

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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ISSUE 15

Gustie of the Week: Liza Long



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Svendson and Ngabirano win Co-Presidential Election

Election decided by a margin of three votes



Submitted

New Co-President Elects Hubert Ngabirano and Solveig Svendsen stand ready to serve the Gustavus student body.

Monali Bhatka
Staff Writer

This week Gustavus Adolphus College had its annual Co-Presidential Election. A mass email was sent out to the entire student body in order to vote for the candidates they believed were most fit for the job. The two pairs of candidates were Hubert Ngabirano and Solveig Svendsen who ran against Oakley Clark and Henry Adebisi. Throughout this week, these two campaigns were working hard to spread their message through their platforms. A vital part of this was tabling outside the cafeteria.

Finally, when the election

day arrived on Feb. 26, it was only a matter of time before the winners would be determined. Another mass email was sent out shortly after declaring Ngabirano and Svendsen the winners, and thus they will be the Student Senate Co-Presidents for the 2017-2018 school year.

According to Ombudsperson, Joe Robbins, this election was "the closest one I've seen by far. We also had a very good turnout, I love to see people be so passionate about student government!"

Many students seized the opportunity to vote for those who represented their views. Every last vote counted, as Ngabirano and Svendsen won by a margin of just three votes.

Those that voted participated in a decision that could have an everlasting impact on the future of the college.

"This year's election went really well!" Co-President Herchran Singh said. "There was great interest from the student body evidenced by the number of voters and attendance at the debate, indicating a significant interest in the candidates and their platforms. I personally witnessed both pairs working on their campaigns, which definitely showed that they would be dedicated to their positions as Co-Presidents."

Regardless of the result, there was overwhelming concern among students at Gustavus on who they wanted to be Co-

President. They understood this is an important role, and took the initiative to learn more about the candidates. It showed the community yearns to be informed about the school in order for it to be a better place. They have the passion to make and be a part of change.

The current Co-Presidents gave their opinion on this year's candidates and how they may affect the future of the college. "[Svendson and Ngabirano] build a genuine interest within the student body about what senate is doing. Having the privilege of knowing both of them personally, I know that they are extremely dedicated to the individual Gustie and will work hard to stand up for each

of their constituents next year," Co-President Alex Shaikoski said.

Ngabirano expressed that he and Svendsen ran a platform which was based on building stronger relationships where everyone's voice could be heard when having strong, honest, and vulnerable conversations in a respectful manner. "This will take all Gusties and not just the two of us or the body of Senate. We want to start by strengthening social connections between student leaders across the campus and then involve them in facilitating these discussions, along with the faculty, the staff and the administration," Ngabirano said.

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Campus Safety Report

Monday, February 20
 Campus Safety provided a medical transport for a student who was injured on Friday, Feb. 17 in the Lund Center.

Campus Safety responded to a medical in assist in Norelius Hall.

Tuesday, February 21
 Campus Safety responded to a report of property damage in Beck Hall.

Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to a suspected marijuana violation in Sohre Hall.

Campus Safety and Resi-

dential Life responded to a suspected drug violation in Rundstrom Hall. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

Wednesday, February 22
 Campus Safety Director received a report of harassing communication from one student to another. Case referred to Dean of Students for follow-up.

Thursday, February 23
 An online report was submitted about a student group involved possible hazing activity

in Fall 2016.

Friday, February 24
 Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation at Pittman Hall. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system for underage possession of alcohol and underage consumption.

Saturday, February 25
 Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation in Nobel Hall involving three students. One student was referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption of

alcohol and two students were referred for a 21 and over alcohol violation.

Sunday, February 26
 A Collegiate Fellow documented a noise violation in Sorensen Hall involving five students.

Campus Safety responded to a student of concern in Arbor View Apartments. One student was referred to the campus conduct system for a 21 and over alcohol violation.

A Gustavus employee reported a juvenile who threw a soda bottle at a car near Holling-

sworth Stadium. No damage occurred and the person was not identified.

Tip of the Week:
 It Takes a Community to Protect a Community
 "If You See Something, Say Something™" is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement.

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Making Gustavus feel like home

Student organizations work to support students effected by the travel ban and to reassure their families that Gustavus is a safe place



Abby Anderson

Event organizer and Diversity Chairwoman for the Gustavus Student Senate leads a group of Gusties in a moment of reflection and solidarity for those effected by the travel ban at a candlelit vigil hosted by Student Senate.

