

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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**Gustie of the Week:
Katherine Aney**



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You Think**

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time shutout leader**

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Relay For Life conducts evening of emotion and inspiration

Gusties raise nearly \$20,000 in the fight against cancer



Gusties gathered in Lund Arena from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. to raise money for cancer research.

Abby Andersen

**Staff Writer
Corbyn Jenkins**

For seven hours, about 200 Gusties piled into Lund Arena where they participated in the 14th annual Relay For Life at Gustavus to help raise money for the American Cancer Society for the fight against cancer. This event was put on by Colleges Against Cancer. Their mission is to spread awareness of cancer as

well as raise money to help fund cancer research. Throughout the year they work to inform the students and staff of Gustavus about cancer related issues.

"Participants were there to help raise funds for cancer research by selling luminaria. Each team member has to raise at least \$25 to receive an event t-shirt," Colleges Against Cancer Advisor Ann Volk said.

As stated on the Relay For Life website, donations from the

event help fund groundbreaking cancer research, patient care programs, and can make a difference in communities like ours.

"I really appreciate the feeling of being part of something bigger than myself. I'm so blessed to be healthy and well-off," First-Year Sarah Hinderman said.

With every donation, Gusties were helping the American Cancer Society save lives. In

total (and still counting) the participants in this event raised \$19,051.27.

Many teams took the challenge to raise the most money in support of the event. The teams who came out on top were 'Gustavus Tennis', with a total of \$5,580 raised, 'Cancer Sucks', with \$1,810 and 'Theta Xi Gamma' with \$1,785. The top three individuals who raised the most money were seniors Devan Mellgren, Kiersti Grey

and Abby Simms who all raised over \$1,000. Many Gusties had their own reasons for choosing to participate in this event.

"I relayed because my family have been affected by cancer and I hope that no one will ever have to lose a loved one to cancer," First-Year Emily Scroggins said.

**'Relay for life'
continued on page 3**

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Campus Safety Report

Tuesday, April 25

Campus Safety responded to a Chapel View Townhome to document a complaint from other college staff.

A student reported the theft of personal property outside a room in Rundstrom Hall.

Wednesday, April 26

Campus Safety responded to Health Service for a medical assist and transported one student to River's Edge Hospital.

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 took a report of a student of concern in Norelius Hall.

Campus Safety responded to an odor of marijuana in Pittman Hall. One student was referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption of alcohol.

Friday, April 28

Campus Safety responded to a student of concern in Rundstrom Hall.

A Gustavus employee reported property damage in the Lind Interpretive Center.

Saturday, April 29

Campus Safety responded to

an alcohol violation in Uhler Hall involving one student.

Campus Safety responded to Jackson Campus Center for a report of someone having vomited in a trash can. The person was not identified but the bio waste was taken for proper disposal.

Campus Safety responded to a report of personal property missing from a visitor's vehicle while parked in the Bjorling parking lot.

Campus Safety discovered a fire extinguisher missing from College View Apartments.

Campus Safety responded to a student of concern on College grounds.

Note: Case dispositions are available online by viewing the daily crime log on the Campus Safety web page: <https://gustavus.edu/safety/incidents/index.php>

Tip of the Week:

Fire Safety - All faculty, staff, and students are required to evacuate the building when the alarm has sounded, and proceed slowly to the nearest exit and go directly to the pre-arranged evacuation site.

The last individual exiting a room should close door and proceed to the closest exit. If smoke hampers your means of egress, find an alternative route.

Never use an elevator to evacuate the building, as smoke will rise into the elevator shaft, placing everyone inside at serious risk. Handicapped individuals should go to the nearest staircase and wait for assistance.

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MayDay! Conference brings constitutional lawyer Bruce Fein to campus

Editor-in-Chief
Philip Evans

Brian Konkol and President Rebecca Bergman kicked off the 37th annual MayDay! Conference on Wednesday morning. Before introducing the keynote speaker of the conference, Bergman quoted an excerpt from the new Strategic ACTS Plan tying it to the topic of the conference.

"Gustavus equips students to lead purposeful lives and to act on the great challenges of our time. Through an innovative liberal arts education of recognized excellence. MayDay! Calls the attention of our community to one of the great challenges of our time. This year's topic is focused on mass surveillance and the role of both citizens and government in times of peace and in times of war," Bergman said.

