

Where Are the Patriots?



Amy Leininger
Opinion Editor

We are at war, and Republicans are asleep at the wheel. In the past several years, Russia has mounted a war of disinformation on Western liberal democracy. It has become clear that Kremlin meddling extends far beyond the 2016 U.S. presidential election; it is an all-out assault on the West.

The same toxic combination of fake news websites, social media bots, and Twitter trolls that influenced the U.S. election were deployed with resounding success during Britain's Brexit referendum. These same Russian bots are now being used to tip the French presidential election in favor of Marine Le Pen of the National Front, a far-right party of Holocaust-deniers and xenophobes.

Russia's objective is clear: splinter Western alliances and destroy liberal democracy while expanding Russia's influence in the world. With Britain pulling out of the European Union, and Le Pen's promise, if elected, to hold a referendum on France's status in the EU, the future of the political and economic entity has never been so precarious. Western democracy hangs in the balance.

Destroying Western alliances seems to be a talent of President Trump, Putin's favored candidate. His first 100 days in office have been marred by policies seemingly designed to alienate allies. Throughout the 2016 campaign, Trump raged against NATO, deriding the alliance formed to defend against Soviet Union aggression as "obsolete".

Our European allies are so rattled by Trump's behavior that Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, recently listed the United States, alongside Russia, China, and terrorism, as among the main external threats to the EU.

Putin couldn't be more delighted. In the Kremlin's chess game on the world stage, Trump is a pawn, and we are all getting played. Trump's incredible, against-all-odds ascension to the presidency stunned observers both at home and abroad.



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On Tuesday the Trump administration refused to turnover documents related to former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, complicating the House investigation.

On the night of the election, American intelligence intercepted high-ranking Russian officials celebrating Trump's win, congratulating themselves on their successful campaign of cyber warfare.

Warfare. In the starkest terms, Russia hacked our democracy. This is an act of war. Russia weaponized information to destabilize our electoral process, and the result was a direct attack on democracy, our most sacred and founding principle.

This is not mere rhetoric. Andrew Andersen, a Russian-born security analyst at the University of Calgary's Centre for Military and Strategic Studies said in a recent MIT Technology Review article, "The first thing you need to understand is that this is a war... This is not a joke and not a game of any kind. It's not 'socializing with your friends on social networks'—it's a real war."

At a time when our country is under attack and our democracy imperiled, the willful inaction of Republicans is astonishing. Their refusal to comprehensively investigate the Trump campaign's ties to Russia is both a breathtaking level of partisanship and a dangerous flirtation with treason. By impeding serious inquiry into Russia's act of war and the Trump team's probable collusion with the

hostile state, Republicans have put party over country.

It gets worse. In a recent report from *The Daily Beast*, three individuals close to the Senate Intelligence Committee's Russia investigation say that "more than three months after the committee announced that it had agreed on the scope of the investigation, the panel has not begun substantially investigating possible ties between the Trump campaign and Russia".

Reportedly, the investigation is moving at a slower pace than previous Senate Intelligence Committee investigations, including the CIA torture inquiry, which took years to complete.

Stunningly, the investigation does not have a single full-time staffer. Of the seven part-time staffers, none have significant investigative or prosecutorial experience, and most do not have a background in Russia expertise. Because none of the staffers have been assigned to the investigation full-time, they must split their time with other oversight duties, preventing full immersion in the probe. Incredibly, one of the seven staffers even attends law school part-time.

In a stark contrast, previous Senate and House investigations were fielded by a far greater number of staffers. The Joint Senate and House Com-

mittee that investigated the Iran-Contra affair had 181 staffers dedicated to uncovering the truth. One of the seven committees that investigated the Benghazi terror attack was staffed by 46 individuals. To reiterate, the Senate Intelligence Committee investigating Russian interference and probable collusion has seven part-time staffers.

If Senate Republicans were serious about investigating this act of war and probable collusion, they would dedicate a full-time staff to the probe. They would schedule interviews with Michael Flynn, Roger Stone, Carter Page, Paul Manafort, and Jared Kushner. So far, they haven't. How long can we wait to respond to an unprecedented attack on our democracy?

