

Quit Major-Shaming Me



Emma Schmidtke
Opinion Columnist

You want to major in that?" "But what can you actually do with that?" "You know you're gonna be poor, right?" If you've heard any of the following phrases from family, friends, extended relatives, or little old church ladies, you are victim of major-shaming.

No, not major shaming (though it can feel that way after three hours of smiling and gritting your teeth through a grad party), I'm talking about the shock and disapproval that stems from telling any casual acquaintance you're majoring in Art History, Anthropology, or basically any of the humanities.

I'm not so much bothered by the, "How are you going to pay your student loans with that?" crowd because, let's be honest, nobody knows how they're going to pay off their loans.

The people who piss me off the most are the ones who assume some sort of moral superiority over me because I would dare to waste my life and my money on such a frivolous pur-



The tradition of liberal arts education traces its roots back to Ancient Greece.

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suit as English; the people who turn expectantly to my family as if they're all going to groan in agony over my dismal future.

Because guess what, adult-whose-business-degree-automatically-makes-you-smarter-than-me? This idiotic English major goes to a liberal arts college that teaches its students

the value of research. Turns out my knowledge of the techniques of modern poetry doesn't leave me as destitute as everyone thinks I am.

Yes, I'm at an obvious disadvantage compared to Engineering majors (I mean who isn't? Those geniuses can cook a pizza without an oven, in their dorm

rooms). But the actual employment rates aren't as obvious as one might assume. A study conducted by Georgetown reveals that unemployment rates for Liberal Arts and Humanities majors are relatively higher because their graduates spread out among multiple industries, meaning multiple areas subject to economic downturn, as opposed to single professions.

When one chooses a major specific to a profession, however, they take a gamble on those numbers, as the current economy's preferences rise (as with Engineering) and fall (as with Architecture), hardly the job security these two generally respected majors promise.

Majors that appear safe for the moment can be deceiving as well. According to CBS News, five of the 25 least employable majors are in the field of psychology, which is also the fifth most popular major. Try and wrap your psyche around that.

Nor does a wide gap exist between most economics degrees and the humanities. English majors with experience have a 6.2% employment rate, as apposed to 5.4% in Business Economics. Interest and talent seem terrible to waste on less than a percentage of increased employability. Even the infamous Art History major only has an 8.8% unemployment rate, compared to the national average of 5.1%.

Let's any first-years should clutch this paper, hands shaking because nothing is certain or sacred in their education anymore, I have one single piece of advice for planning your future: Talk to your professors.

Don't listen to some adult who doesn't even know what

the study of linguistics is. Your professors know the field, know what one needs to get ahead. Academics, you'll find, are much more collaborative than they are competitive, and recruiting more interested, driven people into their field will boost their studies as a whole.

Even a risky major is not a ramen-noodles-till-death-sentence. With a few exceptions, unemployment rates dramatically decrease with increases in experience and further education. So how do you become more hireable in the field you love? You continue to pursue the field you love.

So go ahead, adults of my hometown and surrounding suburbs. Disparage my major, but so help me, I will intellectually combat you in my expensive liberal arts school's newspaper, which you will probably never read. I'm still working on my master revenge plot.

I'm making all this up as I go, like everyone else who's ever been nineteen and making "real world" choices for the first time. Despite all the debt and uncertainty we face, I want to call on you, fellow Gusties, to pursue your passion and avoid shaming others for theirs. Finding something you love enough to sacrifice for is a rarity in this world and that needs to be celebrated on our campus.

Besides, our generation's all going to end up living with our parents anyway.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Getting out of class early because your professor doesn't care to talk at you for a full two hours



The First full week is over and you aren't dead yet...



Putting your name on what seemed like a few sheets at the involvement fair and receiving 30 emails the next day. Time to ask to be removed from all those aliases.

Why Not to Go Greek



Logan Boese
Opinion Columnist

Greek recruitment season is upon us once again. Picture an opportunity to look around for a group of people who may share some of your values, have a good time, and work to encourage growth and service in our community. Throughout these next couple of weeks you will hear reason upon reason for why you should “Go Greek!” Here are a few additional ones you need to hear as well, that maybe recruitment chairs are not telling you.

