

# The Problem with Drinking at Gustavus



**Matt Glaser**  
Opinion Editor



Hops, one of the essential ingredients of modern beer, have been farmed for the purpose of beer production for around 1000 years.

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Coming out of the Nobel Conference there are a variety of topics that need discussing but one stands out more than any other; alcohol. Alcohol is a dangerous substance, but by treating it as taboo we are doing more harm to ourselves than by learning to drink responsibly.

A Calvinistic rejection of alcohol as evil sets up people in society for failure when they come of age to drink. This culture which pushes drinking to the margins also pushes it to the extreme in an unhealthy and dangerous manner.

*It's okay to have a few drinks with your friends, but bad to have a few friends with your drinks.*

To be clear I'm not saying that alcohol is a harmless substance. Alcohol is a drug that we should be wary of. It can ruin lives,

and it's one of, if not the most, abused drug in society. To treat alcohol like we do coffee, soda, or any other drink is to make a grave categorical mistake. Alcohol is extremely easy to abuse, and extremely easy to take too lightly.

On the other hand alcohol is not pure evil, or even an evil at all. Although there is intrinsic danger in alcohol for it to be abused, it also is a substance that can be enjoyed responsibly. Many people enjoy its taste, and alcohol has a long tradition in societies and cultures around the world. Beer even at times

played a somewhat healthy role for laborers in society as a way to attain more calories than plain water (medieval Gatorade).

What's for sure is that alcohol is part of our society, and it's not going away. We need to reject extremes of alcohol as an evil substance as well as reject notions of alcohol as a safe get-drunk-drink.

Getting drunk shouldn't be equated with drinking alcohol. Alcohol may be necessary in the process of getting drunk, but it isn't sufficient. The other necessary components that make al-

cohol a problem are our societal views surrounding it and how we choose to educate the young in regards to it.

One problem is that alcohol education focuses on the dangers of consuming alcohol, and not teaching what it means to drink responsibly and in a healthy manner. It's not enough to say 'don't binge drink because x, y, and z', or 'set a limit for yourself and count your drinks to avoid over indulgence'. These kind of warnings and practical measures do little to actually teach people how to drink and re-enforce a view of alcohol as a substance whose only end is drunkenness.

This leads to a large number of people only viewing alcohol as a means to get drunk. Counting drinks on your arm becomes a method not to stay safe, but to prove how much you can drink. Knowing your limits isn't a method for avoiding over indulgence, but to know how much you need to drink to get drunk. Drink preferences become little to do with taste and texture, and more to do with what is the highest proof per dollar that I can mix with other drinks to go down smooth.

I'm not saying everyone is like this. Many people also enjoy certain types of alcohol for taste or for other ends outside of drunkenness and abuse. They drink responsibly during the week, but come the weekend for many there's a switch from drinking excellent tasting beverages to the cheap stuff for the purpose of getting drunk.

The solution? I have none, at least nothing simple. I grew up in a family in which I was allowed to have beer at dinner from the age of sixteen. Big family gatherings were filled with people enjoying good wine and beer, and the company of family. I was warned of my family's history of alcoholism my senior year of high school, and my parents made sure I understood the dangers of drinking.

They showed me how good beer and wine can be present in my life without being something that takes from it. I've grown up in what I take to be a healthy and responsible family culture around alcohol. Yet, I still have made my fair share of mistakes. I've let myself slip into bad drinking habits, and thrown myself into the culture of binge drinking at Gustavus at times.

What we need is to start more conversation amidst ourselves about alcohol. We need to talk to our parents about it. We need to talk to professors about it. Then from these conversations perhaps we can develop a new approach moving into the future. We need new educational programs, and a new culture around drinking that doesn't make alcohol a pure evil or a pure good.

*...alcohol education focuses on the dangers of consuming alcohol, and not teaching what it means to drink responsibly and in a healthy manner.*

My personal solution is this: It's okay to have a few drinks with your friends, bad to have a few friends with your drinks. Don't let alcohol and its consumption become something you do purely for yourself, and don't let it become the focus of what you do with friends. A party without alcohol is still a party, because your peers should be the point. Also, drinking underage is still illegal. Don't do it. Though the history of that law and how it's affected society is a good topic for another day.

## The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Nobel Conference was awesome and the two days off from class weren't too bad either!



Everyone is getting sick and if you're not sick you will be soon.



It's mid-October. We're now halfway to finals. DUN DUN DUN

# The Farce that is Politics



**Megan Bertrand**  
Opinion Columnist

Groucho Marx once said, "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies."

