

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1891

MAY 4, 2018

ISSUE 20

Tales from abroad:
Amanda Theisen



VARIETY - PAGE 7

Technology: the
modern plague

OPINION - PAGE 11

Track and Field hosts
Drake Alternative



SPORTS - PAGE 16

Leymah Gbowee: Mighty Be Our Powers

MAYDAY! Peace Conference welcomes Nobel Peace Prize winner



Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee gave the MAYDAY! talk on Gender, Justice and Peacebuilding.

Caroline Probst

Monali Bhakta
News Editor

This past Wednesday, May 2, 2018, Gustavus Adolphus College had the privilege of hosting the Liberian peace activist and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Leymah Gbowee for the annual MayDay! Peace Conference, titled, *Mighty Be Our Powers: Gender, Justice, and Peacebuilding*.

The day began with a welcoming ceremony that began in Christ Chapel at 10:00 a.m. with keynote addresses from Chaplain Siri Erickson, Professor of Religion, Marcia J. Bunge, President Rebecca Bergman, Professor in Political Science, Mimi Gerstbauer, and finally Leymah Gbowee, herself.

Gbowee is notorious for being a peace activist, social worker, and women's rights advocate who led the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace which played a critical role in ending the Liberian Civil War in 2003.

It became an inspiring, non-violent peace movement that was fostered by the cooperation between Christian and Muslim women.

During her talk, Gbowee gave many daring and powerful remarks on peace-building, teamwork, faith, love, and courage.

Because the Liberian Civil War turned out to be a complicated conflict with about 12-14 warring factions, these groups were categorizing themselves based on religion and ethnicity.

It was important to find community between 16 ethnic groups, even though it was a challenge.

"I focused on all being women, women of faith, and women fighting for peace. The bullets reigning on us would never distinguish the Christians from the Muslims. By bringing together women of all ethnic groups, it shut down the entire conversation of ethnic divides. It shut down the focus of targeting one religious group because we had women representing the two biggest religions," Gbowee said during her talk.

Gbowee believes strongly in the power of God, as her grandmother instilled this value at young age.

She mentions how faith played an important part in

her life, and soon became a driving force in creating change for Liberia.

"We were encouraged by everyone to be a part of some aspect of the Church, so I was - from nine years old - I was an altar girl. Church was mandatory, prayers were mandatory, this way of life was mandatory. They would make you see how important faith was, and if there was a breakthrough in someone's prayer, we all came together to see the power of prayer. Faith just became a part of breathing."

Even though faith was essential for Gbowee when she advocating for peace in her home country, it has also been a central value as she continues to make a difference throughout the world.

She views it as the foundation for what she wants to still accomplish in life.

"As of today, I'm working with the Gbowee Peace Foundation to bring education and opportunities to young people. My faith is asking me to embrace young people from all walks of life, and over the last six years we've grown from 12 students to over 140 students, and that is only by God's grace. My faith gives me the stability to walk towards peace, it allows me to endure the speed bumps, mountains, and valleys I have to walk through for peace."

Besides faith being a con-

'Leymah Gbowee'
continues on page 4

The Gustavian Weekly Staff

Caroline Probst Editor-in-Chief
 Tanner Sparrow Managing Editor
 Monali Bhakta News Editor
 Sarah Knutson Variety Editor
 Corrine Stremmel Features Editor
 Caroline Probst Opinion Editor
 Joe Brandel Sport & Fitness Editor
 Ben Wick Entertainment Editor
 Abby Anderson Photography Editor

Elliot Robinson Copy Editor
 Katie Allen Copy Editor
 Marie Osuna Copy Editor
 Monika Pham Business Manager
 Liz Geerdes Asst. Business Manager
 Jack Sorenson Advertisement Manager
 Cole Trebelhorn Graphic Designer
 Monika Pham Web Editor
 Evan Jakes Distribution Manager
 Glenn Kranking Adviser

Published weekly on Fridays, except during academic breaks, by the students of Gustavus Adolphus College. Subscriptions are available from THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY for \$40 per year.

Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the institution or of its student body. The editors assume full responsibility for editorial and unsigned material.

Letters to the Editor can be sent to lettertotheditor@gustavus.edu.

