

# THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1891

APRIL 28, 2017

**Gustie of the Week:  
Jordan Wiest**



**Where are the patriots?**

**Gusties place second  
at Carleton Relays**



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## Weekend at Ripley's

ROTC students traveled to the MN National Guard's Camp Ripley in Little Falls to practice military tactics and organizational skills



Submitted

Gustavus ROTC students gathered last spring for their annual Dine-In. Reserve Officer Training Corps students attend Gustavus while preparing to serve as officers in the military.

**Staff Writer  
Theodore Blenkush**

Cadets from the Gustavus ROTC program engaged in a weekend of military operations and leadership training alongside other Minnesota-college battalions at Camp Ripley.

Ten Gusties departed campus early the morning of Fri., April 21. Picked up and transported by bus, they accompanied over 50 other Cadets from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and Bethany Lutheran College. Together the three colleges form the Maverick Battalion.

Driving three hours north they reached Camp Ripley. The 53,000-acre training facility stands outside of Little Falls, bordering the Mississippi River. The grounds are utilized by the National Guard, Minnesota State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, foreign

exchange programs, and other military units.

The Maverick Battalion was dropped off at barracks 7-133 in the center of the cantonment. Exiting the bus, Cadets retrieved their rucksacks, assault packs, Kevlar helmets and other necessities from the lower storage compartments.

They formed into a line on the grass and were each assigned their personal weapon -- mock rifles, known as "rubber ducks" -- for which they would be responsible for the next three days.

The Cadets were joined by two other ROTC battalions: the Golden Gopher Battalion, composed of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, with 16 affiliated metro-area schools; and the Fighting Saints Battalion, composed of St. Cloud State University, the College of St. Benedict, and St. John's University.

After signing in, first-year and sophomore Cadets, referred to as MS1's and MS2's (Military Science, first-years are 1's, seniors become 4's) were directed behind the building to be assembled.

They produced three platoons from the intermingled battalions; each platoon consisted of around 30 Cadets and was then further divided into squads and teams.

Individuals were selected to lead each platoon, squad, and team, and these assignments were changed multiple times throughout the weekend.

"Everyone gets repetitions of being a leader in front of Cadets, leading platoon tactics, and practicing their organizational skills and speaking," MS4 Dave Brazel said.

While some Cadets have prior military service in either the National Guard or Reserves, most MS1's and MS2's have no

military experience upon entering the ROTC program are immediately placed in leadership positions in order to "orient them to Army values and basic warrior tasks," Brazel said.

Around noon the Cadets were given time for lunch -- the staple food source for them while in the field were MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat, plastic-packaged rations of one full meal).

The platoons then filed line-after-line onto white and blue buses, front-loading their rucksacks, wedging two Cadets per seat.

From the barracks they were transported away from the major buildings, traveling northwest toward a collection of lakes. The road turned to dirt as they passed numerous tactical vehicles and gun ranges, the thuds of ammunition-fire becoming less distant.

Cadets filtered out of the buses at a grassy opening, walking

past the only two structures: a small set of silver bleachers and a low-built windowed shelter.

After forming back into platoons, the Cadets topped off their water canteens and were outfitted with a compass, protractor, and grid map of the wooded vicinity; they were to be first tested on their capability of land navigation.

The Cadets gathered around a large diagram of sticks and colored strings built on the ground, a portrayal of the maps they held. They received instructions, expectations, and emergency procedures for their mission.

In less than three hours they were to locate seven marked

**'ROTC cadets go to  
Camp Ripley'  
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# Campus Safety Report

**Monday, April 17**  
 The Director of Campus Safety received a report of a sexual assault - rape from a Campus Security Authority. Case referred to Title IX.

**Tuesday, April 18**  
 Campus Safety and Res Life responded to an odor of Marijuana in Sohre Hall. Campus Safety referred two students to the Campus Conduct System for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. Campus Safety and Res Life staff approached a noise complaint in Sohre Hall. Campus Safety referred two students to the Campus Conduct System

for a College Policy violation, failure to comply with a college official, and underage consumption of alcohol.

Campus Safety and Res Life Staff discovered GAC criminal damage to property. Graffiti was discovered in Sohre Hall.

**Wednesday, April 19**  
 Campus Safety was called for a theft report in the Jackson Campus Center. A student's art project that was on display was taken out of the second floor women's bathroom.

Campus Safety and Res Life staff responded to an odor of Marijuana. Campus Safety referred four students to the

campus conduct system for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

**Thursday, April 20**  
 A student filed a theft report that happened in Lund Center on April 19.

**Saturday, April 22**  
 Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation at the Johnson Student Union. One student was referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption.

Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department responded an alcohol violation in Norelius Hall involving a

non-student juvenile. The non-student was cited by the SPPD for underage consumption and trespassed from campus.

**Sunday, April 23**  
 Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department responded to a report of damage to student vehicles in the Sohre parking lot for two vehicles that had been kicked.

Campus Safety responded to a report of a student of concern in Uhler Hall. Case was referred to the campus conduct system for a 21 and over alcohol violation.

Campus Safety was contacted by the Saint Peter Police Depart-

ment about an underage alcohol violation off campus. One student was cited by the SPPD for underage consumption and the case was referred to the campus conduct system.

**Tip of the Week:**  
 In 2015 alone, 3,477 people were killed, and 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from the task of safe driving. You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention.

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# They're watching you Wazowski

## This year's MAYDAY! Peace Conference focuses on mass surveillance

Staff Writer  
Ella Napton

Peace is at the forefront of many Americans' minds. Many spend their time wondering if there will be peace, how we can work toward peace, and concrete ways to actually make a change in the world. There has been much uncertainty for American citizens in light of the Trump Administration's move into office. Moreover, with the most recent presidential election there has been speculation about how much information the government shares with its people.

One of the main concerns when it comes to peace, for many, is privacy from those who seem to always be watching. With increased security throughout the nation, from airports to the internet, we never truly know if what we are doing is being tracked or recorded.

The Gustavus' annual Mayday! Peace Conference is addressing the topic of security and privacy this year through

"What Would You do?: Mass Surveillance and the Citizen". The main focus is on why it matters, and why we should care about mass surveillance as American citizens.

The Peace Conference originated at the height of the Cold War in the 1980s, getting the title "Mayday!" from the international distress call for ships and planes in need of help.

"The first several conferences focused on the nuclear arms race, but since then the conference has addressed all kinds of peace and social justice issues—from last year's focus on divestment, to food and water, religion and peace, and the role of the United Nations," Professor Loramy Gerstbauer said.

The conference itemizes Gustavus' core values. It also allows students a chance to become more educated on topics they may have no other way to learn about. This not only teaches students valuable lessons, but it also gives us the capability to go into the real world, outside of the Gustavus bubble, and be productive and engaged in cur-

rent events that may or may not directly affect us.

The issues tackled each year represent what not only Americans, but citizens of the world, suffer, both in terms of peace and personal safety. This year's topic comes just in time to relate to the recent actions made by the Trump Administration and their stance on privacy and the common citizen.

This year the conference will highlight "the government's abuse of privacy, proper use of surveillance-like tools, and citizen responsibility to guard our privacy and to check government (or corporate) power," Gerstbauer said. The conference aims to leave attendees with concrete steps and actions they can take upon leaving to ensure progress and safety in terms of that particular year's topic.

The planning committee worked extremely hard to create a conference and event that will positively impact all those attending, and encourage them to help create a world focused on peace and safety.

This conference will address

the issues that arise when a government oversteps their boundaries when it comes to privacy and invades their citizens privacy, even if they believe they are doing so for the common good of the people.

There will be six main political questions to be addressed during the duration of the conference: What are the boundaries of government power and secrecy in times of peace and war? What is the role of citizens in making government transparent and accountable? What will you do and what should we do to protect the rights of citizens? What are the ethical implications of whistleblowing and WikiLeaks? How can you manage your own personal data more safely? What are your ethical responsibilities as a citizen to make power subservient to justice?

The committee is bringing in Bruce Fein, a constitutional lawyer and former assistant deputy attorney for the Reagan administration, as the key speaker for the conference. He also served as an attorney for the Snowden

family. He has vast experience when it comes to writing on constitutional issues and has been published by The New York Times, The Washington Times, and Slate.com. He has a J.D. from Harvard Law School and began his political activism career by participating in the Freedom Riders during the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

There will be additional former employees and members of the government, such as Thomas Drake, a CIA analyst, to discuss ethics, responsibility, and law. Coleen Rowley, a retired FBI Special Agent, will also be speaking. Jane E. Kirtley, the Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and director of the Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law at the University of Minnesota, will be speaking as well.

The Mayday! Peace Conference will occur on May 3 and begin in Christ Chapel at 10 a.m. with a welcoming ceremony and Bruce Fein's keynote address.

## Gustavus successful at Model U.N. Regionals

Staff Writer  
Andrew Deziel

Over Easter Break, 20 Gustavus students from the Gustavus Model U.N. club as well as Professor Mimi Gerstbauer's Model UN/International Diplomacy course traveled to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to represent the college in the Arrowhead Model United Nations conference.

