

# THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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## Colleges Against Cancer hosts annual Relay for Life



All photos submitted

**Marie Osuna**  
Copy Editor

If you want college students to get involved with an issue, you should get food involved, right?

That's exactly what the Gustavus Colleges Against Cancer group has done.

During their several weeks of fundraising leading up to their main event, Relay for Life, the group has done a Chipotle fundraiser, a "Pie a Gustie" day, and will have even more food the day-of.

On the night of Relay for Life, students form teams and walk the "track" in the ice rink.

This will go on throughout the course of the night, and is meant to symbolize that as long as cancer is still present, people will keep fighting against it.

The main part of Relay for Life is walking around the track that is made with luminary bags. These bags are created by

Relay participants in honor of or in memory of people who have had cancer," Kiersti Grey, Co-President for Colleges Against Cancer, said.

However, the event is more than just a walk.

"There are a ton of activities that take place throughout the night like a photo booth, Minute to Win It games, bingo, swing dance lessons, free food, the Chuck Norris (burger) challenge, massages, and informative pieces, too, such as a dermascan to see where your skin has been damaged by the sun," Nicole Pfalz, the other Co-President for Colleges Against Cancer, said.

In addition to the Colleges Against Cancer board, other student organizations will be participating in the event as well, such as Greek life.

"I got involved with Relay for Life through my sorority, Delta Phi Omega," Callie Benge said. "We participate in Relay every year and run a table where

we decorate bras and inform people about breast cancer (which is our philanthropy) as well as raise money for Relay."

Although there are only about 20 members on the Colleges Against Cancer executive board, almost 200 Gustavus students have already signed up to participate in the event.

While the event is important for raising awareness about cancer, honoring those lost, and celebrating survivors, it is also a big fundraiser.

"No dollar goes unnoticed when you give to a cause like the American Cancer Society. Every single dollar raised goes to them and their fight against cancer," Grey said. "[The money raised] will be used for cancer research and places to stay while cancer patients are going through their treatments, called the Hope Lodge."

Of course, each participant in Relay for Life got involved for their own personal reasons. Pfalz has a very unique reason

for being involved.

"I got involved in CAC and Relay for Life at Gustavus because of my involvement in high school," Pfalz said. "I grew up near a 3M chemical dumping site that caused several individuals at my high school to be diagnosed with cancer, with some of them passing."

I also have lost many loved ones due to cancer, and came to understand the implications of the disease at a very young age."

The Colleges Against Cancer board not only plans Relay for Life, but other American Cancer Society sponsored events such as the Great American Smokeout and Paint It Purple Week.

However, this year's Relay is particularly special because of the speakers the board has invited.

"This year we are hosting two amazing speakers from within our community that are survivors themselves: Trina Rinke and Michele Rusinko," Pfalz said. "Relay for Life is

an incredibly energizing and emotional event that makes our community even more close-knit than it already is, considering the fact that we all have had our lives touched by cancer in various ways."

Overall, the event is sure to be a powerful and impactful night for everyone involved. If you aren't already, the Colleges Against Cancer board heavily suggests that everyone sign up to participate.

All participants pay a small donation in order to be involved, however, a majority of people fundraise more than that.

"I would invite everyone to come and join us in this fight against cancer. It is an amazing and powerful event every year," Grey said. "I am excited to announce that we have raised over \$10,000 so far this year! Join us in the fight against cancer from 6 p.m.-1 a.m. on Friday, April 27 in Lund."

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## Campus Safety Report

### Monday, April 16

- Campus Safety took a report of a fire extinguisher found discharged in Uhler Hall.
- An online report was submitted about possible hazing activity on College grounds.

### Wednesday, April 18

- Campus Safety responded to file an injury report at the Health Service Office.

### Thursday, April 19

- Campus Safety received

a report that provided information on the identity of individuals involved in a previously reported criminal damage to property incident.

### Friday, April 20

- An online report was submitted about that someone heard second-hand about unsafe driving and possible substance-use violations of a driver of a College-owned vehicle that occurred in March, 2018.
- Campus Safety respond-

ed to a suspicious person complaint outside Jackson Campus Center. The person who was reportedly asking people for money had left campus before being found or identified by Campus Safety or the Saint Peter Police Department.

### Saturday, April 21

- Campus Safety and the Saint Peter Police Department responded to an underage alcohol violation in Norelius Hall involving 3 students and

### 2 non-students.

- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist in the International Center. An injured student was transported to the hospital.
- Campus Safety responded to a report of an egg thrown at an exterior window at College View.

### Sunday, April 22

- Campus Safety responded to an of-age alcohol violation on College grounds involving one student. Case referred to the campus conduct

### system.

- Residential Life and Campus Safety responded to a noise violation in Norelius Hall.
- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist outside of Pittman Hall. An injured student was transported to the hospital.