If interested in publishing an ad, please contact our advertisement manager, Jack Sorenson, at admanager@gustavus.edu.



50¢ First copy free

EMAIL weekly@gustavus.edu

WEBSITE weekly.blog.gustavus.edu

Campus Safety Report

Monday, April 23

- An online report was submitted about a bias-related political t-shirt worn by a student in an academic building.
- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at the Campus Center. A student was transported to the hospital for an injury that occurred on College grounds on April 16.

Tuesday, April 24

- Campus Safety was called for a welfare

check on a student in Gibbs Hall.

- Campus Safety took a report of theft from the Jackson Campus Center. Three people left the dining room with drinks they did not pay for and fled the scene.

Wednesday, April 25

- Campus Safety responded to a drug violation in the Sohre parking lot involving two students.
- Campus Safety took a report of theft on College grounds. A student

reported cash stolen from their backpack.

Thursday, April 26

- Campus Safety responded to College View Apartments to take a report of damage to College property. A fire extinguisher was discharged in a case and onto some carpeting.

Saturday, April 28

- Campus Safety responded to a report of a broken window in Southwest Hall in an

entryway.

- Campus Safety responded to a suspicious circumstance at the International Center. A student thought another person might have filmed them in a public area. The suspect was not located or identified.

Sunday, April 29

- Campus Safety responded to Old Main to take a report of theft of personal property that an employee believed

occurred the night prior in the Jackson Campus Center. The property was found by the reporting employee shortly after and had not been stolen.

- Campus Safety responded to an underage alcohol violation in Norelius Hall. One non-student was issued trespass warning and taken to detox by the Saint Peter Police Department.

Godfather's Pizza

PHONE: **507-931-6140**

6 Inch Pizza & Drink \$4.49

FREE Party Rooms
Nightly Specials / Value Deals
FREE WiFi
Daily Lunch Buffet

Receive Hot Specials
 Via Text Message!
 Text: **gopizza** To: **69302**

ORDER ONLINE
www.Godfathers.com

225 SOUTH MINNESOTA, ST. PETER

2 Buffets with 2 Drinks
13⁹⁸

Large 1-Topper & a Monkey Bread
11⁹⁹
Caramel, Cinnamon, Italian or Streusel Monkey Bread

Offer good with this coupon through 5/31/14 at participating locations. Not valid with any other coupon or special offer.

URGENT CARE

\$59
 for
 Sore Throat w/strep test
 Pink Eye
 Ear Infection
 Rashes
 Bladder Infection
(females 12-75 y.o.)

See us for:
Sore Throats | Ear Infection | Minor Cuts or Bruises
Minor Burns | Sprains | Insect Bites | Bladder Infections
Rashes | Workplace Injuries
*list not all inclusive - all ages welcome - no appointment needed

RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL • ST. PETER

Monday - Friday 3 p.m. - 10 p.m. | Weekends & Holidays 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Last patient seen 1 half hour before closing

Conveniently located on the River's Edge Campus in the Specialty Clinic

1900 North Sunrise Drive | St. Peter
www.REHC.org

Dr. Brenda Kelly appointed as Dean and Provost

Andrew DeZiel
Staff Writer

After a competitive, national search, Dr. Brenda Kelly has been appointed to fill the role of Provost and Dean of Gustavus.

The position of Provost and Dean of the College opened following the 2015-16 academic year, when Dr. Mark Braun stepped down to return to the faculty.

Since then, Kelly had served as Provost and Dean on an interim basis.

Prior to that, she was part of the Gustavus faculty as a professor of Biology and Chemistry from 2002-2015.

She taught courses in biochemistry, introductory chemistry and organic chemistry, with a particular focus on the structure and function of enzymes and how they interact within the science of cooking.

She served as Chair of the Chemistry department from 2011-2015, as Director of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program during the 2013-14 academic year, and as Associate Provost and Dean of Sciences and Education during the 2015-16 academic year.

As Provost and Dean of Gustavus, Kelly will serve as chief academic officer of the College.

In addition to the academic departments, other entities under the Provost and Dean's realm of oversight include the Center for Academic Resources and Enhancement, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, the Center for International and Cultural Education, the Hillstrom Museum of Art,



Submitted

Newly appointed Provost and Dean, Brenda Kelly gives a speech during a service in Christ Chapel.

and the Linnaeus Arboretum.

