe, and in America a number of governors have tried to ban refugees from being allowed in their states. While I disagree with much of the criticism leveled against the refugee crisis and how it should be handled, there are a few things I want to note.

To start off, in the United States, we can handle refugees safely. To say that if we let refugees in we risk letting in terrorist is true, but not much more than saying if we let anyone into the country we risk letting in terrorists.

The United States counter-terrorist and terrorism prevention forces are pretty d\*\*\* good, and the screening to enter the country is elaborate. We also aren't facing a flood of immigrants coming straight over our borders the way European countries are, we can handle a small influx of refugees. They aren't going to steal all our jobs,



Refugees of the Syrian Civil War strike outside a main railway station in Budapest, Hungary.

Creative Commons

or ruin the country.

On the other hand Europe faces a much larger issue because they face a much larger influx, as well as, much less space per country. What I mean by this is that Europe (especially Western Europe) is highly developed, and much of the land and property is in use. Movement between borders of European Union citizens doesn't pose much of a problem since the overall number is stable, but the influx of new refugees poses economic challenges that we in the U.S. do not face from inviting in refugees.

The problem is surely complicated; Many of the main cities in Europe can't handle the influx of refugees, they don't have the infrastructure or labor market to support them, while smaller cities and towns that have been

dying over the past decade can handle refugees and could use more immigrants and refugees to keep the economy of their towns alive.

So why aren't the refugees just redirected to the small towns where they will be able to find work and homes more easily? Part of the problem is that they might not be welcome.

A large voice of the citizens of European states are weary and to a certain extent tired of the immigration of people from Northern Africa and the Middle East into Europe (and now refugees). It causes conflict; either welcome in others along with their culture and develop ways for there to be cultural diversity and tolerance, or ask immigrants and refugees to assimilate into the country's respective culture.

*The New Yorker* recently published an article, "The Other France" covering the life, culture, and views of a predominantly Muslim suburb of Paris. Part of the problem that becomes apparent is that many immigrants from Northern Africa and the Middle East don't feel welcome in Europe because culturally they differ so greatly. Refugees flee wars in Syria, but Europe is not a home, or at least doesn't feel like it.

And many Europeans don't want refugees because they're afraid they'll lose their culture. Small towns, which are the ones that could really use immigrants and refugees, especially face the loss of their culture as many natives leave and are replaced by people from completely different backgrounds and world-views.

So how does Europe handle this problem? Is it best to welcome refugees in and then marginalize them into their own suburbs and towns? Or should more be done to assimilate them into the secular-quasi-christian culture? Or does more effort need to be made, not to assimilate, but foster a cultural diversity between the cultures of respective countries and the people they are welcoming in?

I don't have answers, but it's a problem that's hard to understand coming from an American viewpoint. We are a country founded first upon British colonialism and then largely immigration. People from all over the world have come to the United States in search of a better life from the beginnings and we have been a country well equipped to handle this: we have lots of land, and our laws aim to be tolerant of and accepting of differences (though we may not be perfect).

More importantly our culture is essentially mixed. I would argue there is no such thing as a national U.S. identity the way that there might be French, German, Spanish, or Italian. So when we think about threats to culture, it's hard for us to take that line of thought seriously. But please do.

Recognize that the United States is not Europe, and that worries over refugees there raise serious questions and issues that need work to be resolved. I'm not saying stop taking in refugees, by any means, but more questions need to be asked on what to do with them when they get there.

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# It's Not About You (and That's Okay)



**Emma Schmidtke**  
Opinion Columnist

Let's be honest, I like it when things are about me. I like attention. Everyone does. If anyone says they "don't like being the center of attention", they're lying. Seeking attention is a basic human instinct. But there are a few times when you have to give up on being the center of attention: other people's birthday parties, funerals, and social justice movements that are not for you.

For example, I have yet to make it through one class period on feminism without hearing some iteration of "but feminism helps men too." Yes, when done correctly, feminism can help men by ending constrictive gender roles that expect men to bottle up their feelings and act with violence. But feminism is not for men.

Feminism cannot privilege men because male privilege is the exact problem it's trying to address. Yes, it's great when social justice movements work out for everybody, but if your response to the statistic 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted in their lifetime is "yeah, but what about me?" then you have a problem.