### Tip of the Week:

- Please remember to lock your rooms, cars, and bicycles. Springtime is finally here, and with it more outdoor activities.



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# Exploring the problems and ethics of touring

**Samantha Walters**  
Staff Writer

As Gustavus students prepare to study abroad, Dr. Gabriela Spears-Rico gives an informative, eye-opening presentation, "The Problems and Ethics of Touring Indigenous Communities: A P'urhépecha Case Study."

Spears-Rico is a graduate of Stanford University who came to the Gustavus campus on Monday to share her research and knowledge on topics such as touring indigenous populations, cultural appropriation, and inappropriate tourist transactions from her studies done in Mexico, specifically focusing on the P'urhépecha, a group of indigenous people found in northern Mexico.

"This event is an annual event that Diversity Leadership Council organizes for the Gustavus Community," Sophomore Faith Emovon David, Public Relations Chair of DLC said. "We bring in a speaker to talk about an interesting issue that we feel will educate and inform whoever the audience may be."

"Paradigm is an event that allows students the opportunity to explore concepts of privilege, oppression and social justice. This event can act as a catalyst for change, as students learn to fight the injustices occurring in the world around them," Junior Claire Dernberger, member of the Paradigm committee, said.

She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and currently works as an Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies



Drew Ericson

Students engage in a discussion after the meaningful and informative lecture by Dr. Gabriela Spears-Rico.

and Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies at the University of Minnesota.

Her research is focused on examining the relationship between indigenous people and tourists in Mexico.

In her presentation, she poses that tourist visits to Michoacán are motivated by their desire to encounter romanticized notions of indigenous primitivity in its 'purest' form.

"It is more than ever apparent that none of us are safe," Spears-Rico said. "As a dark-skinned Mexicana, I know as I navigate the Twin Cities and our adjoining suburbs that my privileges of having 'papers,' middle-class status, and a Ph.D. do not exempt me from the im-

pact of xenophobia and white supremacy."

She also touched on how appropriation and commodification impact indigenous communities internationally and how non-indigenous people can engage with indigenous communities in a respectful manner that avoids a further propagation of colonialism.

"I think that this is a very relevant topic that many students can take something from [because] a large portion of Gustavus students study abroad or travel," Dirnberger said. "I think there are many ways in which travelers disrespect native cultures. Whether it is through clothing, social media posts, or commercialization."

Spears-Rico is currently working on her first book, *Mestizx Melancholia and the Legacy of Rape and Conquest in Mexico*.

This work engages performance theory, critical race theory and feminist theory to examine how 'going native' functions in Mexico and how the dynamics of cultural appropriation inform the production of mestizaje and indigeneity among Mexicans and Chicanos.

Her primary investment is in unraveling how the trauma of rape from the Spanish Conquest informs the mestiza/o desire to tour and inhabit indigenous communities.

Spears-Rico is also a working artist and poet. Her poetry

reflects the working class and her experience growing up in migrant labor camps along the American West Coast.

Her poetry has been published in numerous anthologies including *Sing: Poetry from the Indigenous Americas* (University of Arizona Press, 2011) and *Love Rise Up: Poems of Social Justice, Protest and Hope* (Benu Press, 2012).

In the Twin Cities, her work has been exhibited at Intermedia Arts, the Ordway Theater, and the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts.

According to her narrative from the University of Minnesota, she was awarded the U.C. MEXUS Fieldwork Grant, the Arnold Mitchem Fellowship by Marquette University, and a Visiting Scholar appointment with the Center for Anthropological Studies at El Colegio de Michoacan.

Dr. Spears-Rico was also awarded the Dean's Award for Service and the Renato I. Rosaldo Jr. Award, both from Stanford University where she received her BA.

Spears-Rico's scholarly work has been published in the American Indian Culture and Research Journal, the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy, and in Latinx Talk.

"I hope this conversation helps Gustavus students learn to be empathetic travelers while avoiding cultural appropriation," Dirnberger said.

"I hope the community [left] with more knowledge on this topic and a different perspective," David said.

The presentation was followed by a discussion and delicious dinner led by DLC.

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# AMOM hosts first “Tie-Blanket” themed SNL

**Ella Napton**  
Staff Writer

If any Gustavus student or visitor keeps their eyes peeled, they may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of Moana, Mulan, or Rapunzel walking up and down the halls of the Student Center.

This has not always been the case at Gustavus, typically the Student Center provides sights of college student chugging coffee or trudging towards the library.

The change this year is Gustavus’s new student organization on campus: A Moment of Magic.

