

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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Issue 15

Sexual Assault at Gustavus

Matthew Glaser
Managing Editor

On Feb. 2, the *Mankato Free Press* reported that a Gustavus man was being charged with sexual assault. On Feb. 11, the Gustavus Community was sent a sexual assault warning via email detailing that on Dec. 13, 2015 Campus Safety had been informed of an acquaintance rape that occurred in a residence hall, that a report had been made to the Saint Peter Police of the incident, and that the College was following its own written protocols for response.

The email also indicated that on Feb. 2 the College had learned from a news article the possibility of a second victim in the assault from Dec. 13, and on Feb. 9 this information was confirmed and the same perpetrator identified.

Some questions arose from all this: Why the delay between the sexual assault incident of Dec. 13 and the Gustavus community being informed? What is the College's written protocol for response? And in general, what is going on with sexual assault at Gustavus?

To start off, although the Gustavus community does not get weekly or monthly Campus Safety alerts or notifications regarding sexual assault, it still remains an ongoing issue at Gustavus.

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report released by the College for the 2014 calendar year showed two reports of rape and two reports of molestation.

More recently, the Campus Safety Crime Log from Sept. 1, 2015 to Jan. 31, 2016 showed nine reported cases of sexual assault with five of those incidents reported as occurring since the school year started.

"We'd really like for there to be a formal policy that students are aware of because it's one thing if [the administrators] have criteria for determining themselves [what is an ongoing threat], and that's great, however we would like to know what constitutes in their eyes an ongoing threat to us"

—Jessica Green

While all these incidents were officially reported to the school, much like the Dec. 13 incident, the Gustavus Community was left uninformed. Director of Campus Safety, Carol Brewer, stated that under the Clery Act the College is obligated to send timely warnings and notifications of sexual assault for the college community. There are three types of warnings: emergency notifications, timely warnings, and campus safety advisories. The email sent on Feb. 11 was a timely warning. Brewer elaborated on what constitutes a timely warning and



There's a correlation between the consumption of alcohol and the occurrence of sexual assaults.

Submitted

determines when one goes out.

"[A timely warning] is when it's a Clery classified crime that presents an ongoing serious threat to the community as a whole," Brewer said.

Brewer, along with Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, JoNes VanHecke, and Assistant Dean of Students, Megan Ruble, work to determine if a reported incident is a Clery Classified Crime, an ongoing threat, and a threat to the community as a whole. Brewer explained the complications of this task. Depending on the amount of information reported, they may not be able to effectively describe the threat in a safety alert to the community; even when there is sufficient raw information to report, they must also determine if there is an immediate threat to the whole Gustavus community.

In regards to the Dec. 13 incident, Brewer said, "When we evaluated the December one, I didn't really have a

whole lot of information from that, but then when I found out that there was a second victim, that makes it a little bit more like, could it be a predatory situation or not? That gave me a little bit more information about whether this person is a threat to others as well. Then I felt that, we did have something that was maybe more of a threat to the campus community than we initially thought."

Brewer wanted to stress that when deciding to send out a notification or alert, her main concern is determining whether or not this alert will improve safety and not just act as news. There aren't any strict guidelines for how to make the call when and if to send out an alert. This leaves the decision process to a certain extent subjective in nature.

There is no sheet with check boxes to mark off when or when not to send an alert out. This subjectivity and lack of real definitive guidelines or definitions for what constitutes a threat to the Gustavus

community is something that concerns students.

"We'd really like for there to be a formal policy that students are aware of because it's one thing if [the administrators] have criteria for determining themselves [what is an ongoing threat], and that's great, however we would like to know what constitutes in their eyes an ongoing threat to us," Sophomore Co-President of the Womyn's Awareness Center (WAC) Jessica Green said.

Students are not just frustrated that they do not know the Administrations guidelines, but they are also upset that they do not get a say in determining those guidelines.

"We should have input about what we as a community decide is an ongoing

'Sexual Assault at Gustavus'
continued on page 4

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Campus Safety Report

Monday, February 22

- Campus Safety received a report of damage to a College-owned vehicle that occurred while off campus.

- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to a suspected drug violation in

North Hall. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for underage possession of alcohol.

Tuesday, February 23

- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at the Kresge Dance Studio in the Schaefer Fine Arts Music Building.

- A Collegiate Fellow reported a suspected drug violation in Norelius Hall. There was no odor evidence remaining and no suspect present when Campus Safety arrived.

- A Collegiate Fellow responded to an anti-Semitic verbal bias incident in Norelius Hall involving one student.

Wednesday, February 24

- Campus Safety responded to Sorensen Hall for a report of a suspicious person. A student reported receiving unwanted communications from a non-student who was then seen in the building. The suspect was not located.