While The MayDay! Conference has traditionally been a forum for peace discussion, it also provides a source of inspiration for attendees to begin their own journey towards creating harmony in the world.

"The message is rather grim, well, we've assembled at this time and place. Our country, we the people, are engaged in 9 known unconstitutional, unwinnable wars that are turning children into orphans, wives into widows, having fathers bury sons instead of sons burying fathers. It's destruction on an industrial scale. That is our country. We can't blame it on the government because we, the people, still govern," keynote speaker Bruce Fein opened the conference with.

"The surveillance issue is a derivative- or better yet- a child of the warfare state."

-Bruce Fein

Fein, a constitutional lawyer in Washington D.C. and former



Bruce Fein previously worked as the assistant deputy attorney under the Reagan administration.

Submitted

assistant deputy attorney under the Reagan administration, made sure to emphasize that it is the people that inevitably has the power to change its country's actions.

"We now live in a country where the President is endowed with authority that would make King George III envious. The authority to play prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner to kill anyone on the planet, including citizens that he decrees based upon secret evidence -

the same kind of evidence that found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq - is an imminent danger. There is no reveal of the President's decision, there is no congressional review, there is no judicial review, it is final. That is the power to kill anyone at will, which is the very definition of tyranny. When Thomas Paine wrote that 'in the USA common law is King and that the King is law' we fought a revolution and now we've turned our heads. When I say we, that's us. This

is who we voted for. We tolerate and accept it," Fein said.

The Conference continued with an afternoon panel discussion focusing on mass surveillance featuring Coleen Rowley, Jane Kirtley and Thomas Drake. Fein touched on the subject of mass surveillance in his keynote address, noting that the rationality of surveillance and warfare are not too different.

"The surveillance issue is an derivative - or better yet - a child of the warfare state. The

warfare state is built on the psychology that we need to live in a risk-free world. Everyone in this room should know that it is more likely to know that you are more likely to die from a vending machine falling on top of you than in a terrorist attack. The surveillance society is a natural response. We can't take any risks. This is why we declare wars on everything that moves, no matter how insignificant," Fein concluded.

'Relay for life' continued from page 1

For some of the participants, cancer didn't have a strong impact on their personal life, but they still relayed.

"I took part in this event because it's the least I could do for all those strong men, women, and children who have to fight this terrible disease. I want to do everything I can, no matter how small, to make a difference

in their lives, and possibly even save a life," Hinderman said.

This event had a busy schedule to keep the night alive. It began with a celebration ceremony where survivors and caretakers shared their stories.

"I loved hearing the stories of the people who had survived cancer and how cancer had affected their lives. The caretaker's story where she talked about taking care of her husband and daughter when they had cancer, was incredible and so touching.

It was definitely my favorite part of the night," Scroggins said.

The celebration ceremony was followed by a Gustavus Women's Acapella performance and other events. These events included a photo booth, a 'Minute to Win It' game with the Sigmas, Stress Busters Chair massages, swing club performance and lessons, and a Dermascan where the ultraviolet light in the machine shows sun damage that the naked eye cannot see.

The luminaria lighting ceremony which honors cancer survivors was many people's favorite part of the night.

"All attendees were given a purple glow stick and lined up along the track. The lights were turned off, and the two co-chairs shared the symbolism of the evening and how it represents the cancer journey. The most powerful moment was when they said 'if you are a cancer survivor, break your glow stick', there were then a few clicks. It

went on from there, if you have a parent that has had cancer, if you have a grandparent, continuing with siblings, spouses, relatives and friends. By the end, all were lit. It was such a special moment when we all realized that we have had cancer touch us personally and that we all have that common bond. It was that moment when the tears were shed the most," Volk said.

GWIL hosts successful annual conference on dealing with inevitable conflict

Staff Writer
Ella Napton

At Gustavus, there are ample opportunities to attend impactful conferences. These conferences host speakers ranging from academic to activism, where students can learn something often times unaddressed in classroom settings. From the Nobel Conference to the May-Day! Conference and Building Bridges, topics of interest span a wide range at Gustavus.

"Conflict is everywhere. The question is how are we going to navigate it when we do confront it in our lives?"

