

# THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

Established 1891

January 22, 2016

Issue 12

## Remembering Stacie Miller

Emily Knutson  
Copy Editor

On Jan. 11, 2016 an email from the President's Office went out to the Gustavus community announcing the death of Stacie Miller on Jan. 10, 2016.

Stacie Miller became a part of the Gustavus staff in 2011 as an administrative assistant for the Department of Communication Studies and History. Two years later, she transferred over to Olin Hall and became the administrative assistant in both the Department of Math, Computer Science, Statistics and the Department of Physics.

Professor Greg Kaster, from the Department of History and Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, had daily interactions with Miller as his desk was kitty corner from hers while she was working in Beck Hall.

"Stacie was engaged with life. She was curious about the world, interested in history and extremely competent," Kaster said. "Stacie was a delightful, wonderful and funny person."

*"Stacie... had a wonderful laugh which I could sometimes hear in my office down the hall."*

— Prof. Wittenstein

Miller was interested in con-



Stacie Miller, an administrative assistant at Gustavus since 2011, passed away on Jan. 10, 2016. Cameron MacDonald

tinuing her education and reading. She loved receiving suggestions about what to read and discussing what she was currently reading with her colleagues.

"Stacie didn't go to Gustavus, but she was the kind of person you want as a Gustavus alumnus," Professor Kaster said.

Professor Kaster also mentioned Miller's commitment to her son Tate, as did Professor Mike Hvidsten of the Math Department and Professor Kate

Wittenstein of the History Department.

"Stacie had an extremely strong devotion to her son, Tate. Everybody knew she was devoted to him and he was a huge part of her life," Professor Wittenstein said.

Professor Wittenstein remembers many times when she would request materials for a class such as a book chapter or article to be copied. Miller would question her extensively about the material and then

make an extra copy for herself to take home and read.

"Stacie loved to read, she had started her own book club with some former co-workers," Professor Hvidsten said. "Her mom told me she had about a thousand books in her living room, she probably read them all."

Along with her eagerness to continue learning, Miller will be remembered for her bright personality.

"Stacie had a great sense of

humor and a wonderful laugh which I could sometimes hear in my office down the hall," Professor Wittenstein said.

Miller was described by her colleagues as a positive, optimistic person who was very curious and intellectually sharp. She made a strong effort to exercise both her mind and her body.

"She was always warm and had fans going in her office even during the winter," Professor Hvidsten said. "She always had a great big jar of water and she was a real exercise enthusiast, she'd go over to Lund and exercise every day."

Communications professor Lelia Brammer described Miller as being very easy to work with and full of joy.

"Stacie reflects the mission of a liberal arts college," Professor Brammer said. "She also had principles by which she lived her life and I really admire her courage for standing up for those principles."

"Anyone who knew Miller

*"Stacie didn't go to Gustavus but she was the kind of person you want as a Gustavus alumnus"*

— Professor Kaster

knew she was a wonderful person, full of life and curiosity. We will miss her a great deal," Kaster said.

## Who should you vote for in November?

Nicholas Pemberton  
Staff Writer

The Forensics team hosted a lively and informed Student Presidential Debate on Jan. 19. The event was held in the Courtyard Cafe, from 7-9 pm. Students argued the case for Presidential candidates Hilary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Rand Paul. The debates, moderated by Emily Meyer of the Forensics Team, hit on a wide range of political topics.

The Forensics team is a public speaking and debate team that travels across the country on the weekends to speak competitively. The team engages in interpretation (similar to acting), public address (persuasive speech) and debate. The group put on this event because they believe in the importance of being informed citizens.

"I think it is really important for students to be politically informed, so I wanted to gather the students together to gauge



Student presidential debates took place in the Courtyard Cafe. Dennis Lee

how much they know about things, what they considered important points, see what they really wanted to discuss and then see where the spectrum of support lies among our stu-

dents," said Meyer, a Senior Biology major.

Meyer also believes the political debates need better moderators to reel in the candidates and keep the conversation focused

on the subjects that matter to the citizens, rather than the subjects that cater to the ratings.

While the night was filled with debate, the one item that the room seemed to agree on

was a disdain for Republican front runner Donald Trump.

According to a poll conducted by Monmouth University, Mr. Trump holds 36% of the Republican vote as of January 20. The businessman has shocked the country by taking a substantial lead over Texas Senator Ted Cruz (17%) and Florida Senator Marco Rubio (11%). Mr. Paul, the Kentucky Senator is in ninth place, at 2%.