They are also responsible for overseeing the Office of the Registrar, the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, the Nobel Conference, and the John S. Kendall Center for Engaged Learning.

Kelly said that her experience as a member of the faculty would inform how she approaches her new position.

"I've worked with students in the classroom, I've worked with students in the laboratory, and so I have a connection with students and appreciate the student centeredness of Gustavus," Kelly said.

"As we think about a strategic vision for the college as a whole, to maintain a focus on the student centeredness of the place is an important part."

The most immediate issue Kelly faces is the implementation of the new Challenge Curriculum, approved by the faculty on April 25.

The new curriculum framework is a key part of Gustavus' Strategic ACTs initiative, which seeks to strengthen, diversify and modernize Gustavus, moving the college firmly into the 21st century. It also plans on staying true to the values of a liberal arts education, some-

thing that is distinctive to Gustavus in particular.

Associate Provost and Dean of Sciences and Education Julie Bartley said Kelly is well qualified to help implement the goals of the Strategic ACTs initiative, and has expertise in that field.

"She's been in the provost's office for three years, and she's been involved with all of the aspects of the Strategic Plan that involve faculty and academics, and several others as well," Bartley said. "She has a really strategic mind, she is able to look at the numbers for a budget but also see the people behind the numbers, and connect those

pieces together."

As Provost and Dean of the College, Kelly will be in charge of helping faculty members and departments to transition to the new educational curriculum, and allocating resources to help ensure that the curriculum will provide an education that is as cutting edge as possible.

"I'm excited to talk with students and to hear student feedback about the academic program, and work with both faculty and students," Kelly said.

Associate Provost and Dean of Arts and Humanities Micah Maatman said he looks forward to working with Kelly to help lead bring to fruition the growth and modernization envisioned under the Strategic ACTs initiative.

"I think she understands the mission exceedingly well," Maatman said.

"She really understands the faculty perspective, she really understands the the student perspective and that that combined with her leadership perspective, I think she understands the college as a whole really well."

Associate Provost and Dean of General Education & Assessment Mary McHugh is also enthusiastic about the future of the College's academic programming under Kelly's leadership.

"[Kelly] is highly intelligent, fair, positive, full of energy, and she is supportive of those around her," McHugh said.

"It's very exciting that she will be able to continue progress on the initiatives that she began while an Interim Provost, because she brings initiatives to fruition."

WANT TO WORK FOR THE WEEKLY?
WANT TO MAKE MONEY?

ALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

SECTION EDITORS
COPY EDITORS
GRAPHICS EDITOR
BUSINESS MANAGER
WRITERS
PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVERTISING MANAGER

EMAIL WEEKLY@GAC.EDU FOR AN APPLICATION
OR WITH QUESTIONS

ICC, MSA, & CAB sponsor Holi: Festival of Colors

Samantha Walters
Staff Writer

Gustavus brought Hindu tradition to its campus last week for Holi, the festival of colors. This event originates in India and involves gathering together and throwing organic colored powder at the people around you and into the air to celebrate the beginning of the new season and commemorate the religious events of Hindu mythology.

"I learned the depths of meaning [Holi] has and how it is aimed to portray compassion, love and joy," Junior Maripaz Alvarez Tostado Gonzalez Mendez, member of the International Cultures Club (ICC) and the Diversity Leadership Council (DLC) said. "I think that for me, Holi now means the balance of of those three, as well as the active demonstration of love for our community."

The colored powder represents spring's abundant colors and a farewell to winter, while the bonfire is lit in memory of the escape of young Prahlad, who worshiped the god Vishnu; when Prahlad refused to worship his father, King Hiranyakashipu, because of his belief in Vishnu, the god saved him from burning in a fire created by his aunt, Holika, thus giving the festival the name "Holi."

The bonfire represents the triumph of good over evil, of Prahlad over Hiranyakashipu.