-Professor Tunheim

One such conference is the annual Gustavus Women in Leadership conference, which aims to engage alumnae and current students to "prepare, promote and inspire Gustavus women in their professional and personal leadership development". The mission was founded



Professor Kathi Tunheim speaking at the GWIL Conference in Minneapolis. She is joined on stage by students Katey Nelson, Lydia Kennedy and Tessa Semerad.

to empower women and make them motivated to flourish in the business-world. This year's conference title was 'Navi-

gating Conflict in an Ever-Changing World'. The goal this year was to discuss conflict and management, such as trusting one's intuition when it comes to decision-making, allowing oneself to be vulnerable, making ethical decisions, and addressing the conflicts that arise between generations.

There were two key-note speakers, Kyle Gibson and Jennifer Myster, Gibson is the Founding Executive Producer of the Women in the World Summit and Myster is the President of the Alina Health Buffalo Hospital. Gibson addressed the 'gut feeling' and Mysters talk was titled "From Perfection to Vulnerability: Overcoming Conflict Through Resiliency", in which she spoke about turning conflicts into progress.

Along with these two keynote speakers there were eight break-out speakers, including Gustavus own Professors Kathi Tunheim and Kathy Lund Dean. Each have significance in the business world and were eager to share their own personal experiences to those listening.

"Each speaker used their own stories to inspire women in attendance to stand their ground and use their voice for good in the workplace and in the world," Senior Alex Kopp said.

Conflict management was important to address because all attendees, young and old, could identify with what was being said.

"We have all experienced conflict. We learned about it on a global, national, state, organizational and individual level. Conflict is everywhere. The question is how are we going to navigate it when we do confront it in our lives?" Professor Tunheim said.

For many, the most pertinent topic discussed was the interpersonal conflict that comes about when a leader does not take into account personal relationships with those who may be lower than them, disregards the need for self-care, and focusing only on achieving perfection. This was addressed by Myster.

"To highlight the important lessons in overcoming perfectionism, recognizing the importance of self-care for herself and employees, and allowing for vulnerability to create more authentic and powerful leadership," Senior Mae Meierhenry said.

Many students are notoriously over-achieving and overly involved on campus and they can put their self-care last when it comes to prioritizing. It is common for students to push themselves too far when it comes to searching for internships, participating in rigorous athletic programs, and leading student organizations.

Some go past their limits many times to earn good grades and create impressive resumes for future employees. Moreover, the conference's topic was important for graduating seniors, as work conflict environment is inevitable and should not be intimidating.

"We can deal with these conflicts gracefully by listening to others, being resilient, and using ethical decision-making skills," Kopp said.

The Gustavus Women in Leadership Conference fosters a goal of improvement for the women who attend. It empowers them to address conflict accordingly.

The conference creates a foundation for women to support women. The goal is to create an environment that allows collegiate women to be successful post-graduation in the business world.

The 2017 conference was incredibly successful. The conference was completely sold out three weeks in advance and speakers flew in from across the country and provided a dynamic group of women that empowered those in attendance.

The organizers of the conference, including conference chairs and seniors Katey Nelson, Lydia Kennedy and Tessa Semerad, received a lot of positive feedback following the event and believe the conference will keep improving and growing each year.

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GUSTIE *of the* WEEK

Katherine Aney

Kayla Cardenas
Staff Writer

Before she became a double major in mathematics and biochemistry, junior Katherine Aney of Rochester, Minnesota had no idea how big of a role science would play in her life. But all of that changed when she talked to a professor from Gustavus.

"I can pinpoint the exact moment when I fell in love with the biology and the human genome," Katherine said. "I was talking to Professor Pam Kittelson and she told me that our DNA was the exact same for every cell in our body from our hair cells to our brain cells to our heart cells. At first I didn't believe her, I couldn't believe her! But this was a turning point for me in my education, and quite honestly, my life. It sparked a curiosity that still burns in my belly today."

As Tri-Beta Vice President and Women's Tennis athlete, Katherine is what her friend Erica Powers describes as "the poster-child for upholding the Gustavus values."

"She demonstrates excellence in the classroom and on the ten-

nis court," Powers said. "She is involved in the community by supporting her classmates, friends and teammates and always reaching out to someone in need. Katie demonstrates justice by never giving up in her desire for gender equal rights, and recognizing women in the scientific community. Katie is not afraid to spend her time volunteering or helping out a organization, on or off campus, and she often does things without a reward or having to be asked. Katie's faith is rooted in her upbringing and she shows this everyday with how much she values her relationships with her siblings, parents and close friends."