While both strong democratic candidates were represented, the majority of the Republican candidates were not represented in the debate. On the Democrat side, it is a two horse race between Ms. Clinton, the former Secretary of State and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.

As of Dec. 19th, Monmouth reports Ms. Clinton is leading Mr. Sanders, 52% to 37%, a gap that was much larger just months ago. In a general elec-

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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.

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## Campus Safety Report

### Monday, December 07

- Campus Safety responded to Norelius Hall for a welfare check.
- An online report was submitted by a student concerning verbal harassment mentioning race and gender by an unidentified individual earlier in the evening on College grounds and one prior instance in September or October.
- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation in the International Center. Campus Safety referred one student to the campus conduct system for a 21 and over alcohol violation.

### Tuesday, December 08

- Campus Safety received a report that on Sunday, December 6, 2105 the Saint Peter Police Department cited one student with underage consumption

- on public property (directly adjacent to campus).
- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at Pittman Hall.

### Friday, December 11

- Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department responded to a welfare check in the Southwest Parking lot involving one student of concern.
- Campus Safety was called about a found property in Nobel Hall.

### Saturday, December 12

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

- Campus Safety responded to suspicious activity at the Gustavus entrance on College Avenue and contacted the Saint Peter Police Department about a found street sign.

### Sunday, December 13

- A Collegiate Fellow reported damage to College property in the International Center. Residents reported conflict with another student and suspicion of damaging an outlet and overturning chairs.

### Monday, December 14

- Campus Safety received a report of a sexual assault that occurred in a campus residence hall on Sunday, December 6, 2015.
- The Director of Campus Safety received information from a Campus Security Authority regarding a sexual assault that occurred in a campus residence hall on Saturday, December 12, 2015.
- Residential Life and Campus Safety responded to a suspected drug violation in Norelius Hall. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

### Tuesday, December 15

- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at North Hall.

### Wednesday, December 16

- Residential Life and Campus Safety responded to a noise violation in Uhler Hall involving five students and two non-Gustavus students. Campus Safety referred two students to the campus conduct system for underage consumption of alcohol. Two students were referred for an of-age alcohol violation and one student for failure to comply with a College official.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a report of a student finding marijuana in their room in Norelius Hall on Saturday, December 12, 2015 that was not theirs and disposing of it.

### Thursday, December 17

- Campus Safety documented a suspicious circumstance in Vickner Hall. A disruptive message was written on a board but no damage or other issue was found.
- An employee reported the theft of College-owned property from the Jackson Campus Center.
- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in the Lund Center in the ice arena. A visitor was transported to the hospital by ambulance.
- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in the Lund Center in the ice arena. A visitor was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

### Friday, December 18

- An employee reported the theft of College property from Confer Hall.

- Campus safety was called for a vehicle accident in the Rundstrom parking lot involving a Gustavus-owned vehicle and a student vehicle.

### Saturday, December 19

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

### Monday, December 21

- A Gustavus employee reported the loss of a campus key.

### Tuesday, December 22

- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in Norelius Hall during room checks, for tampering with a sprinkler.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in Norelius Hall during room checks, for possession of a pizza maker.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in Norelius Hall during room checks, for possession of a candle.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in College View Apartments during room checks, for tampering with a smoke detector.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in Norelius Hall during room checks, for possession of a toaster oven.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in the Adolphson House during room checks, for two students each having possession of a candle.
- Collegiate Fellows documented an alcohol violation in Sorensen Hall during room checks. One student was referred to the campus conduct system for underage possession of alcohol.
- Collegiate Fellows documented College policy violations in Pittman Hall during room checks, for possession of incense, incense burners, firecrackers, and for tampering with a smoke detector.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in Chapel View Apartments during room checks, for tampering with a smoke detector.
- Residential Life and Campus Safety responded to a drug violation in College View discovered during room checks. Four students were referred to the campus conduct system for possession of paraphernalia.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in Southwest Hall during room checks, for possession of a candle.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in Southwest Hall during room checks, for possession of a candle.
- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in College View Apartments during room checks, for possession of a candle.

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# Kenneth Reid hits the ground running



Assistant Director of the Diversity Center, Kenneth Reid started in Nov. Submitted

**Kristi Manning**  
Staff Writer

This past fall, Gustavus was hard at work interviewing and hiring new employees to work in the Diversity Center located on the lower level of the Jackson Campus Center.

Gustavus was searching for someone who would step in and take on challenges with an open mind, while becoming a mentor for Gustavus students.