A Moment of Magic has one main goal: to provide happiness and joy to children spending time in children’s hospitals.

While the organization is a national organization, Gustavus’ A Moment of Magic organization focuses on local hospitals.

Essentially, members of the organization dress up, very elaborately, as a prince or princess (although, of course, there are variations).

These costumes are not cheap and members have to find ways to pay for them, often turning to fundraising websites.

But the efforts are certainly worth it, often ending in spot-on reenactments of beloved fairytale characters.

Last Saturday, April 21, A Moment of Magic hosted a Saturday Night in Lund (SNL) called “Tie in the Magic” in which students were invited to participate in tie-blanket crafting, air-square volleyball, and Dominos pizza.

Student organizations that host an SNL can receive fund-

ing if they successfully host a certain number of students-exactly what A Moment of Magic was hoping to do.

“One of our main priorities is to make our organization more known by the Gustavus student body, since we are a new organization (as of this year) we want to gain recognition and what better way than to host an SNL. Also, we wanted to give students a chance to get involved in putting a smile on kids’ faces. Tie-blankets are made with love, and the more people who help make the blanket the more special the blanket is” Sophomore Lilly Soderberg, A Moment of Magic’s On-Campus Coordinator, said.

In this position she plans and coordinates all on-campus events for A Moment of Magic.

And the planning for this particular event has been in the works since the fall semester and then all came together this spring semester.

In order to create a successful event, Soderberg had to compile a list of potential activities for students to partake in, ordering the Domino’s pizza, purchasing the materials for the tie-blankets, and meeting with various people to finalize the event. Soderberg’s character is Moana from the animated movie Moana released in 2016s.

The group chose to make tie blankets so they “can bring them to children with serious medical illnesses when we visit them in the hospitals or their homes. We hope that these will brighten their days just a little because everyone likes a surprise gift, especially from a prince or princess” Sophomore Ashlynn Franzen, a member of A Moment of Magic said.

But the organization did not just want to bring happiness to the children they would be delivering the blankets to at local hospitals, but to raise awareness for their fairly new student organization.

“Another goal is to help advertise for this new organization—we want to welcome anyone and everyone to join and participate!” Sophomore Katelyn Yee, the groups’ Off-Campus Coordinator, said.

Yee fulfills her role by reaching out to families and larger organizations to schedule and organize visits from members of A Moment of Magic, whether they be characters of Magic Makers, to participate in.

Her particular character is Mulan from Disney’s animated movie Mulan.

Members believe that awareness of their organization on campus is important not just to gain members and a future as a student organization at Gustavus, but also because childhood cancer and other serious illnesses the children suffer from that they visit are becoming increasingly common in today’s society as people become more aware of them.

“It’s so important for us as we enter the ‘real’ world to learn [how] to help others in need” Yee said.

Furthermore, this organization is important because students should “learn what volunteering is like outside of a class or something that you are obligated to do: to experience small victories that could mean everything to you, because you are expecting absolutely nothing in return” Junior Morgan Carlstrom said, one of the presidents of A Moment of Magic.



Ingrid Iverson  
Students wait in line to get their materials for making tie-blankets at SNL.

## Gustavus Women in Leadership holding big conference

**Elsa Beise**  
Staff Writer

This weekend, the Gustavus Women in Leadership organization will be heading to their big conference held annually in the spring.

This will mark the organization’s eighth event as such. This year’s topic is “Leadership: Influence, Not Authority.”

GWIL focuses on the idea of building up women to become leaders in the world and to help them develop the skills which leadership requires.

This conference is vital to the mission of the organization and to be able to help women build confidence in themselves as leaders.

“It is important to develop women of all ages so they can advocate for themselves, live purposeful lives and serve their neighbors for a better world. This is our vision,” Co-Founder of the organization, Kathi Tunheim, said. Students also help

to plan this conference and are dedicated to the mission that it supports.

“The conference is important because is bring everyone together in an empowering environment. We are able to celebrate the accomplishments we have made over the academic year, energize for the year ahead, and learn from some amazing women,” Senior Mathematics and Psychology double major and Co-President of GWIL, Claire Laakso, said.

Tunheim is looking forward to the speakers that the organization has provided, all alumni of the Gustavus community and even a current Communication Studies professor, Dr. Sarah Wolter, who will be giving a workshop on women and the media.

“We have invited three alumnae to serve as keynote speakers in general sessions at the conference. They are Kristine Jurczyk ’97, Dr. Nicole LaVoi ’91 and Elin Alden ’97 from Sweden.

We also have invited 7 other impressive women to serve on two panels (Women’s Advocacy Panel and Women’s Vocational Journey Panel)” Tunheim said.

She is also looking forward to the connections that this conference provides for alumni and current students.