Thursday, February 25

- An online report was submitted of sexual orientation-related verbal bias comments being overheard in a classroom in Beck Hall on Wednesday the 24th.

- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to a suspected drug violation in North Hall. One student was referred to the campus conduct system for possession of paraphernalia.

Friday, February 26

- A Gustavus employee reported the theft of Gustavus property from the Library. It was later determined that no theft had occurred.

Saturday, February 27

- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation in College View Apartments. The Saint Peter Police Department issued citations to one non-Gustavus student and one Gustavus student for underage consumption of alcohol. Campus Safety referred three students to the campus conduct system for underage consumption of alcohol.

- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation in College View Apartments. Campus Safety referred one student to the campus conduct system for an underage consumption of alcohol violation.

- Campus Safety responded to a report of property damage at the Peterson House when a door was kicked. The St Peter Police Department arrested two non-students in connection with the incident.

Sunday, February 28

- Collegiate Fellows documented a College policy violation in Sorensen Hall for use of incense.

- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation in the International Center. Campus Safety referred two students to the campus conduct system for underage consumption.

- Campus Safety referred two students to the campus conduct system one for underage consumption of alcohol and one student for a 21 and over alcohol violation in Sohre Hall.

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:

PREVENT BICYCLE THEFT

Register your bicycle with Campus Safety! It's free, REQUIRED, and takes just a minute to help keep your bicycle safer and easier to recover. Register online at gustavus.edu/safety/permits and you'll receive a permit campus mail, or stop by the Campus Safety office to register (be sure to bring your serial number!).

Report any stolen bicycles to Campus Safety, 507-933-8888.

Invest in a quality bike lock or locks (unlock, 3/8" hex or quad chain, heavy padlock) and always lock your bicycle to a bike rack. Do not leave your bike unattended or unlocked even if it's, "just of a minute".

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Building Bridges is back and better than ever

'The War on Drugs' brought to you by Gusties

Mikayla Kvitem-Barr
Features Editor

March 5, 2016 will commemorate the 21st Building Bridges Conference, an entirely student run event which promotes social change, diversity and awareness. This year's conference is titled "Silver or Lead: The Wealth and Violence in the War on Drugs" and will focus on the effects of the massive spending on drug-fighting efforts by the United States Government and the role of United States Drug Policy on violence both nationally and internationally. Additional conversation includes the generation of wealth which expands beyond the actual exchange of money for drugs, but also the money generated from incarceration, legal fines, and sensationalized media.

Each year, the Building Bridges Conference is entirely student planned, organized and run, allowing students of all years to participate in the implementation of a highly revered Gustavus event. In addition to the work done by two student co-chairs, many other students play a part in organizing this auspicious event. It is not easy work, yet it is a rewarding experience for all who are involved.

"You don't get the same level of dedication out of most structured organizations that you sign up for," Senior Jesse Womack said.

Womack participated in Building Bridges last year and has continued to stay involved this year.

"It's a lot of work, but it's an amazing experience to be involved in a community where people come together to bring light to one issue" Sophomore Melissa Saholt said.

This year, Building Bridges aims to open minds and illicit conversation while challenging a sensitive, but very timely, societal issue. The War on Drugs is larger than any one of us and it is important to recognize how our country's structures and policies perpetuate a growing domestic and international issue.

"It's a lot of work, but it's an amazing experience to be involved in a community where people come together to bring light to one issue"

—Melissa Saholt

"We're taking a topic that we hear about all the time and we're unpacking it to look into how it's impacting our society

and different countries around the world," Sophomore Liza Long said.

"We're taking a topic that we hear about all the time and we're unpacking it to look into how it's impacting our society and different countries around the world"