On Nov. 16, 2015, Kenneth Reid was hired, welcomed, and started his position as the new assistant director of the Diversity Center.

Assistant Dean of Students Megan Ruble has worked closely with Reid since he was hired, and is pleased with how he has spent his first few months at Gustavus.

"He's really hit the ground running. He has a ton of energy and a ton of enthusiasm. I've heard people say really positive things," Ruble said.

Both Gustavus staff and students are excited to have Reid as the Assistant Director in the Diversity Development and Multi-Cultural Office.

Junior, Russian and Eastern European Studies and Psychological Science Major Janet Jennings, expressed her enthusiasm with having Reid as the new Assistant Director.

"He came in right away and started bonding with students and creating programming that got students to come to the D Center more often. He is very concerned about making

students' experiences the best possible. He is great at listening to students' wants and needs and has really made Gustavus his home," Jennings said.

Since starting in November, Reid has stepped into his position as Assistant Director and is starting to make a difference for students on campus.

"Kenneth has really gone out his way to get to know the Gustavus community. He is empathetic and understanding towards everyone. He is very proactive and knows how to relate to students. He is already creating programs that students are interested in," Jennings said.

Reid already has ideas of what he plans to address as Assistant Director, and is eager to work on revising and starting new programs through the Diversity Center.

*"He's really hit the ground running. He has a ton of energy and a ton of enthusiasm."*

— Ruble

Reid has outlined specific goals that he has for the Diversity Center in 2016 which encompass the mission for diversity at Gustavus.

"My goals are to one, support our students; two, to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for our students,

all students; and three to educate students on what diversity means and how we're all multicultural in all aspects," Reid said.

Aside from creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students at Gustavus through the Diversity Center, as Assistant Director, Reid hopes help students and staff understand what diversity truly means.

"People don't understand that diversity does not mean race and ethnicity. So one of the big thing for me is helping people understand that it means so many more things, such as creed, such as social contacts, social cultures and so many other things," Reid said.

"And so for me, I want to help bring that to Gustavus and help people understand that so that we can start bringing in unity and stop saying the Diversity Center as that difference or others."

The process of hiring a new director has recently been finished and will be announced to the Gustavus community soon.

"I'll be excited to see him and the new director as a team. Really kind of establishing their vision for the space and establishing what their strategic goals and what tactics are that will lead them to those strategic goals," Ruble said.

Reid along with the new Director will be working together to make the Diversity Center an accessible and inviting space for all Gustavus students.

## Campus Safety Report Continued

### Wednesday, December 23

- Campus Safety responded to a noise complaint in Southwest Hall. Seven students were referred to the campus conduct system for a noise violation.

### Saturday, December 26

- Campus Safety observed damage to College property. A reflective post was found damaged.

### Sunday, January 03

- Residential Life and Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in Norelius Hall. A student declined the assistance of an ambulance and the Saint Peter Police Department. The student later contacted Campus Safety to be transported to the hospital and reported a domestic assault that had occurred earlier in the evening.

### Tuesday, January 05

- A third-party report was submitted about seeing a post on social media about a verbal bias incident that occurred in the Jackson Campus Center.

### Wednesday, January 06

- An anonymous report was submitted about suspected hazing involving a Greek organization that occurred in October 2015.

- A Gustavus employee re-

ported the loss of a campus key.

### Thursday, January 07

- Campus Safety responded to a report of damage in North Hall. A garbage container was dumped out in a bathroom including a broken glass bottle on the floor.

- Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm in Norelius Hall. No fire or smoke was present and the alarm was determined to have been set off at a pull station by an unknown person.

### Friday, January 08

- Campus Safety responded to take a report of property damage in the Lund Center.

### Saturday, January 09

- One student was referred to the campus conduct system for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia on College grounds.

- One student was referred to the campus conduct system for underage possession of alcohol on Eckman Mall.

- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol incident in Sohre Hall. Campus Safety referred one student to the campus conduct system for an underage alcohol consumption and failure to comply with a College official.

- Campus Safety responded to a noise violation in College View Apartments. Campus Safety referred four students to the campus conduct system

for underage alcohol consumption and 13 students for a noise complaint.

- Campus Safety responded to a welfare concern on College grounds. Campus Safety referred one student to the campus conduct system for a 21 and over alcohol violation.

### Monday, January 11

- Campus Safety was called to College View parking lot for a motor vehicle accident involving two Gustavus vehicles.