Don’t go Greek if you want an easy way to make friends. Fraternal and sororal bonds are something that take time and require effort. You should not just expect to show up on day one and be best friends with everyone, or even like everyone. The bonding that comes through putting on events, attending educationals, and going through pledging take a level of personal commitment that you need to be prepared to give. You



Greek Organizations meet every week in the Inter-Greek Senate which is kind of like the Parthenon. Creative Commons

are not paying for a service to buy friends. Individuals who are there just for the friends and nothing else can come across as shallow and not truly committed to the mission of Greek Life.

Don’t go Greek if you just want to party. This follows along the lines of only doing it for friends. Honestly though, if you want the social aspect on Friday night, but don’t want to wake up in the morning for the mandatory educational event at 9AM you’re going to find that you won’t like it too much. There is nothing wrong with wanting a group of friends who

you can feel comfortable with and feel as though you can hang out with on a weekend. Your brothers/sisters are not just there for you on the weekends though, they are a part of your weekly life as well.

Don’t go Greek if you hate being told what to do. There are requirements, standards, mandatory events, and so many more things expected of you as a member of the Greek Community. You are expected to hold yourself to a higher standard than others. Your entire life will be lived under the “fishbowl” of public judgement and specula-

tion. Your actions automatically are related to your group and to the entire Greek Community as a whole. You will live and breath educationals, service events, philanthropies, and fundraisers. You cannot just show up on Friday and Saturday night, but not be present for the work that goes on Sunday-Thursday. Your chapter executives will expect a lot from you, and in turn you will gain a lot as well.

But here’s a secret as well... You can do it! If you enjoy a challenge, supportive environments, and people who hold values as a collective you will

fit into Greek Life. People will comment on how they tend to see many student leaders who are additionally Greeks. It is by no accident that Student Senate is comprised of a vast majority of those in Greek Life. Or that national politicians overwhelmingly have a background as a fraternity man or sorority woman. Greeks rise to the top as leaders because they understand commitment, dedication, and service.

You will have a good time and you will have the opportunity to make lifelong friends as well. My advice to you is to make sure to go all in. If you are accepted into a fraternity or sorority this is your opportunity to make an impact on this community and your life. That is not to say that you cannot do this elsewhere, but Greek Life is unique. You would be hard pressed to find a group of people more supportive or dedicated to helping you grow as an individual.

Greek Life at Gustavus is unique and is also open to those who put in the time and energy to do their research and learn. My advice, visit with multiple groups, attend multiple recruiting events, and bid more than one group. Each group is different and these differences are important to their success as well. The Inter-Greek Senate is sponsoring a recruitment information night on Monday the 21st. Look for more information about this event and gain the knowledge you need to make an informed choice.

Best of Luck!

Your Vote and Money Don’t Matter



Matthew Glaser
Opinion Editor

Your vote doesn’t really matter. If that thought has ever passed through your mind then you’ve experienced voter apathy, and I don’t blame you. It can be hard to feel like your one vote matters, especially when your candidate loses.

You may have been told that in all reality your vote actually does not matter in comparison to your money, but is that really the case? I contend that what really matters isn’t your vote or money, but the conversations and campaigning you do among friends, family, and peers.

First, to say your vote doesn’t matter at all is extremely misleading. Your vote goes towards your state’s vote in the Electoral College, so while you may not be directly voting for your can-

didate, your vote is counting towards your state’s vote for who will be president. Your vote has an impact, albeit a small one.

For this reason it can feel like your vote isn’t really doing much work. This is why some suggest that what you should be doing, if you really want to participate in the political system, is donate money to a candidate’s campaign.

Looking at the past three elections, the candidate who won was also the candidate who had raised the most funds for their campaign. This gives the impression that it is money that really carries power and not votes.

To a certain extent, this is the case. Large funds allow candidates to advertise and campaign to larger audiences, and to promote themselves over other candidates. Ultimately it is who gets votes that will win, but if money can buy votes than real power comes with money.

