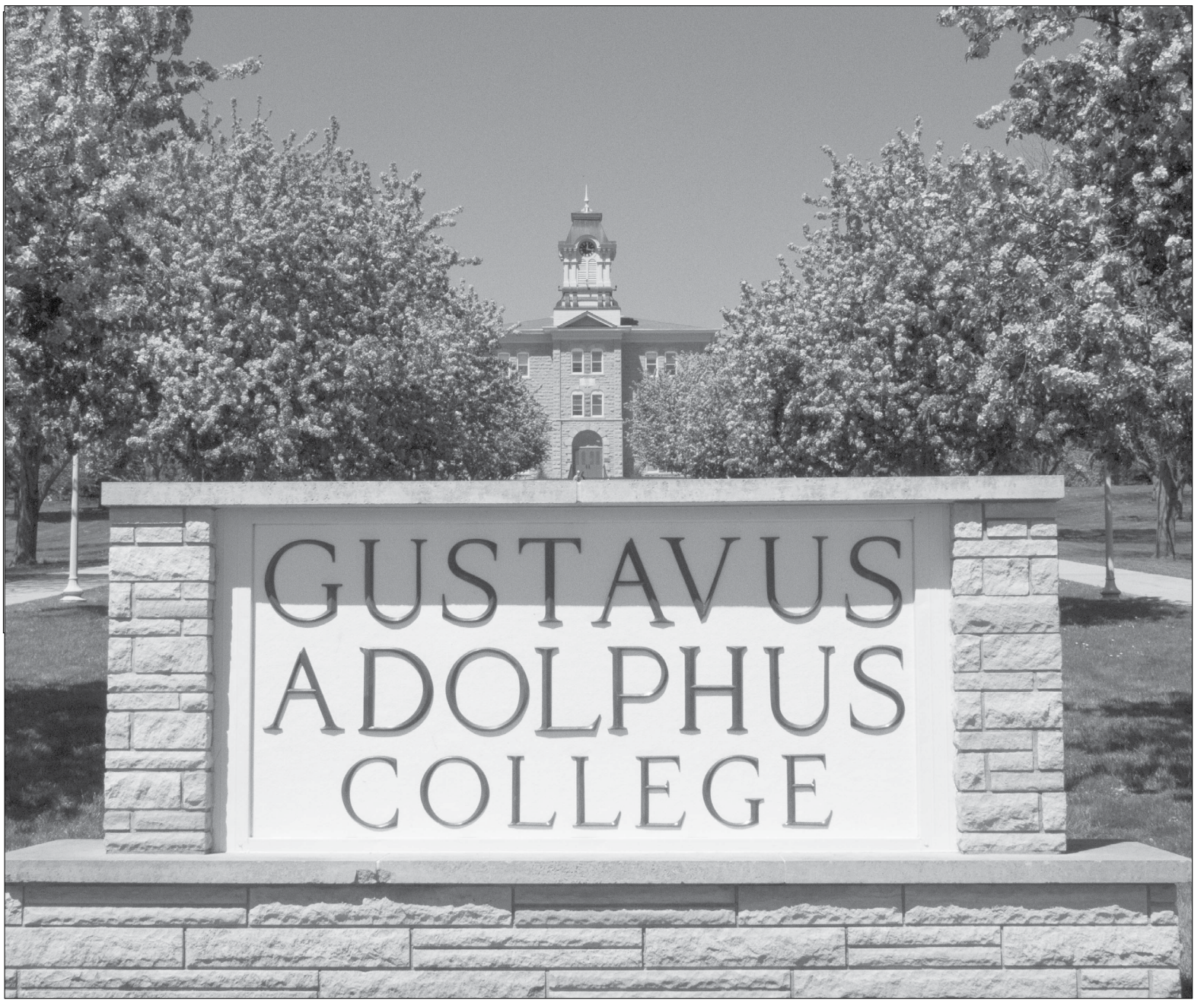
Prison for Victims, Playground for Perps

Rachael Manser
Opinion Columnist



Submitted

Conversations about campus sexual assault are happening all across the country as institutions confront challenges in addressing an epidemic of sexual violence.

A young woman dragged a mattress across her campus to protest Columbia University's mishandling of her sexual assault complaint. A young man at Gustavus Adolphus College was assigned a 500-word essay about consent as punishment for sexual assault. Now, a report was released documenting over fifty years of unpunished sexual abuse committed by twelve faculty members at Choate Rosemary Hall, a small elite boarding school in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Sexual assault allegations have become so commonplace on campuses around the country that only the most sensational stories make the headlines. These stories represent just a microscopic sampling of the thousands of reported sexual assault cases in the last decade alone, and each sheds light on a disturbing pattern of indifference toward human dignity within the educational administration system.