It's not as if Republicans are averse to investigations. In fact, they are well-practiced, using those seven Benghazi committees to churn out 800 page reports after years-long House and Senate investigations. Republicans were so persistent in their alleged pursuit of justice that the House alone held 33 hearings on Benghazi, subjecting Hillary Clinton to 11 hours of questioning. Let's see if Trump has such stamina.

The hypocrisy of Republicans is appalling. History will not remember the GOP for their principled stand against

a foreign power's attack on our democracy. They will not be revered for putting country over party in a brave pursuit of truth and justice.

No, Republicans will be remembered for their cowardice and for their treason. Where were you when the greatest country on earth was attacked? Who will defend democracy? Where are the patriots?

In this time of uncertainty, there is solace in the words of Thomas Paine, whose call for American independence from a foreign adversary so inspired George Washington that he ordered it to be read to troops at Valley Forge. As we face attacks to our democracy both at home and abroad, there is a renewed urgency to his enduring words.

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman... Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." Thomas Paine, *Crisis I*

An Alum Reflects on Off-Campus Living

Tom Westrum
Guest Contributor

Only once in my 52 years on this planet have I been fortunate enough to live on Main Street, America. That would be my senior year at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, living in an apartment just off Minnesota Avenue. It didn't happen overnight and it didn't happen without forethought and planning.

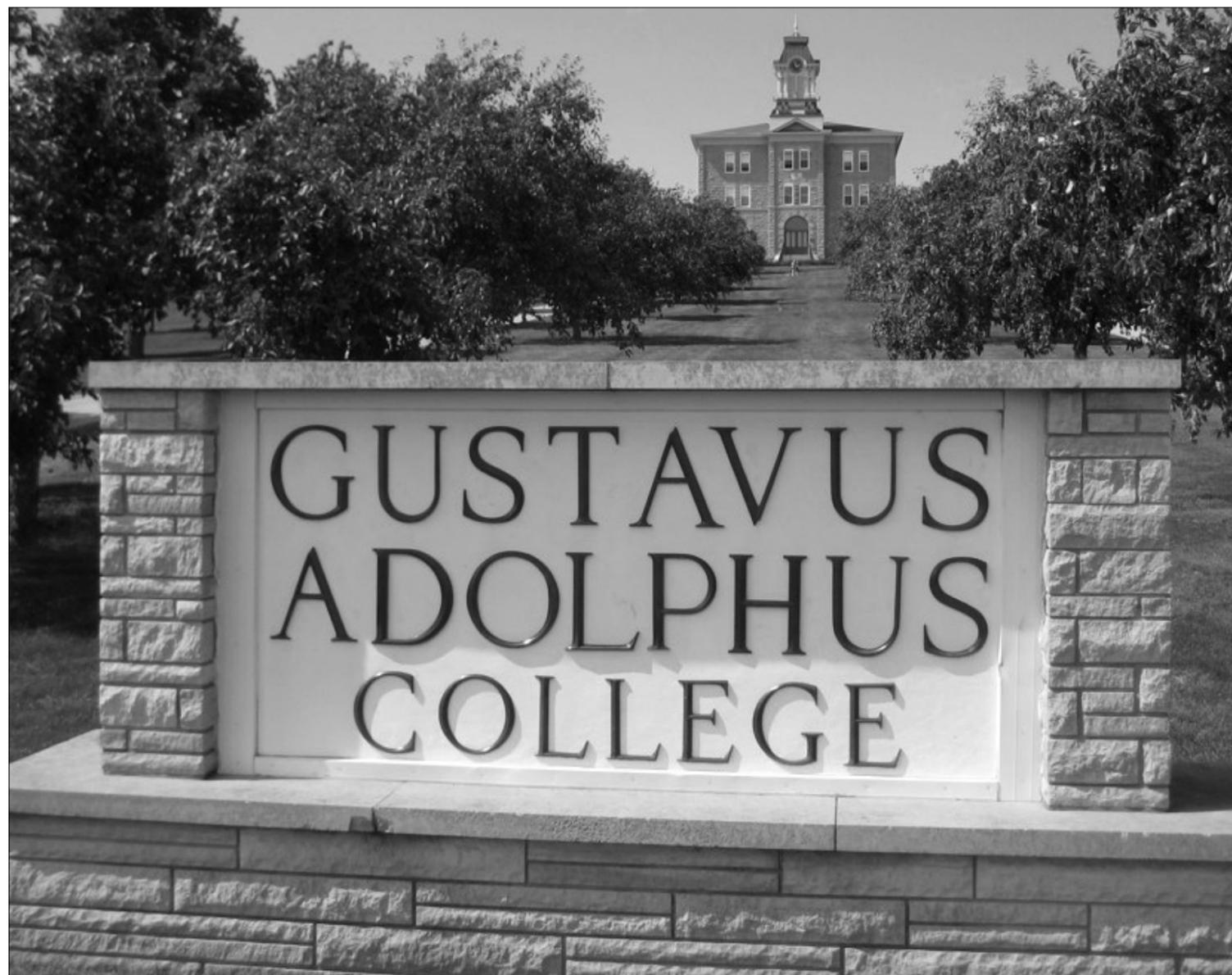
Working as a bus driver for the St. Peter school district, coupled with a work study job and employment as a hall monitor, I was able to save enough money to pay my own room and board with only a few small loans from my folks. It was how they brought me up: Work hard, and take responsibility for yourself.

