

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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ISSUE 23

**Gustie of the Week:
Brian Konkol**



VARIETY - PAGE 4

**"You can't be neutral on
a moving train"**

OPINION - PAGE 8

**Men's Tennis moves
on to Elite Eight**



SPORTS - PAGE 12

Congratulations Seniors!

Baccalaureate Ceremony, Sat. May 28



The Gustavian Weekly Staff

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Campus Safety Report

Friday, May 12

- Campus Safety received a report of an underage alcohol violation that occurred off campus on April 22, 2017. One student was referred to the campus conduct system.
- Campus Safety responded to a report of a suspicious person in Southwest Hall.
- Residential Life documented a policy violation in Sorensen Hall for a removed window screen.
- An anonymous online report was submitted about suspected athletic team hazing

that could occur off campus.

Saturday, May 13

- Residential Life responded to an of-age alcohol policy violation in Norelius Hall.
- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to a noise complaint Southwest Hall involving six students. Case referred to the campus conduct system.
- Campus Safety and Residential Life responded to a noise concern in Norelius Hall involving three students. Two students were referred to

- the campus conduct system for underage consumption, one student for underage possession. One student was referred for a 21 and over alcohol violation. One student was referred for failure to comply with a College official.
- Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Fire Department responded to a maintenance/mechanical problem at Chapel View Townhomes. A faulty wire caused smoke and melted siding, and was identified and repaired.
- Campus Safety discovered damage to College prop-

- erty on Campus Drive. Four trees were found damaged by unknown persons.
- Campus Safety responded to a report of bicycles checked out from the Lund Center that had not been returned. The bicycles were later recovered.
- Sunday, May 14
- Campus Safety responded to Southwest Hall for a student of concern.
- Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department responded to a report of a student of concern and at-

- tempted to locate the student to perform a welfare check. One student was located on College grounds and was referred to the campus conduct system for underage consumption.
- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in Norelius Hall and administered basic first aid for a injury to a student. At 2300 hours, the student requested a transport to urgent care.

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FIRETHORNE: A Snapshot of Gustavus

Ella Napton
Staff Writer

As the weather gets hotter and the humidity increases one thought comes to every student's mind: summer. An inherent marker of the end of the school year at Gustavus is the publication of its prominent literary and graphic arts journal, the Firethorne. Compiled by students in Baker Lawley's editing and publishing class and a process that spans the entire spring semester, the Firethorne is a compilation of Gustavus' finest student created art, poetry, and prose. With over 200 submissions, according to Lawley, this year was one of the most successful and challenging for those participating in the creation of this compilation of work.

The process is heavy-handed and full of great discussion. Each and every piece is discussed and no names are given to the students: it is all done under complete anonymity.

"I really enjoyed everyone getting their own work and having their own specific story or poem to make into a piece of art," Sophomore and Release Party Co-Organizer Haley Kaul said. "I liked getting all of the submissions without names so that there was not any bias, and so we have a clean slate and are able to give an honest opinion without being rude."

The process begins with creating posters to advertise for submissions. The team made a conscious effort to create various different designs in order to attract different types of people and the art, poetry, and prose they have the ability to contribute. Moreover, they used word of mouth to bring in submissions as well. Then, the whole class discussed each and every piece and debated about which ones they thought would be the best fit for this year's issue.

The submissions received this year were "wonderfully diverse in form. We got everything from honest essays to surrealist fiction to jagged-edged confessional verse--I don't think there



Philip Evans

Firethorne is an annual, full-length color publication, produced in the spring. The editorial staff of Firethorne is comprised of students enrolled in English 350: Editing and Publishing.

were two authors working in exactly the same style. And that's not including all the art," Senior Poetry Editor Jack Beahler said.

The class was not looking for anything in particular and decided as a whole against working with a theme for this year's edition, something not unusual for Firethorne.

"We did our best pairing stories, poems, and works of art together that made sense and flowed well," Junior and Release Party Co-Organizer Leanna Nielsen said.

The goal of the publication was to capture Gustavus as a student body in a snapshot of art, prose, and poetry. Due to this being a college campus, many of the submissions turned in were sad and angsty, much of what would be expected. But, it was the pieces that varied from these narratives that grabbed the attention of those working on Firethorne.

"There was a story about a

girl who literally gave birth to snakes, which was unanimously decided to be featured in the magazine," Kaul said.

Those involved want to use Firethorne to capture what is being talked about and thought about on and around campus. They want to listen to what students are feeling and thinking and what art they make in response to those feelings.