—Liza Long

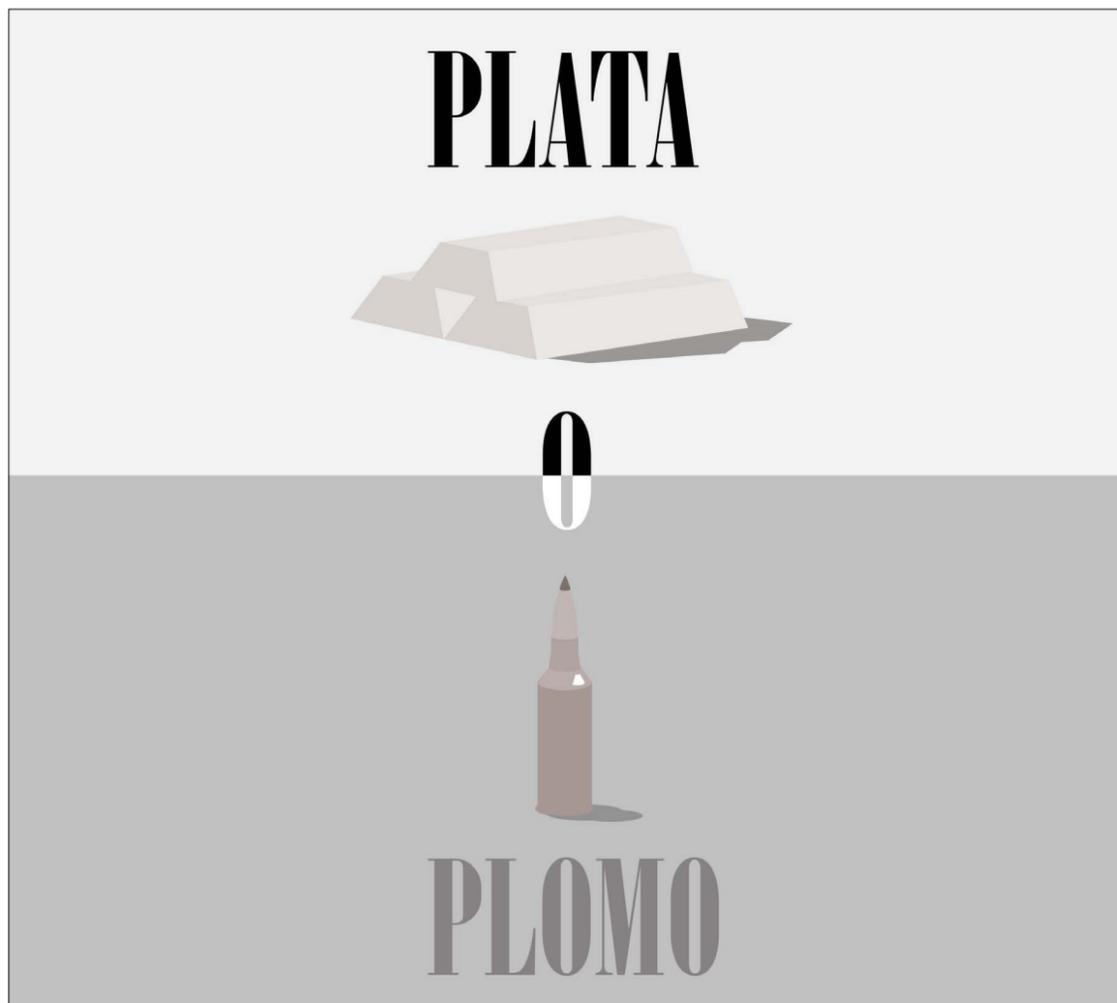
All who have contributed to Building Bridges are excited to see their work come together this Saturday and witness the groundwork being laid for future conversations and understanding.

"I'm hopeful that students will see and understand the larger problem, learn about how they can get involved, and be eager to create more progressive change," said Womack.

"I'm hopeful that students will see and understand the larger problem, learn about how they can get involved, and be eager to create more progressive change"

—Jesse Womack

Students will have the opportunity to hear from several



'Plato o Plomo' was an infamous quote from Pablo Escobar, a notorious cartel leader.

Cameron McDonald

prominent keynote speakers, including founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, Ethan Nadelmann and journalist Anabel Hernandez. There will also be several workshops allowing students to converse and share ideas.

"The conference is a great starting point for so many dialogues to be started," said Long.

After several pre-events including panels, workshops and

video showings, the conference will come together this Saturday for an in-depth exploration of the War on Drugs. Students, staff, faculty and family are encouraged to attend this eye-opening event.

"It's worth everybody's time to come be a part, if you're a passionate, thoughtful person who likes to share your passion and thoughts with others, chances are you're going to love Build-

ing Bridges," said Womack.

Each year, the Building Bridges conference continues to bring an exceptional level of intellectual caliber and call to action. This year should be no different with the 21st Building Bridges Conference, "Silver or Lead: The Wealth and Violence in the War on Drugs."

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'Sexual Assault on Campus' continued from page 1

threat. And that should be published and transparent," Senior Co-President of the WAC Leah Soule said.

This issue with transparency isn't just limited to the guidelines for campus alerts and timely warnings, but is something that students are concerned with overall in how the College handles sexual misconduct incidents, particularly when it comes to sanctioning.

Psychological studies major Mattilan "Matti" Martin shared her story about going through the sexual misconduct process at Gustavus as a victim.

"My experiences with the sexual misconduct board were abhorrent and embarrassing and horrible to deal with as a victim. . . what is going on at this school is not making students feel safe," Martin said.

Martin mentioned that the sexual misconduct board doesn't have strict guidelines to follow. Under the sanctioning section of the Gustie Guide there is a clause attached to the recommended sanctions that reads "The conduct body reserves the right to broaden or lessen any range of recommended sanctions in the case of serious mitigating circumstances or egregiously offensive behavior."

