

# Making a Case for Community



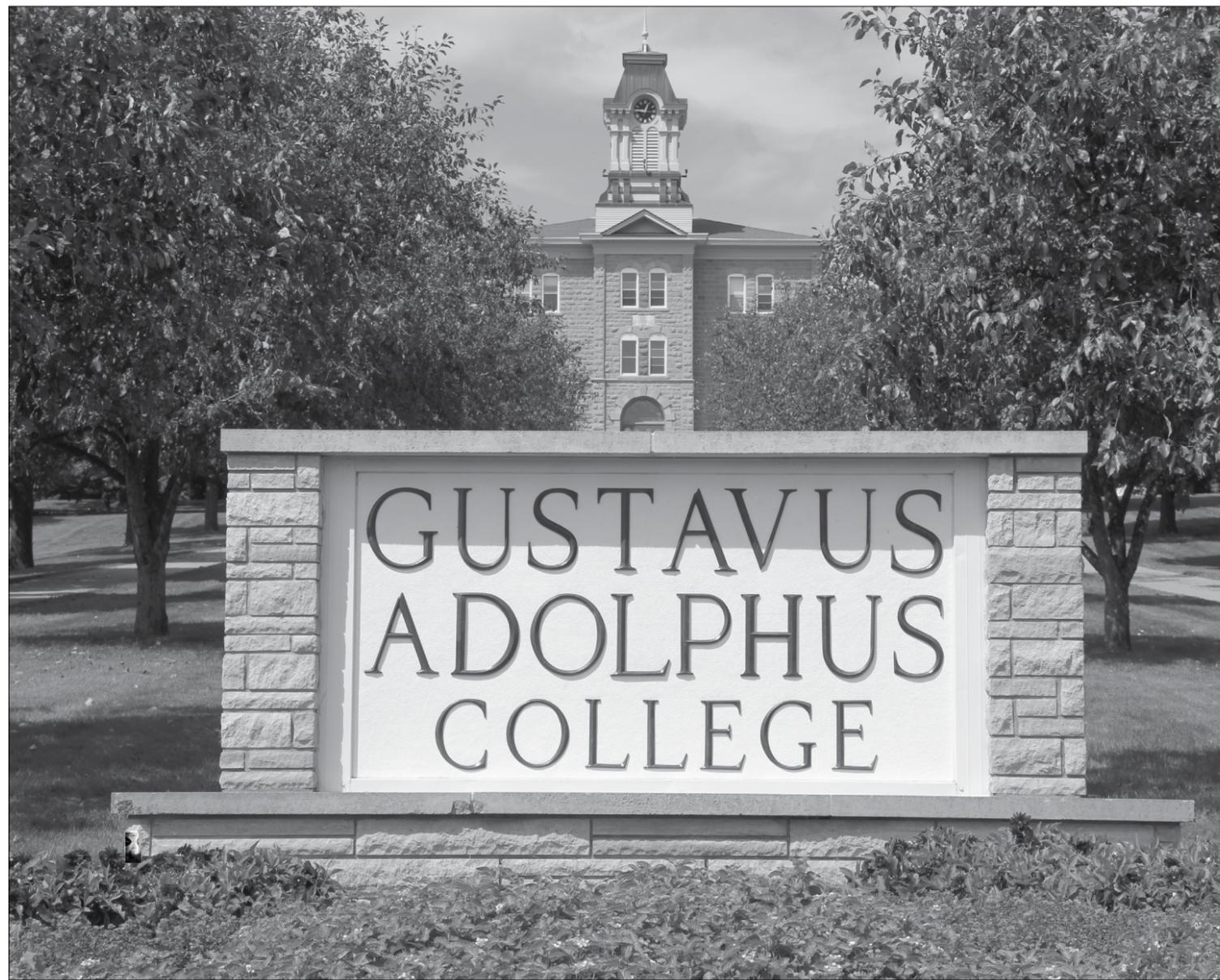
**Mike O'Neil**  
Opinion Columnist

As a student of Gustavus Adolphus College, it was hard not to notice the increased energy throughout the campus last weekend.

Whether it was the abnormal winter heat wave, the variety of athletic events happening throughout the day, or the fact that a few students were attempting to drink an entire case of beer, there was undoubtedly something different in the air.

As I drove up College Avenue in the early afternoon with the windows down, the campus seemed more alive than I have ever seen it. People were outside throwing frisbees, making food, and enjoying the company of their classmates.