"Art that speaks to poems, subjects that speak to one another," Lawley said, were used throughout the publication to create a coherent feeling for readers and to illustrate how interconnected the different disciplines of art truly are.

"This year's issue not only showcases a ton of creativity, but I think it also does well to capture the atmosphere of the campus over this past year," Nielsen said. "This was not something I had expected. If you look at Firethorne as a whole, there is a definite sense

of unease and turmoil present in the pieces and artwork. However, amidst the turmoil, there are several pieces that are uplifting and funny, which I think shows the perseverance of the Gustavus body."

For those students involved in the creation of Firethorne that are not English majors, the process of creating a literary journal was very exciting, especially for Senior Prose Editor Madeline Struck, who got to step out of her science focus to create something she found very meaningful.

For others, such as Senior Design Editor Ben Keran, the most exciting part of the process was, at first, how it would look on his resumé. But as the project really got going he found a different angle to be excited about.

"Once you actually start working on the piece, there's a definite joy in working with a group of people to create something extremely unique,"

Keran said. "Now, instead of thinking about my resumé, the most gratifying and exciting things about this project were to see everyone's reaction toward it. There's also a dreamlike quality in seeing your name on the editor's page, knowing that all your hard work was worth something."

The creation of Firethorne was wrapped up with an exciting release party on Friday, May 12. With lots of careful planning led by Kaul and Nielsen, the party featured open mics and the first chance at seeing the spring's issue of Firethorne.

"[It was] Fun when people had not seen the magazine before and first saw it on the table and picked it up. Got a lot of positive feedback on the design they went with and the surprise and seeing student's names in print," Lawley said.

CONGRATULATIONS

SENIORS!

Before you leave, remember, "All that is gold does not glitter, not all those who wander are lost."

- J.R.R. Tolkien

Take your time. Find your passion. Do great.

Sincerely,
The Weekly Staff

Karalyn Krull



You Did It Karalyn!

We are so happy that your time at Gustavus has transformed you from uncertainty about the future to someone who is looking to the future with great expectations. Keep reaching!

Love, Mom and Dad

Chase Adelsman



Congratulations Chase,

You did it! We are so proud of this accomplishment and know there are many more in your future. Thank you for the great memories found in your performances in theater and choir! We are blessed to call you son and brother and we Love You!

Mom, Dad, Brett, Trey and Genevieve

Jordan Wiest



CONGRATULATIONS JORDAN!

Jordan, we are so Proud of You and all you have accomplished... We look forward to watching you grow as your life journey continues!

Love, Mom, Dad and Trevor

Tim Watts



WAY TO GO TIM!

We are very proud of the fantastic young man you have become. You will make an excellent teacher and you have a wonderful future ahead of you. We love you very much...

Mom and Dad

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Brian Konkol

Ben Keran
Staff Writer

Four years ago Edward Snowden released thousands of documents about the National Security Agency's monitoring of innocent American citizens in addition to countless world leaders.

Four years ago President Jack Ohle announced his retirement from Gustavus and the search for current President Becky Bergman had begun.

Four years ago Chaplain Brian Konkol started his career at Gustavus. And now, four years later, Brian has announced he has accepted the offer to serve as Dean of Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University in New York this upcoming fall.

Originally from Amherst Junction, Wisconsin, Brian has served Gustavus Adolphus College and the larger St. Peter community as a preacher, minister, teacher, activist, and administrator.

Among his many achievements, Brian has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Viterbo University, a Master's in Divinity from Luther Seminary, a Master's in Theology, and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the School of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

After serving in Guyana from 2003 to 2007, in 2008 Brian and his wife Kristen moved to South Africa where they served together as Country Coordinators of the Young Adults in Global Mission program of the ELCA. He also assisted in parish ministry alongside isiZulu-speaking

congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. They moved back to the United States in 2012.

Brian has also served as a faculty member at Gustavus, teaching for the Three Crowns Curriculum and Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies program, and also took a class of students to South Africa during the January-Term of 2016. Brian described the experience as "one of the highlights of my time here." He went on, saying, "among other things, we accompanied our students to an isiZulu speaking congregation that I had been to countless times before, and it was one of those profound moments where my past and present wonderfully came together. It was a breathtaking experience."

"There's something about driving up that hill and seeing yourself as a member of this special community."

—Brian Konkol

Brian's family also has numerous connections to the country.

"I have two graduate degrees from a South African university, my son was born in South Africa, my daughter was conceived there, and they both have African names. The country, because of its amazing people, means a lot to Kristen and me," Brian said.