Katherine's and Powers' friendship formed like many here at Gustavus, during their first year. As neighbors, hockey teammates, and research buddies, they became close friends.

"Some down time activities that Katie and I enjoy are painting, listening to disney music, studying and venting about our busy lives over ice cream," Powers said. "Katie is the most genuine and thoughtful person that I know, and I consider it a privilege to be considered her friend. Her dedication and passion are the reason I know she

will be successful in whichever path she chooses in her future and with her, the sky's the limit, and I can't wait to see how high she climbs."

Outside of the laboratories, you can typically find Katherine at the tennis courts where she's built many fond memories.

"In the match to win the MIAC season title during my freshman year," Katie said. "The score was tied and I was the last match playing. I had lost the first set 0-6 so clearly things were not going well out there. I ended up winning the second set 7-6 and then closed the match out 10-8 in the tiebreak. I still remember my teammates lined up cheering their hearts out and the way I performed when I surrendered myself to the energy of the team. This 'we before me' attitude is an incredible part of this college and I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by the culture Gustavus fosters."

Friend and coach Jon Carlson appreciates Katherine's level of determination.

"She is one hundred percent caring and effort," Carlson said. "Nobody tries harder than Katie in everything. She knows how to chill and have fun; but when it's time to study or play tennis,



Abby Anderson

Katherine's enthusiasm and sense of humor can put a smile on anyone's face.

she has an amazingly high level of focus and effort level. An outstanding example to others."

Coach Carlson also believes that Katherine has a gift for humor and that "everyone's day gets a little better if they have a chance to run into her. Not many people on the planet like that."

As the end of her third year approaches, Katherine

starts preparing for the future.

"After I graduate," Katherine said. "I will go to graduate school for biochemistry, but I may take a year off to travel, read and write. Eventually I would like to be involved in the realm of cancer clinical trials focused specifically on childhood cancer."



Abby Anderson

Katherine's passion for biochemistry stems from an intellectual conversation she had with one of her professors. She's preparing to continue her studies on the subject after her graduation.

A Dog's Purpose pleases pet owners



Kristi Manning
Staff Writer

If you have a dog at home, you know that they become much more than just a pet. Your dog becomes a part of your family, someone who you care about just as deeply as any person. Growing up with a pet is like going through life with your built-in best friend always walking beside you. For all of the dog lovers, *A Dog's Purpose* combines the emotional struggle that families often go through when losing a pet, and also takes the dog's perspective into account. The film portrays the love that dogs have for their owners, but does not skip over the love that owners have for their dogs.

Based on the book of the same



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"A Dog's Purpose" tries to tug on the heartstrings of dog lovers with one pup's emotional journey.

title by W. Bruce Cameron, *A Dog's Purpose* tells the story of a Golden Retriever puppy named Bailey as he is born, grows up, dies, and then is reincarnated through multiple other dog breeds.

As he is reincarnated through these other breeds such as a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, German Shepherd, and Bernese Mountain Dog, he takes on different names and is connected to new people through each journey. The intense journey that this dog's soul goes through is long and exhausting. This dog ends up meeting multiple people who need his support and help

in so many different ways. I think it is hard to see that this same dog is present in every single breed.

Not only does this make the film create an exhausting journey for the dog, but he learns throughout his time with each person, important lessons, what the meaning of life is to one person, and how that differs from the meaning of life of another. While helping the people he encounters, this dog also battles with the question of why he is on this journey, which ultimately is revealed as he helps his first owner, Ethan, reunite with his high school sweetheart,

Hannah.

The plot of the film along with big stars such as Dennis Quaid and Josh Gad in leading roles, led audience and critics to believe that the film would be a hit with dog lovers, the kind-hearted, and younger audiences. However after accusations that during production the dogs in the film were treated poorly, the reception of the film from many moviegoers was negative. The accusations were announced to be untrue by a third-party animal cruelty expert, however the initial reaction had already caused the film's attendance in theaters, and acceptance to

take a hit.

The film, similar in nature to other movies of the same genre such as *Marley and Me* and *Hachi: A Dog's Tale* will tug at the heartstrings of animal-loving audiences, but others might see it as cheesy or awkward. The film takes a new stance on the way these types of stories are told. Not only is it from the perspective of a dog, but the dog uses phrases that make it seem like he is the owner of the boy he lives with. This is one of the aspects of the film that might make the story seem awkward to audiences.