My white privilege makes it possible for me to go my entire life without worrying about racism if I chose to. Yes, I would be happier if my friends of color felt safer and the police were held more accountable for their actions, but I can never even presume to understand what it



Gustavus students protesting on November 12th in solidarity with students of Mizzou who have been protesting racial issues on their campus. Dennis Lee

actually feels like to experience racism. But still, when I hear about the Black Lives Matter movement, I need to be able to offer my support without complaining and asking, "don't all lives matter?"

#AllLivesMatter isn't an expansion. It's a diversion. Because in reality, all lives aren't equally in danger in America. Nor do #AllLivesMatter believers really care about all lives. They don't argue for the lives of the disabled, the lives of the poor, or the lives of refugees. They're just white people throwing a temper tantrum because for once, they aren't the focus.

When those who already hold privilege in society demand privilege within social justice

movements, they hold progress back. If you want to be an ally, you have to start by acknowledging your own privilege and then begin to listen to those who don't have that privilege. For once, it's not going to be all about you, and that's okay.

If you enter a social justice movement expecting the instant gratification privilege usually affords you, you'll be disappointed. If you expect to be rewarded or given special treatment for believing in equal rights, you'll be disappointed.

Your experience as an ally will not be comfortable, because the prejudices ingrained in our society will not easily be overturned. But when these disappointed people get mildly inconvenienced, they throw up

their hands, declare the movement has lost its direction, and they get out.

Not that I think those of privilege are being completely selfish. To some extent, this issue boils down to the difference between empathy and sympathy. According to the Grammarist, empathy is born out of common experience, observing someone's feeling and connecting it with a feeling of your own.

Sympathy is compassion without the common feeling or experience. White people often try to feel empathy with those who have experienced racial oppression, but there's no common experience to draw on. Instead, they conflate minor feelings of offense and inconvenience to a history of systematic oppres-

sion, and create more divide. Sympathy is often seen as less genuine than empathy, but it's more effective than forcing common experience where there is none.

*Yes, it's great when social justice movements work out for everybody, but if your response to the statistic 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted in their lifetime is "yeah, but what about me?" then you have a problem.*

In times like this, when it seems like tragedies happen every week and the whole world is in conflict, we need a boost of sympathy. We need to be able to see outside ourselves. We need to prioritize our energy not towards the greatest expectation of reward, but towards the greatest need.

Social justice movements do not have to benefit you in order to be valid. Those of us that hold privilege in society need to use that privilege to further causes, not bog them down in accusations of "man-hating" or "reverse racism." If you're ever going to contribute to the progress of society, you need to be okay with it not being about you.



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# BENEATH THE CROWN



**What is something you're fascinated with?**

I'm really fascinated with languages. Growing up, I was around a melting pot of languages: English, Spanish, just everything really. It just really fascinated me. Learning how language has evolved over time in different areas, and especially how romance languages themselves sort of evolved into their own separate languages in different regions. I've just always found them so fascinating. I've taken it upon myself to learn about the evolution of these languages and I think it'd be great just to keep learning languages if I could.



Carter Gunnigle

Cameron MacDonald

**What are you planning to do with language?**

Right now, I'm studying Russian. After graduation, I'm planning to go into the Peace Corp and serve in either Eastern Europe or the Caucasus region, like Georgia or Azerbaijan. If that doesn't work, I could always teach English in Russia, expanding languages where I can. After that, I'm planning to come back to the States to get a Master's, then a Doctorate, and begin teaching Russian at a higher education level in

universities and colleges.

**What draws you to teaching?**

My teachers and professors have had such a big impact on me personally, and I feel like it's my duty to help that tradition go on. I think language is something extremely important, especially on an international scale, and it needs to be taught. Here in the United States, we have the tendency to really only focus on English. Yeah, we might learn a second language in high school,

but we tend to forget it or not pursue it afterwards which is, honestly, quite sad.