The trip was supported by funding from numerous sources, including the Office of the Provost, the Diversity Leadership Council, Student Senate, the Departments of Political Science, Scandinavian Studies, and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and the Kendall Center for Engaged Learning. Competing against students from 14 different colleges, Gustavus students, many of whom were first time Model U.N. participants, came well prepared and made a strong showing.

"I was really impressed with the level of preparation that my students had," Gerstbauer

said, who serves as advisor for the Model U.N. club as well as instructor of the Model U.N. course. "They were very active participants in the conference."

Priscilla Otero took home the Best Delegate Award on the Security Council, Jason Alper was recognized as the Best Delegate Honorable Mention for the Economic and Finance committee, and Jessica Le and Marissa Bogdansk were named exceptional participants on the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian committee. "It's a very competitive environment" Alper said, a student from Gerstbauer's class who was participating in his first Model U.N. conference. "I put my nose down and worked hard... I was really happy to get an award."

At Model United Nations conferences, participants debate international issues from the perspective of countries they are designated to represent. At the Arrowhead conference, Gustavus students represented the viewpoints of China, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Tunisia. Students are then asked to represent their des-

ignated country's viewpoint on one of five committees: the Security Council, Political and Security committee; Economic and Finance committee Social, Cultural and Humanitarian committee and Environmental committee.

"[Participating in Model U.N.] directly affects the awareness of an individual because it requires you to keep up with the news regarding international and national affairs and at a conference, research and presents your stance through the lenses of another country," Model U.N. club Co-President Suleman Asif said. "That leads to a much better understanding of, not only, what is happening around the world but also why it is happening and how can it be resolved."

In addition to ensuring that students are informed about world issues and perspectives, Model U.N. provides students with a fantastic opportunity to develop communication and problem solving skills that are highly applicable to many situations. The roleplaying aspect of Model U.N. ensures

that students have a thorough enough understanding of the art of persuasion that they are able to make a convincing case for viewpoints with which they may not personally agree.

"You learn diplomacy - how to speak on issues in a way that is conciliatory and can work towards common ground versus obstructing deals and causing problems," Gerstbauer said.

Even getting to the conference was an intense experience for Gustavus students. "It was a 12 hour bus ride to Northern Michigan," said Alper. "You get there, have to be up at 7 in the morning, put the suit on, walk in there and hit the ground running." Yet while participating in Model U.N. may be an intense experience, there is still plenty of time for some lightheartedness. "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea representative, who was from another school, got up in a meeting and sang happy birthday to his leader," Gerstbauer said.

While the Arrowhead Conference is primarily a regional conference, students from all over the country attend many Model

U.N. conferences. At the conferences, students get a chance not only to meet students not just from other parts of the country but students from all over the world, given the significant participation of international students. After committees are done meeting for the day, conferences frequently host social events to help students gain increased cultural understanding of the countries they have been "representing."

In addition to providing an excellent item to put on a resume, Model U.N. also helps students connect with other students who share an interest in world affairs but may come from vastly different backgrounds.

The Gustavus Model U.N. club and its 60 plus members are already looking forward to their next big conference this fall in Chicago "It's a terrific experience if you're interested at all in international relations and what's going on in the world," Alper said, "People put in a lot of work and you get a lot of information out of it."

# Diversity Award Recipients



Herchran Singh recipient of the 2017 Diversity Champion award



Gabe Grosshuesch recipient of the 2017 Diversity Champion award



Elizabeth Long recipient of the Champion of Political and Social Dialogue award



Joaquin Villanueva recipient of the Mark H. Anderson award



Faith Emovon David recipient of the Outstanding First Year Award



Esrea Bill Perez recipient of the 2017 Diversity Champion award



Wendy Hernandez recipient of the Bruce A. Gray Award



Janet Jennings recipient of the Bruce A. Gray and 2017 Diversity Chaplon awards

## Recipients not pictured

Hanan Mohamud recipient of the Champion of Interfaith Understanding award.

Tou Toua Yang recipient of the Champion of Cultural and Ethnic Understanding award.

Anh Tuan Tong recipient of the Outstanding Senior award.

Ryan Ragoonanan recipient of the Champion of Gender & Sexuality Advocacy award.

Shentoria Cobbs recipient of the Elizabeth A. Coco Award for Intersectionality.

Katie Asfeld recipient of the Mark H. Anderson Award.

Deu Xiong recipient of the Bruce A. Gray award.

Erika Rossow recipient of the 2017 Diversity Champion award.

Women of Color Summit recipient of the Outstanding Event Award.