Two hundred and twenty six years ago, we had our very first president, George Washington.

Our very first party was the Democratic Republican system, which worked well under Washington's reign. Then, Thomas Jefferson took office and made his system more Democratic, meaning he believed in state rights and cared more about the lower class. This created a fissure in the political foundations, thus carving the way for a new systematic party.

Then our eighth president, Martin Van Buren, officially broke away from the Democratic Republican Party, and created the Democrats in 1836. It worked, and we've had a string of Democrats and Republicans



Donald Trump has been one of the most entertaining and popular candidates to watch, making many question the seriousness of politics in the United States. Creative Commons

for presidents ever since.

Politics was a very serious thing, but something got lost somewhere, and now politics is nothing but a comedy.

*Politics was a very serious thing, but something got lost somewhere, and now politics is nothing but a comedy.*

The political debates are supposed to help us see where the running nominees stand, but now it's nothing more than a

farce, a comedy show to see which candidate can talk the most mess on the others. We care more about who was the funniest, than who answered the most questions.

Even when questions are asked, the answers are always: "Well, my opponent would tell you this, and I think he's wrong." They talk around the question, instead of answering the question itself. Now, no one seems to care at all about the political agenda, but instead more about who's funnier and sassier.

People aren't getting chosen

because of what they stand for, but because they are affiliated with a certain party. Democrats vote for Democrats and Republicans vote for Republicans, which is the stupidest thing ever.

According to the latest article for the *New York Times*, the candidates for 2016 are as followed: For the Democrats: Chaffe, Hilary Clinton, Lessig, O'Malley, Sanders, and Webb. For the Republicans: Jeb Bush, Carson, Chrisite, Cruz, Fiorina, Gilmore, Graham, Huckabee, Jindal, Kasich, Pataki, Paul, Ru-

bio, Santorum, and, of course, Donald Trump.

On September 14th, 2015, CNN held a GOP Debate. Trump, of course, instead of answering the questions asked of him ferociously attacked his opponents. Yet, people are still willing to vote him because the people were entertained by what he said. Trump is now in the lead for the race.

*People aren't getting chosen because of what they stand for, but because they are affiliated with a certain party. Democrats vote for Democrats and Republicans vote for Republicans...*

Politics isn't about what the Government can do for the people. That disappeared a long time ago. Now it's which candidates can charm us the most or entertain us the longest. The art of politics, doing what's right, and changing the country for the better, no longer applies. What matters the most is who is the most entertaining.

## The Pope Visits America; What Gusites Aren't Talking About



**Jessica Hastings Erth**  
Opinion Columnist

For the first time in his life Jorge Mario Bergoglio, more commonly known as Pope Francis, traveled to the United States of America. Millions traveled far and wide to come see Pope Francis's arrival to the United States in September of 2015.

In just one city, over 50,000 people waited for hours outside of the Capitol to see His Holiness. Magazines everywhere had covers and articles talking about Pope Francis. So why was he not talked about at Gustavus? After all, he made ear-catching points about global warming, immigration, and many other issues that are commonly debated among Gusties.

Gustavus welcomes everyone, no matter the race, reli-



Pope Francis has become popular for his message as well as his personality. Creative Commons

gion, or gender. But it seems that sometimes some groups get more publicity than others. Over 1.2 billion Catholics across the world marvel at the Pope, making Catholicism the largest monotheistic religion today.

Many Christians, who are not Catholic, also take joy in the Pope's message and presence. One of the reasons may be because there are recordings of every pope since the time of

Jesus. This fact brings together many Christian religions because of their shared love for Jesus Christ.

But the Pope is not just important because of religious purposes. During his speeches throughout his United States visit he made excellent remarks about the treatment of children of the world, immigration, saving the planet, and even the death penalty. Here are

some of his most memorable quotes from his different stops throughout the US.

"Every life is sacred... Society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes."

"Any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity. A selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available resources and the exclusion of the weak."

*Gustavus welcomes everyone, no matter the race, religion, or gender. But it seems that sometimes some groups get more publicity than others.*

"We, the people of this continent are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners."

My personal favorite is his quote in regards to the protection of our country's beloved children.

"The crimes and sins of the sexual abuse of children must no longer be held in secret. I pledge the zealous vigilance of

the Church to protect children, and the promise of accountability for all."