Near the end of my interview with Leah Soule and Green, they discussed how this clause allows for the conduct board to opt out of the Gustie Guide's recommended sanctions and makes it difficult for students to trust in and believe in the school. They both agreed that the most important change the process needs is clear mandatory minimum sanctions that are enforced including sanctions on extra-curriculars during investigation periods. Soule believes "a sanctioning guide with teeth" might help deter sexual misconduct from hap-

pening, and if not it would at least show that the school took sexual misconduct seriously.

Ruble explained why the Gustie Guide has clauses about sanctioning.

"The sanction ranges are wide because the level of offense is also on a lengthy continuum (cases such as sexual exploitation and non consensual sexual contact, for example, can vary widely in scope). This is probably why the criminal justice system has crimes like this in differing degrees. We only have one charge that encompasses so many different levels of violation."

"So when you're talking to a victim and he or she is saying 'this has been a horrible experience', I get that. I completely hear that. I don't think that we try to make it horrible. I think that this terrible thing that has happened to you is horrible, and every time you have to in this process relive that horrible thing, it's just gonna continue to be horrible"

—Jones VanHecke

Students have also expressed concern over why students under investigation for sexual misconduct policy are allowed to continue to participate in extracurricular activities.

"Currently some of the 'organizational activities' that you refer to can carry

academic credit, like varsity sports, and this further complicates a suspension from those. In our system a student is innocent until proven otherwise, so potentially long-term (2 months or so) suspensions for students who have not been found responsible for any violations is something we continue to think really carefully about. We have reached out to other colleges to ascertain best practices and so far have not found many colleges enacting these co-curricular suspensions while an investigation is occurring," Megan Ruble said.

Other complaints against the handling of sexual misconduct by the College focus on the challenges it presents to victims.

"One of the consistent things I hear from complainants and victim-survivors, is that it's a grind...I think it's exhausting [the process]. I think, I know it's emotional. I know that it's heartbreaking. So when you're talking to a victim and he or she is saying 'this has been a horrible experience' I get that. I completely hear that. I don't think that we try to make it horrible. I think that this terrible thing that has happened to you is horrible, and every time you have to in this process relive that horrible thing, it's just gonna continue to be horrible," VanHecke said.

The school receives guidance from the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), but they also have to take into account other federal and state laws, the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), Title IX, court precedents and law cases in order to determine the best practices regarding sexual misconduct cases. In the past few years national guidance has pushed colleges towards defaulting with the complainant, but recent court cases brought by the alleged are starting to push guidance back towards ensuring the rights of the accused.

"Ultimately, [I work] to try and know what those changing laws are, know what those changing guidelines are, and

try to drive us somewhere in the middle that protects everyone's rights, that says it's not okay to violate our sexual misconduct policy, and to try and land us on a place that keeps us between the lines," VanHecke said.

While the administrators must follow the laws and policies put in place by various governing powers they believe students can actively make the process better.

"I'm not really a person who is ever gonna say students can't do something. Philosophically I just don't ever believe that. . . we have a long history of students playing important roles in not only participating in processes by serving on student boards, but also just asking questions and thinking together, and engaging in conversation," VanHecke said.

Students like Leah Soule and Jessica Green have voiced their opinion to administrators before. They recognize that the school is in a tough position to determine what to do with all the guidance coming from OCR and changing laws, but do not feel things should stop with compliance.

"Our goal shouldn't just be complying with the law. It should be working towards a more transformative model of changing the culture on campus to holding people accountable, so that we shift what we believe here at Gustavus and that people know that that kind of behaviour isn't acceptable, and if they see it happening they intervene," Soule said.

It is clear from this investigation that the sexual misconduct procedures are not perfect, and there are many different opinions and policies to be considered. The one certainty about this process is the horrible, common truth that sexual assault is happening. And it's happening here in our own community.

Gustavus' \$8 million renovation

Deven Kelley
News Editor

By this time next year, A.H. Anderson Hall, will be a brand new building. The complete renovation of the building started this past January of 2016.

The new and improved Anderson Hall will be able to house multiple facets of Gustavus including: the Department of Education, the College's Academic Support Center and Writing Center, the John S. Kendall Center for Engaged Learning, and a new multi-faith center.

"As a Junior, I'm really excited I'll be able to experience the space in the new A.H. Anderson Hall for at least a semester before I graduate next spring"

—Danica Tiegs

In 1948, A.H. Anderson Hall opened its doors and originally was known as the Gustavus Library. However, it eventually took over the home for the social sciences in 1973 and inherited its A.H. Anderson Hall name. The overall project will take \$8 million to complete, which was donated in short-term commitments and out-right cash in order to achieve the timeline that was set for the project.