# DLC makes constitutional changes

Staff Writer  
Corbyn Jenkins

The Diversity Leadership Council at Gustavus is a collection of student organizations that come together to support on-campus diversity initiatives publicly. Recently, the DLC has begun making big changes to their by-laws, the rules made to control the actions of its members. The by-laws specifically define the responsibilities of the DLC executive board, representatives, and committee members.

"As an organization, we attempt to reevaluate our current structures and realize where change may be most suitable and constructive going forward," Sophomore Co-Chair Claire Dirnberger said.

The DLC is moving in a new direction with their updated constitution.

"We recognize that the campus climate is dynamic and we want to be able to fit our

constitution to the needs of the campus, so we have created an Ethics Chair position for the executive board," Dirnberger said. "This new member will act as the risk manager for our organization and also hear ethical concerns brought forward by our members and campus community. The new addition to the executive board will act as an overarching evaluator of constitutional practices. Additionally, we have added language to our constitution to hold each member accountable for upholding DLC's purpose of preserving, protecting, and promoting on campus diversity."

The Diversity Leadership Council provided a statement regarding the updating of its constitution.

"We have developed a new role that will be added to our executive board called, Ethics Chair. The Ethics Chair's responsibilities include being well educated in Title IX, acting as a risk manager for DLC, hearing proposals for termination of

DLC members, and listening to concerns regarding abiding our constitution. We are also in the process of updating the expectations of DLC representatives, executive board members, and members of the appropriations committee. By defining the expectations of our members and installing an Ethics Chair, we hope to continue our progress as an organization."

By recognizing that the campus climate is dynamic and making changes to their by-laws, the DLC also reflected on their goals as an organization.

"As an organization, our goals going forward are to be more transparent, have better engagement with the community, and be stronger advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion," said Dirnberger.

The Gustavian Weekly was unable to contact other Diversity Leadership Council members for further comment.

## 'ROTC cadets go to Camp Ripley' continued from page 1

coordinates. Before embarking, Cadets plotted their assigned points and route -- their pace count would be their only available measurement while traversing through dense forest, debris, marshland, and around the occasional lake.

At the beginning of the school year Cadets are enrolled in military science classes in addition to their physical and field training.

"That's where we go over the concepts of everything, and one of the first things we did was learn land navigation," MS1 Nate Williamson said.

Class duration and level increases through the years, and "the instructors are increasingly higher-ranked as you go along," said Williamson, "the freshman instructor is a Sergeant First Class, sophomore and junior year there are Captains teaching, and Lieutenant Colonels and Majors teach the seniors."

Once each Cadet had returned from the excursion, the busses returned to haul them toward their dinner. After the meal they returned back to the training site; their next mission would be a replica of the afternoon's, but without the sun's light or warmth. Cadets donned gloves, reflective straps, eye protection and red headlights.

They plotted their new routes and waited intentionally for dark skies.

After emerging successfully out of the forest for the second time, Cadets set up their sleeping arrangements next to their rucksacks, still in formation.

Bivouacs were made under starlight, the temperature slowly receding.

They slept on whatever they were willing to carry -- for many it was a simple sleeping bag, others unfolded inflatable mats, and a few determined Cadets unpacked their shallow tent. One platoon was made responsible for fire guard, remaining alert and watchful for possible enemy contact.

5:00AM surfaced abruptly. A thin frost clung to their bedding and boots as Cadets moved to the outskirts of the encampment to brush teeth and shave in the still-dark morning.

They gathered all of their equipment and again boarded busses that drove them to breakfast. A few hours later, the Cadets stood in platoons as the sun's rays eventually overtook the treeline and began to warm their backs. T

hey began a march down a wide dirt road, moving forward in even lines that straddled both sides, heading toward a new site.

They established themselves at an expansive, open, and uneven field. Their objective that morning was to practice Individual Movement Techniques: low and high crawls, establishing fire superiority and providing cover fire.

These drills fed into larger squad formations and methods as they learned about the placement of personnel and guns, positional responsibilities and group movement. They later put their skills to use as they practiced clearing and occupying rally points and reacting to ambushes.

MS3's spent the majority of the weekend becoming completely familiar and consistent

with squad and platoon tactics. Many of them will be heading to specific camps during the summer, and their missions at Camp Ripley were intended to prepare them for that.

MS3 Micah Bergstrom said that many of their missions involved "establishing a patrol base, which is something we'll end up doing a lot at Advanced camp...it's a good mission because it's very practical and there are multiple steps and people to work with."

MS4's and the cadre of officers were responsible for planning and coordinating every aspect of the weekend's training. The main Tactical Operations Center (TOC) was headquartered closely off a rough dirt path that stretched through a wooded rise.