- A Collegiate Fellow responded to a pet policy violation in Southwest Hall.

### Tuesday, January 12

- A student reported a theft in Nobel Hall to Campus Safety. The personal property was later found by the owner.

- Campus Safety responded to a suspected drug violation in Norelius Hall.

- Campus Safety responded to a suspected drug violation in Norelius Hall.

- A Collegiate Fellow documented underage possession of alcohol involving two students in Norelius Hall.

- Collegiate Fellows responded to a noise violation and suspected smoking policy violation in Norelius Hall involving eight students.

### Wednesday, January 13

- Campus Safety trespassed a juvenile from campus. The unsupervised minor with no

affiliation to the College had received prior warnings for lack of supervision and computer use in the Jackson Campus Center.

### Thursday, January 14

- Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department investigated a burglary at the Jackson Campus Center. An office window was broken to gain building access and ATM machines were moved. Nothing was identified missing at this time.

### Friday, January 15

- A custodian reported that a fire extinguisher had been stolen from second floor of College View Apartments.

- Campus Safety responded to the Carlson Administration Building for a medical assist.

### Saturday, January 16

- Campus Safety responded to a report of damage to College property at the Johnson Student Union. An exterior door latch was damaged.

- Campus Safety observed an alcohol violation in College View Apartments. Campus Safety referred two students to the campus conduct system for of-age alcohol violations.

- Campus Safety responded to a report of vandalism/damage in College View Apartments. An unlocked apartment was egged.

- Campus Safety responded to the Jackson Campus Center

to investigate a possible burning or electrical odor and contacted the Saint Peter Fire Department to assist investigation when no smoke or fire was found. A pail with smoldering rags was discovered and extinguished.

- Campus Safety responded to Sorensen Hall for a report of someone having defecated on the floor in the laundry room and contacted Custodial for clean up.

### Sunday, January 17

- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation on College grounds and referred one student to the campus conduct system for an of-age alcohol violation.

- A Campus Safety responded to an of-age alcohol violation in Uhler Hall and referred one student to the campus conduct system.

- Campus Safety responded to a student of concern in Uhler Hall.

- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation at Confer Hall and referred one student to the campus conduct system for of-age alcohol and failure to comply with a College official for possessing and drinking alcohol at a meeting.

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>

*Continued from page 1*

tion, Mr. Sanders is favored over Mr. Trump by 15 points, and Ms. Clinton is favored over Mr. Trump by 2.5 points, according to NBC News and the Wall St. Journal.

The audience attending the event was primarily supporting Mr. Sanders, reflecting his support among young people. Mr. Paul had less support, but his supporters were strong debaters, and held their own against the room. Ms. Clinton's few supporters were attacked throughout the night from both Mr. Sanders and Mr. Paul supporters. Ms. Clinton's supporters held strong and continued to cite the fact that she was the most electable candidate.

"I am a realist, not an idealist," Junior Andrew Hillis argued, who went on to cite Ms. Clinton's strong resume and experience working with both parties. Freshman Andrew Deziel echoed the thesis of Mr. Sanders' campaign, saying that he is the only candidate whose policies represent everybody in the United States, not only the interests of Wall Street.

"Bernie is the only candidate who is walking the walk, he does not have a Super PAC, his average donation is less than thirty dollars," Deziel said.

Much like the Democratic debate last Sunday night, Ms. Clinton was challenged on the money she receives from large corporations, specifically Goldman Sachs, while Mr. Sanders was challenged on his experience and electability.

All three candidates represented agreed on some issues. Mr. Paul, a Libertarian, is unlike much of the Republican field in that he is against the wars in the Middle East, and against what some call the war on drugs, namely the mass incarceration of the lower class and minorities through minor drug possessions.

Mr. Paul's camp included a representative from his campaign, who echoed Mr. Paul's sentiments for a small government. Mr. Paul's camp and Mr. Sander's camp had a lengthy debate about whether health care should be public or private.

Mr. Paul's supporters argued health care should be earned and that forcing it on any citizen would be unjust, while Mr. Sanders' supporters argued that the United States should treat health care as a right, citing the rest of the developed world's philosophy towards health care. While Mr. Paul's camp argued for limiting government's role in health care, and Mr. Sander's camp argued for expanding it, Ms. Clinton would largely maintain Mr. Obama's Affordable Care Act.

The campaign trail heats up as November looms closer without a clear front-runner for either party.