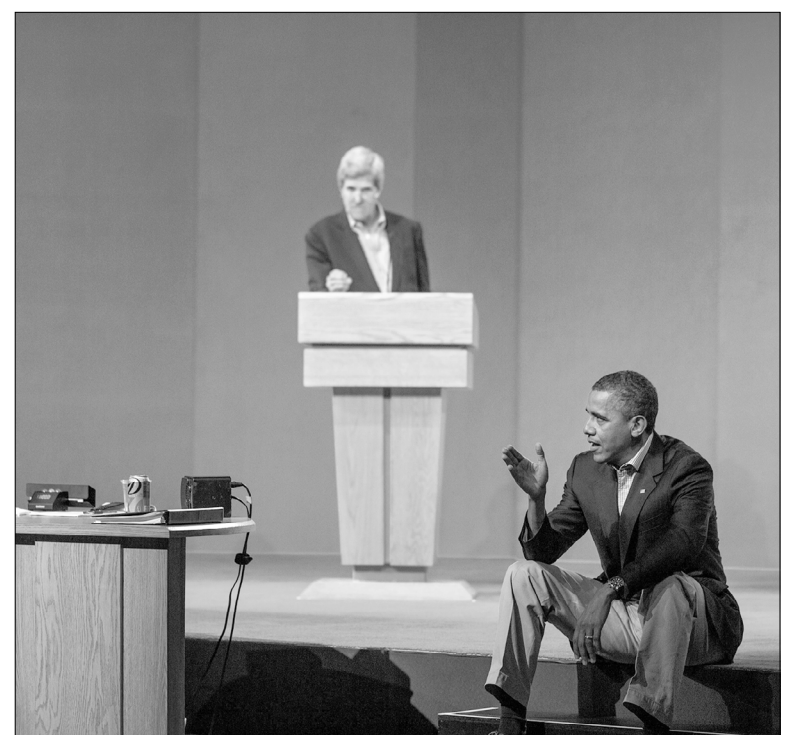
Jumping to the conclusion that money runs things may be putting the cart before the horse though. Does money fuel popularity and thus win over votes? Or does popularity win over money which is reflected in a winning campaign?

And if it’s the first case, is it really the money doing the work of getting votes in the first place? No, it’s the advertising and other ways the money is spent on services that win people over. If it’s the second case, still then popularity is gained somehow else besides money.

Which leads to my last point; if all you care about when it comes to politics is how much your vote matters, then you’re really missing the point. If you want to have an impact on who becomes president start talking to your peers and others.

Take the time to research candidates, have conversations with friends, family, and peers about them, and vote. If your candidate loses it still sucks, but I guarantee you if you commit the time to these conversations and process you won’t be apathetic, because you will have gained something.

You’ll have gained meaningful conversations with others. You’ll have gained knowledge of our political system, and a better understanding of what it means to be a citizen. You’ll have gained life experience. Partaking in political discourse also means you’re impacting and influencing others and their



The spectacle of Presidential Debates. Creative Commons

vote as well, and that’s something your vote won’t do.

But if all you’re doing is taking fifteen minutes to think about which candidate you generally like better, and then disappointed that your vote

seemed to have little to no impact, maybe you’re better off not voting at all.

The Failed War on Drugs



Sean Kehren
Opinion Columnist

What do The League of Nations, The Vietnam War, and George W. Bush's search for weapons of mass destruction all have in common? All three of these were failed initiatives by presidents that stained the administrations that they were put forth by.

Another one of these failures is the "War on Drugs" put forth by Ronald Reagan. Not only has this war failed to meet its goals of eradicating the drug problem in the United States, it has also taken hundreds of billions of dollars out of the pockets of American taxpayers.

Last year, I wrote an article about legalizing cannabis for recreational use. In 2013, nearly 700,000 people were arrested for violations of federal and state marijuana laws, but over 600,000 of these were only for simple possession.

The enforcement of such laws puts a plethora of nonviolent offenders behind bars for the possession and distribution of mind-altering substances, but what about people who are arrested for violent drug-related charges? Surely, those people should be incarcerated in a cold cell block right?

This common rebuttal to arguments for drug decriminalization and legalization completely ignores the causes of drug-related violence. Picture yourself as someone living in



USS Rents attempting to handle a fire aboard a vessel left by drug smugglers.