It was a large tent, propped up by metal beams and pegged rope; several red multi-gallon gas tanks sat to one side, fueling the constant buzz of the generator. Fold-out tables bordered the interior and were covered with laptops, printers, radios, chargers and lights.

Posters of schedules, weather expectations, contingency plans, radio frequencies, and group assignments hung from the sides.

No less than a dozen Cadets were crammed into the TOC at all times. They were kept busy with transmitting information, maneuvering medical trucks, transporting water and recording the whereabouts of everyone in the field.

It was constant occupation, remaining manned day and night until all operations were completed on Sunday.

# GUSTIE *of the* WEEK

## Jordan Wiest

**Kristi Manning**  
Staff Writer

If you have ever had the pleasure of meeting Jordan Wiest, you know his big bright smile, deep laugh, and giant bear hugs. Originally from the small town of Rush River, Minnesota, just 15 miles from Saint Peter, Jordan Wiest is a senior history major.

He was not originally planning on majoring in history, but after taking Premodern East Asia with Associate Professor in History, Environmental Studies, and Japanese Studies David Obermiller, Jordan found his place.

"He came to Gustavus thinking about a pre-med track or STEM, but these courses nurtured his existing historical knowledge to a degree that he found his calling as a history major," Obermiller said.

Jordan has spread his involvements across multiple groups on-campus, as many overcommitted Gusties do. He is in LineUs Improv Comedy Troupe, has been involved with Student Senate and Gustavus Ambassadors, is an Academic Assistant in the History Department, plays tuba in The

Gustavus Wind Orchestra, and is a Gustie Greeter.

Daniel Lee was a graduate in the class of 2016, and over the years has become a close friend to Jordan.

"I would describe Jordan as one of the most selfless individuals I have ever met. He consistently supports his friends in every way possible from simply making it a point to say 'hello' and ask 'how are you' to sitting down for multiple hours and being one of the most extraordinary listeners around campus," Lee said.

Lee and Jordan have had many fun memories together, but one memory Lee has was when they both took a 300 level history course, when he was a junior and Jordan was a sophomore.

"We were writing our final paper, and Jordan and I had classically procrastinated and we didn't leave each other's hip for the last 72 hours of school while writing our papers," Lee said. "I believe over those three days we had about four hours of sleep, we got kicked out of Beck every night, and continued our nights at each other's dorms. We must have eaten six or seven Domino's pizzas and had several dance breaks to give our minds a break. The last night, it

was 4 AM and we finished our papers and decided to go for a celebratory walk around Gustavus. On this walk we talked about everything from our goals to our insecurities to our worst jokes. Jordan has supported me more times than I can count, and I am forever thankful for his generosity and goofiness."

One of the biggest lessons Jordan has learned over his four years at Gustavus is to focus on the journey rather than the destination.

"We get so worked up about how it's going to end, and what it's going to look like. But really, this moment is the only moment we're going to have. Sometimes we forget that," Jordan said.

By living in the moment, Jordan often takes the time out of his day to sit down and chat with those he doesn't know well just to learn a little bit about their lives.

"Jordan is an amazing Gustie because he makes people feel loved and brings them into the Gustavus family. No matter what your background is, where you're from or what you do, Jordan is able to make you feel like you've been friends since you both were in elementary school," Lee said.

For those who know him, it is not hard to pinpoint all of the



Abby Anderson

Jordan is well-received by other Gusties for his welcoming demeanor.

things that make Jordan a great person, and a great Gustie.

"If there is something I wish everyone could know about Jordan it's his loyalty to his friends. If you become friends with him (which is one of the easiest things to do in life), you have a friend for life who will stand by your side in any situation no matter how many times you personally mess up

or feel defeated; his love has no bias and his care, no limits. He is as genuine as they come, and I am blessed to call him a best friend," Lee said.

Not only do his friends recognize all of the positive characteristics that make Jordan a great person, but so do his professors.

"He's gregarious, caring, and intellectually curious. He's curious about academic content, but also about the world, other people, other experiences, and it doesn't matter too much if a topic or even if you are not that interesting. Jordan still finds you interesting, or finds things that are interesting about you," Visiting Assistant Professor, Latin America in History Scott Ickes said.

Over his four years at Gustavus, Jordan is especially thankful for all of the connections he has made with other Gusties.

"You never know when you are going to one of your closest friends, and under what circumstances," Jordan said. "It's always a special surprise when at Gustavus you can meet friends from all different backgrounds, and places you would never expect."

After graduation, Jordan plans to move to Germany to be with his fiancé. He will have a three year apprenticeship in carpentry, and after plans to come back to history, possibly attending graduate school in the future. Jordan wanted to remind every Gustie, "Don't forget to have fun, be mischievous, and cherish times you have with special people because they go fast."