Although I am not endorsing the idea of Case Day, I think the question must be asked: why is there so much hype surrounding it and why aren't there more days like this that don't revolve around the consumption of a



Submitted

Many students enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather last weekend. Gustavus' core values of excellence, community, justice, service, and faith were on full display in the spring sunshine.

dangerous quantity of alcohol?

In 2014, Gustavus' satirical newspaper, the *Fourth Crown*, wrote an article on Case Day in

which they said, "this Saturday marks the annual Case Day, an unofficial campus holiday in which a handful of students attempt to drink 24 beers in 24 hours.

While the tradition has been described as 'everything that is wrong with the collegiate world,' it annually returns to the fore of Gustavus' collective consciousness."

The main point of the *Fourth Crown* article was that students should absolutely not participate in Case Day, and I am not going to disagree with them on that point.

Any health professional would say that drinking 24 beers in 24 hours is a terrible idea, and I'm sure this is very close to the last thing the administration of the college wants as an "annual holiday."

Yet, as the *Fourth Crown* accurately stated, it returns to the collective conscience of the student body every year with plenty of anticipation and hype.

I think the question we as a student body must be asking ourselves is, "why can't we be this enthusiastic all the time without a drinking a whole case of beer?" The only answer I can think of is that there's no reason we can't, and no reason we shouldn't.

There is no doubt there was

a strong sense of community throughout the campus on Saturday and I don't think that should be a "one day a year" feeling.

The sporting events were well-attended across the board, people were friendly in the caf, and there was a general sense of deeper integration throughout the campus.

I don't believe people were so active and supportive because they were intoxicated, but instead there was just a atmosphere of unity that everyone could feel.

Obviously, it helped the temperature was 30 degrees above the historical average for Feb. 18, but I see no reason why we can't replicate this kind of excitement on a more consistent basis and even towards more productive endeavors.

As we can all see, the caf has been decorated with purple for the Relay for Life event and I hope people will get as excited to raise money to fight cancer as they were to drink a case of beers.

Even further, I don't think it should take a special event for us to feel connected as a campus community and get excited about all of the things that are happening on the Hill.

Gustavus is a community of interesting, talented, passion-

ate, diverse people. We all only have a limited amount of time here and I think we all ought to make the most of it.

If there's one thing I learned from Case Day, it's that we, as a community, have great potential to use this same energy to take our peer support, social activism, and community integration to a whole new level.

Gustavus already distinguishes itself as a liberal arts institution that boasts strong academics, meaningful extracurriculars, and excellent arts and athletics programs.

We are a community that prides itself on the core values of excellence, community, justice, service, and faith. I suppose this is a call to action to everyone on campus to be reinvigorated by the potential that we have to make a difference in the world. Although it is only my first year here, Gustavus already holds a special place in my heart.

I know it as a place filled with energy and passion and I hope we are never hesitant to let that shine in the most positive and productive ways.

## Letter to the Editor

This past week, students were given the opportunity to explore the many different student organizations on campus.

Through the hustle and bustle of students investigating passions and talents, a large politically driven display could be found in the corner in front of the Womyn's Awareness Center.

The display was an effigy of President Trump with a sign that read "WAC a Trump" (obviously playing with the acronym of their organization W.A.C.).

Students were encouraged to harm the effigy, and read the literature of their protest of President Trump. Protest is and should be encouraged. However, what message was being sent? What course of action was being encouraged?

To the passive observer, one can obviously tell this was a protest of Trump, but one could also reasonably argue

that the course of action being encouraged was violence.

There was indeed literature laid out, but the overt hatred towards our President and his policies clouded what I assume to be their real message of defined, peaceful protest.

As I said though, this was not the perceived message by many, and this display resulted in increased political and social division that is plaguing our school and the world.

Let us protest injustice, but let's think critically about the message we are trying to convey and ensure that our message is not forgotten in the passion.

Let's bring people together, not tear them apart. In the end, as I always say, change is effectuated by a unified voice for peace and justice not many small voices of hatred and disunity.

Sean Hinnenkamp

# “Democracy Dies in Darkness”

Isaac Bloom  
Opinion Columnist

After White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, stood in front of the American people and inaccurately described the attendance at President Donald Trump's inauguration, Kellyanne Conway quickly came to his and the entire administration's defense. But she didn't offer an apology or even a correction of facts. Instead, she used the term “alternative fact” to describe the falsehoods put forth by the administration.

