

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

Established 1891

February 26th, 2016

Issue 14

Minnesota's Secretary of State visits Steve Simon sits down with Gusties

Deven Kelley
News Editor

Secretary of State Steve Simon was on the road last week, making stops in Scott, Le Sueur, Blue Earth, Nicollet, Sibley, and McCleod Counties. He travelled to talk about business services, domestic violence prevention and to talk about the upcoming 2016 election to a variety of people, including students.

On Thursday February 18, Simon hit the road again making stops in St. Peter and the Mankato area. He discussed with local officials and college students his work to make it as easy as possible for all eligible Minnesotans to vote in 2016, as well as the importance of participating in the Precinct Caucuses on March 1.

"Our vote is our voice and all roads lead to the ballot box"

—Steve Simon

Simon stopped to talk with Mankato area business leaders at the Greater Mankato Growth's Public Affairs Forum Series Luncheon, as well as meet with local chambers in Shakopee and Gaylord.

These meetings were an opportunity to get feedback from local chambers and business leaders, as well as to talk about



Gusties sitting down with, Secretary of State, Steve Simon asking questions.

Caroline Probst

the work being done to help streamline service so business owners can spend more time running their small businesses and less time shuffling paperwork.

Additionally, Secretary Simon highlighted his partnership with the St. Cloud State University School of Public Affairs Research Institute to produce customized economic analyses, reviews and forecasts of Minnesota on a quarterly and regional basis.

Along with meeting Mankato business leaders, Secretary of State Steve Simon also made a stop at Gustavus to talk about the election and other issues with Gustavus students.

"This year is going to be a big election year in Minnesota and Secretary Simon has made increasing civic engagement amongst young people a top priority," Communications Director for Minnesota, Ryan Furlong said.

"It was a cool opportunity to sit down with Secretary of State Steve Simon and have a conversation about voting, particularly about the low turnout among young voters"

—Amy Leininger



Secretary of State Steve Simon sitting down with Gusties to talk.

Caroline Probst

In addition to discussing the 2016 election and Precinct Caucuses, Simon highlighted new voter outreach efforts and the importance of getting involved and voting.

Simon spoke to the Feminist Political Thought class about his role as the Secretary of the State of Minnesota. He explained how his job is to protect, defend, and strengthen the right to vote, and to make it as easy as possible for everyone eligible to vote do just that. Simon noted that Minnesota has one of the highest

voter turnouts in the country, and it's a result of our culture, which rewards civic participation of all kinds.

"Our vote is our voice and all roads lead to the ballot box," Secretary of State, Steve Simon said.

Many students asked Simon questions regarding issues and decisions he's made. One question posed was about the failed 2012 effort to implement a voter ID law in Minnesota and his motivation for implementing the law, which in turn, makes voting harder for the elderly, young, people of color, and lower-income voters, however, he declined to speculate on the motivations for such a law. Even so, Gusties enjoyed their time asking him questions.

"It was a cool opportunity to sit down with Secretary of State Steve Simon and have a conversation about voting, particularly about the low turnout among young voters. It was great to see that Gusties at the meeting didn't hold back when they had an opportunity to ask Simon questions. Luckily for him he seemed able to hold his own, and he gave us good information about the upcoming caucuses and the election process in general," Junior Political Science major Amy Leininger said.

Secretary of State Steve Simon also focused his meeting with the students on low voter turnout among young people. Only 20% of young people go to the polls. Commenting on the disillusionment that young people feel about the political system.

"Failure to vote isn't an act of rebellion, it's an act of surrender," Simon said.

He noted that 800,000 Minnesotans are eligible to vote, but don't do so. Simon also discussed the "no excuse" absentee ballot that he worked on implementing at the Capitol. It allows voters to register to vote online and also vote from home.

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

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

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Campus Safety Report

Monday, February 15

- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at the Lund Center.

- The Campus Safety Director was notified by a Campus Security Authority of a sexual assault that occurred in 2014.

Tuesday, February 16

- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at the Jackson Campus Center for an injured employee.