*The Pope is not just important because of religious purposes.*

There are approximately four hundred and fifty students at Gustavus that are Catholic. There are even religion classes offered at Gustavus that are focused on Catholicism.

However, when the Pope visited the U.S. not much was said around campus about him. With such a large number of Catholic students on campus you'd think he would be talked about. The Pope is a very important person, and whether you are a Christian or not, he makes excellent points.

There are many people in the world who have different religious backgrounds that still influence our lives. With this I encourage you to read some of the Pope's works and try to live in the lightness of God, just as he does.

# Ghost in the Machine: Vulnerability in an Age of Technology



**Dan McCrackin**  
Opinion Columnist

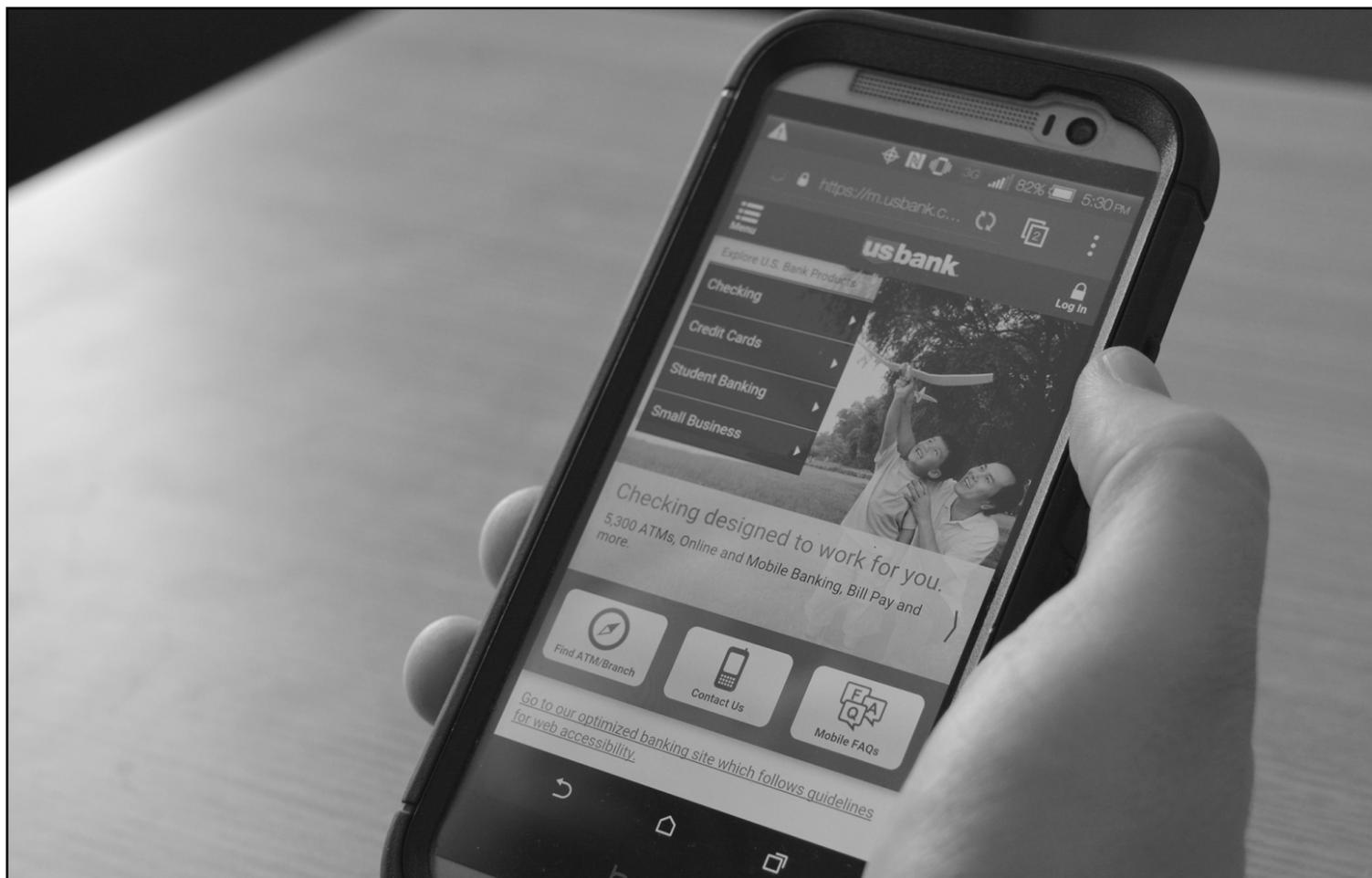
You're sitting in a coffee shop, reading the latest issue of the GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY, when you get a message on your smartphone. You pull out your phone and check it out, and while you have it out you also check Facebook, Twitter, and your bank account. What you don't know is that twenty feet away from you is sitting a hacker using the router in the coffee shop to leech your information and drain your accounts before you even know what has happened. Suddenly you have nothing.