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the slums of Colombia in the mid-80s. Your family of five lives on an income of around \$5 a day, and you've gotten so used to the feeling of hunger that it's as natural as inhaling and exhaling.

One day you're approached by someone who tells you that you can make \$10,000 just for taking a single package to the United States. Would you do it?

Of course! This is exactly what the Medellin and Cali Cartels in Colombia did to move cocaine from South America to Miami, New York, and Los Angeles. From their point of view, the United States had a hyper-demand for a product that they had, and if they could maintain the supply, they would bring wealth and prosperity to their nation.

Yes, the Cartels did kill thousands of people in their pursuit

to control the market, but this is what pure, unregulated capitalism looks like. The somewhat comedic part of this whole situation is that Reagan was probably the biggest disciple of "trickledown", supply-side economics over the last thirty years.

The truth is the United States demand is one of the main reasons why drugs have ravaged developing nations around the world. It's been proved that when a person is desperate, she or he will do things that one could never imagine in order to survive.

Efforts on behalf of the government to eradicate drugs continues to fuel mass-incarceration and contribute heavily to the number of lost opportunities due to felony convictions.

What is so inherently wrong with mind-altering chemicals anyways? One of the main

reasons there is support for the "War on Drugs" is because people are skeptical of others' actions while on drugs. Those who have never been around intoxicants or narcotics have never seen casual use of both prescription and illegal drugs; therefore, she or he will not know what to expect from a person under the influence of drugs.

Propaganda claims that drugs will automatically ruin one's life, or that criminal drug-enforcement is an essential form of keeping communities safe.

These carefully crafted pieces of media distort conversations about whether drugs can be used responsibly or not. What people don't realize is that the prohibition of recreational drugs stands directly in the way of a method to acquire tax revenue, and defunding the drug

war would allow for allocating of funds towards rehabilitation programs. This would be a better way to regulate drugs and form a mindset of safe and responsible use.

Allowing the recreational use of drugs would actually set a standard for the purity of drugs. This would greatly reduce the amount of overdoses and bad experiences due to the purchase of drugs cut with unsafe combinations of chemicals. Our society could go farther than safe-needle programs and provide places where people can use a pure, uncut product in a safe environment.

What is truly baffling is that the "War on Drugs" is often perpetrated due to reasons outside of concern with drug abuse, such as ethnic or racial motivations. Just as Harry J. Anslinger used racist rhetoric to support the marijuana prohibition movement, many policies such as the disparities in severity between crack and cocaine charges seem to be very racially motivated.

The American people must realize that the only success the "War on Drugs" has really achieved has been increasing the amount of nonviolent offenders in prisons and helping increase our national debt.

It has divided Americans between socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial lines in order to uphold a failed policy attempt. Please, do your research and at least open your mind to new ways of thinking. Vale!

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BENEATH THE CROWN



Where do you get your personal morals and beliefs from?