Choate released a report less than a month ago that documents sexual harassment and assault committed by at least twelve former faculty members beginning in the 1960s and continuing into the 2010s. The investigation was conducted only after the Boston Globe in 2016 published the story of a Choate French professor who was forced to resign in 1992 for having sexual relations with a student, but was given a recommendation letter from the administration which helped him land a job at another private institution months later.

The document prepared for the Board of Trustees at Choate describes multiple cases of parents and students complaining to the school about inappropriate interactions of faculty and their students that were never brought to police attention. These cases include a young woman in the 1980s who contracted herpes from her English teacher and a student who was raped by her teacher on a school trip to Costa Rica. Most these faculty were allowed to quietly resign from Choate and ended up working at other schools where they became potential threats to future victims.

This serves as just one example of faulty school administrations across the country that are more concerned with the reputation of their school and the incoming class size than the dignity and safety of the human beings that already reside in the community. This is neither a small nor an isolated problem: it deeply affects young people across the country and sadly, has been and continues to be relevant across generations. It necessitates major structural change, not just within the educational administration system, but within our larger culture that perpetuates the violence and mistreatment.

Only a year ago, our own small-town, private liberal arts, "community on the hill" college made national news in USA Today College for punishing a student found responsible for sexual assault by assigning a 500-word essay on the subject of consent. A paragraph about consent? A fifth grader with a laptop could whip that out in less than an hour.

Not only was this his punishment, but it was his only punishment. He was allowed to remain on campus and continue a regular schedule of classes which included a class with the victim. After sacrificing a whole hour to write his punishment essay of course, he was allowed to continue his regular life while the victim not only endured the trauma of sexual assault, but had to endure the continued suffering of being reminded of it every single day and living in constant fear. As if the situation couldn't get any worse, the student body was not informed of the sexual assault case until months later when we read it in the neighboring city's newspaper headlines. Even then, the administration refused to release his name.

The educational administration acts as an oppressive social structure which restricts human dignity and freedom by allowing perpetrators to remain free and present an ongoing threat to their victims and the whole of their community. This promotes individual selfishness of current and potential perpetrators because they can rest assured that if it's up to the school administration, their scholarship or blossoming future career will be bubble wrapped so that they suffer no real world consequences for their actions. The oppressive school administration and the selfish perpetrator feed a culture of complicity around sexual assault. Rape culture continues and human dignity suffers because of deep-rooted structural and cultural problems that remain unaddressed.

When I speak of protecting human dignity, some might raise objections to the prioritization of the dignity of the victim over that of the perpetrator. However, if a society is to value and protect human dignity, it must be built on a system of justice, one that holds a person accountable for their actions, for their violation of another human being. If we allow perpetrators to walk free, they stand as a threat to all of human dignity.

The systemic structures and cultural values that perpetuate sexual violence are deeply imbedded in our society and will take time and great effort to change. While we work to dig up the roots of the problem, the problem does not cease to exist. Therefore, victims should bypass their school administration and seek justice off-campus in the real world, where each decision and action has a consequence which must be faced. While our justice system too is broken, it is typically not invested in upholding the reputation of an institution, and therefore provides greater hope for valuing and protecting the dignity of the victims.

Education is supposed to move our society forward, and liberal arts colleges specifically are meant to promote, dignify, and explore the responsible use of freedom. Yet, by remaining complicit in rape culture, they deny full freedom for many students by not upholding the discipline of responsible behavior on which a society must function if it is to be both civilized and free.

Campuses around the country have become a prison for victims and a playground for perpetrators.

The Nipple Effect

Sophie Leininger
Opinion Columnist

Submitted

While Gustavus prohibits perceived female students from exposing their breasts and nipples, the campus is covered in art glorifying the female form.

Spring means stress, sleep deprivation, and a shortage of clothed male students. This week, campus was crawling in male students throwing frisbees, playing campus golf, and studying in the grass all in the absence of shirts. Campus Safety was nowhere to be seen and the general public appeared safe and content. Then, two perceived female students removed their shirts while sitting in the lawn, exposing their breasts. Observing students took pictures, sent snapchats, and made phone calls to the Dean of Students and Campus Safety to report the suspicious behavior.