“Students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the college all attend this conference. It is exciting to see our students interacting with successful women in many fields. I have observed how much the alumni enjoy coming back to a Gustavus event like this as much as the students love learning from the alumni,” Tunheim said.

This conference also helps Gustavus become more noticed in the world of women and leadership.

“Many successful women CEO’s, business owners, educators and non-profit leaders have told me they are extremely proud Gustavus hosts an event like this which is putting our

college on the map. We are slowly becoming distinctive on this topic of women and leadership and other people are noticing the outstanding speakers and talent we host, the amount of alumni donations we raise to hold the event and the numbers attending have increased this year,” Tunheim said.

The conference has also seen a rise in those attending.

“We have already broken a past record with over 250 attendees registered for this Friday with more than 30 men attending. That is another first,” Tunheim said. There are so many attendees and the growth of the conference has allowed it to be moved to a bigger stage.

“In past years, the conference has been held at the American Swedish Institute. We are excited but sad to announce that we have outgrown ASI and will be moving the conference to the Minneapolis Event Center,” Laakso said.

Laakso also emphasized the

importance of being involved in GWIL, despite gender. “Man or Woman... get involved in GWIL. It is beneficial for any major and we are always looking for new members,” Laakso said.

*It is important to develop women of all ages so they can advocate for themselves, live purposeful lives and serve their neighbors for a better world.*

Tunheim and GWIL is incredibly thankful to those who are supporting this important student organization. “We are grateful to all those attending or who have supported GWIL and the conference,” Tunheim said.

# GUSTIE of the WEEK

## Cody Horman

**Elsa Beise**  
Staff Writer

Tech-savvy and friendly face around campus, Cody Horman is a junior computer science major who has, and continues to, contribute to the Gustavus campus and community in enormous ways.

Cody is a percussionist in the Gustavus Wind Symphony and loves being in the ensemble, playing music with the intent to make people happy.

"I've been playing music since middle school and ever since then, I've always enjoyed performing for people. I'm a goofy person a lot of the times when I play music and I see people enjoy it," Cody said.

Performing music gives Cody the satisfaction of knowing he's making others smile. Cody toured this January with the Gustavus Wind Orchestra on their international tour of Sweden and Norway.

Fellow percussionist, Sophomore Jonathan Hickox-Young, notes Cody's impact on the tour.

"Cody has the ability to lighten up a room with just his presence and make even a painfully long bus ride interesting and fun. I am so happy to have met a person as kind

and genuine as Cody," Hickox-Young said.

Another passion of Cody's is technology, specifically figuring out how to build and assemble machines.

"With technology, I've always been fascinated by it. I've built many computers, some on my free time and most at my job. I enjoy learning about how they work and how they can connect everyone together online," Cody said.

*"If a piece of music has a part for sleigh bells, no one else is even allowed to consider playing the part. It is automatically Cody's."*

—Dr. Heidi Johanna Miller

He is interested in the idea that the world can connect through technology and the potential it has for the future.

"I think being able to connect to someone across the world through the internet is a cool idea and it keeps me interested in what we can do with it," Cody said.

One of Cody's close friends,

Senior Thomas Charlton-Jones, first met Cody through their Dungeons and Dragons group.

Charlton-Jones loves to have Cody as a friend due to his positivity and friendliness he exudes on campus.

"[Cody] is genuine, friendly, outgoing and reliable. I think one of the things that sets him apart is how friendly and outgoing he is, whenever I hang out with him he has multiple people come up to him and talk to him.