"I think that it brought a new, exciting, cultural event to campus because it incorporated a fun, cultural tradition and a typical American tradition (water balloons). It allowed individuals who had never even heard about Holi and for people who have never been able to



Submitted

Participants throw colorful powders in the air at the start of the Holi celebration to commemorate the arrival of the beautiful, refreshing spring season.

celebrate it to participate," co-president of the ICC and Junior Tenzin Jangchup said.

The festival begins with a night of dance and rituals around a bonfire, followed by a day of throwing color and water at the people around you.

People gather in streets and in public places, playing instruments, singing, and dancing. On the second night, the people clean up, dress up, and enjoy time with their families and friends.

Each color symbolizes different parts of the tradition: red symbolizes love and fertility; yellow is the color of turmeric, a powder used as a natural remedy in India; blue is a symbol of the Hindu God, Krishna; and green symbolizes new beginnings.

According to TIME, the colored powder originates from

another Hindu story of Krishna and Radha: "Krishna, who has blue skin, is in love with Radha. With Krishna unhappy with the difference in skin color, Krishna's mother suggests he colors Radha with paint, leading to the colorful powder celebration."

Also, a big custom of Holi is the loosening of the strictness of social structures (including age, sex, status, and caste); because many people of different races and backgrounds come together to celebrate Holi, it becomes a way to close the social gaps and bring people together.

According to Alvarez Tostado Gonzalez Mendez, the organizations want everyone to feel welcome.

"We hope that students from all backgrounds, either if they identify as part of the diverse community or not, know that they are welcome and encour-

aged to attend our events. These events are not for a particular group of people, we are aiming to allow all students to feel like they have a special space in all we do."

The tradition of Holi caught the attention of Europeans during the 17th century and is currently celebrated all over the world today in countries like the United States, Canada, Jamaica, Malaysia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

"I think this is a small step into something that will hopefully become a well-known event around campus in the future. We are working hard to try to not only have this as a way of entertainment, but mainly as an educational tool through active experience," Alvarez Tostado Gonzalez Mendez said.

Students and visitors enjoyed the event despite the wind

and cold weather.

"I heard a lot of positive feedback after the event and I thought the event went really well," Jangchup said. "Other than the weather, all the supplies, food, and people showed up on time and it went rather smoothly... We put in a lot of effort for this event to be successful and it is nice that more people can learn about what Holi is and possibly participate in the future!"

Alvarez Tostado Gonzalez Mendez agreed.

"The people that participated were extremely helpful and open to understand it's true meaning. And I think that the elements of balloon fighting and food that we added at the end really helped to wrap it up in a fun and enjoyable way," Alvarez Tostado Gonzalez Mendez said.

'Leymah Gbowee' continued from page 1

stant in her life, Gbowee also mentioned that she was inspired by the strong level of community service that adults presented while growing up.

She was not satisfied with just praying, but wanted to act upon her faith.

She definitely had many opportunities growing up in small, close-knit community where people shared clothing and food.

However, positivity was not necessarily prevalent in Gbowee's eyes, and she questioned many aspects.

"There were moments when a husband would beat his wife, and as young as five or six my entire day would be spent asking adults, 'why, why, why?' I knew deep down inside there was always a sadness for anyone who was suffering from injustice. The semblance of community I had experience as a child was destroyed as a result of the war, but because the seed of social justice was planted at

a young age, I knew I had to be the force of change."

The detailed account of Gbowee's humble beginnings as an aspiring schoolgirl with big dreams, to becoming a strong proponent for peace in the midst of a deadly civil war is further described in her book, *Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War*, and the award-winning documentary, *Pray The Devil Back to Hell*.

Many students were required to read parts of the book and watch the movie in classes such as Modern Africa and Nobel Women Leadership.

Following Gbowee's inspiring and engaging morning address, the Friends of the Library-Gustavus Library Associates sponsored a meet and greet lunch with Leymah Gbowee that was held in the Campus Center banquet rooms.

This event required pre-purchased tickets, and featured remarks from Gustavus alumni and close colleague of Leymah Gbowee, Mikka McCracken '09.

McCracken graduated from Gustavus as a political science major with a minor in peace

studies, and is now the Director of Planning and Engagement of ELCA World Hunger. She has been a long-time friend of Gbowee.

There was also a documentary screening in Alumni Hall that was free and open to the community.

Lastly, faculty and student experts facilitated an afternoon discussion focusing on the morning lecture, book, and movie.