**What do you think is most important to focus on when you're teaching?**

Connectibility, I'd say. Anyone can say "You need to do X, Y and Z." It's very beneficial when a professor or teacher goes the extra length to make sure you understand what you're doing, understand conjugations, sentence structures. This is something I think

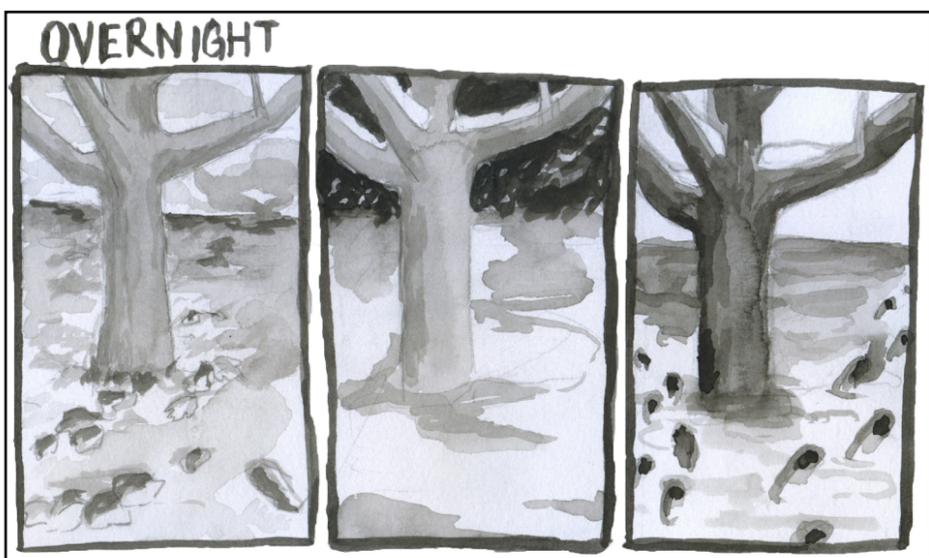
the LARS program does extremely well with the smaller class sizes and one-on-one interactions with the professors and tutors.

- Carter Gunnigle

*Beneath The Crown was created by Nick Theisen ('15). It is inspired by Humans of New York (HONY) and aims to bring the community of Gustavus Adolphus College closer together by providing the perspectives of the many different people who live and work at the school.*

## Comic

Created by Carly Maslowski



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Puzzle 4

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Puzzle 3

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Puzzle 2

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Puzzle 1

# Haugen brings home some hardware

Wins Gustavus' first MIAC Coach-of-the-Year award in football since 1987



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Coach Haugen showcases his speed as he leads his team out of the tunnel. He received the MIAC Football Coach-of-the-Year award after his team posted a 7-3 record (5-3 MIAC). Haugen just wrapped up his seventh season as head coach of the Gusties, and previously was the head coach of Washburn High School in Minneapolis for fifteen years. He was a three-sport athlete at Bethel.

**Tanner Sparrow**  
Sports & Fitness Editor

Gustavus Football walked away from this season with not only seven wins for the first time since 2001, but also its first MIAC Coach-of-the-Year award since 1987. Head coach Peter Haugen was a co-recipient of the award this year along with St. Thomas's Glenn Caruso. This was Haugen's seventh season at the reigns of Gustie Football, a season that led the team to new and exciting heights.

Haugen led the team to third place in the MIAC standings, marking a large turnaround from their seventh place finish in his first year as coach. So what were the biggest factors of the program's one-eighty?

"Staying focused on the process of continuous improvement and staying committed to learning and adjusting our style to the players we coach and recruit. Taking more time each year to focus on mental training and the positive impact it can have on performing at a consistently high level," Haugen said.

The biggest challenges to success? "Being patient and keeping our focus on the small steps. We play in the finest league in division 3 in the country so



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every week is difficult and demands that we stay focused on the things that are within our control," Haugen said.

As for the award, Haugen kept humble.

"It means a lot to our program and I am thankful to our players, staff, athletic trainers and support staff for all their work and dedication in growing our program and honoring the legacy of Gustie football," Haugen said.

Of course, Haugen's extensive experience couldn't have hurt his chances at receiving Coach-of-the-Year either. Prior to his time at Gustavus, Haugen served as the head coach at Washburn High School in

Minneapolis for fifteen years. Originally drawn to coaching by his parents' influence, both of his parents were teachers and his father was also a coach. Haugen watched them growing up and adopted their philosophy.