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## Race and Geography on MLK Day



Dr. Shabazz giving his lecture in Christ Chapel on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Megan Quirk

Emily Knutson  
Copy Editor

Dr. Rashad Shabazz gave the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture on Jan. 18, 2016 in Christ Chapel. His speech was entitled, "Why Geography Matters in the Struggle for Racial Justice."

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture is an annual event that has taken place at Gustavus since 1986.

Logan Boese, a Senior Philosophy and Religion major gave a brief introduction before Dr. Shabazz's speech began.

"As we pause to honor Dr. King, our day is set against the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter movement in Minnesota and across the United States. It is

becoming clear to more and more people that work is still needed across the nation to fulfill the goals set forth by the civil rights leaders of fifty years ago," Boese said.

Dr. Shabazz also mentioned Black Lives Matter in his lecture and how they connect with the research he is conducting.

"Black Lives Matter and police shootings are deeply informing the scholarly and political work that I am doing," Dr. Shabazz said.

Dr. Shabazz is an associate professor at the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. He received his undergraduate in political science and philosophy from Minnesota State University, followed by a Master's

degree from Arizona State University and a doctorate from the University of California.

His book, *Spatializing Blackness: Architectures of Confinement and Black Masculinity in Chicago* focuses on how geography has shaped urban planning, housing policy, policing practices, gang formation, high incarceration rates, masculinity and health.

Dr. Shabazz's lecture covered a variety of topics that related back to geography. He started with the slave trade and how slave owners were able to use fear, intimidation, and isolation to keep slaves on a plantation.

"The plantation, that uneven colonial place of rule, drew its power from its ability to contain and to incapacitate Africans," Dr. Shabazz said.

Moving forward in time, Dr. Shabazz talked about black codes, the 13th Amendment and the rise of the carceral state in the United States.

"The 13th Amendment codified slavery," Dr. Shabazz said. "The institution that replaced slavery since 1865 has been the criminal justice system."

Dr. Shabazz finished his speech talking about the creation of hip-hop out of a need for people to express themselves. He recommended everyone watch *Twelve Years a Slave* and *Straight Outta Compton*. Dr. Shabazz also recommended two books, the first was *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

*"It is becoming clear to more and more people that work is still needed across the nation to fulfill goals set forth by civil rights leaders of fifty years ago."*

- Boese

His second recommendation was the book *Beloved* by Toni Morrison although in his speech he does give away a major spoiler for the book's ending.

Dr. Shabazz concluded his speech by calling attention to the human body as a place that has also contained by geography.

"Space and geography have always been at the center of struggles for racial justice," Dr. Shabazz said. "Our bodies are a place. They are more important than our homes, they are more important than our churches, mosques or synagogues. They are more important than our coffee shops because without a body, what else matters?"

Junior Janet Jennings, the Student co-chair of the President's Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion attended the lecture.

"I think it was very enlightening. He really broke down the structural problems that plague our society," Jennings said. "He was able to make several connections between race and geography. I think he did it in a way that interested everyone and included everyone, it was interesting and fun."

During the question and answer portion following his speech, Dr. Shabazz announced that he is working on a new book focusing on black migration to Minnesota between the first and second World War. In particular, focusing on how black musicians moved into the Minneapolis and St. Paul area.

Dr. Shabazz's lecture was free and open to the public. It can be found through the Gustavus website for anyone who wishes to watch it.



# GUSTIE *of the* WEEK

**Mathew Glaser**  
Managing Editor

In his senior year of high school Griffin Reed began working for the Eye Bank in his home town of Rochester, Minnesota as a procurement technician after taking an anatomy class in high school. Thus marks the beginning of his interest and fascination with all things medical.

"He's really big into anything medical. So if you tell him you had a surgery...he's so intrigued...he does this big gasp, puts his hands on the table, and is like 'Tell me all about it!'" - Marissa Haeny.

Griffin still works for the Eye Bank when he's back home in Rochester, and for the most part he's adjusted to removing eye-balls and corneas from the recently deceased.

"It was spooky. I almost passed out the first time, because I got an especially gory case. So then, after that I got the hang of it. So i got used to it." -Griffin Reed

Now Griffin is a senior Biology major looking to go to medical school in the fall of 2016. Besides classes and being actively engaged in research Griffin also finds the time to be involved with a number

of organizations on campus including Collegiate Fellows (CF), Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and tutoring in the Chemistry and Biology departments.