Abby Anderson

Jordan's comedic talent has made rooms full of dozens of people burst out into laughter during his LineUs performances.

# The *Star Wars* formula goes Rogue



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"Rogue One" offers audiences a glimpse of the Rebel frontlines with no Jedi in sight. It's like the "Star Wars" version of "Suicide Squad" except for the fact that it's actually decent.



**Brady Lass**  
Section Editor

When Disney acquired the rights to the *Star Wars* franchise, the decision was made not only to continue the beloved story with a new trilogy, but to expand upon previously established elements in new spin-off films.

Given the narrative potential of the *Star Wars* universe (especially now that the previous expanded universe tie-ins, such as comics and video games, are now no longer considered canon) and the success Disney's had with the Marvel Cinematic Universe, this seemed like a no-brainer.

The first of these "Anthology" films came in the form of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, which takes place right before the original *Star Wars* film and offers more context behind the film's opening and climax.

With reports of multiple reshoots taking place a couple of months before the film's release,

fans were worried that this would be another *Star Wars* prequel they'd hate. Did Gareth Edwards' direction prove that their lack of faith was misguided?

The film stars Felicity Jones as Jyn Erso, the daughter of Galen Erso, a lead researcher for a superweapon for the Empire that would become the planet-destroying Death Star.

When he is forced to rejoin the Empire, he sends Jyn to be taken into the custody of the Rebel extremist, Saw Gerrera. 15 years after the incident, Jyn joins a ragtag group of Rebel Alliance members to rescue her father from the Empire's grasp and obtain the schematics that will give the Rebels the key to destroying the Death Star.

While this is occurring, Orson Krennic, the Director of the Empire's Advanced Weaponry and the film's main antagonist, finds himself in the middle of a power struggle with the eventual Death Star Commander Grand Moff Tarkin all while trying to maintain composure of the project in front of Darth Vader himself.

While the original trilogy was pretty straightforward with the whole "good vs. evil" side of the war, the film showcases the tough decisions the Rebel Alliance had to make that paint them under a different light.

The darker tone is well-established early on, as one of the main protagonists is introduced to the audience killing an ally just to avoid capture. It's one of the more captivating aspects of the first half of the film, as it adds more depth to the war between the Republic and the Em-

pire and how war can be more about survival than heroics.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said about the film's main leads. Felicity Jones and Diego Luna are fantastic actors, but aren't really given a lot to work with their characters other than complain who's had a rougher life and uttering the word hope every couple of seconds.

Perhaps they had better character moments before the reshoots (as evidenced by the numerous shots and lines seen only in the trailers), but as it stands, they're serviceable at best.

Thankfully the journey is made more tolerable with their supporting cast in the form of Alan Tudyk as the wisecracking rebel-droid K-2SO and Donnie Yen as the blind Force-worshipping Chirrut Imwe. K-2SO is the complete opposite of C-3PO in terms of design and functionality, and it's refreshing to see a droid that can kick ass and be snarky without those aspects being reduced to R2's constant beeping.

Chirrut doesn't wield the Force himself, but he does reinforce the idea that it is seen as a religious allegory, rather than lucky blood-cells as shown in the prequels. He often steals the show when it comes to action scenes, but when you cast one of Hong Kong's top action stars that's well-versed in over ten martial arts as the stereotypical blind warrior archetype, what would you expect?

Ben Mendelsohn also does a fantastic job as Orson Krennic (even if he is given a few cheesy lines once in a while),

as he is intimidating in front of his scientists while attempting to establish his authority in front of Vader and Tarkin. The issue with most of his scenes don't come from Krennic, but rather from the Tarkin stand-in. Rather than rely on the makeup department, the decision was made to use CGI to attempt to capture the presence of the long-deceased Peter Cushing.

The result is... mixed at best. It stumbles into the uncanny valley plenty of times, but I think if the filmmakers kept most of Tarkin in the shadow, they would not only establish Tarkin as an intimidating figure, but the CG would look far more believable. If it weren't for the character's movements and contrasting soldiers surrounding him, I'd have less of an issue with Tarkin's (as well as another character they CG'd in the ending) presence.

*"Rogue One shows that there's still exciting potential for the cinematic future of Star Wars."*

In terms of pacing issues, the movie is the complete opposite of *Force Awakens* in how it handles the plot. Whereas *Force Awakens* had a well-structured first half to establish the characters and conflict with a rushed climax, *Rogue One* has a slow first-half, but one of the best *Star Wars* climaxes in years.

It harkens back to the original *Star Wars* in which the final

battle doesn't hinge on who loses their hand in a lightsaber duel (not to say those fights aren't cool).