"Our education program has been a



The new renovated A.H. Anderson Hall will be complete next year February 2017.

Caroline Probst

hallmark of Gustavus excellence and service since the College's founding in 1862," Gustavus Adolphus' President Bergman said.

"This renovation will provide our students with a dynamic learning environment that is designed to produce exceptional K-12 educators," Bergman added.

The renovation, similar to that of Gustavus' Beck Academic Hall, will provide welcoming spaces for education, advising and faith exploration, as well as, a three story open gathering space to

encourage collaboration and group work for students and faculty. The Gustavus community including its students, faculty and staff are extremely excited for the opening of the new building.

The generous donation of \$8 million made the renovation and improvement of the education possible for the Gustavus students.

"As a Junior, I'm really excited I'll be able to experience the space in the new A.H. Anderson Hall for at least a semester before I graduate next spring," Junior Communication Studies and Business

Management major, Danica Tiegs said.

Even the faculty and staff are looking forward to the new building opening.

"The teaching spaces and technology will reflect best practices in K-12 schools and enable education majors to prepare for their teaching career in a more realistic setting," Professor and chair of the education department, Debra Pitton, said.

Overall, the new A.H. Anderson Hall will provide a better environment for students, faculty and staff with its collaborative, open and effective technology.

GUSTIE *of the* WEEK

Jaurdyn Dobler
Staff Writer

From her first year at Gustavus, Abby Nistler had her eye on the nursing program. When the time finally came to apply, she felt so nervous about the chance of being declined that she didn't tell anyone. Now a senior finishing up the last semester of her nursing major, she smiles at the memory of her acceptance into the program.

"I was running on a treadmill in Lund when I looked down at my phone and noticed the email. I tried to contain my excitement enough to finish the workout but my heart was beating so quickly that I couldn't so I got off the treadmill and called my mom," Abby said.

Since a young age, Abby's had a passion for helping others and she finds nursing the perfect medium to do so.

"I could help people through other means, but I've always thought one of the best ways I could keep people happy is to start with their health," Abby said.

Specifically, she hopes to

combine her passion for the environment with her passion for the people to inhabit it and pursue a career in public health.

"Abby integrates her deep passion for the environment into just about everything she does. She is concerned about the global public's health, and the health promotion that is needed regarding the environment we all live in," Professor and Chair in Nursing Barbara Zust said.

She's even integrated her environmental passion into her time here, playing a key role in certifying Gustavus as the first Fair Trade College in Minnesota.

"She strives to do her best and help others in and outside her education. She believes in 'making her life count' here on campus as well as out in the community," Senior Jessica Timmerman said.

On top of her nursing major and work with Fair Trade, Abby is an officer for the Gustavus Student Nurse's Association, a member of the Gustavus Book Club, Running Club, Kitchen Cabinet, Southwest Hall Council, and an employee for Tech Services.

"Abby is a leader in so many contexts that do not usually receive a lot of attention or praise. Her role in the community has plenty of responsibility and very little thanks but she has done really wonderful things for the campus," Senior Hayley Nemmers said.

When she finds free time, Abby also enjoys knitting, reading, and spending time with

friends. She believes in maintaining close relationships and always remaining open to building new ones.

"Over time I have found that Abby is much more than just a friendly person to chat with in passing. She is a dedicated person who speaks her mind, acts in ways that fit her value system, and remains loyal to the people and things she cares about," Nemmers said.

"She strives to do her best and help others in and outside her education. She believes in 'making her life count' here on campus as well as out in the community."

— Jessica Timmerman

While she hopes to savor every minute of her time left at Gustavus, in the future Abby envisions herself pursuing a career in public health.

"She's a natural leader who interacts well with her colleagues. In the future, I can see her doing whatever she puts her mind to. I envision her as part of a team in healthcare that is determined to make major changes to those in need," Instructor in Nursing Jessica Stadick said.



Abby leads in many overlooked areas within the community.

Lindsey Taylor



Abby hopes to combine her passions for helping others and the environment with a career in public health.

Lindsey Taylor



Abby helped to certify Gustavus as a Fair Trade college.

Lindsey Taylor

Spectre: the name's Bland, James Bland

Brady Lass
Staff Writer

No matter how many new blockbuster franchises pop up, one of the most enduring characters on the big screen is still Ian Fleming's James Bond.

Like the character himself, this franchise is hard to kill. Even if the movies are expensive, take years to make, and face some intense competition, they still make nearly a billion dollars each.

Spectre marks the fourth movie featuring Daniel Craig as the seductive spy and is rumored to be his last. Overall, barring *Quantum of Solace*, Craig has had a great run as Bond with hits like *Casino Royale* and *Skyfall* balancing the darker themes with the classic 007 action.