Corbyn Jenkins
Staff Writer

Gustavus Adolphus College is guided by five core pillars in its vision: Community, Excellence, Faith, Justice, and Service. These values are the very foundation of GAC and define this community.

"Our organizations are committed to creating environments that are welcoming, but also challenge structures that oppress or marginalize members of our community."

-DLC

As such, the Gustavus community strives to be accepting. The student body is global, varied in its walks of life and diverse in its opinions. This has resulted in a community

whose objective is cultivating a welcoming environment.

President Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 27 temporarily barring entry to refugees and immigrants. As a result of this order, U.S. airport customs officials denied entry to individuals, with some of those individuals having been detained.

Any restrictions that prevent students from going abroad for study, teaching, or research could be considered deeply concerning, and could have a profound impact not only on scholarship, but also on family relationships of our college's community members.

The Gustavus Adolphus College Diversity Leadership Council, on the behalf of many Gustavus organizations, supports those who are affected by the executive order halting the entry of people from seven countries with a significant Muslim population.

"Our organizations are com-

'Making Gustavus feel like home'
continues on page 3

Climate lecture draw massive crowd

Prisilla Ortero
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 28, Gustavus Adolphus College students gathered in Wallenberg Auditorium to hear the lecture, *Climate Refugees: An Unrecognized Challenge At Home and Abroad* by Cornell University Professor Dr. María Cristina García. This event is part of a series of Wallenberg lectures established in honor of Raoul Wallenberg.

Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat who organized and rescued many Hungarian-Jews from Nazi-Germany. In Budapest, Wallenberg organized a complex and issued fake passports to further these efforts, and his safe houses helped save thousands.

In line with this service, the Gustavus Adolphus College Wallenberg lecture series invites speakers that address crises that loom ahead and crises that are presently occurring.

Climate Refugees: An Unrecognized Challenge at Home and Abroad, in part cosponsored by the Peace Studies Department and Building Bridges, began with a disclaimer by García, "At these times we need more people of good conscience, more people of goodwill. I'm not a scientist, but a historian. In the past year, I spent im-

mersed in the topic of climate change. There are many days when I wish I had not taken up this topic. There are days that it fills me with hopelessness and sadness. But it is a situation that will affect us all."

Before her lecture at Wallenberg Auditorium, García expressed the difficulty of taking on the topic of climate refugees. As a researcher, her previous three books addressed the obstacles faced by political refugees.

During her time researching political migrants, she noticed that throughout history many political refugees were first faced by an environmental disaster. An environmental disaster that disrupted their way of living, one that their government failed to properly respond to or address.

At first glance these refugees are classified as political refugees, but on closer observation, it is easy to see that climate was, and continues to be, the tipping point.

Environmental disasters as the cause for migration was the main topic of the Wallenberg lecture. García highlighted how historians have written extensively on the impact climate has had in shaping history. Extreme weather events have frequently been part of the human story.

During the lecture, García

addressed three events in history where the environment contributed to forced migration, three major tipping points in the western hemisphere in the last hundred years that serve as an example.

In the 1930s, the Dust Bowl caused the displacement of 60 percent of the Great Plains region, and as one of the worst catastrophes in U.S history, the Dust Bowl forced the movement of these displaced individuals into the western states; indirectly affecting these states with immense political, social, and economic consequences.

Further south, the 1972 earthquake in Nicaragua served as a cause for political unrest. Two-thirds of the residents were displaced, and faced food shortage and disease, while dry-season winds worsened the problem with fires created due to the disaster.

The Nicaraguan government accepted aid from countries from 25 other countries worth millions of dollars. Later it was revealed that the Somoza family, prominent Nicaraguan political figures at the time, had stolen much of the foreign aid in order to enrich themselves at the expense of the people.

Opposition to the regime, which had begun to surface before the earthquake, increased quickly, growing into a revolt

that became the Nicaraguan Revolution.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina displaced thousands in Louisiana, United States. As residents migrated to nearby states, the city of New Orleans lost so many workers that the state proceeded to waive restrictions on hiring undocumented workers.

Climate scientists suggest that more of these events are likely to occur in the future. In the last forty years, Earth has lost a third of its arable land. Damage caused by erosion and pollution has degraded soil, surging global demand for food.

Melting glaciers have reduced aqua reserves, caused flooding, and directly forced many populations to migrate. Climate change has arguably increased environmental catastrophes that contribute to crop failure, wildfires, drought and the spread of infectious diseases.