It worked. Bystander intervention finally worked.

Wait. A nipple? We are reporting a nipple?

Driving past countless male nipples, a Campus Safety vehicle pulled up to the threat within minutes. An officer confronted the students, hysterically screaming and pointing, "You're indecent!"

According to the official Gustavus policy regarding sexual harassment, the officer may be right. It states that it is a violation of Title IX to "[expose] one's genitals or breasts in nonconsensual circumstances."

Had the officer approached any of the topless male students or any of the female students with cleavage, he also would have been right. The poorly written policy uses the term "breasts," but fails to define what exactly a "breast" is, how much of the "breast" counts as "exposed", and whose "breasts" we are talking about. Yet, based on recent events, the campus community and Campus Safety have made it very clear how the policy will be applied. It is only the bodies and "breasts" perceived to be female that are subjected to policing. The students in question this week are now facing possible college administration sanctions. On the third day of Nipplegate, backup was called. Usually reserved for intoxicated college students and (we can only hope) for rapists, a St. Peter police officer appeared on campus. The officer confronted the female nipple head on and returned the scene to safety. Male students remained unbothered, free of harassment, left to roam shirtless and unsanctioned.

The lack of logical policy extends beyond Gustavus. The Minnesota state law defines nudity as "the showing of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any portion thereof below the top of the nipple." Minnesota state law defines public indecency as "willfully and lewdly [exposing] the person's body, or the private parts." It goes on to include an exemption for breastfeeding.

A male breast is legal. A male nipple is legal. A female breast is legal, as long as the nipple is covered. Otherwise, the female nipple is illegal. But a female nipple with a baby attached is legal. Yet, Campus Safety threatened police action to females with covered nipples. Confused yet? I'm not even sure how to address the legal ambiguity of "private parts."

The lack of clarity and the lack of a uniform definition of decency stems from a policy that has no basis beyond a long history of the policing of female bodies. We do not have to go back far to remember when female thighs or two-piece swimsuits were a cause of public outcry and legislative action.

It is not about morality. The lack of uniformity in policy makes that clear. It's about policing women's bodies. The current enforcement of such policies is frankly unsustainable. There is an entire spectrum of bodies and genders. Any attempt to create a binary between unacceptable and acceptable bodies is bound to result in illogical and discriminatory rules about who is allowed to sit in the sunshine.

Let's Engage in Civil Discourse

Dan McCrackin
Opinion Columnist

Submitted

On May Day!, Gustavus celebrates and engages in exciting intellectual discourse about a variety of topics.

Many people have varied ideas on what is best for themselves and the collective health of humanity. It is because of these varied ideas and interpretations of those ideas that conflict arises and tensions mount. That is also the reason why it is important to emphasize the role of discourse in how ideas are spread.

It is an unfortunate reality that people will often disregard or even completely ignore opinions they disagree with, as well as the people voicing those opinions. Due to this ignorance either one side or the other in an argument can feel minimized and forgotten. At the same time if one voice is louder than the other, say through media, then often neutral parties who wish to learn more on an idea or topic will find themselves bombarded with only the one-sided argument.

Thus the need for civil discourse arises. Not only so that people can hear ideas and the thoughts behind them in a respectful manner, but also so that the two opposing ideas can grow from interaction. Often times there are beneficial aspects to both sides of an argument, as well as aspects that are taken as negatives.

Civil discourse, whether it be between opposing political parties or two scientists debating the next step in an experiment, opens up the way for bi-partisan interpretations of an idea or theory.

Using civil discourse also means there has to be a designated safe space in order for it to take place. A place where there can be no ad hominem attacks that disparage the character of those who are trying to have their ideas respectfully heard, nor the raising of unrelated and distracting issues. There should only be ideas and the facts that surround them.

The response to this is usually that it is impossible to know all the facts and it is necessary to bring in other issues because they might be related. While both these assertions are true, it is impossible to know which other issues will have an impact on the situation at hand.

Discourse of any kind is how people interact on a daily basis and voice opinions, facts, fictions, and, of course, ideas. If that discourse is not maintained in a civil fashion then there is no progress made from either side. The most prominent display of a lack of civil discourse is warfare. Warfare is the final resort when discourse has reached the furthest realm from civil, to such the point that a person or a nation feels that it must emphasize its point with violence because it no longer has anything with which to debate.