This statement is much more than an oxymoron. Rather, the concept is deeply rooted in a much darker past. It dangerously serves an administration by completely releasing them from any accountability while also empowering them with the ability to decide what is and isn't true.

This ability is something that could be and has been used in order to cause an irrational fear that can quickly permeate a society. Throughout this entire political season, fear has been proven a very powerful concept. It has motivated action and beliefs, unjustified or not.

Fear has the power to manipulate common misconceptions into large falsehoods that carry no factual weight. Then these falsehoods are used as justifications for sweeping actions with drastic and painful consequences. Multiple historical events have shown this same trend. On May 10, 1933 over 25,000 books were burned in Nazi Germany.

Powerful minds and important ideas filled these writings. Works by authors such as Albert Einstein, Karl Marx and Ernest Hemingway, were among those destroyed; some of which were never replaced. The action was born out of a decision from up



Kellyanne Conway, counselor to President Trump, debuted her infamous phrase “alternative facts” while defending the crowd size of Trump's inauguration.

top. It did not serve to protect the German people. There was no threat.

Chancellor at the time, Hitler used this tactic of erasure, which had not been seen since the Middle Ages, in an attempt to

completely rid Jewish humanity from history. He had complete control after having instilled a fear and hatred throughout his society. He had insisted on a fear of those who were different than the majority, spreading miscon-

ceptions, lies, and fallacies. The administration was in complete control of the truth. And they certainly did not use it to better society.

Jews are satanic. Mexicans are rapists. Muslims are terrorists. These are all statements of falsehood, but there are people living with these as their truths. We have moved into a society where the truth is up for debate. President Trump did not shy away from pulling these falsehoods into a realm of truth. He pulled stereotypes and misconceptions onto the national stage, galvanizing a deep fear in the American people.

He said whatever he needed to say in order to amass more power. It worked. He now holds the highest office. Yet the falsehoods have not stopped and he has not taken any steps to rid the nation of its fear of others. Rather, he has continued to fuel this hatred by keeping the American people away from the truth.

By attacking the media and using the phrase “alternative facts”, President Trump is allowed to make his own truth. Have you ever heard of the Bowling Green Massacre? Neither had anyone else. But when a majority of Republicans obtain their news and facts directly from the White House and not the press, these falsehoods

become their truth and no questions are asked.

The constructed massacre is much more than a lie or a slip-up. It was used to justify an executive action. By insisting that Muslim refugees had committed a horrific massacre, the Trump administration played directly into the falsehoods and dangerous fears they had fostered during their campaign to gain support for their immigration ban. The sweeping action has real and dangerous consequences. The administration created a justification for these policies by creating a new truth.

Without information and without the truth the American people cannot hold our administration accountable. Rather, they will fall in line with any executive actions or decisions regardless of logic, sensibility, or concern for humanity.

If we don't demand the truth, the books will burn. We will keep families on opposite sides of an airport. We will fear and hate others for no reason at all. We will believe his hair is real.

We cannot let alternative facts become an alternative reality, because as *Washington Post* columnist and editor Bob Woodward warns, “Democracy dies in darkness.”



**Have something to say?**  
**Write a letter to the editor.**  
email [lettertotheeditor@gac.edu](mailto:lettertotheeditor@gac.edu)

# Fight the (Education) System



**Rachael Manser**  
Opinion Columnist

The American education system fails its students every day as it teaches to sit down, shut up, and regurgitate what the teacher says. We are not educated for the purpose of learning, we are educated for the purpose of being tested.

We are tested in the traditional sense of standardized examinations that fail to consider diversity of any kind, but also tested in our ability to become a citizen and fulfill our role in society without protest.

Brazilian educator and philosopher Paulo Freire, most famous for his influential book *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, devoted his life's work to fighting an education system that oppressed its people by denying them any opportunity for critical consciousness.

Freire's work is rooted in his own experience helping Brazilian adults read and write. While his theories are complex, Freire



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Paolo Freire, Brazilian educator and philosopher, dedicated his life to challenging traditional education systems that value testing over critical thinking,

establishes critical concepts that we can use to reflect on our own system of education.

Freire describes the traditional method of teaching as the "banking model", which establishes a rigid hierarchy between the educator and the educated. The educator is the authority figure with all of the knowledge while the educated is an empty vessel waiting to be filled with information.