In an age of rising technology this is a very real fear to have, a fear of those who know how to use that technology to their advantage and take control of other's lives; hackers. Today many people keep their daily schedules, books, and personal information such as credit cards on a device that can fit in your pocket. This device is also a portal to the internet from anywhere there is Wi-Fi or a 4G signal.

*The largest threat to the use of electronics, however, is the fact that a device or database can be accessed by anyone with enough knowledge or permissions to do so.*

However, this also makes people vulnerable. Anyone who has the knowledge and means can hack into a cellphone and learn anything about that cellphone's owner that they wish. It's a scary reality that has come to fruition many times, and not just to individuals. In the wake of the recent government hacks it may be time to take a good long look at the benefits and drawbacks of keeping important information in databases and hard drives.

There are many benefits to the rise and use of technology, the first being a benefit to the environment in the reduction of paper production. With all important information being stored digitally rather than in hard copy it reduces the number of trees cut down for paper every year. This number increases even more dramatically when e-books, e-newspapers, and other electronic databases of



Cell phones are a valuable target for hackers with many people now storing sensitive information such as their billing info and passwords in their devices.

Dennis Lee

information are taken into account. In this respect technology as a great boon to the reduction of deforestation movement for areas such as the Amazon Rainforest.

Another benefit is organization. Rather than files taking up an entire warehouse, a single large computer mainframe can store exponentially more files while taking up far less space. This allows for a mass distribution and accumulation of information by a person or company. It also allows the use of videos as a way to record information, such as vlogs, and store it digitally rather than on a DVD or VHS tape.

However these advantages come at some very serious costs. While the production of

paper decreases, mining rises to all new highs in the modern century. Many precious metals are needed to make the various electronic parts within the circuitry of cellphones, computers, and tablets.

Mining can be damaging to environment, possibly even more so than deforestation when it is done improperly. These resources aren't infinite either, and it's already becoming such a problem that people are now "mining" for precious metals to sell out of discarded electronic devices.

The largest threat to the use of electronics, however, is the fact that a device or database can be accessed by anyone with enough knowledge or permissions to do so.

The consequences of this have already been demonstrated over the years with the Target hack scandal, and the recent attacks on the government such as those on the personal email of Hillary Clinton, and the NSA leaks by Edward Snowden.

Cyber-attacks and cyberwarfare have become a very real and very frightening fact for the American people. Many are asking what can be done about it.

On a personal level the answer is relatively straightforward if not easy. Learn basic coding, especially in a modern language such as Python. Knowing code opens up a whole new world of electronic control that allows for the construction of complex programs and firewalls to protect personal electronics from

common hackers.

But what about on a global scale? What can be done to prevent hacks targeting the U.S. Government? The answer isn't as simple as "hack the hackers" or "build a better firewall", because at some point those solutions can be worked around. Perhaps quitting electronics cold turkey and going back to paper? This isn't a feasible option when so much information is stored electronically.

What it boils down to is that humanity is in a new age of technology, and it has opened us up to a brand new form of attack. Where will it lead? Only time can tell us.

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# BENEATH THE CROWN



## What do you think is the most important thing you get out of education?

There's a lot you can get out of education. I think a lot of people have the idea that it's just to gain knowledge about a particular field or a particular set of skills that you need for the "real world," as we call it. But I really don't think that's true. I think it's more about developing yourself as a person, and finding your own personal beliefs and values. As well as figuring out how to put that into your own life. As for me, where I'm at right now, I have no idea what I want to do with my life yet, but I'm figuring it out one day at a time and getting there. The more I go to class, the more I learn about things, the more I'm going to figure it out.

## What do you think is the most difficult thing to deal with while getting an education?

Learning responsibility, I think, is a challenge for a lot of people, or at least is much more noticeable to me now that I'm in college and have a lot more responsibility. You expected others to be pushing you along the way as you grew up, and now you have to learn personal drive, which is something that is sort of difficult for a lot of people to



Tom Damery

CameronMacDonald

do. Some always needed another to be nagging them or pushing them to go further, whereas I really think that that's some sort of innate thing that you need to come up with by yourself at some point.