Recently, I learned that most juniors and seniors at Gustavus no longer have the option of living within the greater St. Peter community. Not until the dorms, townhomes, and apartments fill to near capacity and create a housing crunch will they have the choice to live independently.

They will not have the opportunity to become neighbors with residents of St. Peter and help them shovel their walks in the winter. They won't meet with others living off-campus and enjoy shared meals around town. They won't truly understand what a rental agreement is and they most likely won't have any rental history when they graduate from Gustavus.

When I returned home after graduation, my folks had retired and sold our 4 bedroom home in the suburbs and were living in a one bedroom condo in downtown Minneapolis. It was time to make use of my off campus "education" and hit the road.

Gustavus has identified 5 core



Submitted

President Trump campaigned on a promise to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act. The GOP's first effort to propose a replacement bill failed to even make it onto the House floor.

values that are implicit to the goals of the institution. Justice is one of those: "Education for the common good" is our objective, and integrity must be one of our defining characteristics."

Gustavians should be able to have access to the education that is inherent in securing and maintaining an off-campus living environment and the life skills that accompany it. For

some this will prove invaluable.

We all can agree that we enjoy a good tater-tot hot dish now and then. If a student bakes those tots in a townhouse on the Gustavus campus, it's going to cost them over \$900 a month to do it. That student can serve those tots in a house down the hill that costs about \$250-\$300 a month. That's a lot of tots and for some Gustavians the differential in cost between on and off campus living might prove to be the difference in later defaulting on a student loan.

My parents met in Rundstrom Hall and as a sophomore I lived there myself. I cherished my time on campus but after returning from a semester abroad I was ready to get some space. Many students will want to live on campus all four years and why not? It's beautiful and close to all of the action.

However, some students, for whatever their reason, will gravitate towards a more independent lifestyle and prefer to live down the hill. Unfortunately, the learning that comes with it cannot be found on campus.

I wanted to get an idea of what other colleges are doing so I read the off-campus living policies of St. Olaf and Concordia. St. Olaf's policies are very aligned with those of Gustavus, however, Concordia allows for off-campus living. The Con-

cordia website states, "Living off campus is a great way to get used to living on your own - juggling the responsibilities of budgeting your housing, food and utility expenses, and relating to a landlord." I hope that if it is not already doing so, that Gustavus continues to look at this issue and create a pathway for juniors and seniors to live in town.

My time at Gustavus was nothing short of amazing. I'll never forget singing in Christ Chapel, mystery dates, awesome professors, the Campus Activities Board, driving the shuttle bus, intramural sports, watching athletic teams, Rundstrom Hall and of course the three semesters I spent living with my friends in St. Peter.