- Campus Safety responded to a suspected drug violation in North Hall. Campus Safety referred two students to the campus conduct system for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia and for a College policy violation for smoke detector tampering.

Wednesday, February 17

- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to Southwest Hall for a welfare check.

Thursday, February 18

- A student reported the theft of unattended personal belongings in the Lund Center.

Friday, February 19

- A Gustavus student reported the loss of campus keys.

- Collegiate Fellows responded to an alcohol violation in North Hall involving two students and three non-students. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for underage possession of alcohol, and one was referred for underage consumption. One student and one non-student were cited by the Saint Peter Police Department for underage consumption and the non-student was trespass from campus.

Saturday, February 20

- Campus Safety responded to a noise complaint in Pittman Hall involving six students.

- Campus Safety responded to a alcohol violation in Southwest Hall. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption and one student was referred for of an of-age alcohol violation.

- Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department responded to an alcohol violation in North Hall. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption and possession of alcohol. One non-student was trespass from campus.

- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to an alcohol violation in Norelius Hall involving two students. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption and possession of alcohol. One student was referred for failure to comply with a College official.

- One student was referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption and possession of alcohol on College grounds.

- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to an alcohol violation in Norelius Hall. One student was referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption and possession of alcohol.

Sunday, February 21

- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to a noise complaint in Norelius Hall involving three students and three non-students. Campus Safety referred three students to the campus conduct system for underage possession of alcohol and one student for underage consumption of alcohol. The St Peter Police department cited one student and one non-Gustavus student for underage consumption of alcohol.

- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to an alcohol violation in Sorenson Hall. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption of alcohol.

- Collegiate Fellows documented an of-age alcohol violation in Rundstrom Hall involving one student.

- Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm in North Hall. A pull station was activated by unknown person.

- Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm in Rundstrom Hall. A pull station was activated by unknown person.

- Campus Safety responded to suspicious activity on College grounds. Two students were later referred to the campus conduct system for tampering with fire equipment related to two prior fire alarm reports and one student was referred for an of-age alcohol violation and failure to comply with a College official.

- A student was reported missing from Southwest Hall. The student was located by the Saint Peter Police Department at an off campus location and transported back to campus.

- A student made an online report of damage to the Peterson House that occurred on Saturday, February 20, when a vehicle drove by and threw an orange at the window.

Note: Case dispositions are available online by viewing the daily crime log on the Campus Safety web page: <https://gustavus.edu/safety/incidents/index.php>

Tip of the Week:

Planning Spring Break? What You Need to Know About the Zika Virus

On February 1, 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Zika virus, a mosquito-transmitted disease, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern after a team of 18 experts and advisers "looked in particular at the strong association, in time and place, between infection with the Zika virus and a rise in detected cases of congenital malformations and neurological complications."

At this point in time, no travel restrictions have been imposed by either the WHO or the US State Department. However, more than 25 countries plus the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa have active Zika virus cases.

How Can I Stay Up-To-Date on Zika with Spring Break Around the Corner?

The US State Department (<http://www.state.gov/travel>) is an excellent resource for those planning to travel abroad. Here, visitors can find current travel warnings, enrollment for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (<https://step.state.gov/step>), and general travel tips. In addition, the CDC continues to update their Zika website regularly with facts sheets, resources, publications, and information on affected regions (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika>).

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Gustavus professor helps open museum exhibit

“Sacred Journeys” at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis

Deven Kelley
News Editor

Marcia J. Bunge, Professor of Religion and the Bernhardson Distinguished Chair of Lutheran Studies, was one of eight religious scholars invited to serve as a national advisor for a ground-breaking exhibit on world religions entitled “Sacred Journeys” held at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis.

The exhibit was created in collaboration with the National Geographic Society and funded by a 1 million dollar grant from the Lilly Endowment.

The exhibit highlights elements of the history, beliefs and practices of five major world religions.

“Sacred Journeys” features videos, photography, and some amazing artifacts, such as fragments from the Dead Sea Scrolls, a large stone from the Western Wall in Jerusalem, a throne that had been built for the Dalai Lama, a piece of fabric from the Kaaba in Mecca, and a Hindu statue of Ganesh.