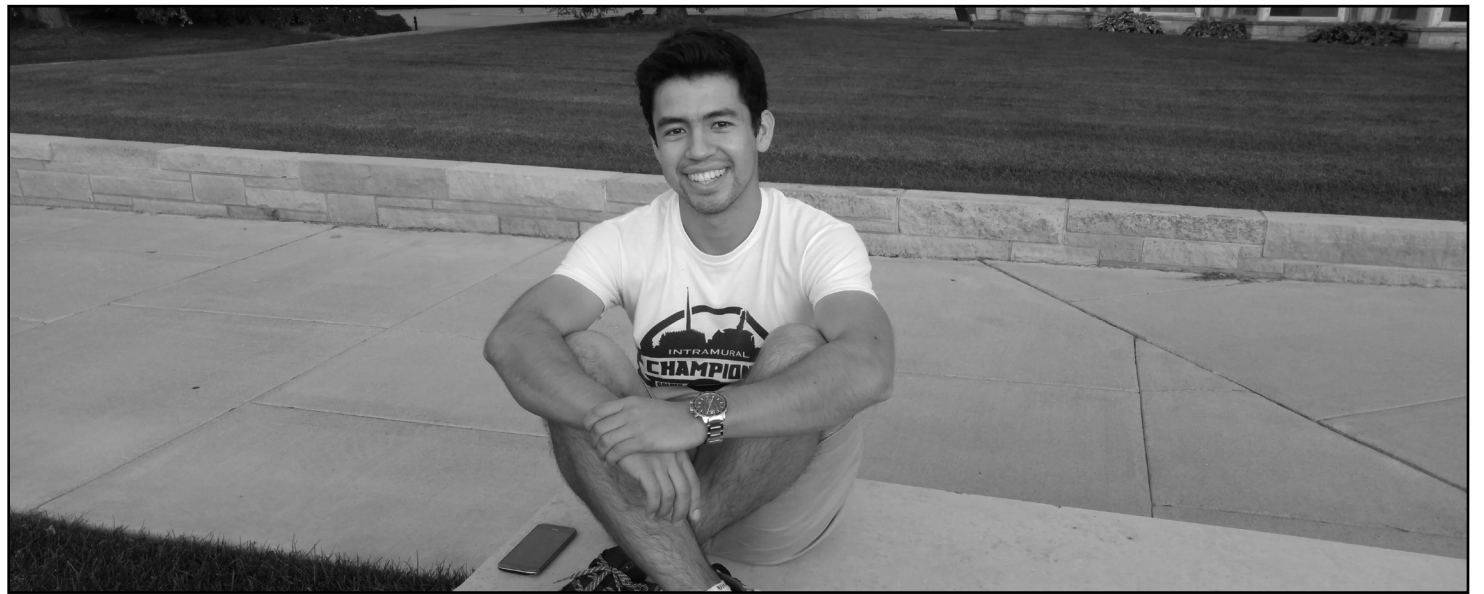
I think what makes me who I am...I'd have to say Jesus Christ. I've grown up a Christian, and I've had my ups and downs. I started doubting a little bit, a couple of times throughout my life, but overall He always shows that He's faithful and His love for me just blows my mind every day. So that's where I get my morals, and every day I strive more to be like Him.

You said this was from the beginning. Did your parents introduce you to Christianity?

Yep! I grew up in a Christian home. I was actually born and raised in Guatemala until the age of 8, and then I moved to Colorado, and always had the same faith. My parents would always try to find Spanish-speaking churches.

Do you ever have someone question your religion or have you explain it?

Oh, for sure. I think people are always curious to find out about religion, and, as individuals and as human beings,



Erick sitting at the edge of Sesquicentennial Plaza.

Cameron MacDonald

I always feel like people are looking for something a little more, looking for answers. So, I'm always getting questions. People will ask me, like, "So tell me a little bit more about your faith." That's kind of a question I do get a lot, questions about my beliefs. The way I try to answer is to tell my personal stories and testimonies that I have from way back in the day or even today.

And with these beliefs and viewpoints, would you say that people can still believe what they believe and have their own faith?

Yes! I feel like everyone has their own right, I'm definitely not going to push my religion into yours. I'm just going to do what Jesus did and love others, and try to pass that on. Just loving people. The two greatest commandments are "Love the Lord your God with all

your heart and all your strength," and the second one is "Love your neighbor as yourself." So why not go from there?

-Erick David Perez

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

Riddles

See if you can figure out the answers to these riddles!

- 1.) What can you catch, but not throw?
- 2.) During what month do people sleep the least?
- 3.) What loses its head in the morning and gets it back at night?
- 4.) How many seconds are in a year?

Answers: 1. A cold. 2. February. It's the shortest month! 3. A pillow. 4. Only 12. January 2nd, February 2nd, etc.

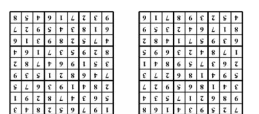


"Boy, this seems a bit ironic-" "Shut up, Dave."

Sudoku

7	2			3	4	1		
9		6						4
	4	1	8					
5	9			8				
			7		9			
				2			9	5
					1	4	8	
8						3		9
		2	3	9			1	6

		7	6					3
	6				8	2	9	
2		4					7	5
	4		8			5		
			9		4			
		9			7		6	
4	7					3		6
	1	8	3				2	
9					6	4		



Club Tennis rockets in popularity



Megan Quirk

The Gustavus Club Tennis team saw a record 36 players show up to practice on Monday night. The recent spike in popularity comes from a long time of successful management, with the Club President being named Tennis On Campus Leader of the Year in spring of 2015.