The teacher is the subject, or active participant in education, while the students are passive

objects.

Though this sounds extreme, Freire's theory explains how children are conditioned to behave in the classroom. Imagine the mass of desks facing a single podium with students sitting while the teacher stands or walks around. We must even ask for permission to speak by raising our hands – it's obvious that the system is created to domesticate us and make us submit to authority.

Not only does this model impede any opportunity for critical

thinking and creative processes, it also dehumanizes the student. Freire argues that what differentiates humans from animals is their ability to interact with the world by changing, creating, and making decisions based off of a comprehensive awareness and profound understanding of society and their role in it.

The ability to think critically is what makes us human. "Banking" education completely denies this essential concept.

Our education system aims to create citizens who have just

enough information to function properly in their society, but not enough to create a consciousness of their ability to question and change the status quo.

Every institution in our country, from the governmental system and organized religion to the film industry, is invested in maintaining the status quo. Education is no exception.

Even as a liberal arts college which "seeks to promote the open exchange of ideas" and "help its students to attain their full potential as persons," Gustavus is not an exception to the American education system.

While many courses are discussion-based and welcome debate, analysis, and inquiry and many professors genuinely care about students as humans, there is still a standardized system by which we learn.

More importantly, the majority of courses have no interaction with, or sometimes even relevance to, the world that exists outside of our small community atop the Hill.

Students are also indoctrinated with the college's values in and outside of the classroom and domesticated by the college's rules as soon as we step foot on campus as first-years.

Though many recognize there are some inherent problems within our education system, they fail to understand we are oppressed by it because we have been conditioned to be acclimated to these institutions.

We are taught to believe that education will expand our minds, but the subtext is that they won't expand beyond the limits of the status quo unless we become conscious of our own ability to change the system.

## The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Former Trump campaign staffers claim they cracked the code for keeping the president's unhinged tweeting under control.



The key, according to former officials, is maintaining a steady stream of praise directed at the leader of the free world.



Trump could be the first president cyberbullied out of office.



# Crossword

Do you know these places and buildings on campus? Use the clues and write the names in the boxes below.

**Across**

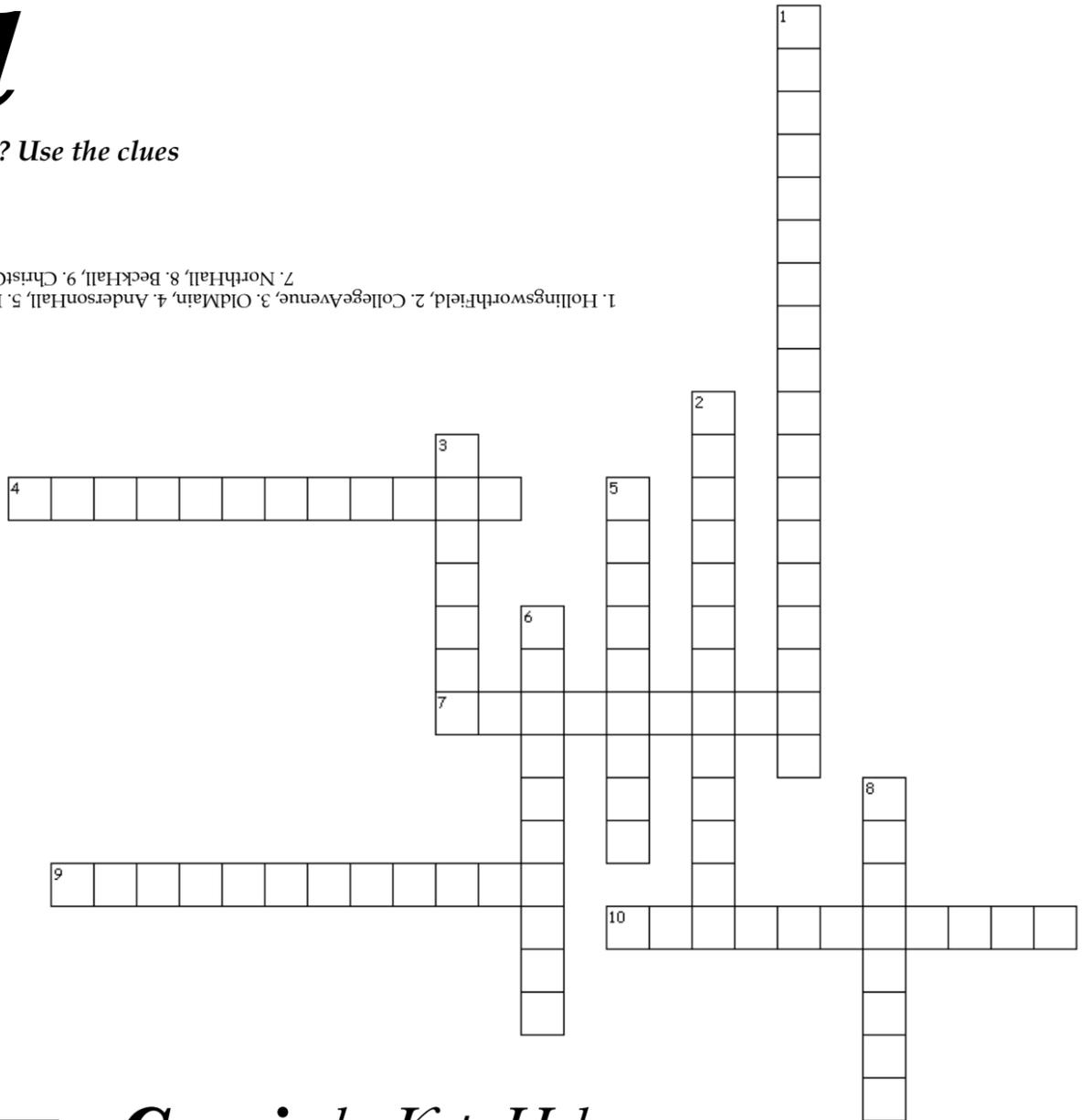
- 4. Newly renovated hall which includes the Writing Center, CARE and many other Gustavus institutions.
- 7. The southernmost hall in the Complex dormitory.
- 9. Tallest building on campus.
- 10. Found in the lower level of the campus center, this place will help you if you want to pick up where you left off.