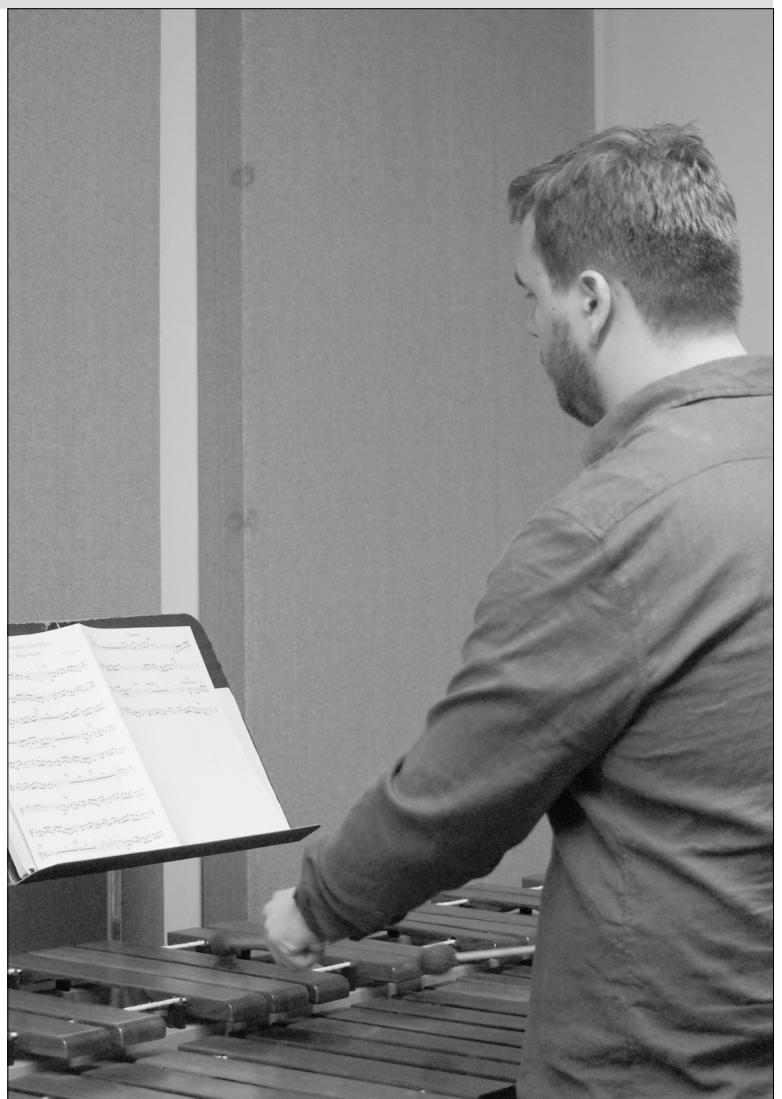
"In fact my friend group jokes that he knows everybody due to how often he sees and interacts with other people he knows," Charlton-Jones said.

He also is appreciative of the fact that Cody not only knows many students, but takes his time to genuinely get to know his peers.

"Also if he sees someone he knows he makes sure to take the time to interact with them and see how they are doing," Charlton-Jones said.

A professor of music education and someone who has worked with Cody closely, Heidi Johanna Miller, recognizes Cody's ability to make a positive impact and his genuineness.

"Cody is a great Gustie because he is one of the most enthusiastic and genuine people that I know. He loves what he



Ingrid Iverson  
*Cody is a junior computer science major and a friendly fellow on campus.*

does, and he has a huge personality that is warm and kind.

If he is absent from rehearsal, it is obvious not only because his part is missing, but because his personality is also absent," Miller said.

She also appreciates his willingness to help and all of the qualities that make him unique.

"He also helped me figure out what was wrong with my computer when it crashed last fall. One of the unique things about Cody is his love of the sleigh bells. If a piece of music

has a part for sleigh bells, no one else is even allowed to consider playing the part. It is automatically Cody's," Miller said.

"Cody is reliable, cheerful, and a great person to have around. He is an excellent choice for recognition," Miller said.

*"Cody has the ability to light up a room with just his presence and make even a painfully long bus ride interesting and fun."*

—Jonathan Hickox-Young

Cody is seen by his friends, faculty, and employers as a positive force in everything he does on campus.

Brianne Twaddle, Office Coordinator Technology Support in Gustavus Technology Services (GTS), has supervised Cody during his years at GTS.

"We are so proud to call him one of our student employees," Twaddle said. Besides reiterating the fact that Cody is one of the friendliest people you will ever meet, Twaddle calls Cody, "the human representation of that 'Gustavus Community' feeling that everyone gets when they step on to campus".

Whether it is in the classroom or percussion studio, Cody "marches to the beat of his own drum (percussion pun intended).

He's not afraid to show his style; whether with his superman socks or his glitterized beard. Also, you should definitely ask him to show you his one-hand clapping skills" Twaddle said.



Ingrid Iverson  
*Cody is a percussionist in the Gustavus Wind Symphony and recently traveled with the GWO on their international tour of Scandinavia.*

# On Pitch Perfect, and the right amount of Punch

**Lily Winter**  
Staff Writer

**P**repare to meet the Bellas like you never have before. In the next installment of the *Pitch Perfect* movies the girls are now college graduates, struggling to discover their fit in the adult world.

While previously defined by their standing in the Bellas, our favorite cast of characters now must find their own identities as they chase music producing, vet school, juice vending, and of course, performing as Fat Amy Winehouse.

Yet, when their dreams either appear unreachable or not what they expected, the girls bond together to follow their passions and sing together once more after graduation for the U.S.O tour.

For *Pitch Perfect* lovers who were let down by *Pitch Perfect 2*, remember the second installment in a trilogy is always the weakest.