This was also free and open to anyone who wanted to continue engaging with informative topics related to Peace Prize winner.

Gbowee wrapped up her visit at Gustavus with the following inspirational message that she hopes young people, especially college students will take to heart:

"We're living in a world with discrimination, war, misogyny, etc., and there is a picture that has been painted that evil has overcome good. But I want people to take a step back and look that in the midst of all this darkness, there are sparks of light -- through the protest of women, through advocacy of

young people, through the new wave of people speaking truth to power -- and these sparks of light, if we put all of these together, are a reminder that good can overcome evil, as it has always done in centuries before. For that good to overcome evil,

it means we all need to find our sparks of light and peace and put them out there! It'll take all of us to rise up and spark our little goodness, because when we put all our sparks together, we can create a giant flame to overcome evil."



Leymah Gbowee was bestowed an honorary degree.

Caroline Probst

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Elise Stepka

Lily Winter
Staff Writer

As a tour guide for the admissions office, Elise Stepka is an expert in all things Gustavus.

When prospective students ask about her favorite aspects of college life, Elise is proud to always have an answer ready due to her love of the campus feel and the programs Gustavus has to offer.

"The community aspect is really nice," Elise said. "Gustavus is the perfect size because class sizes are so small but there are always new faces popping up on campus and there are always more people to meet."

"She is known [in the Gustavus Wind Orchestra] as the 'band nurse' and helps every Bandie with anything they need."

—Dr. James Miller

While her high school alma mater, Eastview, is similar in size to Gustavus, Elise is continuously impressed by the

tight-knit community that exists on the hill even with over 2,000 students.

Another part of campus that Elise holds in high esteem is the nursing program. "What Gustavus does best is really show us that we are actually more than a number," Elise said.

"Because we're not a number, we're people. Getting into the nursing program was more than a test. There was an essay and an interview as well. They really get to know you beyond your grades.

"The nursing program also really prepares you to make sure you're ready for the real world. Because of the CNA component they really make sure you're ready to do the dirty work and are okay with getting close and personal with people before you make nursing your career for life. A lot of schools wouldn't care quite as much as Gustavus does."

Elise's nursing abilities and care for other people have bled into other corners of her life outside of the nursing program.

"She is known in [the Gustavus Wind Orchestra] as the 'band nurse'" director Professor James Miller said, "and helps every Bandie with anything they need."

Junior Bailey Van Den Heu-

vel is quick to agree.

"Elise was so thoughtful and helpful on tour for students that got the 'tour bug'—the flu, food poisoning, colds, weird blood blisters—Her empathy made me want to be a better person that helps as many people as I can," Van Den Heuvel said.

Not only does Elise utilize her nursing abilities to help others, but she has spent many hours in the community volunteering through Language Buddies and Monday Friends.

Originally roped into volunteering at the Elementary School for Language Buddies through a Spanish class, Elise fell in love with helping children, particularly those learning English as a second language.

Always looking for a way to interact and learn more about others, Monday Friends also gave her a way to interact with disabled members of the St. Peter community and break down stigmas surrounding mental and physical health.

"With all of the organizations, work, and bands that [Elise] is involved in she finds a way to manage it all well and still finds time to have fun with her roommates.

"She is a good example of how much Gustavus has to offer and how students can be in-



Submitted

Elise traveled with the Gustavus Wind Orchestra to Scandinavia.

involved in many different ways to get connected on this campus.

"Along with that she can be a role model on how to juggle each of these different organizations and things she is involved in," Senior Olivia Rosenow said.

"The best advice I have for any First-years," Elise said, "is go to the involvement fair to find out about things. But go there and learn so much more and orgs. Don't be afraid to get involved or of being overcommitted because there no such

thing. Just be open to new things and new people."

Besides playing the clarinet, performing in GWO, volunteering through Language Buddies and Monday Friends, Elise also participates in Stress Busters and Running Club.

All about student health and happiness, Stress Busters works to combat studying stress and frequently hosts massages and de-stressing activities.

While the wellbeing of others is near and dear to her heart, Elise also acknowledges the importance of self-love, which she practices through Running Club.

Being a runner lets her set goals for herself, like the recent marathon she recently took part in.