Jessica Yang
Staff Writer

Whether playing competitively or for fun, Tennis Club is a welcoming organization that accepts players of all skill levels. Last spring they received “Club of the Year” honors.

The club community prides itself on being friendly and open both on and off the courts.

Sophomore History Major Samuel Kuschel, found time to attend his first tennis club meet Monday, although his jam-packed schedule does not

allow him much free time. Club Tennis meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 p.m. until 10 p.m., only taking one hour of a student’s day at one of the least busiest times.

The large tennis community at Gustavus made Kuschel interested in trying out a new sport although he is more comfortable with soccer.

“Many of my friends are on the tennis team—they are very successful and represent Gustavus well. I thought I would test it out; I wanted to learn a new sport because I love sports in general,” Kuschel said.

One of the most inviting characteristics about the club is

the willingness to teach the new players. The tennis program here at Gustavus is attractive because of its successful balance of the moral and physical ethics applied.

“My first impression was overwhelmed, but it was super fun. I easily got into the rhythm; there are a lot of techniques that I never knew about and the instructors are very well-educated,” Kuschel said.

While Kuschel is learning to play, there are others who have previous experience playing competitively.

Sophomore Olivia Ward has been playing tennis since high school. Ward suggests that her skills have never been up to par, but the love for tennis has never lessened.

“I know I wasn’t a great player in high school, but I still love it. Tennis is a life time sport you can do until you’re old. I definitely want to stay active for the main part of my life,” Ward said.

When college hits, it could be hard to stay active with a busy schedule. Most students fill their days with classes, homework, studying, and eating that they don’t find time during the day to get a workout in.

At least when students like Kuschel and Ward take out an hour of their day to be active, they are still able to enjoy the

fun of the sport.

Club Tennis has already begun practicing, but it’s never too late to join. The great thing is you can join any time you want. Ward joined last year during second semester and fell right into place.

“I know I wasn’t a great player in high school, but I still love it. Tennis is a life time sport you can do until you’re old. I definitely want to stay active for the main part of my life.”

—Olivia Ward

“I emailed the president (Mark Meier) when I found out about Club Tennis. He was super accepting right away—I didn’t feel awkward or out of place. I just showed up to my first practice and everyone introduced themselves to me,” Ward said.

Some students don’t get together just to play for fun, some do go out and compete in tournaments. The tournaments are completely optional, but it is a chance to get to play competitively without the pressure.

“In high school, there was a lot of pressure to do well. I mean—you should do well in Club Tennis when you go out and compete, but if you lose... no one is disappointed and everyone is there to support you because at least they know you tried your best,” Ward said.

Ward has not won a match since she started playing competitively, but is a role model for many to look up to. Ward understands that she doesn’t have to be the best player, but just love the sport and a great support for her teammates. Vice President Hannah Jakel, is a junior here at Gustavus with a double major in Music and Psychology. She’s highly involved here on campus, playing rugby, singing in Chapel Choir, and vocal jazz ensemble.

Jakel invites students to join them at “The Bubble,” in hopes that Tennis Club grows larger. The club has expanded largely in the past years due to its organization and commitment.

“We love new people. We are open to all levels of skill. If you are brand new to the sport, please join us. If you have a little competitive streak in you we are happy to have you there too,” Jakel said.



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Men's Golf gets season underway



Gustavus Sports Information

The Gusties finished seventh out of eighteen at the Frank Wrigglesworth Invite in Eau-Claire, Wisconsin. The team will tee off next at the Saint John's Invite this weekend.

Jacob Woodrich
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Men's Golf is looking to have a very successful year. Without a full golf course here on campus, the team calls the LeSueur Country Club their home course. Along with the Le Sueur Country Club, the team also practices at the Drenttel Golf Facility here at Gustavus.

The team teed off their season at the Augsburg Invitational at Majestic Oaks earlier this month. After the first day of competition at the invitational, the Gusties were in second place. Despite their runner up status after day one, the team did not finish as strong as they would have liked, ending with a fifth place finish and Chris Captain earning individual medal honors.