If this is to be his last, does *Spectre* allow Craig to go out with a bang, or is it too shaken and not stirred enough?

In this outing, Bond is pitted against the criminal organization Spectre (a terrorist group that was in the older films), led by Franz Oberhauser. He is joined by the daughter of Mr. White (an antagonist in the previous films) and sent on a wild chase to take the criminals down. Along the way he discovers how much the organization and its leader have interfered with both his recent missions and his personal life.

Meanwhile, the new M is in the middle of a power struggle with the head of the Joint Intelligence Service named C. C convinces Britain to form alongside eight other countries to form a global surveillance and intel-

ligance program and erase the '00' section. Though C's methods are effective, M, Q, and the other MI6 members debate on C's true nature and whether Bond should be allowed to go through with his mission.

The main issues of *Spectre* can be summed up with the villain. He certainly had the potential to be one of the best to date as they hired acclaimed actor Christoph Waltz to play him. However, he unfortunately isn't given enough scenes to demonstrate his talent, which is surprising given the movie's long run time of two and a half hours.

Normally this criticism would be minimal with most movies today, as Marvel films are able to get away with it constantly. But *Spectre* is set up to rely more on the villain and organization, which don't have as big of an impact or are as memorable as they should be.

They try to make the bad guys feel more important with some connections to the villains and plots of the other Craig Bond films, as if it was all leading up to it. The problem is they feel forced. Aside from *Casino Royale's* ending that tied into *Quantum of Solace*, the other Bond films didn't feel the need to build up to this one gigantic event.

The movies themselves were gigantic events, and the idea that a lot of it was orchestrated to screw with Bond feels like an afterthought.

There's also a twist when it comes to Oberhauser's true identity that results in yet another forced connection (if you know your Bond lore) and a weak villain motivation.

The C subplot does allow

more screentime for Bond's associates like Ralph Fiennes' M. It doesn't help that it borrows the same premise used in *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation* and *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* of how a major governmental spy organization gets duped from the inside.

Unfortunately, there's little to comment on the plot besides that, aside from an underdeveloped love interest and a lot of boring lecture scenes.

Thankfully, they put a lot of money into this movie for a reason. Even if the action and setpieces aren't as memorable as *Casino Royale* or *Skyfall*, they still get the job done.

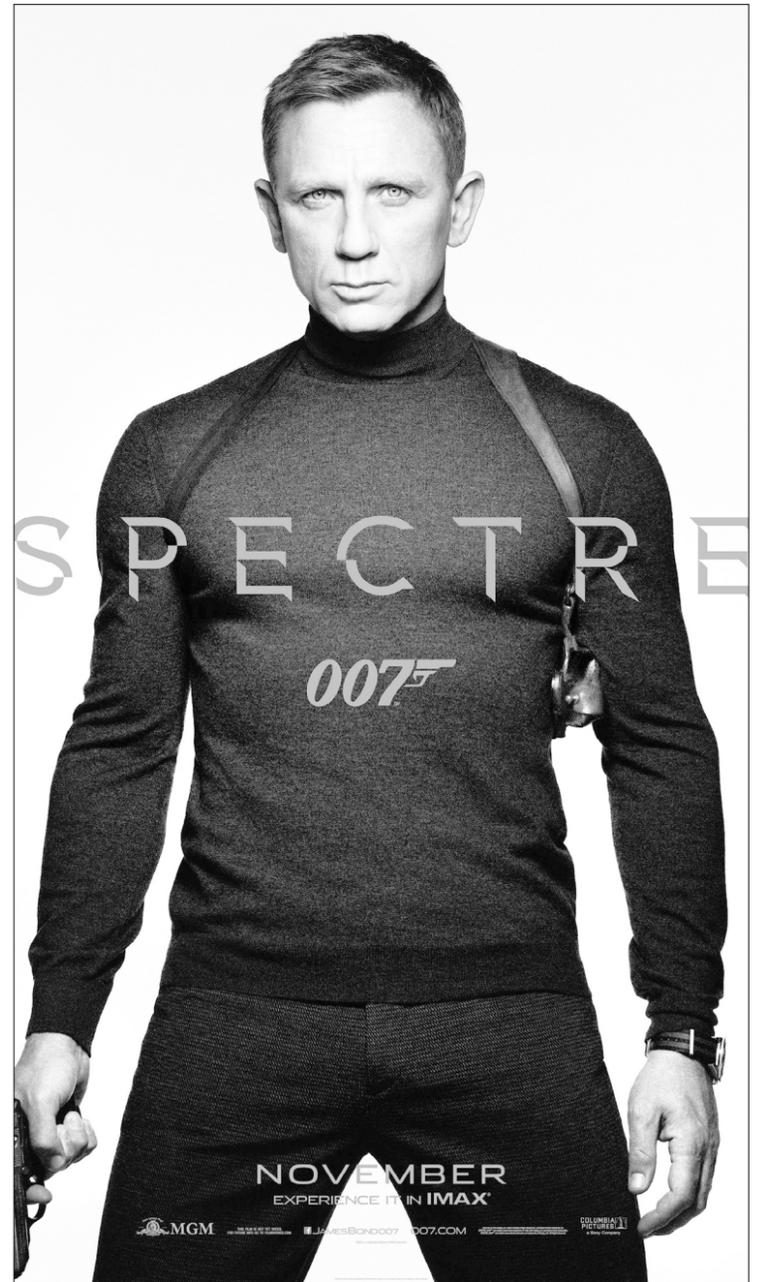
Special mention is reserved for the opening scene where Bond stops a bombing in Mexico City on Day of the Dead. Had the movie's plot and action been more like that scene, I would be even more enthusiastic about this film.