This isn't limited to just the wide scale realm of international relations or government either. Civil discourse also is something that needs to be broached in everyday life, and especially around the Gustavus campus. When someone has an opinion and wishes to express that opinion in the form of conversation or civil disobedience, then it is the duty of the people on campus and the campus authorities themselves to not only hear out but debate with the ones voicing their ideas.

Civil disobedience is something that starts on the small scale and eventually expands to the national one. Without it, then we devolve into violence and aggression.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh

FBI Director Comey, chided by Democrats for screwing Hillary Clinton, was abruptly fired by President Trump on Tuesday night.

In a both hilarious and disturbing twist, sources report that Comey only found out he was fired after the news broke on CNN.

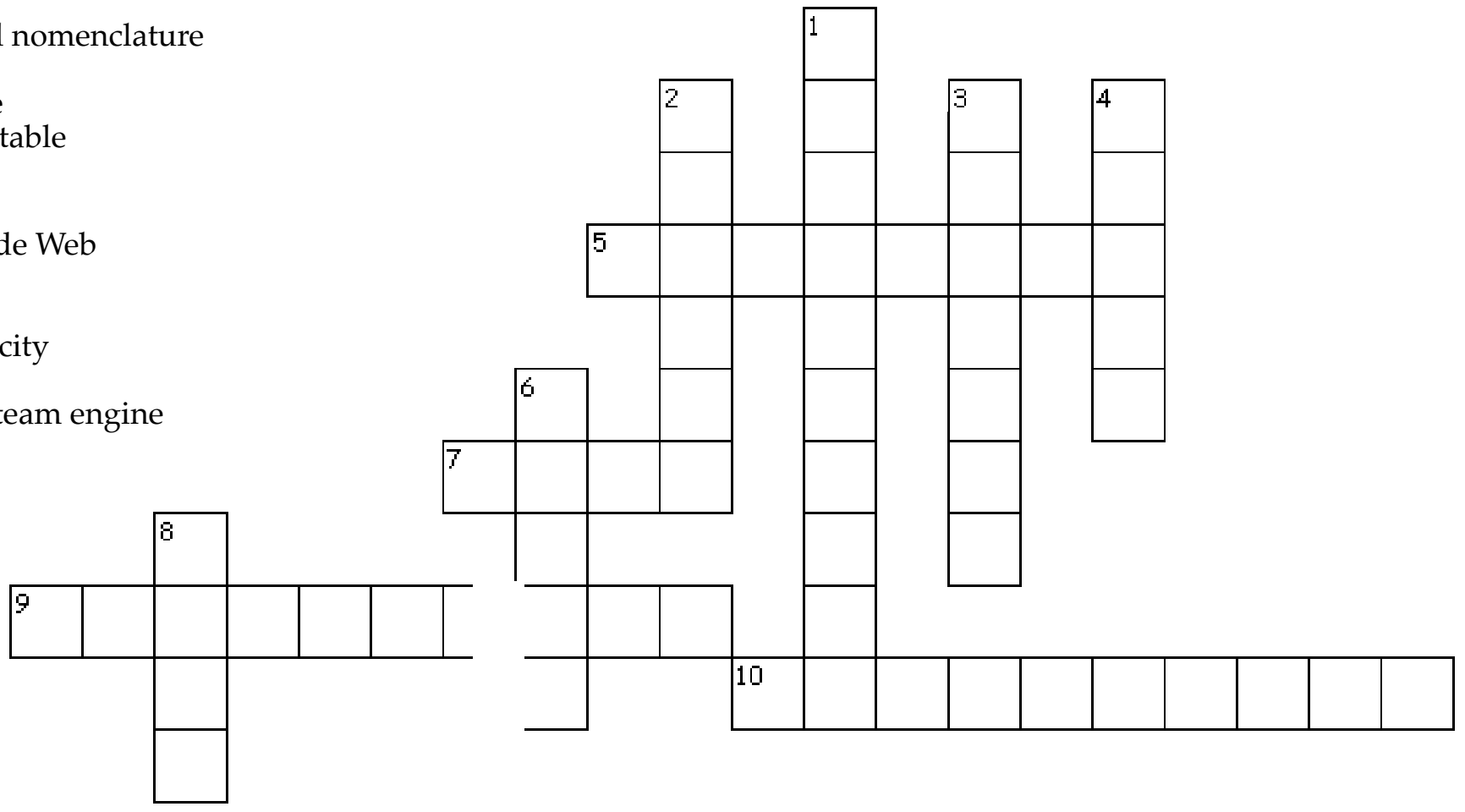
Trump gets to appoint the guy who will takeover Comey's investigation of Trump's Russian collusion. Это отлично.