**Down**

- 1. Home of the Golden Gusties.
- 2. Road leading up to the sign and campus.
- 3. First building on campus.
- 5. Academic hall named after the man who invented dynamite.
- 6. A place half as exciting as the famous American theme park.
- 8. Social science center built in 2011.

**Answers**

1. HollingsworthField, 2. CollegeAvenue, 3. OldMain, 4. AndersonHall, 5. NobelHall, 6. ThreeFlags, 7. NorthHall, 8. BeckHall, 9. ChristChapel, 10. TheBookmark



## Sudoku

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

## Comic by Kate Holman



# Men's Tennis spring season starts strong

## Gusties look to improve record in MIAC play



Gustavus Sports Information

Members of the men's tennis team gather in a huddle before their matches against Hamline. The team defeated Hamline, as well as the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the University of Northwestern-St. Paul on Feb. 11.

### Jake Woodrich Staff Writer

Although there may have not been any formal practices during the nationally ranked Gustavus Men's Tennis team's hiatus after the conclusion of their Fall season in October, the 20th ranked Gusties did not stop preparing for the start of their Spring season, which officially began in late January. Head Coach Tommy Valentini has been pleased with the team in both seasons.

"We felt good about our progress during the fall. The team performed well against a D1 field at Drake and played well overall at the ITA regional. Our top priority was to get our new family members into our rhythm and culture, and to help our leaders adjust to new roles to set the tone for the spring, and we felt like that process went well," Coach Valentini said regarding the Fall season. Talking about the spring season, Coach Valentini continued, "We are making good progress in living out our values on the court each day in practice and competition and as a group. We've been playing good tennis and are working to get healthy here in the early portion of the season."

As Coach Valentini commented, the team has definitely been playing good tennis as of late, compiling a record of eight wins and only two losses this

spring, including an undefeated record of 2-0 in MIAC Conference play thus far. This record very well may be accredited to the players' hard work in their brief so-called break during the winter months, which, as mentioned earlier, included zero formal practices. Instead, players took it upon themselves to get together to stay fresh and improve their game.

**"We are making good progress in living out our values on the court each day in practice and competition."**

**—Coach Valentini**

"Between fall and spring seasons there were no formal practices. Players on the team would hit with each other on their own time as much as their schedules would allow," Junior Jacob Endres said. With an abundance of talented players on the team, just hitting and practicing with one another can do wonders for the team's progression.