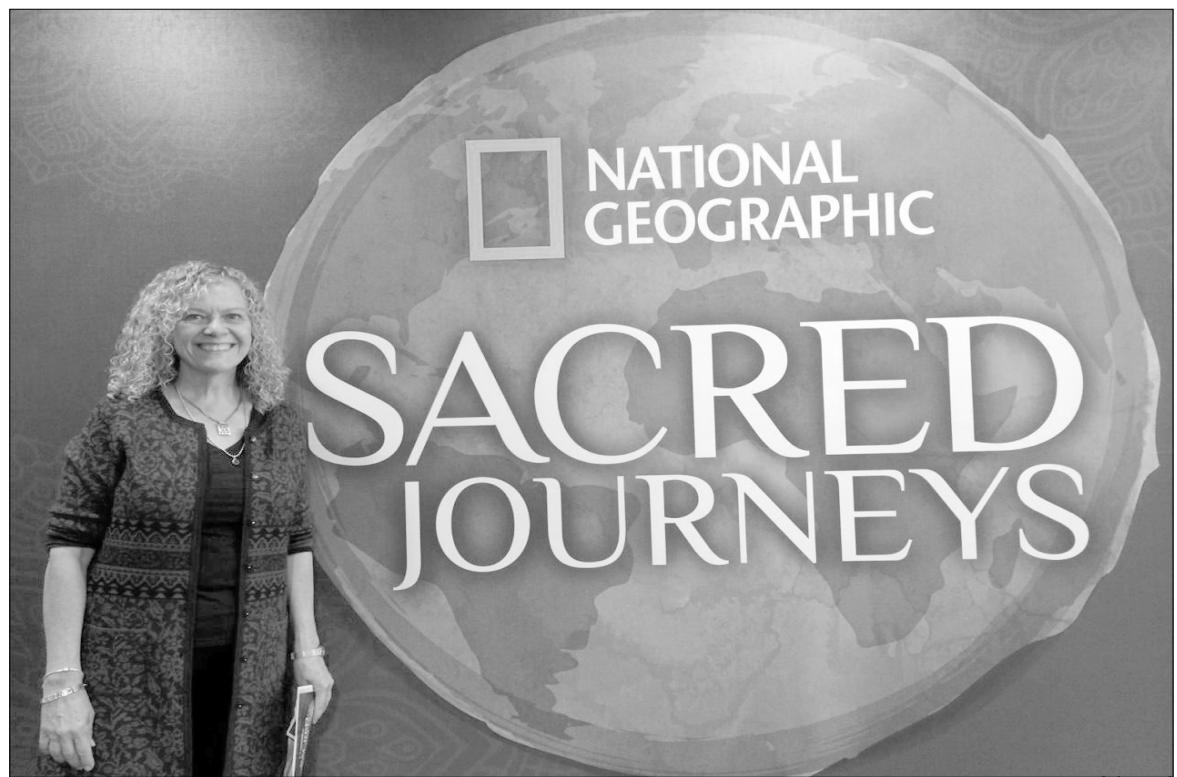
“I was invited to be one of the eight advisors for two primary

reasons: my academic training is in religion studies and theology and my current research focuses on religious understandings of children and childhood,” professor of religious studies, Marcia Bunge said.

“It is important for all of us to be religiously literate and to engage with people of other faiths, especially if we want to understand one another and to work together for the common good”

—Marcia Bunge

Over the past few years, Bunge has published a variety of books on numerous religious perspectives on children and obligations to them, editing/co-editing and contributing to four foundational volumes on the subject. Bunge has also spoken at a variety of events concerning



Gustavus professor Marcia Bunge at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis.

Submitted

religion and its associations with children.

At the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, there were a team of advisors and staff, who met

over the course of three years, beginning in 2009. The group was officially named the ‘Interdisciplinary Consultation on the Advisability and Feasibility of Creating Exhibits on World Religions at Children’s Museums.