When he joined Gustavus in 2013, he was accompanied by a fellow new Chaplain, Siri Erickson.

"When your office is next door, and your homes here in St. Peter are next door, and you start work on the exact same day, it truly binds you together. While I am moving on, Siri and I will be friends for the rest of our lives," Brian said.

Erickson also noted their connection.

"We've helped each other learn how to do this work, and I will greatly miss talking about our hopes and dreams for Gustavus, brainstorming about new ideas and approaches to chaplaincy, and supporting each other through the joys and challenges of this work."

"We were friends first and work partners second," Brian said.

Brian was bittersweet about his leaving.

"With every change there is both gain and loss, for with every gain there is loss, and with every loss there is gain," he said.

Going through his memories, he recalled his first interview with the school.

"The first time I spoke to the search committee, it was on the phone and I was incredibly ill with the flu," Brian said. "I of course did not want to tell them how I was feeling and decided to push through with the interview. After the phone call finished, I remember my wife asking me how it all went, and I remember thinking 'I have no idea.' I felt awful, but it must have been good enough!"

He also recollected about seeing the campus for the first time as a candidate for the chaplaincy.

"It was a joy. There's something about driving up that hill on College Avenue and seeing yourself as a member of this



Abby Anderson

We wish Chaplain Brian Konkol the best of luck on his post-Gustavus journey.

special community," he said. "Gustavus is a well respected educational institution with a profound tradition of faith and learning. For me, I knew that the faculty, staff, and students would offer me a great deal, and I trusted that I could offer everyone something in return."

Among his friends and fellow professors, Brian will also be missed by his students.

"I was moved by how he was so open and so present. He told me about his stories from South Africa and Guyana and how it transformed his life. I will miss his presence a lot. He is an authority figure on this campus but I also feel so comfortable calling him a friend. I know I can go to him for anything," Hubert Ngabirano said.

The decision to leave for Syra-

cuse was not an easy one for Brian and his family, but one of great joy and gratefulness.

"When Chancellor Syverud offered me the position at Syracuse, I was filled with gratitude, not merely to receive the call, but because of all that happened leading up to it," Brian said. "I was able to receive that special phone call because of all of the people over the past decades that have invested in me. From high school educators to college professors to pastoral mentors, the first thing I thought about was how grateful I was to all of them. I am indebted to more people than I can name."

Chaplain Brian Konkol's final service will be the baccalaureate service on Sunday, May 28.

Mackenzie Venhor

Congratulations Mackenzie!

You made the most of your four years at Gustavus! It was the perfect pick for you and you knew as soon as we set foot on campus. You did it, and the woman you've become is someone we are so proud of. Off to pursue your dreams!! We know you will be successful.

Love, Grandma and Grandpa (even though he can't be there physically, he will be right next to you as you receive your diploma!)

Brooklyn Tate

Brooklyn, you made it count!

You were determined to reach the top of the mountain and weathered many storms. You are going to be a great nurse and we are so proud that you will be caring for others. ENJOY the view.

Mom, Dad, Marshall and Hollywood

Landon Walters

Congratulations Landon!

Remember when "getting on top of that roof," walking to Worlds of Fun (in a Harry Potter cape), or landing the villain role in the school musical were your goals? This, by far, bests all of those! We are so incredibly proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Reid and Holden

Jason Turnquist

Congratulations Jason!

You did it! You have had fun, worked hard and made the most out of your college years. We have been so blessed to be a part of your journey. Congratulations on the man you've become. We are very proud of you and know that the future is bright!

Love, Mom and Dad

Stefan Schwochau

Congratulations Stefan!

We're proud of you. Son, brother, grandson, cousin, nephew, friend, fisherman, singer, kind, empathetic, and we could go on and on and on. The future is yours to shape. You'll make a difference and enjoy your path forward.

Love, Mom, Dad, and Britta

The Galactic Guardians blast off again



Brady Lass
Section Editor



Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 is bigger, but in some ways not better. Regardless, it's an immensely fun time for the audience.

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The *Guardians of the Galaxy* from 2014 was a breath of fresh air for the superhero genre and showcased what the Marvel Cinematic Universe is capable of. Nobody would've thought that a movie starring a talking raccoon and a tree that only says three words would become one of the biggest hits of the year, but director and screenwriter James Gunn proved them wrong. Thanks to Gunn's style of humor, high adrenaline directing, and a rockin' soundtrack, some of the most obscure characters in Marvel Comics became household names.