## If you could go back to your earlier self, any time before college, what would you tell yourself to prepare yourself for college, higher education, and adulthood?

I would tell myself to care more. I feel like when I grew up, apathy was the "cool" thing. That was how you made friends, by being the kid who didn't want to do anything, saying things like "Whatever, life is all right, I guess." As is, I wish I would have cared more about school and taken more time to enjoy it and find the good in it. There's a lot of times I look back and think that I could have made more out of that situation, and I wish that I could tell myself that I should take advantage of all of

the opportunities I had.

- Tom Damery

*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.*

1.

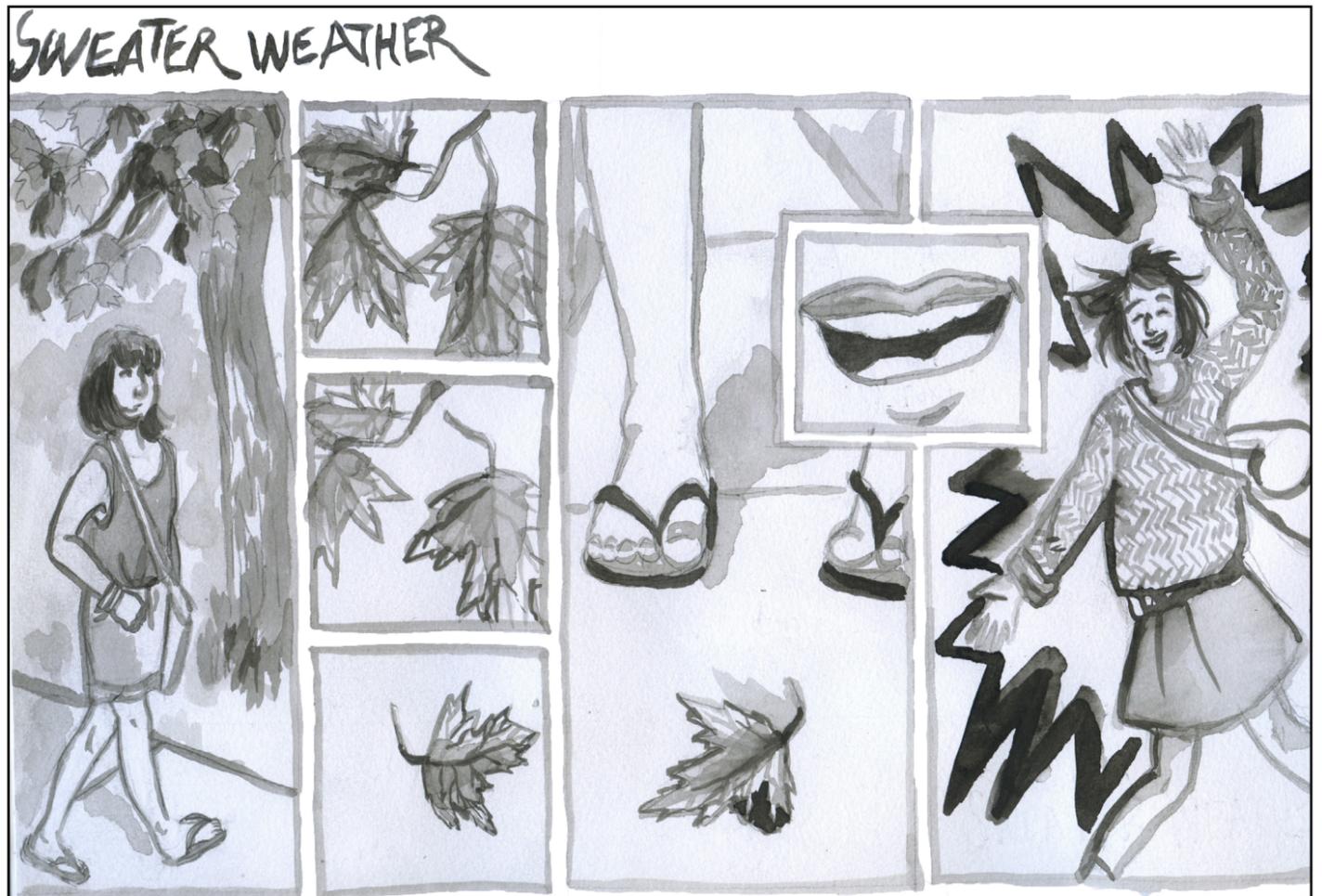
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Created by Carly Mastowski

Puzzle 3

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

Puzzle 2

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

Puzzle 1

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

# Al-Houni leads his team to ITA victory



Gustavus Sports Information

Last year, Mohamed Al-Houni got to the finals of the ITA Regional Championship where he was defeated by his brother. This year, Al-Houni defeated teammate Zach Ekstein in the semifinals and went on to win the tournament.