"Depth is always a key for us and this year is no different. The vast majority of our roster has important responsibilities against outside competition, so everyone has a key role in our team's competitive success.

And there is no question that our potential for improvement is impacted by the depth and ability that the guys bring to practice every day," Coach Valentini said.

Despite the harsh Minnesotan winters, the Gusties are still able to practice and play competitively year-round inside the tennis bubble. Some players, like Endres, are itching to get outside, however.

"Indoor play is very controlled and predictable. The ball will leave your racquet and bounce exactly as you expect it will. Outdoor play is far more dynamic. Wind and sun are huge factors that do not exist indoors. You have to be far more adaptable and resilient to be successful when playing outside. Indoor tennis favors players who hit lots of tennis balls throughout the year and are fixed in their specific routines. Outdoor tennis favors the craftier and more determined player who can accept that the environment factors are out of their control and puts forth their best effort to win. I prefer playing outside," Endres said when asked about the difference between playing tennis indoors versus outdoors.

As the season moves along, the team plans to keep improving, which in turn, will hopefully result in the completion of some major goals. For Sophomore Chase Johnson, those goals include NCAA

tournament and all-conference aspirations.

"As a team, I'm hoping that we can make it to the elite eight in the NCAA tournament. Over the last couple years, we've lost in the sweet 16, so it would be great if we could take the next step this year. Individually, I would like to make all-conference for both singles and doubles," Johnson said. These

things are entirely possible, but Coach Valentini will be happy and proud of the team regardless of results if a few things remain static.

"As long as the guys focus on giving their best effort, choosing to stay positive and present, and to play with great sportsmanship, we feel like we can be very successful," Coach Valentini said.



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Patrick Whaling returns a ball during a match Feb. 11. The team takes on Grinnell College at 5:30 on Feb. 25 at home.

# Swimming and Diving makes a splash

## Men and Women's Teams place second at MIAC Championships



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Tanner Sonnek swims the 200-yard individual medley on the first day of the MIAC Championships. At the end of the three day long meet, Sonnek held the best time for the event with a time of 1:53.06. Sonnek placed well in other events, including a first place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 55.10.

### Tanner Sparrow Managing Editor

Both Gustavus Swimming and Diving teams found silver in the water at the MIAC Championships at the University of Minnesota on Saturday evening.

Sophomore Tanner Sonnek lead the men to a second place finish out of eight teams with 653 points, while women took 684.5 points to finish second out of 11.

*"Sonnek had an amazing meet. It is well deserved, he stepped up for us big time."*  
—Head Coach Jon Carlson

The University of Saint Thomas took first in both divisions with 910 and 908 points, respectively.

Sonnek got out of the pool

on Saturday after three days of competition with a MIAC meet record and NCAA Selection Time of 55.10 to win the 100-yard breaststroke, another top time of 1:53.06 in the 200-yard individual medley, and his second consecutive championship in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:02.12.

Additionally, he swam for four Gustie relay teams that all collected All-Conference awards.

"Sonnek had an amazing meet," Head Coach Jon Carlson said. "It is well deserved, he stepped up for us big time."

Last year's Men's Swimming Rookie of the Year, this year Sonnek one-upped his status as he was named MIAC Men's Swimmer of the Year.

Meanwhile, Freshman Matt Allison nearly upset two-time Champion Kenny Bergman of St. John's in the 100-yard freestyle with an all-conference NCAA B-Cut Selection time of 45.43 finish. Allison lost by only

.02 seconds to the Johnnie.

Sophomore Andrew Peters and Senior Adam Peters joined Sonnek and Allison in the 400-yard freestyle relay. The Gusties' time of 3:07.39 was good enough for a third place finish and all-conference honors.

The men's divers also came up large in the team effort, as four Gustie divers placed in the top seven. Freshman Josh Theis led the way with a 394.20 point third place finish. Theis

*"They swam their hearts out and swam for each other. In a sport that is innately individual, when you swim together as a team you can do some special things."*

—Head Coach Jon Carlson

met a NCAA B Qualifying standard and earned all-conference honors.

"Our divers really came through for us and made a huge difference in the overall result," Carlson said.

The Gustie Men moved up two spots from last year's fourth place finish.