"They both loved their work and were committed to relationship building and using the classroom and athletic field to challenge growth and foster an environment of positivity, honesty and encouragement," Haugen said.

*"It means a lot to our program and I am thankful to our players, staff, athletic trainers and support staff for all their work and dedication in growing our program and honoring the legacy of Gustie football."*

—Peter Haugen

Haugen's experience has taught him a great deal, and he continues to grow as a coach every year.

"I have learned a lot. There was certainly a transition period

that was difficult in relation to getting acclimated to the college game and recruiting, but we worked to learn and solve problems along the way and set a clear vision for where we needed to go. I believe you improve when you honestly assess your work. For me that is always a work in progress and one we as a staff are committed to," Haugen said.

With this historic season just barely visible from the back window, Haugen is already looking into the future.

"Our goal is always to improve each year. We can build on this season by staying committed to the process, continuing to recruit the best student-athletes and by looking at ways to improve how we prepare our student athletes for competition both physically and mentally," Haugen said.

So what does Haugen stress when he recruits the best student-athletes?

"We want young men to choose Gustavus for all it has to offer (academics, athletics, campus community) not just one component. We also stress a personalized environment within our program. We are a tight family of players and coaches who are committed to championship football and building relationships that will

last a lifetime. Finally, we want each young man we recruit to understand that he will be expected to grow as a leader,



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student and servant. This is core to our Gustavus tradition," Haugen said.

If the Gusties can keep building on their success, Haugen may be looking at a few more MIAC Coach-of-the-Year awards down the road, but for now he offers a piece of advice to prospective coaches everywhere.

"Have thick skin and a soft heart," Haugen said.

# Not all heroes wear capes



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A team of athletic training students goes absolutely nuts during a Gustie touchdown at a football game. Gustavus' certified athletic trainers and athletic training students do a lot of behind the scenes work that helps all athletes stay healthy and sports run smoothly.

**Tanner Sparrow**  
Sports & Fitness Editor

At Gustavus, athletics have always been a source of pride. While the athletes bask in the glory, a secret force lurks in the shadows. Silent guardians, watchful protectors, dark knights. Ath-

letic training students. Rising early and retiring late, these silent workhorses go to class just like the rest of us, but the similarities end there. They are angels that walk among men.

"It varies depending on where you work, but for football I had to be there for pre-practice to do treatments, tape, and get

everything ready. Then it was practice, and post-practice to go over any new injuries, do rehab with people, and once again, treatments. That's a basic overview," senior athletic training major Brenna Sneed said.

That's more of a time commitment than the athletes themselves, but they get no trophies.

*"For football I had to be there for pre-practice to do treatments, tape and get everything ready. Then it was practice, and post-practice..."*

—Brenna Sneed

for our talents, such as going on to physical or occupational therapy, PA, physician extender, or just AT in settings that vary from high school to the corporate setting," Sneed said.

The students assist the certified athletic trainers that the college employs, and get to learn directly from them, in the classroom and on the field.

"Since it's a smaller school, we have a closer relationship with the certified ATs. Also, we get the opportunity to work with a multitude of sports and really get hands on experience, which is super important," Sneed said.

The most rewarding part of the life of an athletic training student?

"Getting an athlete back to participation after a long time injured/seeing someone you've worked with for rehab doing really well," Sneed said.

## Senior Spotlight

*Darren Lopic*

HOCKEY

A 6'3" forward from New Prague, Darren played with the Odessa Jackalopes in the NAHL before coming to Gustavus.

**Q: What are your expectations for the season?**

A: The expectation for the season is the same every year, win the MIAC playoff championship. That should never change knowing the rich history of Gustavus Hockey. We lost several key players from last year's team that are missed but we can't make excuses. This year's teams needs to depend on overall role team play rather than pure skill if we are going to make it far. In years past we have just simply been more skilled than every other team, this year the conference is more



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even. Every team has a chance, in years past it was St. Thomas, St. Johns, and us. We as a team have much to prove now, but I feel our team is in good hands and it begs the questions why not us?

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

A: My favorite athletic memory would have to be playing Saturday nights at the Don vs St. Thomas or St. Johns games. Everyone on and off the ice gets a little more hostel. Win or lose they were always entertaining and hard fought games. The games always brought out the competitive nature in everybody. Either nut up or get out. After a win the locker room was all smiles, blaring timber on the stereo and everybody in a slight hustle so we could share some sprites with the team back at the house.