Going into *Pitch Perfect 3*, I was apprehensive the film would follow the lead of its previous counterpart, and try too hard to tap into the audience pleasers of the first film rather than gaining its own footing.

Instead of producing a carbon copy of the original, *Pitch Perfect 3* embraces the troupes of the first two films in a fresh perspective, acknowledging the highlights of the previous films in comical remembrance.

The girls participate in an-



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*The latest installment in the Pitch Perfect franchise might surprise viewers with a fresh perspective on a cappella.*

other riff-off, and while it is as musically pleasing as the two previous films, the main enjoyment in the scene derives from the fact that riff-offs are of the collegiate realm.

Because of this, none of the contenders in the adult world are aware of the significance of a rift-off or the rules and thus happily use instruments and collaborate to take down the Bellas, consequently defeating the purpose of the musical competition.

Other throwbacks to previous films include another flying burrito, a plethora of aqua-statements, and the two background Bellas who are barely mentioned.

However, the highlight of the film is the relationship between the Bellas themselves.

In this particular installment, the music takes the back burner in contrast to the witty dialogue and interactions between the girls.

The real winners in terms of music were showstoppers like Britney Spears' 'Toxic' and Daya's 'Sit Still Look Pretty'.

Understandably difficult to appeal to all audience members, I personally found the majority of the musical numbers a mix of overplayed radio edits and songs I've never heard.

I won't spoil the final song for those yet to see the movie, but for a movie so central to

female characters, I thought the finale missed its mark.

However, the interactions between the Bellas was so powerful, that the secondary music was easily forgotten as the movie took on a narrative about the dreams for an adult future rather than focusing on a college a cappella group.

One of the reasons why the Bellas' relationship became the true highlight of the film was the lack of distracting boyfriends.

While romantic subplots do exist, the Bellas have dropped their college boyfriends in a realistic transition into adulthood.

This change in plot may have been implemented due to general interest—falling in love

anew is much more compelling to watch than Bella and Jesse discussing whose turn it is to take out the trash in their stable and loving relationship—but it also goes to show that the female bonds of friendship are more durable, long lasting, and more important than a romantic relationship.

While the film rightfully put the girls' relationship first, and let the new love interests take second tier importance, the heteronormative nature of the film still managed to show through.

Openly gay Cynthia Rose did not pursue any partner, even as three straight women flirted their way through the U.S.O world tour.

The cast and executives of the *Pitch Perfect* franchise have also been accused of queerbaiting through the pairing of characters Beca and Chloe.

The girls were paired together in the shower in the first film, touched each other sexually behind a bush for no reason in the second and even promoted the third movie by almost kissing on a Snapchat ad.

Despite the problematic nature of only showing heterosexual relationships the movie did feature an interracial romance, and with an unbreakable tradition of prioritizing romantic love in the big screen, the connection between the Bellas was a refreshing perspective on love and friendship.

View *Pitch Perfect 3* in Walldenburg this weekend, the 27 and 28 at 8:00 p.m.

## Spring music recitals hit the right notes

**Sarah Knutson**  
Variety Editor

**T**he department of Music is presenting student recitals almost every weekend this spring with performers ranging from sophomores to seniors, instruments varying from vocal to instrumental, and diverse student backgrounds with majors from economics to biology.

Mara Klein, Director of Communication Services and Fine Arts Programs in Marketing and Communications, believes "the high quality of performances alone is reason to come to these recitals."

However, Klein thinks the fact that many performers are not music majors shows "the depth of talent we have here when a physics or sociology major who is extremely talented and simply loves music is able to give an hour-long performance. It is inspiring," Klein said.

Sophomore Austyn Menk has been working on his organ recital since last spring and has stayed on track with rehearsals by thinking of this recital as the ultimate goal.

Menk, a gifted musician, drew pieces from a number of musical eras to have a variety of style, emotion, and musical

characteristics.

His program includes works from Bach, Franck, Liszt, Barber, and Escaich; these composers are from the Baroque, Romantic (Liszt and Franck), 20th Century, and Contemporary eras, respectively.

*"It's a wonderful accomplishment and a ton of work to be able to prepare a full hour-long concert on your own, and it's amazing to see it all come together."*

—Mara Klein

As a result, you'll hear 'church' music, reflective music, sorrowful music, and one piece that's just a lot of noise" Menk said.

The piece Menk is most looking forward to playing is one he did not think was achievable: *Bach's Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 541*.

"Bach has always been wildly difficult for me to grasp, because I have consistently had poor practice habits, and lacked the focus and attention to nuance that is required to play a

piece with as many things going on as a Fugue," Menk said.

Even after practicing three hours every day, Menk attributes his level of precision and excellence to Chad Winterfeldt, Cantor of Christ Chapel.