Yet, as García addressed, there continues to be climate deniers in the United States government despite the change of climate affecting military and national security.

The United States military studies climate because the rising sea levels have caused them to restructure their military bases. The increase of national disasters has meant there is also a need for military intervention.

In terms of national security, the loss of land and natural resources will increase warfare as countries attempt to control natural resources. Migration will increase causing civil unrest.

And here lies the problem. As García stated, when climate change fuels migration, the burden falls heavily on neighboring countries. As people migrate to these areas, these nations are faced with political, cultural, and economic conflict.

The international community fails to address these problems at the start. Countries fail to accept that they have an international obligation to assist these people until a major political conflict ensues. "When a group of people are labeled as refugees [without any political context] it is a country's way of choosing to not be held accountable".

Most recently, various environmental changes have caused extreme conflict. In the case of Darfur, rainfall had decreased as much as 40 percent, causing severe drought, which served as the catalyst for migration. The lack of water led to conflict between migrants who sought

'Climate lecture'
continues on page 4



Abby Anderson

Students gather for a candlelit vigil in Christ Chapel to express support and solidarity for those effected by the travel ban.

'Making Gustavus feel like home' continued from page 3

mitted to creating environments that are welcoming, but also challenge structures that oppress or marginalize members of our community. We accomplish this by engaging in open dialogues and courageous conversations throughout the year," The Diversity Leadership Council said in a campus-wide e-mail.

"Injustices against Gustavus students are injustices against the Gustavus community as a whole,"

-DLC

The DLC is expressing its support and solidarity by tabling from Feb. 27 until March 10. The goal is to raise awareness about another issue; the Syrian refugee crisis. On Feb. 23, the Student Senate hosted a forum discussing the travel ban. The event was followed by a candlelight vigil in Christ Chapel where there was a devotional and time to reflect upon events that have occurred.

"The travel ban forum opened with students sharing their

personal experiences regarding the executive order. They described how it impacted their daily lives, religion, family and friends. It then opened up to discussion for the attendees to ask questions [of] the students who shared, as well as their general understanding of the executive order," former Student Senate Co-President, Herchran Singh said.

While the event took place in the Courtyard, many students stopped and listened to the panel, with some even writing letters of support when they left. Multiple discussions regarding the executive order were held at the event, but there were some that took precedence over others.

"Students affected by the executive order took to the mic to share how the executive order has affected their relationships here on campus, as well as their families. A large topic that was touched on was how these students feel here at Gustavus after the executive order and how Gustavus can best help their families understand that Gustavus will protect them to the best of its abilities," Junior Liz Toeben said.

Multiple ideas were expressed regarding the best approach to reach out to the affected families, with the goal being to help them understand how devoted Gustavus is in protecting its

entire community, especially international students during this time.

"One idea that was mentioned was that Gustavus could send letters to the parents of the students affected. These letters would reassure them that their children have a supportive network of individuals behind them, and that the college is doing their best to help ensure that their children have access to as many resources as possible. There was also talk of reach-

ing out to a nonprofit law firm located in Mankato in the event that legal advising [be] needed for any of the affected students," Toeben said.

"Injustices against Gustavus students are injustices against the Gustavus community as a whole," a representative from the DLC stated.

Gustavus has dedicated help in whatever way possible, making its message clear that those affected are not alone, because all Gusties are family.

'Climate lecture' continued from page 3

land with more abundant water, and farmers already living in those territories, causing civil unrest. Yet, the international community addressed the conflict as an ethnic conflict.

In 2006, Syria suffered an intense drought that pushed 1.5 million people from rural areas to urban areas. The government of Syria failed to address the drought and popular discontent ensued as rural to urban migration increased. The 2011 uprising was a direct cause of this civil unrest. In present day foreign affairs, we think of Syrian refugees as political refugees-but the first push was environmental.

Under most international refugee acts, refugees are defined in a very precise manner, often leaving climate refugees with no legal protections. García expressed that even with legal protections for climate refugees, countries can still fail to act, as they do with political refugees.

"As the case with Katrina, most people currently directly affected [by climate change] are poor, black, or brown. If FEMA had responded quickly, thousands would not have died; and if the state had responded earlier, less flooding would have occurred," García said.

The lecture ended with a final send off from García.