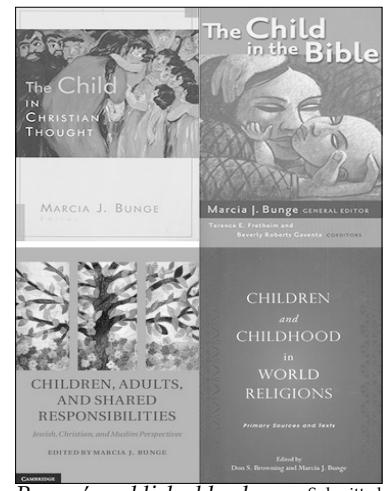
At the beginning of the project the team was asked to address a couple of questions in order to establish the foundation of how they were going to create the exhibit to be interactive, educational and fun for children and if it was even possible to accomplish.

“I thoroughly enjoyed working with the other interfaith advisors and the museum staff and contributing to this creative and groundbreaking project”

—Marcia Bunge

the most important question to ask was how could it engage children and their families.

Even though there was a lot to figure out, the team involved was highly creative and collaborative and the end product turned out stunning. The museum staff was a little afraid in terms of controversy that could potentially arise with an exhibit on religions especially at a Children’s museum. However, the exhibit was and still continues to be a success at the Children’s



Bunge's published books.

Museum in Indianapolis.

“The exhibit gives parents and children an opportunity to learn about diverse religions and to reflect on their own religious beliefs and practices,” Bunge said.

With all the success of the exhibit, PBS aired a special on it that gives an inside look along with interviews from some members of the team and staff that made it all possible.

“I thoroughly enjoyed working with the other interfaith advisors and the museum staff and contributing to this creative and groundbreaking project,” Bunge said.

Each advisor early on agreed that creating a religions exhibit for children would be a great idea for children to learn about world religions and expand their knowledge.

“Even though the United States is one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world, children and young people have few opportunities to learn about diverse religious practices and beliefs. It is important for all of us to be religiously literate and to engage with people of other faiths, especially if we want to understand one another and to work together for the common good,” Bunge said.

The hardest part about creating the exhibit was establishing what would go in the exhibit, how it would be arranged, and

The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis presents

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SACRED JOURNEYS

Produced in collaboration with the National Geographic Society, the exhibit is made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Submitted

Sacred Journeys, a children’s religion exhibit in Indianapolis at the Children’s Museum.

Dr. Shatki Butler hosts workshop at Gustavus

"Understanding White Culture as a 21st Century Leadership Skill"

Deven Kelley
News Writer

On February 16, Gustavus welcomed Dr. Shatki Butler to our campus' Alumni Hall. Dr. Butler is an esteemed facilitator, lecturer, trainer, and activist around race and social justice.

Dr. Shatki Butler is the founder and President of World Trust, which is an organization established for racial equity and utilizes methods such as films and seminars to educate thousands of people each year about racial justice and commit to positive change in the world.

"Film can be a powerful catalyst for deep learning, healing, and institutional change," Dr. Shatki Butler said.

Dr. Butler's visit was sponsored by the President's Office and all students, faculty and staff were encouraged to attend her workshop.

"Film can be a powerful catalyst for deep learning, healing, and institutional change"

—Dr. Shatki Butler

Dr. Butler's visit was set up earlier in the school year when her Outreach Advisor contacted the Diversity Center in the fall of 2015 to inform them she would be in Minnesota. Since Gustavus' Multicultural Peer Educators have used part of her video "Cracking the Codes" in their work, they were excited to

bring her to campus.

While she was here on campus, she met with numerous students and faculty to understand the racial environment at Gustavus and also to aid in how to move forward with race and social justice education.

"I'm excited that we now have a core group of people who can take this work forward to help us work toward racial justice on campus"

—Thia Cooper

There were two major events that took place, the afternoon workshop entitled "Understanding White Culture as a 21st Century Leadership Skill" and a smaller workshop in the evening entitled, "Train the Trainer."

The first workshop introduced the campus to culture as a whole and, in particular, white culture as the dominant culture.