Let us not build walls but work together to break down barriers including the invisible ones that prevent Gustavians from having a turn to live on Main Street, USA. I'll always remember my days just off Minnesota Avenue and the sound of my future wife's voice coming up the stairs of my second floor apartment: "Hi honey, what's for supper?"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom Westrum is a 1988 graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College.



Have something to say?
Write a letter to the editor.
email lettertotheeditor@gac.edu

On-Campus Critters



Daniel McCrackin
Opinion Columnist

Humanity has shared a bond with other animals for a long time, for farming purposes, or for companionship. As time has marched forward, so has the way modern pets are taken care of and the restrictions on where they can be. It is unfortunate there are buildings and tenements all over the world where it is simply not allowed to keep a companion, and for various reasons that is not necessarily a bad thing.

There are certain environments that are not conducive to the life and well being of certain animals. The Gustavus campus is not one of those places that poses a major risk to life and limb to any such pets. So why are they not allowed to be kept on campus?

The major arguments against them being kept is that there are numerous people who might have allergic reactions to cer-



There are many health benefits that come from taking care of a pet. Gustavus does not allow pets on campus except in special circumstances.

Submitted

tain animals. While valid, this argument is also true all over the country.

There will always be people in close proximity, and as the world's population continues to grow, people's living quarters will become closer together. Yet many of these people still keep pets and animals, and while they are hopefully respectful of those with allergies, this does not mean they have to give up their companions.

Another argument made against having a pet on campus is that there is the potential for damage. While also valid, damage is also a constant around a college campus. As college students who engage in various activities involving alcohol prove time and again, humans are the most destructive creatures around.

These problems are not to be taken lightly, yet there are also a number of benefits to keeping a

pet. Having an animal companion can be a great stress relief to college students. An animal companion gives a student something to look forward to and provides an outlet for positive interactions.

While students can apply to own a therapy animal if they really need it, it is restricted by the approval of a mental health professional. Visiting a mental health professional is not necessary for all students who would

benefit from having an animal companion. The companion animal could act as a stress reliever in place of sessions with a professional.

Students also learn a fair bit of responsibility from keeping a pet. A large part of going to college is learning to balance and manage responsibilities reasonably well. A student might be figuring out how to pay for college, juggle grocery shopping, as well as getting their studies done on a daily basis.

However, none of these really help teach a student how to take care of another living being, a skill that is worth pursuing not only for those who might someday wish to be parents, but also those who wish to engage with other people and animals in an empathetic manner. In denying students the privilege to keep a pet on campus, there is also a denial of an aspect of learning that could be gained.

Having animal companions may also serve to cut down on the reported irresponsible conduct that can occur on college campuses over a weekend. How many students are going to get heavily intoxicated when they know that they have an animal who needs their love and attention in the morning or later that night?

Finally, pets provide a great medium for improving social interaction between students. Playing with a pet can be a bonding activity for people and animals alike, but one that is not fully able to be pursued because of their restriction on the Gustavus campus.

In this case, the benefits to students seem to far outweigh the risks, so why can't we have pets on campus?

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



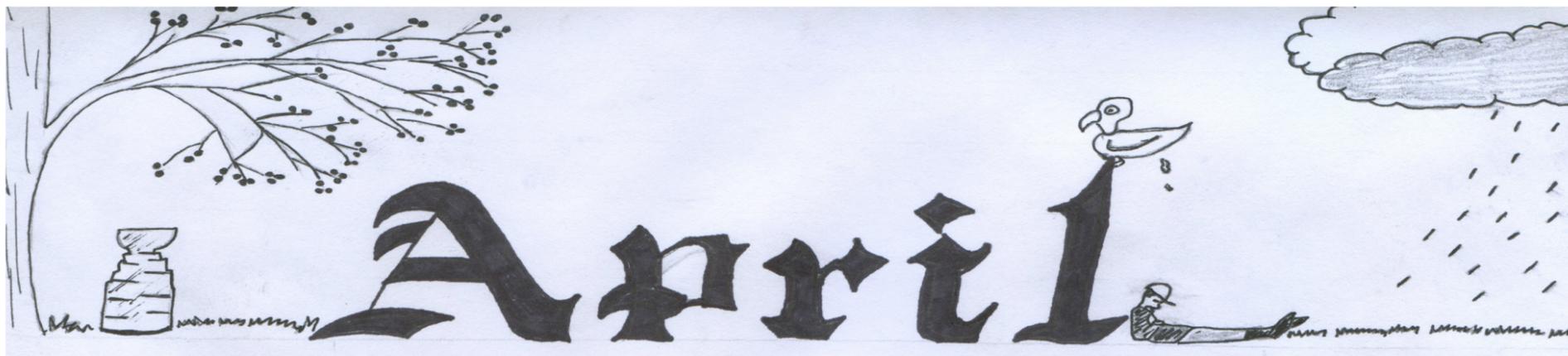
The House GOP amended their Obamacare replacement bill to exempt members of Congress and their staff from its effects.