## GUSTAVUS VOLLEYBALL WINNING STREAK

# 16

1. 3-1 vs. Ripon College
2. 3-0 vs. Westminster College
3. 3-0 vs. Western Connecticut State
4. 3-0 vs. Salve Regina University
5. 3-1 vs. Connecticut College
6. 3-2 vs. Roger Williams University
7. 3-1 @ Bethel University
8. 3-2 vs. UW-Stout
9. 3-0 vs. Luther College
10. 3-0 vs. St. Olaf College
11. 3-0 vs. Bethany Lutheran College
12. 3-0 @ St. Catherine University
13. 3-1 vs. Augsburg College
14. 3-0 vs. University of St. Thomas
15. 3-1 @ Martin Luther College
16. 3-1 @ Waldorf College



### Philip Evans Sports & Fitness Editor

Two weeks ago, the Gustavus Men's Tennis team opened the fall season by taking home individual wins in the top two flights at the Drake University Invite in Des Moines. The Gusties did it again this past weekend when the team hosted the ITA Regional Championships. Led by Sophomore Mohamed Al-Houni, the Gusties appeared in both singles and doubles finals, and had two teammates face off in the individual semifinals.

"The highlight for the team in the fall season is preparing for the ITA's. It is a very important tournament and everybody prepares for it to accomplish good results that will carry on to the spring season," Al-Houni said.

Although the fall season is short, the ITA Regional Championships acts as a stepping stone for the spring season. It provides a base of where the team stand against the opponents in the midwest and offers tough competition, with over 200 participants participating in singles and doubles play.

With that said being, Al-

Houni can't put his finger on anything that he or his teammates need to improve before they go into spring season.

"I really like the depth of our team this year. There isn't really a specific weakness, but as a team we've tried to build each other up and stay positive. The guys are just very dedicated and hungry to do damage in the spring," Al-Houni said.

Al-Houni has proven to be one to rely on for the team. During his first year at Gustavus, the left-handed Libyan only fell short to his brother Motasem as they battled it out during final of the 2014 ITA Regional Championships, also hosted at Gustavus.

This year, with the absence of his graduated elder brother, Al-Houni won the singles in an impressive fashion, defeating Coe College's Brady Anderson 6-2, 6-2. Al-Houni provided another extraordinary performance in doubles where he partnered with Senior Andres Saenz, only to be defeated in dramatic fashion against UW-Whitewater.

"Mohaned [Al-Houni], as a tennis player, is very competitive and a great fighter. As a person, he is an awesome guy, full

of happiness. As doubles partners I think we are completely different. He is the explosive guy and I am the calm guy. The way that we play is different as well. I love playing the whole time in the net and Mo loves staying back. Even though we are different, we work very well together as doubles partners. We are similar in that we love the game, and we also enjoy playing with each other," Saenz said about his teammate.

*"Mohaned [Al-Houni], as a tennis player, is very competitive and a great fighter. As a person, he is an awesome guy, full of happiness."*

—Andres Saenz

The couple have plenty of reasons to be convinced that they will do well together. Al-Houni will benefit from the mature background of Saenz while Saenz used to partner Al-Houni's brother last year.

"I really enjoy playing with

'Dre'. He taught me a lot about doubles and his experience helped us both to get a good run at the ITA's. I can't wait for the spring season so I can accomplish more things with him," Al-Houni said.

Although Saenz will have to take a big role in his team's success in the spring after losing ten graduating seniors last year, he is confident that the team is good enough to take home the MIAC in the spring.

"We are a close group of guys and that helps with our performance as a team. I think that's why we do well throughout the whole season. I am really excited for spring, and I am looking forward to share my last season with the guys," Saenz said.

For Sophomore Graham Kellogg, ambitions only mean one thing.

"We have 26 straight MIAC regular season championships. Win the MIAC regular season championship and win the MIAC tournament. Make it to the Elite 8. Our goals always stay the same," Kellogg concluded.