"It is easy to feel paralyzed by [this topic]. [But] One can bring about change by being conscious of the choices we make, the food we eat, the homes we live in and the things we buy," said García. "The more people that choose to live mindfully, the more I urge you to not be non-informative voters. Be involved at the local and state level. Don't let politicians dictate laws based on financial interest. Imagine what a room full of people can accomplish by being conscious of their actions...When enough change occurs at the local level, it moves up the political ladder and then national government will be forced to address these issues".

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Nominations are due by 15 April 2017

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GUSTIE of the WEEK

Elizabeth Long

Kayla Cardenas
Staff Writer

This year's Building Bridges conference, "Uprooting Injustice: Fostering the Growth of Grassroots Movements" was put together by a group of individuals including this week's Gustie of the Week and Co-Chair of Building Bridges, Elizabeth "Liza" Long. Junior political science and gender women's and sexuality studies major, Liza currently soaks up an experience with Building Bridges.

"I have had the opportunity to meet amazing people and build a community on campus with people who are equally as committed to social justice as I am. It has been an incredible opportunity to gain confidence and new ideas and skills," Liza said.

While also involved in the Womyn's Awareness Center, Arb Scouts, and volunteering with NARAL Pro-Choice MN, Liza still has time to relax outside and hammock, stargaze, and hike.

"Liza's involvement within her extracurricular activities are great examples of how she

lives out her passion for social justice in service to her immediate community at Gustavus and to the national and global community," Liza's professor Kate Knutson said.

Liza is from Appleton, Wisconsin, and her dream job is traveling around the world researching social justice struggles and diversifying herself with different communities. She has already given herself a head start by studying abroad.

"Liza is willing to stand up for what she believes in and people who have less power than she does no matter the cost she faces personally."

—Kate Knutson

"I spent last fall semester in Bangalore, India with the Justice, Peace, and Sustainable Communities program, and it's the best thing I've ever done at Gustavus," Liza said. "We travelled all around India on field visits, and I had the opportunity to spend my mid-

semester break in the foothills of the Himalayas. The program was focused on understanding how the policies of the United States are felt worldwide, and how direct and harmful their impact has been, as well as learning about the myriad of cultures that exist in India."

Martin Lang, Liza's supervisor describes Long in three words: Insightful, resilient, and prescient.

"Liza has an uncanny ability to confront challenges (often many at the same time) and bounce back with optimism and energy even when confronted with the disappointments we all inevitably face," Lang said. "Whenever Liza and I discuss possible solutions to a problem, she always brings both new and helpful perspectives to the conversation. I rely on her heavily to help me see new and inventive ways forward on a variety of topics."

Knutson admires Liza's selflessness towards her causes and contributions in the classroom.

"Liza is willing to stand up for what she believes in and people who have less power than she does no matter the cost she faces personally. She is very smart and perceptive, loyal to her friends and family, and always



Abby Anderson

Liza's optimism allows her to handle nearly any dire situation comfortably.

brings a unique perspective to class discussions and assignments," Knutson said.

Liza's last year is approaching soon, and she anticipates what her life will look like after Gustavus.

"After college, I hope to work for either a nonprofit or policy institute in the Twin Cities or Washington, DC. I aspire to

work within marginalized communities and advocate for policies that support economic and racial justice," Liza said.



Abby Anderson

Liza's selfless attitude and desire to help others led her to become Co-Chair of Building Bridges and study abroad in India with the Justice, Peace, and Sustainable Communities program.

Warner Bros. returns to wizarding



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"*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*" provides a warm welcome for "Harry Potter" fans, but frustrates with a fluctuating plot and failed character development opportunities.



Brady Lass
Section Editor

After the conclusion of the highly successful *Harry Potter* films in 2011, the millions of fans of the world J.K. Rowling had crafted still wanted more out of their beloved franchise.

Rowling, along with Warner Bros., gave the fans just that through merchandising, theme park attractions, digital publishing sites, and West End plays. All of these were built upon the "Wizarding World" while still earning them a hefty paycheck.

As the Marvel Cinematic Universe and the recent *Star Wars* films prove, even the simplest act of further building the world and scope of successful properties has a remarkable amount of untapped potential for individual storytelling and opportunities for more sequels

and box office hits.

Thus, Warner Bros. have gone back to the Wizarding World to showcase the untold stories of the *Harry Potter* universe with their first installment: *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

Set in 1920s New York, Eddie Redmayne plays the role of the eccentric Newt Scamander, the future author of *Fantastic Beasts* who carries around a briefcase containing dozens of magical creatures for research, and came to America for personal business.