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

I'd recommend Gustavus to prospective students because its a great school to learn educationally and we also have some fun on the weekends. They took care of me so I have nothing but positive memories when looking back at my time here.

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Friday, Dec. 4**

Swimming and Diving at Jean Freeman Invite

Men's Hockey hosts Saint John's University

7:05 p.m.

Women's Hockey at College of Saint Benedict

7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 5**

Men's Basketball at Augsburg College

1 p.m.

Women's Hockey hosts college of Saint Benedict

2 p.m.

Men's Hockey at Saint John's University

2 p.m.

Women's Basketball at Augsburg College

3 p.m.

They get no applause. They don't get the vast legions of fans following them around campus screaming their names, like even the worst football players on the team get.

So why do it?

"It's a great opportunity to work in the athletic setting as well as work with a sports medicine team that really works for the betterment of the athlete or individual. Also, as an athletic trainer, there are so many different outlets



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## Swim & Dive making a splash



A Gustavus Swimmer jumps into the pool during a leg of a relay in the "Race for Grace" on Nov. 21st. The Women's team is looking to repeat as MIAC champions, as the Men's team looks for a piece of the action.

**Jake Woodrich**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Men and Women's Swim & Dive teams are off to a good start this season. The success is largely due to many different things. Some of the things leading to this success includes leadership from the upperclassmen, great contributions from first-years, wonderful performances

*"They train together and compete together, but their scores are different. I think both teams add something positive to the other. They are invested in each other's success"*

—Coach Jon Carlson

from returning swimmers, and contributions from all of the hard working coaches.

"The season is off to a good start. We had a great fall training and are swimming and diving well. I'm very proud of the work the team has put in this fall. It will pay off at the end of the season," Head Coach Jon Carlson said.

The hard work from this fall will hopefully lead to some positive results in the end of the

season. The men are looking to improve from their fifth place finish in the conference last year, while the women are looking to repeat as conference champions.



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Despite the men and women scoring separately in meets, they both essentially make up one team.

"They train together and compete together, but their scores are different. I think both teams add something positive to the other. They are invested in each other's success," Coach Carlson said.

All of the swimmers see the two teams as one.

"While we score everything separately, we train together, work together, and race together. Swimming is a sport that benefits greatly from having a mix of different people in the pool. Having both the women's and the men's team together allows for the possibility of every personality to make every practice and teammate great," senior captain Jeffrey Nelson said.

It truly is a very tight knit group of both male and female swimmers and divers.

"The season has been going really well. The newcomers to the team have already made a huge impact, and the returning swimmers have led the team well in and out of the pool," Nelson said.

This huge impact coming from the newcomers is apparent in many ways, ranging from great times in the pool to MIAC conference awards. First-years Haley Pesik and Tanner Sonnek have both been named the MIAC Swimming & Diving Athletes of The Week.

"I was very surprised when I found out I was Swimmer of the Week. It was not something that I was expecting or had even thought I could receive this year. It makes me feel proud of myself that some of my hard work this season is already paying off," Pesik said.

Being a first-year, this is Pesik's first collegiate swimming season.

"College swimming is a lot

*"The season has been going really well. The newcomers to the team have already made a huge impact, and the returning swimmers have led the team in and out of the pool."*

—Jeffrey Nelson

different than high school swimming because there are a lot more practices than in high school and a lot less frequent meets, but I love swimming here at Gustavus. I particularly enjoy just being part of an amazing group of people who are always there for me, push me and understand what I'm going through having to juggle swimming and classes," Pesik said.

The theme of the team being full of great individuals is consistent throughout.

"I feel pretty lucky that I get to interact with such great people every day. Probably the most important thing is that I'm coaching some great people," said Coach Carlson.

Being around such great people makes the grind of early mornings and tough training much more enjoyable for the hard working group of Gusta-

vus swimmers.



Gustavus Sports Information

The Gusties will take part in the Jean Freeman Invitational at the University of Minnesota this weekend. The meet should be a good test for the team, as they will face some tough competition. The next and final time that the team will play host this season will be when Carleton College comes to town on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.

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