*"Griffin is one of the most genuine people who is truly interested in you as a person. He's someone you can always rely on even if you maybe haven't talked in a week, a month, or two months. He always has your back."* - Marissa Haeny

Talking about what motivates him in all the things he is involved with, Griffin pointed to his values. He highly prizes honesty in himself and others, especially when it's tough to be honest such as during conflict or when it comes to criticism.

He also prizes integrity and following through on what you say you are going to do and living out your values. Through his values he recognizes the

importance of his actions and how they impact others.

What really makes Griffin awesome though is that he doesn't just talk about his values, he lives them out. Talking to his friends, all noted that he was first and foremost a genuinely caring and engaging person as well as a very loyal and true friend.

"He's very thoughtful. He has a stack of thank you cards, and he makes sure to show appreciation and show thanks for what people do." - Scott Mulder

"Griffin is one of the most genuine people who is truly interested in you as a person... He's someone you can always rely on even if you maybe haven't talked in a week, a month, or two months. He always has your back." -Marissa Haeny

His personality and values translate into his work as a CF helping him to recognize that what he does has a direct impact on the quality of someone else's Gustavus experience, and this keeps him motivated to do his best in his role. Through CF-ing as well, he has come to know Charlie Potts, one of his role models.

Griffin looks up to Charlie because he is able to have fun with his work while still accomplishing a lot and doing good work for the community.

Overall, Griffin has been enormously successful in his time here at Gustavus. I asked him if he had any advice for anyone reading for their time at Gustavus, and he replied without hesitation "Find a good role model, right away...It doesn't have to be just one person. You can have multiple role models. If there is someone you think 'oh, academically i really want to be like them', but maybe they



Griffin Reed is a senior Biology major looking to go to medical school in the fall of 2016. Caroline Probst

don't exactly exemplify all the characteristics you want, you can pick and choose a little bit. That was super helpful for me at gustavus."

So if you find someone you think is cool like Griffin, don't be afraid to reach out. Whether it be a student like Griffin, or

administrator like Charlie Potts, there are plenty of cool Gusties who would be willing to mentor and be a role model to you.



One of Griffin's main involvements at Gustavus is in Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Caroline Probst



Griffin with one of his role models, Charlie Potts, the Director of Residential Life and Assistant Dean of Students in Residential Life. Caroline Probst

# Tales from Abroad

**Bryden Giving**  
Guest Writer

Hey there, fellow Gusties! I will be honest and admit that I am not sad about missing the freezing weather at Gustavus. I do miss you all, and I am really looking forward to seeing you kids in the Spring! But, what am I doing for my January term? I'm in Sweden! Why would I choose another cold place to be for my January term?

Gustavus has a wonderful scholarship known as the Wallenberg Intern Award, and with this award you do an internship in Sweden for a January term or a May term.

The scholarship pays for everything: your housing, transportation, flight tickets, and even a generous allowance for food. My Gustie peers, make sure to check this out because it's a remarkable opportunity to go to Sweden for free!

My internship is with a company known as Solhagagruppen, which is reputable company that creates a variety of tools and methods to help children and adults with special needs attain their autonomy, reach personal goals, and live better lives.

Specifically, I am researching and working hands on with these individuals, and am given the exciting (yet scary) task of creating new models and approaches Solhagagruppen can use to better their patients' lives.

My favorite part of this entire internship is having a multitude of chances to connect with these vulnerable persons. Often enough, many of these children are abandoned by their parents due to their parents realizing that their child has a mental diagnoses/special need and want nothing to do with them, which is extremely disheartening.

These children have a hard time connecting with others emotionally, and are having a hard time adapting to our ableist society. Bonding with these children and showing that they do have purpose makes every single difficult moment worth it. It's stressful and challenging, but also important work aiding these children.

*Gustavus has a wonderful scholarship known as the Wallenberg Intern Award, and with this award you do an internship in Sweden for a January term or a May term.*

Besides my internship, my month abroad offers me opportunities to travel. Just recently, I arrived back home in Stockholm from an adventurous weekend in Munich, Germany. My friend and photography mentor, So-



Stockholm, Sweden is the capital of Sweden and located on a number of Islands on Lake Malaren

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phia Mayrhofer, invited me to spend the weekend with her in her hometown of Munich.

Her photography skills are unmatched (seriously, she needs to photograph my future wedding) and her warm love for Munich is beautiful. She brought Katie Kemp (another Gustie interning in Sweden) and I to her favorite spots. We ate traditional German food, desserts, and drank delicious

German beer and wine.