# Cross Country wins Carleton Invite



Gustavus Sports Information

The Gusties took home the victory at the Carleton Invite. Three juniors at Gustavus, Thomas Knobbe, Paul Nordquist and Evan Jones finished within the top five and combined for a total of 12 points.

**Jessica Yang**  
Staff Writer

Imagine running 75 miles per week on average, this season the Gustavus Men's Cross Country team is doing just that.

Junior Paul Nordquist transferred to Gustavus after his first year in college and has played a huge role in shaping the Men's Cross Country team. At the first event of the year, the Alumni meet, Nordquist finished first in the 5K with a time of 16:28.3, leading the men's team to their first victory against the Alumni since 2009.

"I've been running cross country since I was in eighth grade and started because I was too small to play football and not coordinated enough for soccer, so cross country seemed like a good choice," Nordquist said.

It wasn't until coming to Gustavus that Nordquist truly fell in love with the sport. He found a sense of community and strong chemistry within the team.

"When he transferred here, he started loving running like he never had before. He's working his tail off. Coming out of high school, he wasn't an extraordinary athlete, but he's put in the mileage, he's found some motivation and he believes he can do it. He went from an average runner to an amazing collegiate

runner. It's guys like Paul who help our younger guys believe they can do it too," Coach Dale Bahr said.

One important attitude Coach Bahr applies to the team is persevering and believing one can do anything. This kind of philosophy implemented in a team makes a very successful season.

### "Running Of The Cows" Carleton Invite Results

1. Gustavus Adolphus College, 40
2. Carleton College, 42
3. Nebraska Wesleyan University, 45

#### Individual Running Times

1. Hart Honnor, 24:45.7, Carleton
2. Jordan Wheeler, 25:28.4, NWU
3. THOMAS KNOBBE, 25:40.7, Gustavus
4. PAUL NORDQUIST, 25:54.7, Gustavus
5. EVAN JONES, 25:58.0, Gustavus
12. CARSTON DAMMANN, 26:33.6, Gustavus
16. MARCUS SPECA, 27:01.7, Gustavus

"Our team is working together really well this year, everyone on the team seems to be fully committed and training hard and smart," Nordquist said.

Collectively, the young team has shown a lot of promise in leadership which has highly impressed the coaches. The team works well in encouraging one another.

"We do our best coaching by sitting back and watching; we're trying not to over coach. It's fun to watch them have the success that they are reaching, it's pretty phenomenal," Coach Bahr said.

The Men's Cross Country team finished first in the Alumni meet, they finished first at University of Wisconsin River Falls, but unfortunately finished 8th at the Saint Olaf invite.

"Some of our guys didn't run as best they could have, and that exposed us for being inexperienced. We reflected on it, but we've got our sights set out on this weekend to do well," Coach Bahr said.

Although they did not compete well at St. Olaf, they ran towards first place at the Carleton meet on Oct. 4.

Junior Thomas Knobbe finished in third, Nordquist finished fourth, and Junior Evan Jones finished in fifth. Carleton continued to stay consistent with them, finishing only 2 points away. Gustavus won with a score of 40, and Carleton at 42.

Knobbe has had a strong season so far as well, last season he was leading the team. He finally had a come up this past weekend with a time of 25:40.7.

The Men's Cross Country team will be racing at University of La Crosse next weekend, Oct. 17.

With a time of 25:58.0, Junior Evan Jones helped the Gusties to the win at Carleton. With him being third out of the Gustavus runners and fifth overall, Jones only let five points go towards the overall 40. "Carleton's meet went really well. We had three of the top 10 teams in the region at a pretty small meet, so we were able to get an incredibly personal look at teams that will be vying for national contention. Topping Carleton isn't an easy task, so to come out of that meet with a win is huge. Carston Dammann and I tried out different racing tactics and it paid off well for us. We came away from the meet knowing

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Friday, Oct. 9

Volleyball at Carleton College  
7 p.m.

### Saturday, Oct. 10

Swim & Dive hosts Alumni Meet  
10 a.m.

Football hosts St. Olaf College  
1 p.m.

Men's Soccer hosts Augsburg College  
1 p.m.

Volleyball hosts UW-Superior  
2 p.m.

Women's Soccer hosts Augsburg College  
3 p.m.

### Wednesday, Oct. 14

Women's Soccer at College of Saint Benedict  
4 p.m.