As expected from the film's success, a sequel was quickly announced after the first movie. With the exception of *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, sequels in the Marvel Cinematic Universe tend to fall short because of high expectations created by the original product. Usually fans have to wait for an Avengers team-up or second sequel for the characters to feel fresh again.

However, the Guardians have an easier time with original concepts, settings, visuals, and characters as opposed to the rest of the Marvel Heroes, as the Guardians are able to explore the cosmos while characters like Iron Man and Black Widow are stuck in New York City. The question is, does Gunn keep the audience hooked, or did he not go all the way?

After defending the batteries of the Sovereign race in exchange for the imprisoned Nebula, the Guardians find themselves on the run from the

advanced species after Rocket steals some of the batteries behind their back.

They are rescued by a celestial being named Ego, who reveals himself to be Star-Lord's long lost father. Peter, Drax, and Gamora are invited to explore Ego's planet and learn more about Peter's heritage while Rocket and the now infant Groot stay behind to fix their spaceship. The two are captured by the Ravagers and are imprisoned alongside the former Ravager leader, Yondu, after his men staged a mutiny against him and the three attempt to escape. Nebula uses the Ravagers' resources to go after her sister, Gamora, who starts growing suspicious of the planet and Ego's intentions after observing his assistant, Mantis.

In the sequel, Gunn tries to balance the development of the team by pitting each of them (minus Groot, who's mainly played for laughs) with either a new character introduced in the film, or someone who didn't receive as much development in the predecessor. This means the team doesn't work together as much apart from the first ten minutes and the film's climax. It's understandable why Gunn would take this approach to show how each character could work on their own, but the

team's chemistry played a large part in how the first installment succeeded, so it's disappointing to see that minimized.

The multiple plot threads are a mixed bag, as some character duos are a lot more engaging than the other ones. Drax's proved to be the weakest, as he was mainly used to establish the new Guardians member, Mantis. The two are occasionally entertaining to watch as they have the most alien behavior out of all the teammates, but contribute very little to the overall narrative and serve to get a cheap laugh once in a while. I think it would've been more beneficial to have Gamora interact with the two more, as her contrasting behavior to Drax could have a larger impact on Mantis' character, but unfortunately she's stuck in another feud with her sister, Nebula. This isn't as bad as Drax's subplot because we're allowed to hear more of Nebula's side of the story rather than treat her as a henchman like the first film, but it does lose some of the impact with how much this feels more forced on the plot than the other character arcs and that we have already seen these two before.

Learning Ego's history and how it impacts Peter's character was one of the more intriguing subplots. While most of the plot

does start out with the typical "son filled with angst at the abandoned father" and Kurt Russell's performance comes across as overly preachy, this is compensated with some of the film's best visuals and world building. Ego's planet contains some of the most colorful and bizarre imagery ever put in a Marvel film, and Peter's conflict between his new god-like heritage and his human half does feel more genuine thanks to Chris Pratt's performance.

But the best character arcs without question are Rocket and Yondu's. In the first film, Yondu was a thief who would only help Star-Lord and his teammates if he got something in return. In this movie, Yondu's relationship to the other Ravagers, his backstory, his reasoning for his behavior and questionable actions, and how he finds himself relatable to a two-foot gun-wielding talking raccoon are all explored. It's enhanced thanks to Michael Rooker's performance, as he knows how to be intimidating while also giving a sense that he's hiding a personal struggle.

The scattered plot's effect on the movie is thankfully minimized with the explosive actions scenes and Gunn's sense of humor. While the first Guardians movie focused primarily

on spaceship battles, this one showcased how tough they are in close quarters artillery combat. The most particularly memorable moments to me were Drax attaching himself to the team's ship with a bungee cord to shoot down Sovereigns while Rocket and Peter navigate through an asteroid field, Yondu taking back the Ravager ship with one arrow, or one of the characters unleashing their untapped potential in the climax. There are more jokes in this than the previous installment, and while some either drag for too long or try to replicate the first film's quirkiness, they're sufficient enough to keep the audience laughing for 20% of the movie.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 won't have the same impact as the first film due to its scattered plot and lack of special circumstances, but it's a fun film with more care put into the directing than your average popcorn flick. Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper, and especially Michael Rooker steal the show in a product guaranteed to satisfy movie goers and comic book geeks alike.

It's been a blast working as a campus film critic for the last four years, and I wish my readers and fellow staff members who've improved me as a worker the best for their futures.

Lakin Dammer



Congratulations Lakin!