The city of Munich appeared as a romantic, winter wonderland which allowed my inner photographer to go absolutely nuts. Besides showing us her favorite spots, she shared with me some spectacular knowledge on post-processing and other techniques that have enhanced my knowledge of photography.

Along with visiting Germany, I will have the opportunity to

visit my second home of Copenhagen, Denmark after I complete my work at a weekend special needs camp.

*I do miss you all, and I am really looking forward to seeing you kids in the Spring! But, what am I doing for my January term? I'm in Sweden!*

If only I could describe to you my excitement at having the chance to revisit Copenhagen I would. The opportunity to revisit my favorite spots, the exquisite castles and cafes, and to photograph the vibrant life of the Danes fuels me with such energy it warms me up immensely.

Along with revisiting Copenhagen, I will be meeting with Danish colleagues of mine and maybe surprise some of our Gustie pals that are now studying abroad in Copenhagen for the semester.

Combining my work with my passion of photography through-out this January term has given me a grand amount to be thankful, and has made lucid my potential for helping others and photography.

I am looking forward to seeing what I can do for Solhagagruppen, and what I am able to create to better the lives of children and adults that have special needs. I appreciate you reading this column and I will see you wonderful human beings in February! Stay warm!



Uppsala Cathedral is a cathedral dating back to the late 13th century currently controlled by the Lutheran Church of Sweden.

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# Paranormal Activity-The Snore Dimension

**Matthew Glaser**  
Managing Editor

The fifth and final installment of the *Paranormal Activity* series is, well, it's pretty normal. I myself haven't seen all the paranormal activity movies. The last one I watched was *Paranormal Activity 3* with my roommate freshman year, but it seems things haven't changed much.

This is not necessarily a bad thing, but it really isn't that great either. There is a story that all the movies work towards tying together and *Paranormal Activity-The Ghost Dimension* seems to wrap things up well enough.

By the end of the movie you will finally understand the cause behind all the spooky stuff from previous movies, but if you haven't seen any of the previous movies there is no need to worry.

*The Ghost Dimension* is capable of acting as a standalone movie. There are ties back to previous movies, but they're loose to say the least. At no point did I find myself wondering what was going on or feeling like I was missing information that might have been provided in other movies in the series.

This is the main flaw of *The Ghost Dimension* as a chapter in a greater story. The movie doesn't really relate in any strong way to the previous films.

If you pick up the one of the later books in the *Harry Potter*

series, you would likely find yourself enjoying the story itself but also run across parts that you wouldn't have the context for that the previous books provide. The greater story has a depth overall that requires multiple books or parts. *The Ghost Dimension* will not do this to you.

*If you are just interested in a good scare though, The Ghost Dimension may just be for you...The film does a good job of building suspense, and moves at a pace overall that isn't over-or underwhelming.*

If you are just interested in a decent scare though, *The Ghost Dimension* may be for you. Now, this movie certainly isn't the scariest I've seen, but it also wasn't plainly boring either. The film does a good job of building suspense, and moves at a pace overall that isn't over-or underwhelming.

It makes use of many of the tropes found in classical horror and thriller films, and it's pretty easy to tell when something spooky is about to happen. Even when you know that something is coming though, the movie delivers.