It's an all-out assault on an Empire base for the plans of the Death Star, and given how this is a prequel to the original trilogy, any one of these characters you've grown to love or be tolerable of can get killed at any moment. It's fast-paced, has cinematography that would make it feel right back in the 70s, gorgeous backgrounds, and plenty of starship and land battles to satisfy any action or sci-fi geek.

All of this culminates with one of the best Darth Vader scenes ever put to screen, as the Sith Lord mows down a group of rebels in a dark room shot like a horror movie villain. It almost makes you forget Hayden Christensen's performance ever happened. Almost.

Just like his 2014 reboot of *Godzilla*, what Gareth Edwards' *Star Wars* entry lacks in characterization and an engaging first-half, he makes up for with a thrilling climax. It's not to say the characters or actors are as bad as *Godzilla*, but it can be a little jarring how much effort was put into certain departments over the other.

Regardless, thanks to the supporting cast, epic fights, and darker tones, *Rogue One* shows that there's still exciting potential within for the cinematic future of *Star Wars*, regardless if it's a trilogy entry or spin-off.

# Percussion Ensemble brings fresh beats

**Ben Keran**  
Staff Writer

Among the incredible amount of performances before the impending end of the semester, director Adam Rappel and the Gustavus Percussion Ensemble stand apart. In terms of what makes this performance unique, Rappel wanted to reassure that the concert will have something that everyone can enjoy.

"If you don't like one of the pieces, the rest of the pieces are so different that you will enjoy something about the concert," Rappel said. "Another really unique aspect about the Percussion Ensemble here at Gustavus is that the majority of students in it are non-music majors."

Rappel appreciates the amount of dedication his students put toward their upcoming performance.

"They have a full-load of other classes that they stress out for each week, and still find the time to practice, and prepare a concert here," Rappel said. "They are putting a lot of work in, and it would be great for people to see the product of all the hard work they are doing."

This is Rappel's second year working at Gustavus as an assistant professor. Before coming to the campus, he has held teaching positions at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, MacPhail Center for Music and Inver Hills Community College.

Rappel received his Master's degree from the University of Minnesota and is the first percussionist to ever receive the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota as well.

In 2011, Rappel co-founded *Struck Percussion Ensemble*, which was designed to perform new, mixed-genre music that exposes their audiences to fresh, interesting works for percussion.

Since their formation, Struck has commissioned composers to create new music specifically for them and their audiences. Works premiered by Struck include "I'm Sorry, I've Already Forgotten Your Name" by Josh Clausen, "The Haunted House" by James Holdman, which was used in accompaniment to the silent film "La Maison Ensorcelee" by Segundo de Chomon, and "Minneapolis Vignettes" by Troy Strand.

While a part of numerous percussion ensembles himself, such as YOA Orchestra of the Americas, Rappel has international experience performing in countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Austria, Sweden, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Costa Rica.

This will be Rappel's second year directing the Percussion Ensemble at Gustavus. Alumni Elizabeth Sherman, who worked with the ensemble inside the box above the Bjorling Stage, believes the ensemble brings a unique atmosphere to



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The upcoming Gustavus Percussion Ensemble Concert plans to have a variety of musical pieces to showcase the range of these performers.

the stage.

"I worked plenty of recitals and assorted performances during my years at Gustavus, but the Percussion Ensemble left an imprint for sure. It's one thing to see single instrument or vocal performances where the performer brings up some form of accompanists, but a percussion ensemble is something of an anomaly. It's pure energy and something to be seen, especially from what I know about this years setlist," Sherman said.

Senior Music major David Nelson, who regularly plays alongside many of the students featured in the ensemble, feels that these performers should not go unappreciated.

*"I want everyone involved to have an enjoyable afternoon of listening to good music performed by great people."*

–Adam Rappel

"I've played with a ton of the featured members either as a part of the Gustavus Jazz Lab Band or the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra. I've seen them play and I've seen them practice. These are some of the hardest working and most talented among us. I'll be excited to see what Adam has up his sleeve," Nelson said.

The songs featured in the upcoming performance have been heard on the big screen and by local composers.

"We will be playing a nice variety of pieces including 'Pogo Sticks' which is an arrangement of a very popular

collection of movies from when I was in college called 'Ani-music.' We are also playing a piece called 'Mercury Rising' by Nathan Daughtrey. We will be playing two pieces by local Minneapolis composer James Holdman," Rappel said. "He wrote a collection of works for four players to play on one instrument, and we will be doing two of those; 'Astrid's Granny' and 'Shade Birds.' Three of the

members also will be playing a piece called 'Home by Sundown' by Ralph Hicks. The three students playing this piece have prepared it on their own, without my help throughout the semester."