Crossword

The Gustie Cup takes places on Saturday, May 13. Do you know the who inveted these famous creations? Write their last names in the boxes below.

Across
5. Binominal nomenclature
7. Revolver
9. Telephone
10. Periodic table

Down
1. World Wide Web
2. Aircraft
3. Penicillin
4. AC electricity
6. Dynamite
8. Modern steam engine



Answers:
Across: 5. Linnaeus, 7. Colt, 9. GrahamBell, 10. Mendeleyev
Down: 1: BernersLee, 2: Wright, 3: Fleming, 4: Tesla, 6: Nobel, 8: Watt.

Sudoku

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

							9	5
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5				7	9			
		9	4	3	6			1
8			1		2			4
4			7	9	8	6		
			9	1				3
		4				2	5	
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	1	9		2	4			6
8			1					3
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Baseball splits doubleheader with St. Thomas

Gusties finish sixth in conference

Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Sam Carlson pitches in an early season game. The baseball team won it's final game of the season against the University of St. Thomas with a score of 5-4.

Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Daniel Carlson swings at a pitch during an early season game against UW-Superior. The team finished with a record of 21-17.

Joseph Brandel
Sports Editor

On Saturday, the Gusties took the field for their last doubleheader of the season, taking on the University of St. Thomas at home.

After splitting a doubleheader with Augsburg on May 3, the team looked to its final games and senior day which took place on Saturday.

In the first game of the doubleheader, St. Thomas started with an early lead, scoring four runs in the first two innings. St. Thomas then increased their lead to 6-0 after scoring two more runs in the fourth. The Gusties responded however, scoring five runs in the bottom half of the fourth. The Gusties threatened St. Thomas' lead in the seventh with bases loaded and one out, however St. Thomas closed the inning with two strikeouts.

The second game was an emotional and exciting last game of the season.

St. Thomas took an early lead with a leadoff solo home run. The Gusties responded with two runs, leading 2-1 in the third inning. St. Thomas then batted in three runs to take the lead which was quickly cut down to 4-3 from a base hit by junior Brock Peterson. After a few scoreless innings, the Gusties tied the game 4-4 off of a RBI from Junior John Lundquist. Then in the 13th inning, when bases were loaded, Senior Isaiah Welckle hit a walk off sacrifice fly to close the game.

This Gustie win was largely due to the composure of Junior Casey Lewandoski. Lewandoski closed the game by pitching five scoreless innings and only giving up two hits. Lewandoski earned the MIAC Pitcher of The Week award for his performances at the end of the season and also recorded the most appearances this season.

This win could not have happened on a better day. Not only did the team upset St. Thomas, who was first in the MIAC at the time, it was also senior day. The seniors got to have a great final memory of their four-year baseball careers at Gustavus.

The graduating seniors are Jacob Braun, Daniel Carlson, Sam Carlson, Josh Chatfield, John DeMarais, Lukas Hanson, Connor Kern, Kyle Pinke, Logan Thomas, Isaiah Welckle, and Brendan Zangs.

Although the team is graduating 11 seniors, it has a lot of young and returning players who were crucial components to its success this year. The Gusties closed the season with a record of 21-17 and finished sixth in the MIAC.

Track and Field prepares for MIAC Championships

Gusties display strong performances in recent meets

Gustavus Sports Information

Gustavus women's distance runners compete in the Drake Alternaticve meet, hosted at Gustavus. The team has been in action at recent meets including the MIAC Multis and Hamline Invitational.

Michael O'Neil
Staff Writer

The Gustavus track and field team has been busy competing in the past week, sending athletes to the Mankato State University Twilight Meet, the MIAC Multis, and Hamline's Meet of the Unsaintly. As they prepare for the MIAC Conference Outdoor Championships this weekend, the morale on the team is high, and numerous Gusties have recorded "PR's", personal records, in their respective events.

The Gusties' last-minute preparations for the conference meet began May 3 in Mankato. The field consisted of athletes from Augustana, Martin Luther, Mankato State, Sioux Falls, South Dakota State, and Southwest Minnesota State. Amongst this group of DI, DII, and DIII teams, the Gusties recorded 15 top-10 finishes on the women's side and 16 on the men's side. The women's side was highlighted by two first place finishes from Sophomores Abigail Schnabel and Megan Weaver. Schnabel earned first place in the 800-meter with a time of 2:22.24 and Weaver won the 5000-meter by seven seconds with a time of 19:10.12. Three Gustie women also came in second place: Katie Keelin in the Hammer Throw, Lauren Kershner in the Pole Vault, and Lydia Hayes. Hayes was followed closely by Tierney Winter, who finished third, and Marisa Morgan recorded the other third place finish for the Gusties with a 112-6 Javelin throw. The Gusties had numerous other high performers and competed well against tough competition.