Nevertheless, the film was doomed from the start against critics because of the genre's pitfalls, accusations of animal cruelty, and somewhat unstable storyline. Those who take the animal cruelty accusations to heart will be disgusted and upset with the film, however those who love animals, especially dogs, will be touched by the way the film reveals the true and wonderful purpose of man's best friend in our lives. While the film has both positive and negative aspects, the one idea that is brought to mind is whether or not we as dog owners or humans, realize the enormous impact that our pets, especially dogs, can have on us.

Professor Emeritus returns to star in 'King Lear'

Ben Keran
Staff Writer

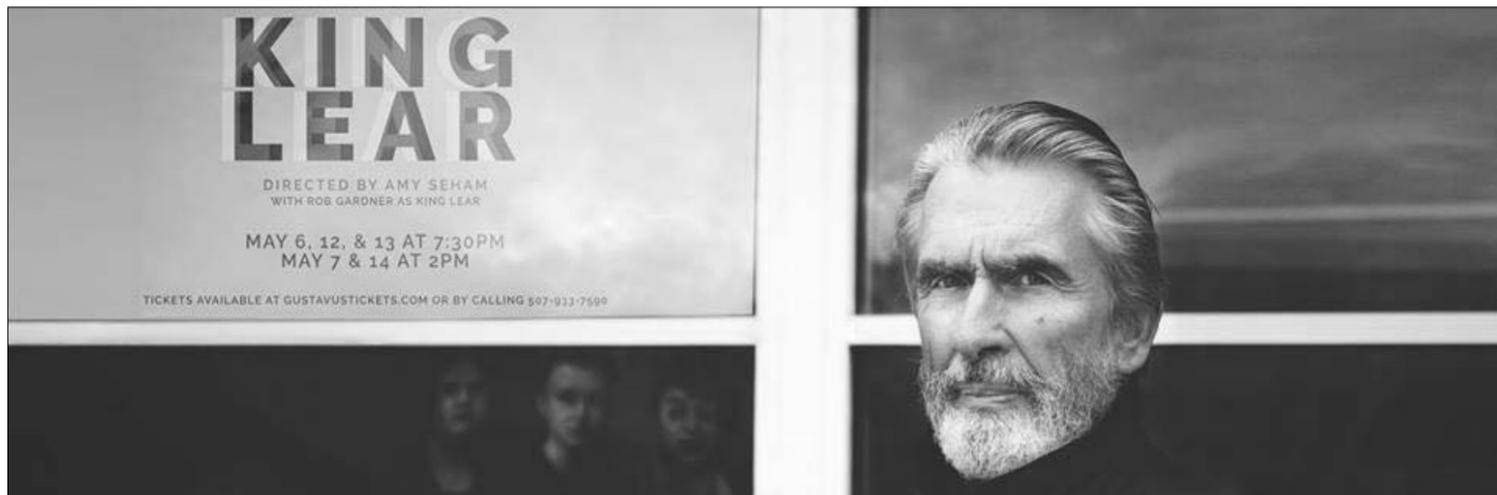
King Lear is the story of an elderly king faced with his own mortality and the task of dividing his kingdom amongst his three daughters.

The titular King Lear's fantasy of a smooth transition of power soon crumbles before him as he banishes his youngest daughter before his two elder daughters betray his confidence. They remove Lear from any of the power he attempts to cling to, driving him mad and estranged from his kingdom.

With nothing left to his name, Lear becomes a ghost of sorts, haunting the land he once ruled. And in tragic Shakespearean fashion, by the end of the story, none of the characters finish better than they begin.

Directed by professor in Theatre and Dance Amy Seham, *King Lear* is often referred to as one of Shakespeare's "greatest tragedies," and Seham adamant about the role family plays in the production.

"The play can be seen as a family drama about the relationships of parents and children, as a political piece about the struggle for power, or as an existential exploration of our ideas about the 'self,' among other interpretations. I was particularly drawn to the tension between the King Lear and his three adult daughters," Seham said.



Submitted

Professor Emeritus Robert Gardner returns to Gustavus to shine as the titular role of "King Lear," a Shakespearean drama about major family issues.

Professor Emeritus Robert Gardner will be returning to Gustavus to play the titular role of King Lear in the upcoming performance. Similarly to Seham, Gardner acknowledges the family aspect of Lear.