"That was kind of our goal, to see if we could get into second place," Carlson said. "The guys were focused after being fourth place last year. It has been their focus all year to get in to the top two. It didn't look too promising going into the meet but they swam their hearts out and swam for each other. In a sport that is innately individual, when you swim together as a team you can do some special things as a group."

On the Women's side of things, Junior Kate Reilly met a NCAA B-Cut time in the 100-yard freestyle preliminary with a time of 51.92. In the final, Reilly swam it in 52 seconds to claim third place. Sophomore Linnea Rizzo finished second in the mile swim with a time of

17:40.65, Gustie teammate Sydney Hallmark claimed the third spot fourteen seconds later. Junior Megan Boonstra finished fourth and Alison Mayfield fifth as the Gusties swept spots 2-5. Gustie swimmers allotted for five of the top eight finishers in the event.

In the 200-yard backstroke, Senior Hayley Booher swam into third place and all-conference honors with a 1:06.76 finish.

Senior Nicole Lohman, Junior Kennedy Holwerda, Sophomore Maggie Webster, and Reilly snagged second place in the 400-yard freestyle with a time of 3:33.31, good enough for all-conference.

"The women really came together as a team and put together some outstanding performances. We talked about swimming to inspire, we had swims light a fire under the rest of the team and it would just be one swim after another, after another," Carlson said.

# Men's Basketball beat by the buzzer

## Gusties drop another close game to end the season



Senior Peter Kruize takes a contested shot during a game against Carleton College. The team lost 63-60 after a competitive final few minutes of the game.

Gustavus Sports Information

### Tanner Sparrow Managing Editor

Men's Basketball let one last close game slip away to end their season on Saturday. The Gusties dropped the contest to Carleton 63-60. The 5-20 Gusties (5-15 MIAC) lost a total of 7 games by 5 or less points in their 2016-2017 campaign.

The most notable close loss came against the eventual MIAC Champion Tommies on Feb. 1. Trading leads throughout the first half, the Gusties ended the first half trailing the Tommies 30-36.

In the second half the Tommies increased their lead to 43-32 coming up on the 15 minute mark, but the Gusties went on an impressive 13-3 run in the next seven minutes, cutting St. Thomas' lead to only one.

The Tommies held the lead until a layup by Junior Jason Faul tied the game at 53 with a little over three minutes left to play.

The two teams traded shots and brought the score to 57-57 with 29 seconds left. The Tommies had the ball and capitalized on the last possession, winning on a heartbreaking buzzer beater.

The Song was much the same against Carleton on Saturday.

The Gusties trailed 21-15 to start the game but went on a 15-3 run in five minutes to take a 30-24 lead at the 5:55 mark in the first half.

Carleton fought back to make up the deficit, and the Gusties took a 38-37 lead into the locker room.

Gustavus and Carleton both shot well in the first half, the Gusties hit on 57.7 percent of their shots (15-26) and the Knights connected on 56 percent (14-25).

*"To hear their questions and things they didn't do as freshman, and then to see them step up into leadership roles, it was like watching kids grow up in front of you and I'm very proud to be their coach."*

—Head Coach Mark Hanson

The Knights tied the game six times, but the Gusties didn't trail until the 2:09 mark in the second, when the Knights were



The senior basketball players and their families were recognized during senior night Feb. 18.

Gustavus Sports Information

able to connect on two free throws for a 61-60 lead. The Knights found the basket for a 63-60 lead on their next possession, and the Gusties missed on their next four shots to end the game, and their season.

Senior Peter Kruize left it all on the court with a team-high 22 points. Saint Peter native Kruize finished his career with a 314 point season and 887 total points in the black and gold.

Sophomore Riley Sharobono added 13 points to his team-

high 363 points. Junior Kelsey Thomas left the court with a career-high 13 rebounds.

Senior Captain Alec Koster contributed 149 points on the season, and Senior Benjamin Lies tallied 113. Senior Captain Coleman Sweeney battled injury throughout his career, but provided crucial leadership and guidance to the younger players this season.

"It was fun to watch them grow up," Head Coach Mark Hanson said. "To hear their

questions and the things they didn't do as freshman, and then to see them step up into leadership roles, it's like watching kids grow up in front of you and I'm very proud to be their coach."

The seniors will definitely be missed, but the Gusties got the chance to develop a slew of young players this season, and should be optimistic about next year. Look to players like Sharbono, Faul, Thomas and Sophomore Spencer Tollefson to step up.