Over the next two days, the Gusties were represented in the MIAC Multis by Nelson Finne and Derek Huntley. The Multis are a decathlon competition that features ten track and field events over two days. Finne scored a total of 5,345 points which earned him an eighth place finish, while Huntley finished in 12th place with 4,614 points. The Multis measure competitors' all-around athleticism with tests of strength, speed, endurance, jumping, and more. Finne excelled throughout the competition, setting seven personal records out of the ten events.

The final pre-Conference Meet occurred last Saturday at Hamline University in St. Paul. Many of the top-Gusties didn't compete in order to rest up before the MIAC Championships, but nonetheless the athletes who represented Gustavus put in a strong showing. On the women's side, First-year Alexandra Anderson led the way with a sixth place finish in the long jump and a seventh place finish in the high jump. Lauren Kershner also earned a seventh place finish in the pole vault, and Mallory Butchko brought home the last top-ten finish on the women's side with an eighth place finish in the 400-meter dash. On the men's side, the Gusties brought home five top-ten finishes, highlighted by Kyle Fredrickson who took third in the 800-meter with a time of 1:53.73. On the track, Alex Wischnack earned fourth place in the 5000-meter and Sean O'Connell finished eighth in the 200-meter. The last two top-ten finishes occurred in jumping events, where Troy Ektnitphong took sixth in the high jump and Matthew Montplaisir finished ninth in the triple jump.

The Gusties will return to competition for the last time this season May 12-13 at the MIAC Outdoor Championships and will look to end what has been a successful season on a high note. The meet will take place at Carleton College in Northfield, MN beginning midday on Friday. There is a link to a livestream on the Gustavus Track and Field website so students, parents, alumni, and fans from all over can tune in to watch.

Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Cameron Jackson competes in long jump at the Drake Alternative meet. The team is preparing for the MIAC Outdoor Championships May 12.

Gusties advance to NCAA tournament

Women's Tennis wins second straight MIAC playoff title

Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Briana Hartmann returns a serve in a match against the University of St. Thomas May 5. The team defeated St. Thomas with a score of 5-1 to move onto the playoff finals.

Joseph Brandel
Sports Editor

On Sunday, Women's Tennis came out in full force as they faced No. 37 ranked Carleton College. The team suffered an earlier defeat to Carleton in regular season but managed to turn things around in playoffs, winning its second straight MIAC playoff title and a bid to the NCAA tournament.

Before this weekend's exciting matches took place, the All-Conference list was announced. Seniors Cal Carlson and Michaela Schulz, Juniors Katie Aney and Ally Baker, and Sophomore Briana Hartmann earned the award.

In addition to this, Carlson was also awarded the Chris Evert Award, which recognizes a senior tennis student-athlete with exemplary sportsmanship and major athletic, academic, and humanitarian achievements.

The Gusties started off the weekend with a 5-1 semi-final win over the University of St. Thomas. The team won two out of three doubles matches and then went on to win three singles matches. This win advanced the team to the playoff final match against Carleton College.

"It was a really fun and intense match between two great teams. I'm just happy that we were able to pull it off. The girls played inspired tennis all day long."
–Coach Carlson

Head coach Jon Carlson had only positive comments for the team and its ability to play confidently.

"It was a really fun and intense match between two great teams," Carlson said. "I'm just happy that we were able to pull it off. The girls played inspired tennis all day long."

On Sunday the story was similar. The team defeated Carleton College by remaining dominant in doubles and recording three wins. In singles, the Gusties won two of the four matches, bringing the final score for the day to 5-2.

"I've never been as inspired as I was today by the effort from every single player on the team. It truly was amazing."
–Coach Carlson

"It was an awesome match between two great teams today," Carlson said. "I've never been as inspired as I was today by the effort from every single player on the team. It truly was amazing."

The team is now training and preparing for its first NCAA tournament match against St. Norbert College, scheduled for May 12 at the University of Chicago.

Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Michaela Schulz hits backhand return during a match May 5 against St. Thomas. The Gusties now hold a record of 20-7.