"Her workshop was a good starting point for us because many of us, Caucasians in particular, don't notice our 'culture' because it fits with us as white people. Thus, it's harder to see why others feel they don't 'fit in'. It also leads us to normalize whiteness as 'good' and 'civilized' and to see other cultures as 'bad' or 'negative'. I think her workshop did a great job at teasing out many of these issues," Associate Professor in Religion and Culture, Thia Cooper said.



Dr. Shatki Butler, the founder and president of World Trust, hosted a workshop at Gustavus.

Submitted

The interactive workshop aimed to educate and help students understand how to build strategies that address socio-economic and racial barriers. It covered history, identity, and culture, as well as, internal components of bias, privilege, and internalized racism. It then covered external components consisting of interpersonal, institutional and structural relationships.

"I really enjoyed the work-

shop because it really opened my eyes to situations that I was blinded to before and taught me how to handle and approach sensitive, but important topics better," Senior Communication Studies major, Meredith Fahrenz said.

The smaller workshop that took place in the evening consisted of about 50 students, staff, administrators, and faculty. The "Train the Trainer" workshop demonstrated the technique

of strategic questioning and showed the attendees how to utilize it. The technique helps to teach people how to genuinely listen to one another and what they're saying, and then respond, which generates a more productive conversation overall.

"I'm excited that we now have a core group of people who can take this work forward to help us work toward racial justice on campus," Cooper said.



BREAKING NEWS

GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY IN SEARCH OF WRITERS, DUE TO DEMAND FOR NE

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GUSTIE of the WEEK

Jaurdyn Dobler
Staff Writer

Commonly, the Gustie of the Week is a junior or senior student simply because they've had a bit more time to develop their niche within the community. However, this week, sophomore



Solveig decided to join rugby in an effort to branch out.

Lindsey Taylor

Solveig Svendsen has challenged that archetype, proving that one doesn't have to be an upperclassman to make noticeable impacts.

"I came to Gustavus with the intention to dive right in. My dad always said 'close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades,' which I feel influenced me to always take on

important roles and see them through to the best of my ability," Solveig said.

During her first year, she immediately fulfilled that intention by confidently and successfully running for the position of ethics chair in Student Senate.

"When I first met Solveig, I was blown away with her passion and confidence. She was a first-year going against upperclassmen for an important position on Student Senate. She knew that it would be an uphill battle, but her confidence gained the trust of the Senators and I think she has beyond fulfilled every expectation," Senior Bobby Rasmussen said.

"I was not surprised to see her chosen for the Lucia court this past December. Solveig is a leader. She is focused and driven, unstoppable."

—Sue Gunness

Along with joining the Student Senate, Solveig also decided to take a risk and join something entirely foreign to her, so she became a part of the rugby team.

"I had never participated in a team sport until I came here and joined the rugby team. It's been hugely beneficial to experience the different dynamic as I was much more used to individual oriented activities. I've also developed wonderful friendships with the girls," Solveig said.

Those who've come to know her say that developing friend-



Solveig successfully ran for and earned the ethics chair in Student Senate as a First-year.

Lindsey Taylor

ships comes naturally to Solveig as her personality is one they were immediately drawn to.

"Solveig has a presence that makes you smile. She's goofy but on the ball and is an asset to whatever activity or organization she joins because she does not merely participate but contributes to it and makes it a better and more fun experience for others," Senior Jessica Gold said.

She's made such an impact within the community that this year she was even chosen for the Saint Lucia court, which she says has been one of her proudest moments at Gustavus.

"Solveig has a presence that makes you smile and she is an asset to whatever activity or organization she joins because she does not merely participate but contributes to it and makes it a better and more fun experience for others."

—Jessica Gold

"I was not surprised to see her chosen for the Lucia court this past December. Solveig



Solveig hopes to work to improve medicine in women's health.

Lindsey Taylor

is a leader. She is focused and driven, unstoppable. Yet she will have fun along her journey because of her ability to make work 'play,'" Visiting instructor in Theatre and Dance Sue Gunness said.