"Family quarrels are timeless and this play, at its heart, is a play about family quarrels," Gardner said. "The play challenges the audience to make some leaps, first of all with the rich, dense semi-archaic language. But if you are willing to make the leap (reading the play in advance isn't a bad idea), that language can stick with you for the rest of your life. It can take you to very dark and very brilliant places."

One of the more interesting parts of *King Lear* compared to his other plays, is that Lear is one of Shakespeare's fur-

thest dives into femininity and power.

Historically, the king of Britain is succeeded by his oldest son, but Lear only has daughters, so it is assumed that the daughters' husbands will inherit most of the power that comes with Lear's kingdom.

First-year Morgan Fuller plays Goneril, one of the elder daughters and more sinister characters throughout the play.

Fuller's take on the character is that Goneril can be best described as "complex."

"She is the eldest daughter of the king and feels trapped and burdened by the men in her life," Fuller said. "Her father is no longer carrying authority well, and she views her husband (Albany) as weak and useless. Throughout the show she is pushing back against the estab-

lished powers, but makes some bad choices to do it."

Seham also sees Goneril as a sort of tragic figure instead of a villain.

"While the two oldest, Goneril and Regan, are often seen as irredeemably wicked, there are many of us who struggle to care for an aging parent who refuses to accept change. I worked to humanize all three sisters, and give more credit to a female perspective in the play. To this end, I also cast the same actor to play Cordelia and the fool, making a connection between the two characters that always speak truth to Lear."

Gardner described what it's like having been on set and training with his fellow actors:

"Working with this cast has been challenging and exciting; it's made me realize how old

I am! Also, the actors have a very strong sense of ensemble—something I have been hugely impressed with from the beginning. They work well together, enjoy being with each other, and seem to have a real sense of ownership of the production."

Similarly, Seham only had good things to say about the Emeritus Professor.

"I have particularly enjoyed working with my colleague, Professor Emeritus Rob Gardner, playing the role of Lear. I would not have chosen to produce *King Lear* without an actor of Rob's stature in the role, so I feel very fortunate that he was willing to work with us, and share his experience and knowledge with the cast," Seham said.

King Lear will be performed on May 6-7 and May 12-14 in Anderson Theatre.

Choirs wrap up the year with spring concert



Submitted

For many members of the Gustavus Choir, the Choir of Christ Chapel, and the St. Lucia singers, the upcoming Spring Concert will be their final performance on campus.

Brady Lass Section Editor

After months of preparation, the Department of Music is ready to end this year's choir programs on a high note.

The Gustavus Choir Spring Concert conducted by Gregory Aune and Brandon Dean will be performed on May 6 at 3:30 p.m. at Christ Chapel and can also be viewed online via livestream.

This performance will unite a number of choir groups on campus: The Gustavus Choir, the Choir of Christ Chapel, and the St. Lucia Singers. Senior Christ Chapel member Sylvia Michels appreciates the opportunity to have all three choirs sing under the same roof.

"The choirs each rehearse their individual choir sets on their own. These past few weeks we've had a couple of combined rehearsals to work on the mass pieces. It's exciting to get to join all three choirs together in the spring like we do for C in CC in the fall. It feels like a natural way to close out the year," Michels said.

The concert also allows for unique opportunities for some Gustavus singers, such as Senior Music major David Nelson, who will be directing his group, the Gustavus Choir, in one of their songs.

"Personally, the process though which I've prepared for the upcoming Choral Showcase has been different than any other concert I've been a part of at Gustavus," Nelson said. "For this concert, I am fortunate enough to be directing the Gustavus Choir for Moses Hogan's arrangement of 'My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord.' While I've been preparing the rest of the music alongside the choir, I

have had to put a great amount of time preparing for my conducting debut. It certainly takes a lot of out you, but every time that I'm in front of the choir, they fill me with so much energy and spirit that I feel so invigorated that I can help but want to be up there for longer."

Another piece the Gustavus Choir will be performing is "Gabriel's Oboe," by film composer Ennio Morricone and featuring guest soloists Bailey Hilgren on oboe and John Baron on cello. Mass choir pieces will include "A Mighty Fortress is our God" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," in memory of longtime Luther Nordic Choir Conductor Weston Noble, who passed away last December. The Chapel Choir will be bringing back their best pieces from their choir tour last month.