The replacement bill would allow states to remove a ban on insurers charging premiums based on a customer's health. It would also allow insurers to not provide basic services, like prescription drugs and mental health.



If GOP health care is not good enough for members of Congress, then it's not good enough for the American people. Simple as that.



Crossword

It's Geography Week at The Weekly. Due to our love of trivia, we offer you our MegaCross of the year. We give you the capital, you tell us the state. Good luck!

- Across**
- 7. Indianapolis
 - 9. Tallahassee
 - 10. Madison
 - 11. Jackson
 - 12. Carson City
 - 14. Phoenix
 - 15. Albany
 - 21. Providence
 - 23. Columbus
 - 25. Atlanta
 - 26. Cheyenne
 - 28. Hartford
 - 30. Oklahoma City
 - 31. Trenton
 - 33. Little Rock
 - 35. Springfield
 - 36. Denver
 - 37. Honolulu
 - 38. Pierre
 - 39. Augusta
 - 40. Sacramento
 - 41. Jefferson City
 - 42. Juneau
 - 44. Dover
 - 45. Olympia
 - 46. St. Paul
 - 47. Lincoln
 - 48. Bismarck

- Down**
- 1. Santa Fe
 - 2. Helena
 - 3. Harrisburg
 - 4. Salt Lake City
 - 5. Salem
 - 6. Austin
 - 8. Annapolis
 - 10. Charleston
 - 13. Montpelier
 - 16. Frankfort
 - 17. Richmond
 - 18. Raleigh
 - 19. Baton Rouge
 - 20. Nashville
 - 22. Concord
 - 24. Columbia
 - 27. Topeka
 - 29. Des Moines
 - 32. Boston
 - 34. Lansing
 - 35. Boise
 - 43. Montgomery

Sudoku

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Women's tennis prepares for postseason

Gusties defeats St. Kate's and St. Ben's 9-0



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Michaela Schulz returns the ball in a match against College of Saint Benedict. The team won with a score of 9-0 to move its MIAC record to 7-1.

Jacob Woodrich
Staff Writer

The Gustavus women's tennis team has enjoyed a great deal of success so far this spring. With the postseason on the near horizon, the team currently holds a 15-7 overall record, while boasting a 7-1 record in the MIAC conference, with their only defeat in conference play being to Carleton College last Saturday. After the nail-biting 5-4 loss to Carleton on Saturday, the team quickly turned things around the following day, sweeping two MIAC opponents, St. Kate's and Saint Ben's, by a dominant score of 9-0 in both matches on Sunday.

Senior Michaela Schulz was adamant that the past weekend was not an up-and-down one, however, as she stated, "Our team has a motto, you are either winning or learning. Carleton is a good tennis team and they pushed us this past weekend. We learned a lot from the match as a team and individually." Carleton is currently tied for first in the conference with St. Thomas, with both teams holding an undefeated record of 8-0 in the conference, while the 7-1 Gusties are sitting in third.

"Carleton is a good team.

Obviously, it was a tough loss, but we learned a lot from that match. It was definitely a good feeling to get back on track on Sunday by getting two shutout wins against conference teams," Senior Riley Abeyesekera said. The senior continued, "Overall, we have had a very successful season so far. We have played a lot of good teams this season which helps us grow and learn for other matches we play."