It'll make you jump if you let

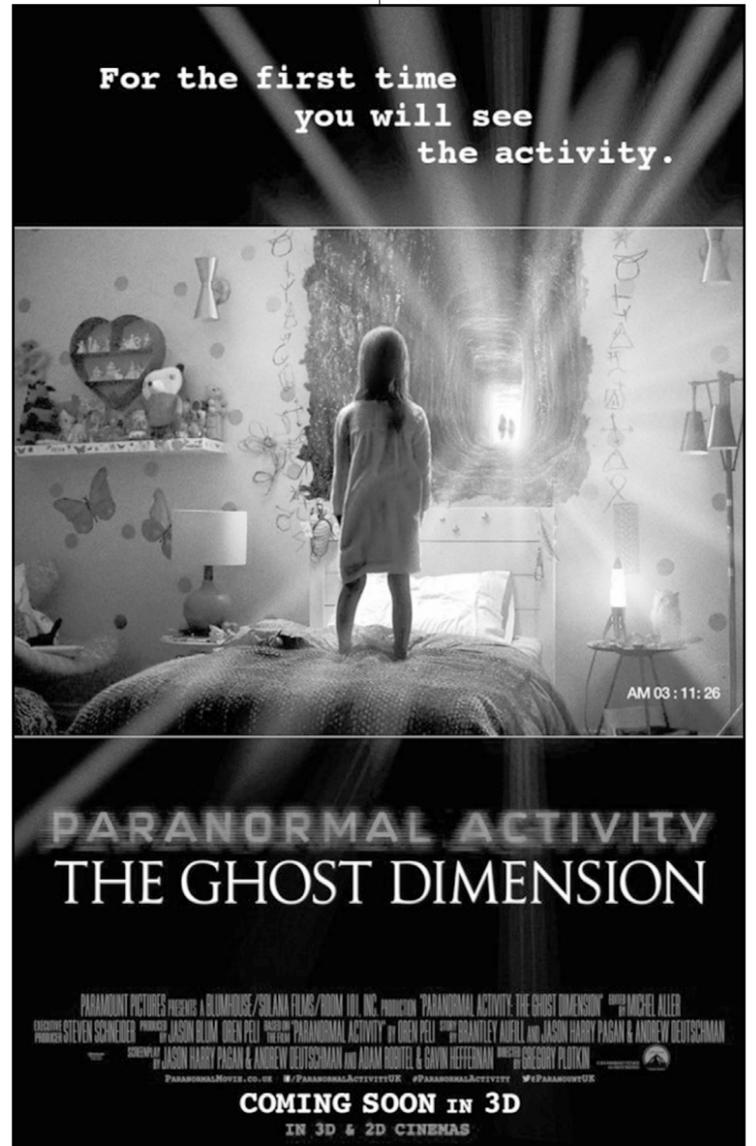
it. But if you're adamant about not allowing yourself to get scared or engaged in the film you will find it pretty easy to keep your distance.

The use of the handheld camera and hidden camera viewpoints is somewhat interesting, but if you've seen any of the previous movies it's gotten old by now. The special effects are decent for the budget and style of film it is, and so I have no complaints or praise there.

The dialogue is okay, and there is some mildly crass humor that lightens up the beginning of the film, but by the time things start to get serious the humorous dialogue ends, and I found myself paying less attention to the quality of the dialogue and more engrossed in observing everything that was going on and preparing myself for the scares.

Overall, *Paranormal Activity-The Ghost Dimension* is a decent stand alone film. If you haven't seen any of the others in the series, and want a taste then this is a good choice. It'll give you a decent scare if you let it.

Sadly though, it isn't just a standalone but the end of a five movie series. When this is taken into consideration, well, the movie seems pretty normal and not significantly different from its predecessors. All in all, this installment in the *Paranormal Activity* series is pretty normal.



*Paranormal Activity-The Ghost Dimension* is the fifth and final *Paranormal Activity* movie, released in the fall of 2015.

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Mikayla Kvittum-Barr  
Features Editor

Each year on December 31, millions of people gather together with friends and family to ring in the new year.

Beyond the celebration of finishing a year lies the anticipation of a fresh start, a new beginning, and the promise of possibility.

Self-improvement and renewal are two common themes entering the new year, commonly seen through the traditional New Year's resolutions in which a person makes a promise of improvement or renewal to themselves.

Dating back to ancient Babylon, the earliest recorded festivities in honor of the new year are nearly 4,000 years prior. At this time, the new year was celebrated on the one day a year where the days sunlight was equal to its darkness. This was celebrated

with a large 11-day religious festival known as Akitu.

Unlike the traditional calendar, this date was late in March. However, over the centuries, the calendar and sun fell out of sync and this method became ineffective.

Ultimately, emperor Julius Caesar introduced the new year beginning in the month of January. After consulting with skilled mathematicians and astronomers, he proposed the Julian calendar which most closely resembles the modern calendar used today.

January became the start of the new year partially due to its namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings who had the ability to both look back at the past and forward towards the future. Still today, January signifies both reflection and new beginnings and

is widely celebrated around the world.

Celebration has become increasingly popular in the modern years in the United States. The singing of the traditional song "Auld Lang Syne" is often used to welcome in the new year.

Perhaps the most iconic New Year's tradition is the ball dropping in New York City. Each year, up to a million people gather in Times Square to celebrate together on the stroke of midnight.

No matter the location, New Year's Eve has continued to be a celebratory night of good fortune, good will and good luck.

## Top Resolutions of 2016

1. More family time
2. Lose weight
3. Quit smoking
4. Get out of debt
5. Exercise more
6. Volunteer
7. Spend less, save more
8. Get more organized
9. Improve self
10. Learn something new

# Happy New Year