After a mix-up causes a couple of the beasts to escape, Newt relies on the help of former Auror, Tina Goldstein and Jacob Kowalski, a Muggle cannery worker accidentally exposed to magic, to reclaim some of his briefcase residents.

"Harry Potter fans can expect a lot of Easter Eggs and world-building containing Rowling's keen sense of creativity."

While this is going on, the American Aurors struggle with protecting the Wizarding World from the rest of New York (dubbed "No-Majs"), especially when a dark force becomes associated with a magic persecution group named the New Salem Philanthropic Society.

The primary issue of the mov-

ie is that the tone and topics of the two main plotlines often feel like they are clashing with each other. It keeps the obligations of the heroes and antagonist completely separate until the last third of the movie.

One half of the movie is about an ordinary man experiencing the wonders of the Wizarding World with a quirky traveler that has a zoo in his suitcase and a reluctant magical cop to capture fascinating creatures, while the other half deals with political agendas, witch hunts, and child abuse.

It's like a *Pokemon* and *Doctor Who* crossover keeps cutting to *The Crucible* featuring the X-Men. We're given a lot of characters and story, but not a structure to keep the tone and development balanced.

Many of the supporting actors shine as their characters, such as Dan Fogler as the bumbling, yet likeable Kowalski, and Katherine Waterston as the conflicted Tina.

However, the movie didn't sell me on the supposed main protagonist, Newt Scamander.

Redmayne mumbles through most of his lines, doesn't have a commanding presence as the film's lead, and lacks the chemistry that the other performers have with each other.

The film expects us to believe that he got something out of the whole experience, but even Newt himself admits that he didn't really have much character development in the film.

Any chance we have to learn more about his backstory is quickly negated, which is a shame, because those were the only opportunities to showcase further dimensions of his character or personality and try to connect the two plots together in a decent fashion.

"We're given a lot of characters and story, but not a structure to keep the tone and development balanced."

This is especially concerning given how Warner Bros. plans to have sequels to the movie, and it sounds like he's the only one guaranteed to return in them.

The issue isn't that Newt is playing second fiddle in what's supposed to be his own movie (as *Mad Max: Fury Road* demonstrates that particular issue doesn't always hinder a film), it's that there isn't enough about him for me to care about, and that his role felt forced in the climax of the movie, which also had an ending that felt somewhat unsatisfactory.

That being said, *Harry Potter* fans can expect a lot of Easter Eggs and world-building containing Rowling's keen sense of creativity.

The costumes and character designs stand out (as evidenced by the recent Oscar grab), and

the creatures, while a bit overly CG sometimes, still have that magical charm in design and functionality that made us fall in love with the franchise to begin with.

It was also intriguing to see the differences 1920s American wizardry had in comparison to the terms and rules we're used to hearing from the previous films.

There are also plenty of new locations to absorb with wonder, such as Newt's suitcase, the Auror headquarters, and an underground Goblin bar featuring Hellboy himself Ron Perlman serving up drinks while making magical mafia deals.

However, the inclusion of a particular character with an actor came that I can't mention felt forced and demonstrated the film's priority on world-building rather than a coherent plot structure. The twist could only be servicable towards hardcore Potter fans while everyone else is left scratching their heads.

As a spin-off of the franchise, *Fantastic Beasts* does have fun action, likeable characters, and a welcome return to J.K. Rowling's beloved magical world, but the emphasis on world-building had a negative impact on keeping the plot balanced. While I would recommend it to *Harry Potter* fans, I'd be hesitant to do the same for casual moviegoers. Then again, given the franchise's popularity, the latter might be the harder ones to find.

Faculty Recital features original compositions

Kristi Manning
Staff Writer

At 7:30 p.m. this Friday, March 3, in Bjorling Recital Hall, there will be three Gustavus faculty members who will be performing their original compositions. They will be joined by two additional musicians, Gary Peterson, a bassist, and Cory Healey on drums.

These five musicians will be performing in a jazz combo which includes one sax, piano, trombone, drumset, and bass. Director of Gustavus Jazz Lab Band, Dave Stamps; Visiting Assistant Professor in Music, Masayoshi Ishikawa; and Adjunct Instructor of Saxophone, Combos, and World Music, Donnie Norton have each contributed to the program of the concert.