The actors themselves do a fine job with the roles they're given, particularly Craig, Fiennes, and Whishaw as the iconic MI6 team.

Unfortunately, the writing on this wall of text says that *Spectre* is a boring Bond mess.

If you wanna go for your fix of action and Daniel Craig goodness, you'll get it. But if you want a Bond film with memorable action set pieces and decent villains that didn't require a number of forced connections with the past Craig films or the originals, this might not cut it.

It's not as bad as *Quantum of Solace*, but that's not saying much.



Spectre is rumored to be Daniel Craig's last Bond film.

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Submerge yourself in paintings of a natural world

Hillstrom features Gustavus Professor's artwork

Emily Knutson
Copy Editor

The Hillstrom Museum is currently displaying two exhibits, one of which is *Submerge, Recent Paintings* by Betsy Ruth Byers.

Byers joined the Art and Art History department as a faculty artist in 2011 after she received an MFA degree in painting from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Byer's paintings in the exhibition were made possible through the generous support of the Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant and the Research, Scholarship and Creativity Grant.

"I hope my work is able to engage the viewer's senses and transport them in space and time," Byers said.

Her exhibition is a mixture of oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings.

"My studio practice explores the engagement of the body's senses with the surrounding environment. I am compelled to make work that focuses on wilderness experiences due to my growing fear over our disconnectedness to the natural world," Byers said. "I find that I repeatedly return to water as the way to understand and to contextualize my presence in our hectic and hyper-paced world."

Byers grew up in Northern Minnesota. The influence of years spent growing up around lakes is evident in her work. The paintings in *Submerge* are inspired by Lakes Superior's surface, islands, rocks and shoreline. The title of her exhibit can be traced back to water as well.

"The act of submerging indicates a willingness to let go and to be consumed by something larger than oneself. Painting requires a similar fearlessness to the act of diving under the surface," Byers said.

One of the works of art on display is "Upheaval", which was created from a photograph of the arches below Devil's Island that Byers took during her stay at the Apostle Islands.

"The work is meant to create multiple experiences of the movement of water, both falling down and receding into the

darker void/space in the background. I was interested in playing with how making a painting could reflect the action of erosion. I wanted to evoke the sound of water dripping," Byers said. "The painting was created through multiple layers of oil paint, originally allowing the linseed oil to push the material to run down the canvas. Later, I worked back into the painting to create a stronger, more solid area at the top of the painting, and a reflective surface at the bottom."

"I am compelled to make work that focuses on wilderness experiences due to my growing fear over our disconnectedness to the natural world."

—Betsy Byers

Byers teaches at Gustavus and encourages aspiring artists to dedicate time for their work.

"Carve out the time for making your art every week. Being an artist is difficult, but extremely rewarding. It requires a lot of hard work and persistence. It also demands taking risks and being open to criticism. Don't be afraid to show others your work and be mindful of the privilege that making art offers you," Byers said.

Two students who have had Byers in class are Senior Art Studio majors Mia Cannon and Lauren Schiltz.

"Out of all the professors I've had at Gustavus over the past four years, Betsy is one of the best and most influential. Betsy uses her classes to not only increase a student's understanding of their own artistic style but to grow their perspective on life. Her encouragement to take risks has impacted me the most when it comes to producing art. Betsy has allowed me to experiment and to attempt concepts that even she was skeptical would work. To me, that marks the true quality of an educator. One that supports, not limits, the passion of her



This piece titled "Upheaval" was inspired by the arches below Devil's Island.

Caroline Probst

students," Cannon said.

Schiltz agreed that Byers made her a better artist than she was before.