"I came to Gustavus with the intention to dive right in."

—Solveig

On top of everything, Solveig maintains a passion for learning. She's currently pursuing a major in Biology with a minor in Dance with the hope to one-day work toward improving medicine for women's health.

"It's an area that's disappointingly lacking within our nation. I want to help provide women the resources they need to understand and take care of their body," Solveig said.

While she still has a few more years at Gustavus, her peers and mentors can already say with confidence that Solveig will continue to help others in the future.

"I think Solveig will be successful in whatever she chooses to do and I have a feeling her measurement of success will not be the paycheck she receives; rather, I believe she will measure it by the fun she has and the people she helps," Rasmussen said.

Classics features reading of new play *Oedipus in Jail*



Oedipus in Jail was inspired by the playwrights' extensive work teaching in U.K. prisons.

Creative Commons

Kim Krulish
Staff Writer

Gustavus Adolphus College often brings both well known and up and coming speakers, presentations, plays, and more to campus.

The most recent emerging piece of work that is being presented at the college on March 3 is a reading of *Oedipus in Jail*, a play written by two British playwrights whose work in prisons in the U.K. inspired this play with a critical look at the justice system.

The play was brought to Gustavus by Professor Eric Dugdale of the Classics Department. He and Amy Seham, professor of Theatre and Dance and Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, are collaborating to present the reading. The play is being cast by invitation by Seham.

"Although set in the U.K.

and written by two British playwrights who have done extensive work teaching in U.K. prisons, the play is highly topical here in the U.S. given the fact that we have the highest incarceration numbers in the world," Dugdale said. "This play examines the impact that a father's absence can have on his son. *Oedipus in Jail* is the perfect liberal arts play, of interest to students of sociology, political science, psychology, theater and classics."

Michael Crowley and Julian Armistead, the playwrights, have spent years working in prisons in the U.K. In 2013, the two got in contact with the idea of adapting the Greek classic play and myth of Oedipus into a contemporary play based on

'Oedipus in Jail'
continued on page 7

Not just another Steve Jobs movie

Brady Lass
Staff Writer

The Oscars are coming up this Sunday, and fittingly enough, this weekend's movie has a few nominations under its belt.

It may not be up there for Best Picture, but Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress are still two highly talked about categories. Even if the Oscars are viewed as pretentious by many, one benefit is that it can draw attention to films that didn't attract a bigger audience when it was initially released.

This movie, based on the deceased Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, had a lot going against it that resulted in the product barely making back its budget. This includes the limited release, the competition at the October box office, and the fact that most of the audiences have moved past Steve Jobs no matter how many productions or documentaries are released about the man.

It's common knowledge that Jobs was a pioneer for the world of technology. Before this movie was released we've had four documentaries and one biographical film since 2011 (granted given how bad the Ashton Kutcher film was, I don't blame them for giving the biographical approach a second chance). But even with a talented director, writer, and cast, is this worth downloading on an iPad?

Steve Jobs is not a full biographical tale like the Kutcher version was. It's broken into three acts, all of which take place prior to a launch of a major Apple product from 1984 to 1998.

It focuses on Jobs' life as a businessman, innovator, and reluctant father, as well as his relationships with the people around him. It brings to attention his arguments with

Steve Wozniak, his paternity dispute with Chrisann Brennan over their daughter Lisa, and the pressure when it came to ensuring success of the newer products and how he affected the company.

Jobs shares a number of rants with his marketing executive Joanna Hoffman, showcasing the good and bad of Jobs' methods and personality.

In terms of biopics, it's a fresher take on the genre and takes advantage of Jobs' life and interactions with his peers (which they've done research for by actually talking with his colleagues) to paint the picture of an effective, but flawed man.

The problem with some biopics is that they try to showcase their protagonist as having no mistakes and anyone who didn't like them or disagreed were always the bad guys, making it easy to root for the hero.

It does vary based on the person being portrayed and what's ignored, but films like *Selma* show that you can still acknowledge a historical figure's flaws without damaging their legacy. Granted it was probably easier for these filmmakers because Steve's harsher behavior was well known to the public before and after his death.