The group will be performing six pieces together, three by Ishikawa, two by Stamps, and one by Norton. These six pieces have been composed recently, and introduce concepts of improvisation not usually seen in faculty recitals.

All five musicians have to practice on their own, and then get together to rehearse everything together.

"Many of the pieces on Friday's concert were written over the last couple of years. As is common in the jazz/commercial music world, the rehearsals happen the day of," Stamps said. "Jazz composition is a little different than traditional composition in that it blends composition with improvisation. So much of what you hear on Friday will delicately and spontaneously balance those two elements."

What is unique about this recital in comparison to other faculty recitals, is that these pieces were all composed by the members of the group playing them. When writing and playing their compositions, these musicians had the opportunity to express their thoughts through music, rather than words.

Ishikawa uses his original compositions to reflect a part of who he is to the audience.

"Each of them has a very different perspective of how I view things and how I feel things," Ishikawa said. "It's almost like introducing myself, this is how I feel, this is how I think."

Most of the compositions have a backstory or personal reason for why they were composed, and this is the case for the pieces being performed in this recital.

The piece that Norton composed is titled "Tim the Enchanter". "Tim the Enchanter" was inspired by the music of trumpeter Tim Hagans, who has a unique way of playing chromatically over standard chord changes.

"This tune is a contrafact, or a song that features a new melody over an existing set of chord changes. In this case, I wrote a new melody over the



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This faculty jazz combo will feature music composed in the last couple of years that take influence from their experiences, world events, and inner thoughts.

chord changes to George Gershwin's 'I Got Rhythm.' The title also draws inspiration from one of John Cleese's characters in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*," Norton said.

Stamps has two pieces that he has composed that will be performed at the recital.

"In December (The Songbird Flew Away) is about a lost love that disappeared one winter, only to re-emerge a year later as a celebrity. 'Deuces Wild' is a highly improvised work that will evolve in the moment. It requires the musicians to communicate form, style, and direction on stage without words," Stamps said.

One of the three pieces composed by Ishikawa that will be performed at the recital is an original composition written in 2012 titled "Impermanence."

Ishikawa, who is from Japan, composed the piece as a positive message for commemorating those who lost loved ones during the tsunami.

An earthquake followed the tsunami in Japan. During that earthquake, a nuclear plant exploded about 70 miles from Ishikawa's hometown.

The radiation from the plant has been damaging the area around it, and is no longer livable. Many of the people who lived there had to leave, and will never be able to come back in their lifetime.

The anger and sadness were felt by these people and served as inspiration for the piece. The piece carries a lot of emotion, giving the audience the chance to create a connection. This is the reason that Ishikawa likes to perform this piece last when he shares his compositions.

Stamps, Ishikawa, and Norton, are all excited to present their own pieces, but are also

thankful and honored to perform pieces composed by phenomenal musicians who are also their colleagues.

Not only are the performers looking forward to the recital, but students are also eager to attend. Sophomore music minor Nicole Waskosky is very excited to be able to go.

"I had Masa as a Professor last semester and I really enjoyed listening to his improv work in class, so I can't wait to see his full composing capability! I'm also interested in his inspiration for composing these pieces. I've heard some stories about why he loves music, so it will be

exciting to see his passion for music really shine throughout his compositions," Waskosky said.

The concert may also be a little different in terms of staging for both the performers and the audience.

"We will most likely bring a bunch of chairs up on stage for guests to sit in, hopefully making it feel like a more intimate jazz club than a recital hall. Anyone who enjoys contemporary jazz music and improvisation will have a great time," Stamps said.

Everyone at Gustavus is encouraged to attend the recital.

The faculty musicians performing in the recital especially encourage younger students who may not be familiar with or have many opportunities to experience live music to attend. The connection between listening to music has changed due to technology, but they still see a huge difference between listening on a device and listening in real time. Student musicians are also urged to attend, because as a musician, listening to live music can provide an opportunity to further appreciate the medium as well as have an emotional and connective experience.

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BUILDING BRIDGES AND UPROOTING INJUSTICE

Mikayla Kvitttem-Barr
Features Editor

Building Bridges is a student organization which focuses on educating community members on issues relating to social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. The organization hosts an annual conference each year which focuses on a current and relevant issue. Entirely student run, the conference includes keynote speakers, workshops, and more.