The upcoming performance will be free and open to the public.

"I want everyone involved to have an enjoyable afternoon of listening to good music per-

formed by great people. If the audience would like after the concert, they are always welcome to come and talk with me (or the students) and tell us what they thought. It will be a laid back concert, and all are welcome." Rappel said.

The Percussion Ensemble performance will be held from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M., April 30 at Bjorling Hall Recital.

## HELP WANTED

*The Gustavian Weekly is hiring staff for the 2017/18 school year. Open positions are...*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
MANAGING EDITOR  
SECTION EDITOR  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
STAFF WRITER

*Applications are due May 1st. E-Mail weekly@gustavus.edu for more information.*

## 7TH ANNUAL GUSTAVUS WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



# NAVIGATING CONFLICT IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD

Thursday, April 27, 2017

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis

Mikayla Kvitem-Barr  
Features Editor

Gustavus Women In Leadership (GWIL) is a unique organization whose purpose is to prepare, promote and inspire Gustavus women in their professional and personal leadership development to reach their potential. As noted on the official website, GWIL's vision is to "transform our communities and workplaces by inspiring all women to advocate for themselves, live purposefully and create opportunities for future generations of women."

GWIL is led by faculty advisor Dr. Kathi Tunheim and an Executive Board of 13 involved and passionate students.

*"Our alumni are engaged and eager to interact with our members which really drove my continued involvement in GWIL."*  
- Mae Meierhenry '17

Leading the Board are seniors Alexandra Kopp and Mae Meierhenry.

"I initiated my involvement with GWIL as a sophomore because of upperclassmen teammates involved in the program whom I identified as role models. I hoped to garner similar professional skills and networking opportunities," Meierhenry said.

Despite its name, GWIL welcomes and encourages male involvement.

"GWIL is a great organization for any male or female to be involved with on campus to strengthen leadership skills and develop business acumen with exposure to successful Gustavus alumni and professional speakers

through on campus events, our annual conference, and many other networking opportunities," Senior Katey Nelson said.

A unique component of GWIL includes the various networking activities with fellow Gustie alumni.

"GWIL holds events on campus that allow for students to network or learn valuable skills like dressing professionally or crafting a resume, however they also hold various off campus events and speakers that bring current students together with alumni," Senior Olivia Gori said.

One of GWIL's strongest features includes engaging current and past Gusties.

"Our alumni are engaged and eager to interact with our members which really drove my continued involvement in GWIL. Every student can gain valuable skills and insights from the programming alumni network," Meierhenry said.

Additionally, GWIL actively works with the community and participates in various outreach activities.

"This year we paired with the Thrivent Action program to give to our local Committee Against Domestic Abuse (CADA). We donated to CADA's Adopt-a-Family program and bought Christmas gifts for a family in our community affected by domestic abuse," Meierhenry said.

One of the organization's largest events includes the Gustavus Women in Leadership Conference. Primarily student planned, the conference includes keynote speakers, interactive panels, and more.

This year's conference is titled, "Navigating Conflict In An Ever-Changing World," and will explore the experiences of strong women in leadership as they share their stories of perseverance, flexibility, and conflict.

"When deciding the conference theme, we found this to be a topic that could resonate with all members of our audience, as we all go through critical moments within our personal and professional lives," Nelson said.

Attendees will get the chance to hear from many influential and successful women including the President of Allina Health Buffalo Hospital, the Human Resources Director at General Mills Convenience & Foodservice,

and the Founding Executive Producer of the Women in the World Summit.

"I am excited for this year's conference theme because I think it will be especially helpful for me as I graduate and enter the workforce. After taking two different conflict resolution and resiliency courses this semester, I recognize the importance of managing stress and conflict in both my personal and professional life," Gori said.

"This conference is valuable to those who attend because it serves as a forum for fellowship, meaningful discussion, and collaborative learning. It is an opportunity for women (and men) to stimulate, challenge, and develop themselves as leaders who are navigating critical and challenging moments in ways that serve the collective good," Nelson said.

The three conference directors, Lydia Kennedy '17, Katey Nelson '17, Tessa Semerad '17, and Dr. Kathi Tunheim agree that planning the conference is a relationship-based, team effort.

*"When deciding the conference theme, we found this to be a topic that could resonate with all numbers of our audience."*  
- Katey Nelson '17

"We have so many partners from the Gustavus community that generously provide their support, resources, and skills to help make this event a success," Nelson said.

The 7th annual Gustavus Women in Leadership took place on Thursday, April 27 at the American Swedish Institute.