I like the heavier focus on Steve's relationships as it defines him more than what he created. He can be tough and overly critical, but has a softer spot for certain characters.

Combine that with the director of *Slumdog Millionaire* and the writer of *The Social Network* and you've got a solid production.

Despite having some great talent in the directing and writing department, the actors are what ultimately make the movie.

How Michael Fassbender's name isn't box office gold yet eludes me. He's proven he has solid acting skills, and this is no exception. He's great at portray-

ing characters who can be soft, but are a ticking time bomb when things don't go his way, as evidenced by *X-Men* and *12 Years a Slave*.

As much as I love Fassbender, what really sealed the movie for me was Kate Winslet and Seth Rogen.

Winslet helps add a layer in an attempt to make Jobs more relatable, while Rogen's given some of the best lines in his arguments against Jobs' decisions. If I had a criticism, I think Rogen could have used more screen time, as I think his confrontations with Jobs put his work as a businessman and innovator to the test.

I actually wouldn't have minded if the movie was focused more on Rogen and Winslet to get a sense of how Jobs affected his coworkers. *Selma* didn't just focus on Martin Luther King, *Lincoln* didn't only focus on Lincoln. If they are going with this type of structure and not tell the full story, it could allow some storytelling to expand in other areas.

Steve Jobs has some solid acting, writing, and directing. It's not anything mindblowing or innovative, but it sets out what it wants to do, show what type of person Steve Jobs was and how he interacted with other people. I don't see Fassbender winning the Oscar for his performance, but that doesn't mean I didn't get a kick out of it.

Jobs' life has been easy to make a production about in the last couple of years not just from his contributions to technology, but because he was a hard man to work with. Granted the story has lost its impact from being told so many times in the last decade, but if this is the last one in a while, it went out on a pretty high note.



Michael Fassbender portrays both the critical and softer sides of Jobs.

Creative Commons

Tales from Abroad



Rachael spent two weeks in Havana and Matanzas, Cuba over J-term in a course focused on religion, culture, and identity.

Submitted

Rachael Manser
Variety Editor

How many people can say they have traveled to Cuba? I am so grateful to be able to say that I have, especially in light of the 2016 presidential election, the results of which will be pivotal in determining future U.S. relations with Cuba. I spent two weeks in the controversial country during J-term with a class called Cuba: Religion, Culture, and Identity.

I know how cliché it is to say as a college student that my time abroad was life-changing, but it truly was a transforming trip.

I entered the experience believing that I would find clarity concerning Cuba; however, I came back with more questions than answers. On top of my own questions, I have had so much trouble attempting to answer questions from my friends and family in a way that doesn't minimize my time abroad to a tourist vacation.

I received all the typical questions about the old cars, Communism, Fidel Castro, and rum. These are the expectations I had of Cuba before leaving too. I also thought I would be enjoying two sunny weeks away from January and had that expectation squashed immediately as we were greeted by a whole week of pouring rain. The weather was not at all what I was expecting, but neither was the rest of Cuba.

To think that any culture or country can be defined so easily is crazy, but especially for one that is still so young in its national ideas. Cuba is a complex and diverse society that cannot be summed up in a few words or a quick anecdote. Therefore, I'm not going to try.

I will try to convey why this experience was transforming for me. First and foremost, being in Cuba made me realize how biased the small amount of information we learn about Cuban society and history in school is. It's so difficult to become aware of the problems within a system when you are completely entrenched in it. It was only stepping outside of the United States that I realized how affected we are by all facets of our society.

The aspect that stood out most to me about American culture once I was outside of it is the adamant individualism. If you grow up in the United States, you're

taught to always 'march to the beat of your own drum,' to be independent, and to not rely on others for fulfillment.

These are the messages I built my identity around. Of course, they're not all bad – we need diverse and independent people to keep the world running. However, this mentality can also neglect the basic need we have as humans to connect and build deep relationships.