"Betsy has pushed me to make pieces I never thought were possible. If freshman me were to see the pieces senior me has created, I would never believe they were mine. Betsy has pushed me to go bigger and bolder, while still remaining true to my personality and style," Schiltz said. "Ultimately, Betsy doesn't let you go half way; she has pushed me when I thought I couldn't stretch any further, but I'm

much better for it and I owe her a lot."

Byers is a great representation of the faculty at Gustavus. She is a success in her own field who inspires her students.

"Betsy's art and teaching have completely changed my understanding and appreciation of abstract art. She's fun and so enthusiastic that you can't help but smile with her. She makes you feel like you can conquer the world," Schiltz said.

Byers touches the lives of her students by guiding them to discover who they are as an artist and becoming the best they can be.

"Betsy's art and teaching have completely changed my understanding and appreciation of abstract art."

—Lauren Schiltz

"Betsy has the ability to empower her students unlike anything I've experienced before. Her support and confidence in who they are as individuals and their potential as artists never wavers. Her genuine, down-to-earth, caring personality builds a high level of trust," Cannon said. "Whenever I meet someone who has not fulfilled their ART credit, I always tell them to take it with Betsy Byers. It brings tears to my eyes when I think about not being in class with her. I will graduate with my life changed because of who she is as an individual and the lessons I have learned from her passion as an educator."

The museum is free of charge and the artwork is on display from Feb. 15 to Apr. 24. There is a brochure for the exhibit and many of Byer's pieces are available for sale.



Byer's dedication in creating and showing her own artwork inspires her students to be bold and persist in their own artistic visions.

Caroline Probst

SILVER OR LEAD



Wealth and Violence in the War on Drugs

Mikayla Kvittum-Barr
Features Editor

The 21st annual Building Bridges Conference will take place this Saturday, March 5 at 9:00 a.m. Students have been working tirelessly to prepare for this event.

"Everyone involved in the conference has given their all for the last year. It's hard to believe the day is finally here," Sophomore Melissa Saholt said.

Each year, the Building Bridges Conference discusses a relevant social issue through a day of keynote speakers, workshops, performances, and interactive pieces.

"Everyone involved in the conference has given their all for the last year. It's hard to believe the day is finally here."

- Melissa Saholt

This year's conference will focus on the War on Drugs, diving deeper into the effects of the United States Drug Policy on domestic and international violence. Additionally, the conference will address the exorbitant government funds allocated each year to the fight against the War on Drugs. Conference goers will also

have the opportunity to hear from several prominent speakers including Ethan Nadelmann, Anabel Hernández, Doris Marie Provine and Special Agent Matthew Fogg.

Ethan Nadelmann is the founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance. This organization works to promote alternatives to the War on Drugs. As a key player in many major drug policy reforms in the US, Nadelmann has had extensive up-close experience with the fight against the War on Drugs.

The audience will also hear from Anabel Hernández, a Mexican journalist and author of many pieces on political corruption, drug cartels, and sexual exploitation.

Doris Marie Provine will lead several workshops. Provine will discuss the impact of the United States Drug Policy on underprivileged minority communities.

Workshops will also be led by ex-DEA Special Agent Matthew Fogg. Fogg also holds the positions of EEO Director for Federally Employed Women's Legal & Education Fund, Inc.; the Executive Director of the Redstone Area Minority Employees Association; and a Board member for Amnesty International USA. He is also a

Deputy United States Marshal and a highly decorated federal law officer.

"The conference is sure to be excellent, especially with the high caliber of keynote and workshop speakers who will bring fresh insight and personal experience," Junior Alex Nelson said.

Students will also see a performance by "I Am, We Are," a student-led theatrical performance organization dedicated to creating a more socially aware community.

"The conference is sure to be excellent, especially with the high caliber of keynote and workshop speakers who will bring fresh insight and personal experience."

- Alex Nelson

"I Am, We Are" never fails to deliver an incredibly powerful and moving performance," Sophomore Walker Pearson said.

With an excellent assortment of speakers, performances and panelists, the Building Bridges Conference is sure to be an auspicious day.

Building Bridges Conference Schedule

Christ Chapel

- 8:30 a.m.
- 9:00 a.m.
- 9:15 a.m.
- 10:15 a.m.
- 10:40 a.m.
- 11:30 p.m.

Registration

Opening remarks by Co-Chairs

Keynote Address: Ethan Nadelmann

"I Am, We Are" Performance

Keynote Address: Anabel Hernández

Lunch Break

Alumni Hall

- 1:00 p.m.

Speaker Panel

Beck Hall

- 2:00 p.m.
- 3:00 p.m.
- 4:00 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m.

Workshop Session and Interpretive Walkthrough

"I'm hoping that this topic introduces a new dimension to a widely discussed and socially relevant issue."

-Senior Awushie Fayose, Building Bridges Co-Chair