"It's going to be a very exciting fall season.

We have to attack each tournament with the mentality that we are the best team in the field, but we have to prove it each opportunity we get."

—Coach Scott Moe

"It was fun for the team to get back onto the course and compete again," Senior Andrew Krasaway said.

Captain, who was last year's MIAC Rookie Golfer of the Year, has also been awarded the MIAC Men's Golf Athlete of the Week award.

"It is an honor and privilege to be awarded athlete of the week. There are so many great players in our conference who are competitive with each other every week. I am humbled to be mentioned with them and to receive the award," Captain said.

Many golfers return from last season, including some all-conference players.

"It's hard to tell yet how this season compares to previous ones, but we returned all of our top 5 players from last year. We also added a couple of good first-year players," Krasaway said.

The team is full of depth this year.

"Our team has a lot of depth this year, so there will be competition amongst the team to play in our top five. I look forward to a number of players contributing this fall," Head Coach Scott Moe said.

Healthy competition amongst the team is a good and necessary thing, as the members of the team push their teammates to do their very best day in and day out.

Golfing in college has opened a lot of doors for many of the team members here at Gustavus.

"It's a great avenue to meet new friends. It's great to be part of a team where all of the guys are close friends and that really makes the experience special," Andrew Krasaway said.

"It reinforces life lessons and provides an avenue through

which I can build friendships, experience success and failure, and be able to participate in the sport that I love," Captain said.

The Gustie golfers have a multitude of meets coming up soon, which members of the team are very excited for.

"It's going to be a very exciting fall season. We have to attack each tournament with the mentality that we are the best team in the field, but we have to prove it each opportunity we get," Coach Moe said.

The focus always stays on the

meet at hand.

"I am very excited about the rest of the season because of the competitiveness within the team and with the other teams in the conference. I take it one step at a time though and so this week I am looking forward to playing to the best of my ability in the next meet," Captain said.

The Gusties take the course next on September 19th and 20th at the highly competitive St. John's Invitational at Blackberry Ridge and Greystone.

Senior Spotlight

Sam Leske

SOCCER

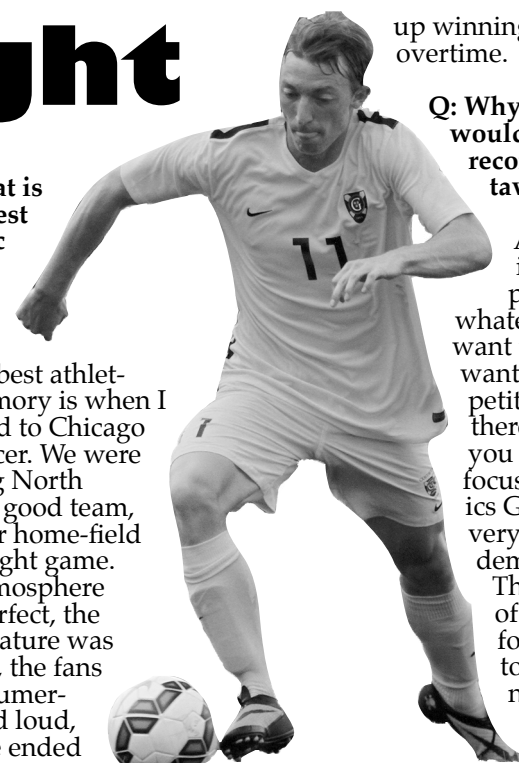
The defender from Hampton received the "Player of the Tournament" award after his performance in the Gustavus Tournament.

Q: What are your expectations for the season?

A: We all have high expectations on the team, everyone is ready to be competitive and the team really wants to make a push further into the National Tournament. I believe we have a good chance to do so.

Q: What is your best athletic memory?

A: My best athletic memory is when I traveled to Chicago for soccer. We were playing North Park, a good team, on their home-field for a night game. The atmosphere was perfect, the temperature was perfect, the fans were numerous and loud, and we ended



up winning the game in overtime.

Q: Why would you recommend Gustavus?