Senior Gustavus Choir member Preston Schlueter believes anyone that the concert's attendees are guaranteed to listen to some gorgeous melodies.

"Students who plan to attend the concert can look forward to an afternoon of beautiful and emotional music from all three choirs (as well as Chapel Brass), and will be able to wish the seniors in these ensembles well as they complete their final choir concert at Gustavus," Schlueter said. "Personally, I still haven't fully come to terms with the fact that this may be my final choir concert as a singer. I've been singing in choirs since the sixth grade, so choral music has been a large part of my life for over a decade. Since coming to Gustavus, my love for choral singing (and the "Swedish Lutheran choral tradition") has only deepened, and I'll never forget either the friends or the music I've made in these past four years."

Being the last choir concert for the seniors on campus makes the concert more impactful for several of the students.

"It is definitely a bittersweet moment knowing that this is the last time I'll be performing in Christ Chapel in those velvet robes," Nelson said. "The memories I've made in choir and the experiences I've had have shaped who I am today, and I cannot thank Dr. Aune, Dr. Dean, and my fellow students enough for all that they've done. I'm sad to be leaving, but

I have the utmost confidence that the program will continue to flourish in years to come. Knowing that there are going to be so many more people sharing these experiences in choir fills my heart, and I know that every one of them will come out of the program changed for the better!"

However, some are going in more proud than disheartened, as the concert gives them the chance to show how much they've improved during their time at Gustavus.

"I am not as sad as I expected to be as we approach this final concert," Michels said. "I think this great sense of pride and excitement is overpowering my need to cry. The closest I get to breaking down is when I stop singing and just listen to the younger voices around... starting out what feels like ten times better than I was four years ago. This choir is magically up-lifting. I have many people to thank for that. Approaching this last concert, I am thankful."



Submitted

Dr. Gregory Aune prepares to close out the year conducting the Gustavus Choir to the best of their abilities.



Mikayla Kvitttem-Barr
Features Editor

On April 29, 2017, more than 300,000 people in Washington D.C. and across the country joined together in a powerful demonstration of unity for jobs, justice, and climate action. Among the attendees were students, workers, community organizations, environmental groups, and faith communities.

"The Climate March was a march for climate, jobs, and justice. We marched to acknowledge the urgency of the climate crisis and celebrate the planet," Senior Jenna Arvidson said.

Arvidson was one of 21 Gustavus students that made the journey to Washington D.C. for this eventful day. These Gusties were joined by Gustavus professors, St. Peter community members and students from the University of Minnesota, St. Olaf, Minnesota State University, and Carleton for a 22-hour bus ride to the nation's Capitol.

"Gusties went to represent our passion for the environment. It was incredible to be able to travel to D.C. with my peers for a cause I'm passionate about," Senior Zack Allison said.

Coinciding with Donald Trump's 100th day in office, the protests are taking on the President's environmental policies, which have generally prioritized economic growth over environmental concerns.

"Change is inevitable, and only we can solve it -- the impact is just changing the way we live," Senior Olivia Gori said.

People of all backgrounds, education, and experience attended the march and acknowledge a crucial issue.

"I went to express my feelings about how urgent climate change is and to surround myself with others. It was an empowering experience to be in a mass of people who care about the environment as much as I do," Arvidson said.

Demonstrators braved temperatures above the 90s on Saturday to participate in the march.

"For that time of year, D.C. was about 20 degrees hotter than average. It was a muggy, sticky, and unseasonably hot day and the perfect backdrop to all of the signs that said, 'the Earth is melting' and 'It's getting hot in here!' It was as if the weather itself proved the point of the march," Allison said.

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- Jenna Arvidson '17

The march began at 12:30 p.m. near the Capitol where demonstrators planned to move to the White House and end up at the Washington Monument.

"It was a surreal experience. People were marching down Pennsylvania Avenue chanting things like 'keep it in the soil, can't drink oil!' and 'water is life!'" Allison said.

The protest continues the trend of heightened liberal activism since Trump's election, as seen in the Women's March in January and the protests at airports countering the administration's travel ban.

Many are citing this monumental event as a movement rather than a march. Demonstrators will have the opportunity to join the organizers, the Sierra Club, for a Climate Resistance Telebriefing where participants will discuss the state on climate resistance and launch a new initiative to create local climate resistance groups.