When pondering her upcoming graduation, Elise said, "Gustavus made me ready to be an adult. Liberal arts is such an important part of my education because I got to do a little bit of everything which will help me relate to people when I'm out in the workforce.

"It is scary but I feel like I am ready for it. It's not about the slip of paper you get when you graduate but how prepared you are."

Inspired by her Scandinavian J-Term with the Gustavus Wind Orchestra, Elise plans on touring France and Germany for two weeks before returning to Minnesota and finding the nursing job of her dreams.

But don't worry if you haven't gotten a chance to take one of Elise's tours or hear her play her clarinet. "You always see people coming back for homecoming and other events," Elise said, "Being a Gustie is a life-long event."



Submitted

Elise is very active on campus, pursuing a Nursing Degree, performing in GWO, volunteering, and participating in various clubs.

'Howard Quednau: Dioramas' exhibit on display

Elsa Beise
Staff Writer

Howard Quednau's diorama exhibit will be on display in the Schaefer Art Gallery, showing until May 19.

His exhibit, titled "Howard Quednau: Dioramas", incorporates pieces that Quednau has been working on for the past eight years.

Quednau is former colleague at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design from 1994-2007, and friend of Gustavus Professor and Chair of the Art and Art History Department, Kristen Lowe.

Lowe asked Quednau to come and display his unique and innovative pieces for the Gustavus community.

These dioramas are explained as 'theatrical events' in Quednau's artist statement.

He also goes on to talk about how these pieces are essentially three-dimensional paintings. The pieces cover a variety of topics and themes.

"The exhibition features work with three themes: 1) human frailty and interaction 2) homage to specific paintings 3) political satire," Quednau said.

This array of topics and themes make for an exhibit that will touch on many different parts of human life and our modern world, making it easy to connect for a large audience.



The Dioramas exhibit will run April 15 through May 19, 2018.

Caroline Probst

Quednau is currently the Chair of Fine Arts and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

He studied Printmaking at the University of Wisconsin and then received an MFA from Northern Illinois University School of Art in Drawing.

Quednau is used to working with and creating two-dimensional artwork, so this exhibit has been quite different than what he is used to.

"Most of my experience has been with 2-D forms, so this diorama work has provided me with some new challenges," Quednau said.

Quednau's pieces also reflect our world and what we all could lose if we allow others to lose their rights.

"Many of the newest works (such as the three titled 'Burlesque') were created as a response to our current national political discourse.

"While I am a cis man, I realized I was watching a culture war unfold before my eyes. The forces of government, industry and media have created destructive machinery that threatens women, immigrants, the LGBTQ community and those whose beliefs are deemed a threat.

"There is no such thing as 'someone else's war' we all stand to [lose] something. This work is a satirical cry for resistance to this sort of new-age totalitarianism," Quednau said.

Quednau has been intrigued in this issue and feels a significance in helping those who may be having their rights stripped from them.

Lowe thinks that this exhibit will be an inspiration to students and can show how to push boundaries in their work.

"Students have been intrigued by the work. It is important to see art made that crosses over material restrictions, these

works don't fall neatly into one category.

"Students could create a diorama and draw from it or use it to create a mythical place or raise social or political questions for the viewer to consider," Lowe said.

Quednau has spent hours working on every aspect of this exhibit, especially the "actors" in the pieces.

"The "actors" in these dioramas are made from pieced-together fragments of model soldiers. There are more than one hundred of them, and no two are alike.

"Each takes between one and five hours to complete, depending on how much I have to change them. They are built to a scale of one inch equaling 35 inches, which makes them bigger than model train people and smaller than dollhouse figures," Quednau said.

Quednau encourages students to visit the exhibit and explore their imagination, emphasizing the idea it's a great stress relief and study break.

"[The exhibit is] more fun than writing footnotes for [a] European History research paper [and] cheaper (and quieter) than 'Avengers: Infinity War'..."

Much like a model train or a dollhouse, a diorama asks the viewer to engage in a game of pretend. The make-believe worlds becomes a metaphor for our shared experiences," Quednau said.



Each individual diorama takes an estimated one to five hours to create and are on a scale of 1:35 taking precise artistry to create beautiful miniature models.