Senior Gabe Grosshuesch and Junior Liza Long serve as this year's Building Bridges Co-Chairs. Grosshuesch is an Environmental Studies Major and African Studies Minor, and Long is a double major in Political Science and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. Together, they are responsible for selecting keynote speakers, managing the budget, determining logo and marketing designs, leading meetings, overseeing committees and subcommittees, planning events, and deciding the theme of the annual conference.

"We chose this year's topic as activism because we felt the need for a conference that would give participants skills to advocate for a cause."
- Liza Long '18

This year's conference is titled, "Uprooting Injustice: Fostering the Growth of Grassroots Movements," and will explore grassroots activism

and its necessity in today's world. More specifically, this conference will focus on the connection between justice, peace, and sustainability, and the way in which the community can build multifaceted movements surrounding these three main themes of activism.

"We chose this year's topic as activism because we felt the need for a conference that would give participants skills to advocate for a cause. I've noticed a lot of passion on this campus, but not as much action or community building as there could be. I hope that students and all attendees will gain an understanding of why activism is so necessary to create change, and be inspired to make change in their own lives," Long said.

Following recent events, this year's topic is particularly applicable.

"This year's conference on Grassroots Activism is increasingly relevant to current events, embodying many trends across the United States, with escalating activism and widespread resistance to the Trump administration. Obviously, the election turned out much differently than almost all conventional political analysts predicted, but I think it only highlights the importance of this year's conference, which aims to teach conference attendees and community members how to build and sustain effective grassroots movements about topics important to them and their community," Junior Aaron Miller said.

Although the topic was chosen over six months ago, its relevancy is now calling students to action.

"People should attend this year's conference because it is time to make change. We have watched time and time again as our fellow people are pushed down and down by systems of

oppression and privilege and we can no longer stand for this. We all share a humanity and for some people to look at other humans as lesser can no longer be tolerated. We must stand for Justice, Peace, and Sustainability for each and every person, while also addressing the need to care for our common home," Grosshuesch said.

"People should attend this year's conference because it is time to make change."
- Gabe Grosshuesch '17

Many conference participants also feel a personal connection to the topic.

"This year's conference is especially personal for me, because it is tied very closely with my own passions in climate justice, indigenous rights, and sustainability. I am hoping that, because the conference is more all-encompassing this year with the focus being on peace, justice, and sustainability, it will draw in a larger crowd with more diverse backgrounds and focuses," Sophomore Sofie Wicklund said.

Prior to the conference, there is an extensive amount of work that goes into making the day a success. The work is split into three committees that operate diligently throughout the year in preparation. These committees include Action Piece, Workshops, and Events.

"Action Piece works toward creating an interpretive walkthrough in Beck Hall, incorporating theatrical pieces, artwork, displays, spoken word, and other mediums to visually convey the topic of the conference. Workshops are

responsible for developing workshop pieces that will also be taking place in Beck and primarily involve more concrete ways of exploring how to become an activist, things you can do, etc. Events is the third committee, and they are in charge of planning events leading up to the conference, including an event each night of Building Bridges Week," Junior Bri Jol said.

Another component of the Building Bridges conference includes keynote speakers. This year's speakers include Nekima Levy-Pounds and Winona LaDuke, both passionate activists.

"Levy-Pounds served as president of the Minneapolis NAACP; under her leadership, the chapter coordinated closely with Black Lives Matter to protest police violence against people of color as well as Minnesota's racial disparities in 'key indicators of quality of life', which are some of the worst in the nation. LaDuke is another extremely high-powered activist, who has led the fight toward renewable energy and sustainable food systems, especially among indigenous communities," Miller said.

"I wanted to advocate for the rights of the oppressed, especially those impacted by the intersectionality of their multiple marginalized identities."
- Hannah Mahr '20

Both speakers are inspirational leaders in the community and advocate for justice, peace, and sustainability. Along with the opportunity to listen

to two distinct activists, attendees can also participate in seven different workshops, and an action piece.

"Participants will have various opportunities for interactive learning, whether it's through improv theatre, campaign management, or implicit bias training," Long said.

Throughout the conference, attendees will experience the role of grassroots action in bringing about social change.

"I hope people leave thinking about the challenges of organizing grassroots movements and the need for our society to respect that and advocate for more social change," Grosshuesch said.

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Aimed at inspiring, educating, and motivating its attendees, the 22nd annual Building Bridges Conference will be held on Saturday, Mar. 4.