For many members of the Gustavus women's tennis team, the season began nearly one year ago, immediately following the conclusion of their 2016 campaign. Their season ended last spring with a defeat against the University of Chicago in the round of 32 at the national tournament. That bitter taste left-over from the end of last season has given players motivation to work hard in the off season to prepare for this year, especially the seniors on the team.

"Being a senior does not make the season feel any different. It only makes me appreciate being on this awesome team, working out every day, and competing at such a high level," Schulz said. Even though Schulz tries not to treat her last season playing for the Gusties any differently from her first three, some seniors have a different mindset.

"Being a senior changes how I go into each match and practice. As we play each of team, I know very well that it will be my last time. Every match and every practice, I make sure to give my absolute full effort and have a positive attitude," Senior Calleigh Carlson said. Fellow senior Abeyesekera has a similar mindset in her final season as a Gustie, as well.

"This season definitely has a different feeling to it being a senior. Most of the time we (seniors) try not to think about the fact that this is our last tennis season and do our best to play like we're going to play forever," Abeyesekera said. The seniors, along with rest of the team and coaching staff, now have their sights set on some very important matches in the next couple of weeks.

"The outlook for the rest of our season looks good. We are determined to stay focused on what's in front of us. Right now, that's our matches this weekend against St. Olaf and St. Thomas. We look forward to playing St. Olaf this Friday here on our home courts, and are excited to head up to the cities on Saturday to battle it out with the Tommies. Ultimately we are preparing for the playoff matches the following week," Carlson said.

Playoffs are very important to the team, especially since their chance to participate in the national tournament rides on how things go playoff weekend.

"We are feeling confident as a team about the rest of the season. As a team, our goal is to win the conference again and win the playoff championship again, but taking things one match at a time and not looking too far ahead will be important to help us focus on one match at

a time," Abeyesekera said.

It is clear that the Gustavus women's tennis team will leave everything out on the court in the next couple of very important weeks, as Calleigh Carlson stated, "You better believe we will be putting in the time and effort to compete these next couple of weeks." Whether it is in practice, regular season play, or postseason, the Gusties are hoping to make the most of every opportunity.



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Ally Baker sets up to return the ball during a match against College of Saint Benedict. The team's next match is April 28 against St. Olaf.

Gusties place second at Carleton Relays

Track and field prepares for the MIAC Championships



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Lotus Schifsky competes in the 1500-meter run during the Lee Krough Invitational. This was the 17th year Gustavus hosted this meet.

Tanner Sparrow
Managing Editor

The Gustavus Men's and Women's Track and Field teams stormed second place at the 70th annual Carleton Relays on April 22.

"We set the tone in the 10k and had a lot of really good performances. There were a lot of personal and seasonal bests, and collectively we performed really well."

—Coach Bahr

Multiple first place finishes helped the men, with Senior Trevor Maxwell crossing the line first in 110-meter hurdles with a time of 15.98, and Senior Ed Remine getting gold in the

400-meter hurdles with a time of 56.18. In addition, Freshman Alvin Onkware won the triple jump, and Senior Evan Jones took first in the 5000 meter.

"We're excited to see what we can do with the conference meet coming up in a few weeks."

—Coach Bahr

The Women were led by first place finishes from Sophomore Mallory Butchko and Lauren Kershner in the pole vault, First-year Katie Keelin in the Hammer Throw, and Sophomore McKayla Stowell in the 100-meter.

The Gustie men were second out of ten teams with a score of 135 points. St. Thomas finished first in men's competition with 161.5 points. The 185 points



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Trevor Maxwell competes in the 110-meter hurdles at the Lee Krough Invitational. Maxwell placed fourth in this event with a time of 16.37. The Gusties are back in action April 29 for the Drake Alternative Relays.

tallied by the Gustie women were enough for their second-place finish in a field of eight. Macalester won the women's competition with 200 points.

"Today was a beautiful day with the weather and that put us in good spirits," Head Coach Dale Bahr said. "We set the tone

in the 10k and had a lot of really good performances. There were a lot of personal and seasonal bests, and collectively we performed really well and we're excited to see what we can do with the conference meet coming up in a few weeks." After many first place finishes

at the Lee Krough Invite and the second place finish at the Carleton Relays, the team has a full head of steam going into its final weeks of the season.