You have truly blossomed into a strong, independent woman capable of accomplishing anything you put your mind to. We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what your future holds!

Love, Mom, Dad, Brynn and Hadley.

Thomas Knobbe



Well done Thomas!

What a great ride the last 23 years have been! You've made us proud every day and always will!

Love,

Mom, Dad, and Jacob

Rachel Hain



Congratulations Rachel!

You've worked hard, made new friends, and gathered a lot of great memories! We love you and look forward to your next adventure!

Hugs,

Mom and Sara

Hayley Booher



Congratulations Hayley,

GAC has been a great home for the past 4 years. We are so proud of your accomplishments in school, in the pool and in life.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Pierson, and Griffin

Collin Berglund



Congratulations Collin!

You have worked so hard and accomplished so much in your years at GAC. You have become a man of great character and compassion.

We are so proud. Go forth!

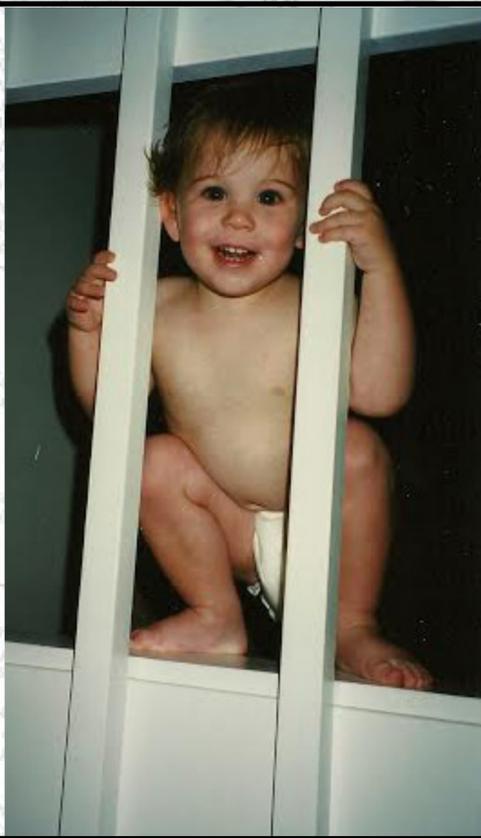
Love, Dad, Mom and Frank, Amy and Megan

Congratulations on all your wonderful accomplishments Brady!

We are so proud of you and the man you have become. Oh the places you have been! We hope you keep exploring life's adventures and enjoy every minute of it! Thank you for all the joy and blessings you have given us along the way. Wishing you blue skies.

Love, Mom, Dad, and Molly

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." -Dr Seuss



GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY CLASS OF 2017

The *Gustavian Weekly* says goodbye to five graduating seniors this week: Editor-in-Chief Phil Evans, Variety Editor Brady Lass, Opinion Editor Amy Leininger, Features Editor Mikayla Kvitttem-Barr and Copy Editor Liz Adams.

Good luck to all!



Congratulations Elizabeth!

We love you and are so proud of you. You have accomplished so much during your time at Gustavus and we are sure you will continue to accomplish everything else you choose to strive for. It truly shows what you can do with dedication and hard work. Great job.

Love, Mom and Dad



Mikayla -

From arrival to first words to piano recitals to 2nd degree black belt to Student Council officer to college across the country to retreat planning and leading to writing for the Weekly to summer job at Yale teaching to coaching for Girls on the Run to first professional Board position THE ROAD TO GRADUATION HAS BEEN A GREAT RIDE!

We love you and pray your coming years will be equally AWESOME. We know you will make a difference in the many lives you will touch. And we couldn't be more proud!

Love you forever and always, Mom, Dad & Brittany



Congratulations Philip!

Your dream took you halfway around the world.

Your own achievement and hard work took you to Graduation.

With your determination I know that you will go far in life.

I'm so proud of you!

Love, Mamma

Amy Maryann Anderson Leininger,

This intelligent, sensitive, beautiful woman continues to amaze us! Her love for her sisters, reading, fairness, knowledge, friends, equity, family, decency, dogs, truth and country is incomparable. One of Amy's life goals is to see genders treated equally and fairly throughout the world. Amy gently enlightens others through her actions and words - written and spoken, and likewise, seeks to always learn from, listen to and care for those around her. She is a true friend. Amy, we wish you all of your dreams and plans. We will always be present, loyal and your foundation from which you will continue to grow. We love and are so very proud of our first born daughter. Thank you for all that you have given and brought to your family.

Love, Mom and Dad