"He has given me a number of tools that can aid in my practice of Fugues, and I'm feeling more comfortable with and having more fun with them than I ever have before," Menk said.

"It is largely thanks to him that I'm able to put on this recital. I will be forever grateful for all the knowledge he has to offer," Menk said.

Senior Elizabeth Neuenfeldt already performed her senior recital with fellow soprano Kali Malaski. However, she still urges students, faculty and community members to come listen to student recitals.

"I believe it is important for people to watch student recitals because it is a great way to support students and provide them with the opportunity for them to share music," Neuenfeldt said.

Although most of work that goes into preparing for a concert is the music there is more for the musicians to do.

"For our recital, Kali Malaski and I have needed to create posters, write out the program, type up the translations for pieces (so audiences could understand

the German and French words), and make sure we got refreshments for the reception after the recital" Neuenfeldt said.

Senior Jessica Backes performed her recital on flute and is excited to share the music and the personal stories attached to each individual pieces.

"I hold all of the pieces I'm playing close to my heart, and music is my favorite form of communication, so I can't wait to play my heart, soul, and mind for my family and friends," Backes said.

"Playing my flute in front of people is one of the only places in which I feel completely comfortable being vulnerable and authentic" Backes said.

*"I'm feeling more comfortable with and having more fun with [the pieces] than I ever have before."*

—Austyn Menk

Backes explains her method of choosing pieces by listening to what speaks to her. After listening to random pieces on YouTube, she finds the piece chooses her, rather than choosing the piece herself.

"The piece I look forward to sharing with all my heart is 'Be Still My Soul' by Rhonda Larson.

"It carries with it an incredible message - be still, and let go of all that troubles you. The piece follows the journey of somebody who overcomes a great struggle.

"It is profoundly meaningful for me to play because the message is relatable to everyone in the room. Everyone struggles. Everyone can be healed."

My hope is that this piece will allow at least one person to walk away, leaving some of the worries and anxieties behind," Backes said.

There is a great deal of work and stress incorporated in each recital resulting in an hour long performance of passion and excitement for music.

"The best part about these recitals is sitting back during the performances and realizing that these truly are a culmination of years of musical growth at Gustavus for each of these students. It's a wonderful accomplishment and a ton of work to be able to prepare a full hour-long concert on your own, and it's amazing to see it all come together," Klein said.

All of the performances are free, open to the public, and will be in the Bjorling Recital Hall.

# Tales from Abroad

**Gabriela Passmore**  
Guest Writer

**S**tudying abroad has been the most difficult and rewarding experience of my life. I felt like I had to go abroad to get out of my comfort zone.

I chose University College Dublin in Ireland as my study abroad location because I felt that the green grass, many sheep, the Dropkick Murphys, and historical literature were calling my name.

It was only on the plane ride over that I realized that I was really leaving everything I know to go to a place where I know nothing and no one.

On the plane ride over I watched *P.S. I Love You* and cried my eyes out with the absurdity of leaving behind everyone and everything I loved, by choice.

I landed in Dublin, extremely sleep deprived and fatigued, got on a bus, and realized that I couldn't understand the bus driver.

Over time, I learned that although Ireland is about the size of Minnesota geographically, depending on the area, the accents can differ quite drastically, and it does not always sound like people are speaking the same language.

There is even a northern Dublin and a southern Dublin accent, and they differ with British and Celtic influences.

After I arrived at my dorm building, I couldn't figure out how to get the heat on, and even though Ireland was warmer than Minnesota, it felt a lot chillier to me because it's a wet

cold that seeps through to your bones no matter how many layers you wear.

I didn't have any food, any blankets, and I had no idea how to take transportation to get to the places I needed to go.

I was filled with regret for the entire day, and I wanted to get on a plane and come straight home.

The next day I got up, refreshed and determined to make the most of my situation. I instantly made a friend in a soft-spoken, contemplative, multilingual study-abroad student from Portugal.

Together, we navigated the city of Dublin, and suddenly the world seemed bright and full of possibility again.

We wandered along the River Liffey glowing with lights from pubs and rainbow-colored bridges; music drifted out to us from countless musicians and clubs, and we took pictures of street art, found tragically deserted children's clothing in the oddest places, and escaped from the rain with a hot cup of Irish coffee.

Since my first days in Dublin, I have gotten to know Dublin well.

My favorite place in Dublin is unquestionably St. Stephen's Green. It's a giant park with ponds full of friendly ducks, swans, and many other fowl, the greenest grass you've ever seen, and hundreds of bright flowers in the spring.

The park is full of statues that commemorate important moments in Ireland's and Dublin's history.

It's hard to fathom that the

beautiful park that stars in stereotypically Irish films, like *Leap Year*, is also the location that the blood of British and Irish soldiers was spilled in the Easter Rising of 1916.