A: Gustavus is a great place for whatever you want to do. If you want to be competitive in sports there's that. If you want to focus on academics Gustavus has very good academic programs. There is a mix of everything for everyone to find their niche in a place many call home.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 18

Women's Tennis at University of Northern Iowa

Men's Golf at Saint John's Invite

Women's Golf at Carleton Invite

Saturday, Sept. 19

Women's Tennis at University of Northern Iowa

Men's Golf at Saint John's Invite

Women's Golf at Carleton Invite

Cross Country at St. Olaf Invite

Volleyball hosts UW-Stout
1 p.m.

Men's Soccer hosts St. Olaf College
1 p.m.

Women's Soccer hosts St. Olaf College
3:30 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Luther College
5 p.m.

Football at Hamline University

Volleyball demolishes #1 ranked Bethel



Gustavus Sports Information

After sweeping two out of four opponents out on the east coast during their trip to Rhode Island, the Gusties came home to flatten Bethel University. Bethel, who were predicted number one in the preseason polls, couldn't handle the force Taylor Trautman who recorded her first double-double in her collegiate career, and Alyssa Taylor, who registered ten kills for the night. The Gusties will be back in action on Saturday as they face Luther College and UW-Stout in the Gustavus Quadrangular on the Gus Young Court.

Philip Evans
Sports & Fitness Editor

The Gustavus Volleyball team is back in action and have spiked this year's expectations by showing exceptional form throughout preseason and the opening non-conference games.

After two opening losses at the UW-Platteville tournament, the team has kept strictly to winning. They continued in winning fashion on Wednesday night, when the women opened the MIAC campaign with a 3-1 win against number one ranked Bethel University. The win came after an impressive performance by Senior Alyssa Taylor, who has high hopes for this season.

"Our goal this season is to make it to the National Tournament. With that being said we would love to finish conference play leading the MIAC. Our conference is by no means an easy conference to be successful in. We will have to fight tooth and nail all season against MIAC teams in order to win. I know that our passion and desire is there and this team has what it takes to be at the top," Taylor said.

That same passion and desire is felt by fellow teammate and Senior Sarah Schuetz, who shares Taylor's belief that any team is strong enough to win the MIAC.

"Any team can win on any day but we are confident that we will be prepared to do what we need to do. I believe this is our strongest team in my four years here, we just need to play our game and bring it each match," Schuetz said.

The person responsible for the infused confidence is Head Coach Rachelle Sherden. Although she carried her team to a playoff berth last season, she believes something is missing. This was expressed by setting early season goals, right after the team were swept in the quarterfinals by College of St. Benedict.

"We set our team outcome goal after last season and have focused since last spring season and during this preseason to take one day at a time and focus on the process that is required for our team to 'achieve the uncommon', which is one of our mottos. Our goal is to be playing for a conference title and in the NCAA tournament but we haven't had to say that

more than a few times. Our players know what our team goal is and we focus on being in the moment and taking one

back from their trip to Rhode Island with four wins in four attempts, only leaving three sets behind as they swept both



Gustavus Sports Information

Becca Woodstra and Alyssa Taylor reaching over the net to block a spike against Concordia last year. Taylor, who has been part of the MIAC All-Conference team two years in a row, played an important role when the Gusties took down number one ranked Bethel University on Wednesday night.

day, one practice, one game, one drill, and one point at a time," Sherden said.

The approach is working beyond doubt. The team came

Western Connecticut State University and Salve Regina University.

"The trip to Rhode Island was amazing. We were able to get

out there and play some great Gustie volleyball. We knew absolutely nothing about the teams we were playing so we were forced to focus on our play. When we focus on how we are playing and not worried about what the other team is doing, great things happen and that is exactly what got us the four wins this past weekend. I think we have learned how to control our emotions, both positive and negative ones, and have learned to ride the ups and downs that make up volleyball, which has really helped us," Taylor said.

Taylor's enthusiasm over the preseason expedition is shared by her coach. With a record of 6-2 before the MIAC opener, and new recruits finding their spots on the team with the guidance of appreciative upperclassmen, Sherden has no reason to believe this season is not going to be successful.

"They are clicking well because they are locked in and bought in. Plan is to keep it that way," Sherden concluded.

The Gusties take on UW-Stout and Luther College on Friday, Sept. 19 at Gus Young Court.