Men's Soccer at Saint John's University  
4 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Macalester College  
7 p.m.

that we need to close the gap between our 4th and 5th runners, which shouldn't be too tall of a task since Marcus Speca can come up in the clutch during championship season like the best of them," said Jones.



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## Women's Soccer rises above expectations

Emily Knutson  
Copy Editor

The Gustavus Women's Soccer team is off to a fantastic start. Their most recent game against Carlton marked the halfway point of the season, which has already been more successful than the previous one.

Last year, the team finished 11th in conference with only two wins. Coach Laura Burnett-Kurie emphasized the hard work from previous seasons has helped the current team get to where they are.

"When you're rebuilding a program it always takes time in regard to implementing and building a culture. The teams each of the last three years have contributed massively to our success this season and without them we would not be where we are," Burnett-Kurie said.

Junior Midfielder Coursey Edwards has seen improvement over the past few seasons and a lot of growth from the last few weeks.

"I think we are more creative than last year. We have a lot of creativity up top and a lot of versatile players compared to last year. Our first couple games were a little rough to get used to our playing style. So it didn't start off as well as we wanted it to. It's progressed and we are



Sophie Leininger moves on the ball. The Gusties are tied on top of the MIAC together with Augsburg and St. Thomas.

Gustavus Sports Information

doing a lot better in conference right now. We're 4-1 in conference," Edwards said.

All 26 women on the roster contribute to the success of the team. One in particular is the only senior on the team, Brit-

tany Chase.

"She has the work ethic, drive, grit and skill to not only lead by example but also vocally on the field. She knows how hard the team has worked over the last three years in order to get to

where we are and also knows how much harder they have to work to achieve their goals. By being so well grounded and understanding what it takes to be a collegiate athlete, Britt has excelled on and off the field for us," Burnett-Kurie said.

Like last year, the current team is a young team filled with new energy and talent.

"Of our 26 players, 19 of them are freshman and sophomores, which means we not only have potential for this year but also for years ahead. It's a very exciting time to be part of the program and hopefully we can continue to grow and develop," Burnett-Kurie said.

The advantage the current team has over last year's team is the returning members that are stepping up and helping to lead the team.

"I also think we've just grown from last year. We were a young team last year. This year we are also young but the players who were freshmen last year are now sophomores and they are starting to get into their role a little bit more," Edwards said.

New team member Ashley Becker is a first-year goalie with skill and a lot of potential to help the team be successful.

"Our team goal is we want to finish 500 or above, which is having the same ratio of wins and losses. We're above that. We want to finish top six in conference so we can go to playoffs and hopefully continue our season," Becker said.

The team is a hardworking

group of women who put in a lot of hours throughout the week to constantly improve.

"We are very dedicated. We are striving to get better. We want to have a great season and do whatever we can to have a great season. We are preparing on and off the field. We practice like we are in a game," Becker said.

*"When you're rebuilding a program it always takes time in regard to implementing and building a culture.*

*The teams each of the last three years have contributed massively to our success this season."*

—Laura Burnett-Kurie

This year's team is just a little bit different from last year's but it has already made a big difference. The recipe for success appears to be three basic ingredients.

"A little bit more confidence, a little bit more creativity and some fun," Edwards said.

The team takes on conference rival Augsburg this Saturday at 3:30 p.m. whom they are tied with for first place.

## Senior Spotlight

Sidney Dirks

TENNIS

*Dirks considers the atmosphere from the "bubble" as one of her strongest memories from Gustavus.*

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

A: Even though I am suppose to "expect" nothing in tennis, I secretly have very high expectations for our team this year. We got a great freshman class which really helps and only lost one senior last year. The girls and I have all had a great fall season and have had some big wins. Our team goals are to win the conference again and also advance to nationals.

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

A: My favorite athletic memory I have had at Gustavus

would be our last match to make it to regionals last year. We went down 0-3 after doubles which is very rare for our team to do. The team we were playing thought they had it in the bag but we pushed them to every last match. It got too dark to play outside so we moved to the bubble and the atmosphere in there was something I had never experienced before. The men's team and our fans were so loud and it filled the bubble. If you looked to the court next to you, you could tell your teammate was giving everything they had to win for the team. We ended up losing to a team we beat earlier in the year but

we all fought so hard and I learned so many things as an athlete and as a person from that moment.

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

A: I would recommend Gustavus because it give student athletes everything they could want. Gustavus pushes you academically, has a history of some very successful athletic programs, and gives you the opportunity to have time to make lasting friendships. I would not trade my time at Gustavus for anything.