During the Rising, British soldiers stayed in the still-standing Irish hotel, and shot Irish soldiers in St. Stephen's Green from the upstairs hotel windows.

On a brighter note, both countries agreed to a ceasefire so that a man could feed the ducks like he did every day.

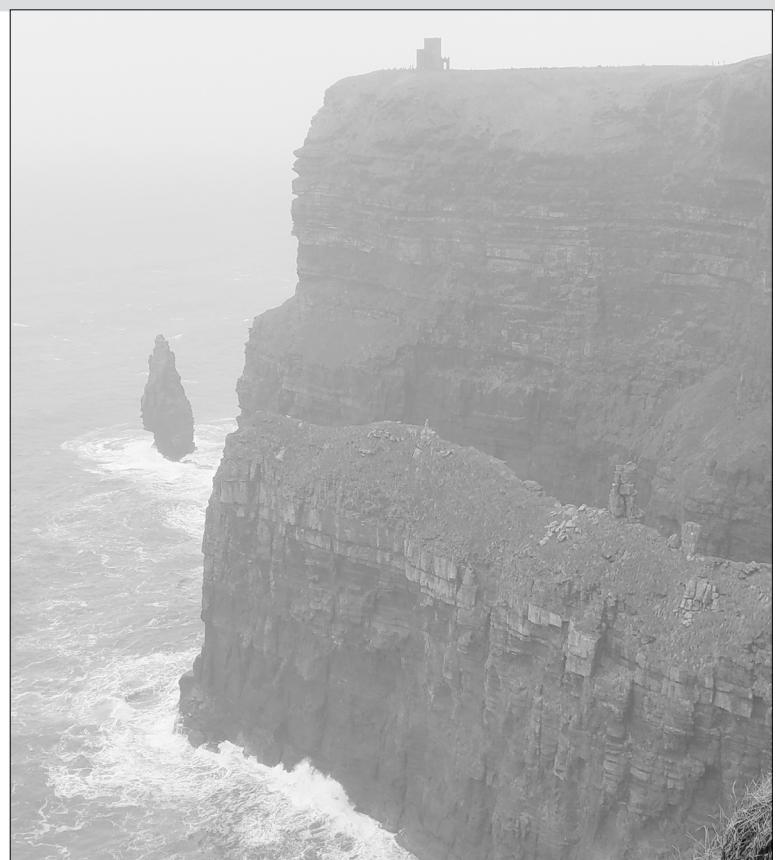
The tortured history of Ireland has captivated me; it reminds me that life can be horrible and beautiful all at once.

The best parts of studying abroad have been the people I've met, the food I've ate, non-stereotypical Irish folklore, and the way that I've had the space and time to reflect on what it means to be an American in the world we live in today.

I met an Australian, a couple Indian girls, and a girl from Maryland across the hall, and I feel like I have known them for a lifetime even though it has only been a semester.

We have had so much fun getting lunch from a food truck every Thursday by the campus pond full of swans and ducks, playing outside like children the rare week that Ireland got a couple inches of snow or a "snow emergency" as the Irish called it, and traveling.

We went to Galway, and we walked along the gorgeous, windy canal, went to a tea house, visited some crowded pubs with traditional music, and took a tour to the cliffs of



Submitted

Gabriela is a sophomore spending the spring semester in Dublin, Ireland.

Moher.

If there is one thing that you should do in Ireland, it is to see the cliffs.

Standing on top of the cliffs with the waves crashing below me, I knew that I would be annihilated if a gust of wind were to sweep me off the edge into the ocean below.

It was an exhilarating feeling to see and hear the power of nature that makes human issues so insignificant.

Besides all of the wonderful places I've traveled, I have been able to appreciate all of the small things while I'm here.

There are far too many to list, but here are a few: Irish butter could be a tourist attraction in itself; I was told that the secret behind it is that the cows here eat seaweed.

You can J-walk safely here without too much fear of being

hit because people will always stop for you, everybody says "thank you" to the bus driver, "fairy circles" or "fairy homes" made of trees or other plants are still respected by Irish people today, to the extent that people will mow around them to avoid being cursed by the fairies.

Everybody here is a "lad," "cheers" is a more emphatic "thank you," Georgian style doors, and most people are just out for a "craic" (pronounced crack) meaning a fun, social time, which there is an abundance of here.

As scary as it was to leave everything I was comfortable with at home, not having innumerable experiences abroad would have been worse.

I strongly encourage everyone to study abroad if they're considering it. It'll be a good craic.



While first struggling to adjust to life across the ocean, Gabriela is thriving abroad, experiencing everything Ireland has to offer.

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