One of the activities we did while in Cuba is called an "open space" where a group of people come together for an open and meaningful dialogue. We had the pleasure of talking to many Cubans from different backgrounds and beliefs during our stay, but this provided an opportunity to get to know some of them on a deeper level.

There are many nuggets of wisdom that I took from this dialogue, but there is one that struck me then and has continued to make me think. A babalawo, a priest in the Afro-Cuban religion of Santería, said, "sharing is superior to fighting, but it's also more difficult."

This made me step back and reflect on the competitive society I live in. We are constantly fighting to be the best and stepping on people in the process. Success is great, but what if we stopped to get to know the people we were stepping on instead? It would make the journey a lot slower and more difficult, but we would get the opportunity to grow personally, rather than grow our wallets.

We can't develop personally if we don't fulfill our need for human connection. The only way we can thrive is through understanding one another by sharing our experiences and finding common ground rooted in our humanity. To develop and improve ourselves and our world is not an easy task, but it is a struggle worth pursuing, especially in a society hopelessly devoted to individualism.

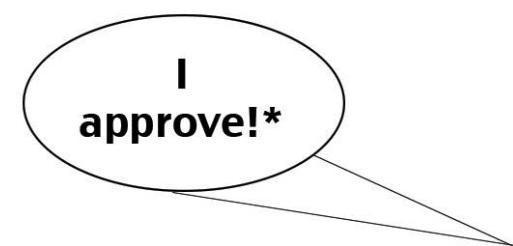
This isn't to say that Cuba is perfect; no country is. Nevertheless, Americans could stand to learn a lot from Cuba's dedication to humanity and betterment. I hope we are all given the chance.

Variety needs writers who are passionate about the arts and other venues of entertainment!

Any questions? Contact us: weekly@gac.edu

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***We like to think Kourtney would say this.**

'Oedipus in Jail' continued from page 6

the lives of male prisoners.

The cast includes a teacher character who is helping the prisoners get ready to re-enter the outside world.

The creators would ideally like to see *Oedipus in Jail* performed in a prison. It uses drama to attempt to cause inmates to ask questions of themselves and to prompt change.

"The play involves an attempt by the teacher and the prisoners themselves to break the cycle of criminality," Crowley said.

Will Riihiluoma, a Junior Physics major with a Classics minor, read the script and described it as intense and riveting. "It felt very real," Riihiluoma said. "No doubt a consequence of the playwrights' involvement with inmates in the process."

"This play does a powerful job of portraying how inescapable and unavoidable the process of imprisonment and seeking parole is, and how futile and difficult it can seem from the inside to ever get out on parole."

— Will Riihiluoma

The play calls for a five-person cast with a total of six characters. The single female actress portrays two characters. Crowley and Armistead recently appointed Olwen May as the director of the show. They are hoping to have it showing in the U.K. by the end of 2016.

"*Oedipus in Jail*, like Sophocles' play before it, challenges the great myth of the selfmade man who is the hero of his destiny," Dugdale said. "But you don't need to know the myth of Oedipus to enjoy it, though those who do will appreciate a fourth dimension to this play, in which the characters tread in the twisted footsteps of an ancient story."

The phrase "twisted" is used often throughout the play. The show was originally titled 'Twisted Up' but the playwrights chose to go with *Oedipus in Jail* because the term "Oedipus" draws in audience members. But despite the title, Oedipus is not mentioned once during the whole show.

Crowley and Armistead read through the script with the prisoners they were working with. The prisoners gave them feedback and helped them make the play more authentic.

"My favorite part of creating *Oedipus in Jail* was the prisoner interaction and their help," Crowley said. "I love to hear their contribution, they don't have any hesitation. I can't explain how great it was."

"I love theatre and adore classical adaptations, especially when there's a strong message to be relayed," Riihiluoma said. "This play does a powerful job of portraying how inescapable and unavoidable the process of imprisonment and seeking parole is, and how futile and difficult it can seem from the inside to ever get out on parole. I'm very excited to see it."

Free and open to the public, the reading will be presented on Thursday, March 3 at 3 p.m. in The Dive with a video chat and Q&A session with the playwrights afterward.