Gustavus returns home next Saturday for the Drake Alternative Meet. The MIAC Outdoor Championships start May 12.

Gusties defeat St. Olaf in double header Baseball improves record to 19-11

Michael O'Neil
Staff Writer

This week, the Gustavus men's baseball team rebounded from a two-game slide against Macalester on Friday to win both games of a doubleheader against St. Olaf. The wins move their record to 19-11 (7-5 in the Minnesota

Intercollegiate Athletic Association). With five conference doubleheaders left, the Gusties sit at fifth in the standings, one place better than their sixth place finish from last season.

On Friday, the Gusties traveled to St. Paul for a 2:30 p.m. start time against Conference opponent Macalester College, who currently sits one place

ahead of Gustavus in the MIAC standings.

In the first game, the Gusties took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning off RBI singles from Senior Dan Carlson, and First-year Brice Panning. The Gusties defense was perfect until the fourth inning, when a home run from the Scots leveled the score at 2-2. One inning later, Macalester added three more runs off of another home run, extending their lead to 5-2. They added one more run, and the final score of game one was 6-2 in favor of Macalester.

In game two of the double header at Macalester, the Gusties outthit the Scots 8-7 but ended up on the wrong side of the 4-3 final score.

Senior Sam Carlson took the mound for Gustavus and held the Scots scoreless until a single in the third inning drove in a run to give Macalester the 1-0 lead. The Gusties were able to respond with a two-run double from senior Josh Chatfield in the fifth inning to take a 2-1 lead. Then, in the sixth inning, Macalester scored two runs of their own to regain the lead. Chatfield came up big once again for the Gusties in the seventh inning, batting in the Gusties' final run of the game with a single to rightfield, tying the game at 3-3. Unfortunately, defensive errors for the Gusties

allowed the Scots to score one run in the eighth inning, and despite scoring opportunities, the Gusties were unable to regain the lead. After many lead changes throughout the game, the Scots ended up on top by a score of 4-3.

After the losses to Macalester, the Gusties returned home to St. Peter on Saturday and looked to be in top form against St. Olaf college for Alumni Day. Despite early struggles in game one, the Gusties rallied from a 5-0 deficit. The first rally for the Gusties came in the fifth inning. Chatfield kickstarted the offense once again by driving in a run with a line-drive double to right field. Then, three batters later, junior Nolan Lepel added three more runs with his fourth home run of the season.

The Gusties didn't surrender any runs the rest of the game, and took the lead in the sixth inning thanks to errors, and a fielder's choice. Junior Casey Lewandoski sealed the comeback win for the Gusties and recorded the save by retiring all three Ole batters in the seventh inning.

The Gusties used their momentum from game one to start the second game of the double header with a very productive first inning.

Junior John Lundquist led the charge with a bases loaded

triple, knocking in three of the Gusties' six first-inning runs. They added two more runs in the second inning behind an Ole error and an RBI single from junior Brock Peterson.

The Oles responded in the third inning with three runs, before the Gusties continued their offense with two runs of their own, bring the score to 10-3 in the home team's favor. St. Olaf began chipping away at their deficit, scoring two runs in the sixth, and two more in the seventh. Then, in the top of the eighth, St. Olaf took the lead with an RBI single and a grand slam.

Going into the bottom of the eighth, the Gusties trailed 12-10 and needed some offense to keep the game going. Senior Isaiah Welckle reduced the lead to one with a single that allowed Matt Berkner to score, and then came around to score, off of a single from Josh Chatfield.

Then, in the bottom of the ninth, the Gusties scored the game-winning run off of a St. Olaf walk to seal the sweep with a 13-12 victory in what proved to be a very exciting game.

The Gusties return to the field on Tuesday with a double header at home against Concordia College and then again against Bethel University in Arden Hills, MN on Saturday, April 29.



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Sam Archer pitches for the Gusties during a game against St. Olaf College. The team won both games in the double header.



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