Caroline Probst

Tales from Abroad

Amanda Theisen
Guest Writer

I watched as the wings of the airplane rose higher and higher above solid ground, until the view finally became saturated with a collective group of droplets condensed into a heavy grey matter.

The foggy atmosphere was synonymous with the beginning of any great adventure—mysterious, exhilarating and the slightest bit foreboding.

A month of backpacking was a prerequisite to my “actual” study abroad experience. This particular flight would land me in Croatia.

Time on the plane went by quickly, even with the generous number of pokes and prods that the curious youngster next to me administered.

Croatia brought a world of stunningly aqua water that contrasted boldly with a thousand varieties and shades of green.

The color green carried over to my next stop: Ireland. Ireland brought lively traditional music, pubs ignited with the joy of its drunken guests and waves crashing against massive cliffs.

The Cliffs of Moore stood like guards against the sea, ready to soldier on in their duties even in the most violent of storms.

My heart was heavy upon leaving this beautiful place, but I knew that the world had more in store for me.

Scotland presented dramatic hills littered with small purple flowers and the birthplace of Harry Potter (The Elephant House Café).

England gave way to castles armed by ghosts of medieval past, double decker buses and thick British accents.

And then there was Wales. Months in advance to this trip I had discovered a remote 500 year-old cottage cradled in the center of the Snowdonian Mountains.

The love of the mountains and backpacking drew me immediately to book this Bed and Breakfast.

Remarkably, I was able to find the place without cell service or Wi-Fi, without a car and without any confident direction.

It was honestly a miracle. The Snowdonian Mountains became one of those places that forever will hold some element of mystery.

For the next four days I saw more sheep than I did humans.

I left the peace of the mountains, now destined for the place I would call home for the next four months.

Firenze, Italia could not have been more contrasting to the mountainous landscape I had just deserted.

The cobbled stones on Via Faenza seemed to have been impregnated by the sun's intense rays that day.

Heat rose from the stone only to be trapped between the many sweaty bodies that crowded the street; bodies from Italy, from Asia, from America, from all over the world.

Wafts of pungent sewer smell were prominent, thanks to the 90-degree temperatures.

Proprietors called out in fragmented English to each passerby in hopes of snagging one of them into an unnecessary purchase.

Buildings rose four stories high, pushing the tourists and natives alike through the narrow space.

How could I possibly live here? A country girl at heart, the idea of living here, in a city



Submitted

Amanda spent the fall semester of this year traveling to various countries in Europe and studying in Italy.

this populated... was, frankly, daunting.

Powerless to communicate, I somehow navigated my way to the office of Lorenzo de' Medici, where I would be studying. Jami Hansen, a fellow Gustie whom I had only met briefly at orientation at Gustavus, sat in the orientation room.

After a month of travel, it felt good to recognize at least one face.

As the semester went on I came to love the city. It was no longer overwhelming (with perhaps the exception of Il Dumo); I now knew my way to the Arno River, to Parco delle Cascine, and to Mercato Centrale.

My Italian came in handy as I asked for directions and ordered my cappuccino, I studied lost symbolism in countless works of art, learned the art of slabbing and coiling in ceramics, and mastered recipes and cooking techniques native to the Italian culture.

TrenItalia trains sped me across romantic vineyards, along the coasts of the Tyrrhenian and Adriatic Seas, through the striking Dolomiti Mountains, in and out of small towns, cities and markets.

My three roommates accompanied me for most of these travels and became life-long friends.

Together we tried traditional olive oils, purchased cheap (but good) wine, and explored the world around us. We made it through many things together over the course of those four months.

Fall break brought slightly colder weather, but was nothing in comparison to the snow that I knew now covered Minnesota.

My parents joined me in search of some colder weather, and if we got lucky, snow. We found colder weather in Paris, France and even some snow in Switzerland.

Swiss chocolate gave way to French wine and mountainous landscapes shifted to rainy streets. Time flew past and before I knew it I was hugging my parents goodbye at the Charles de Gaulle airport and I was left to wander the streets alone.

Talented artists, street musicians and to-die-for crepes served as great distractions!

Just as my fall break had sped by, so did the rest of the semester. In those past months we tried all the gelato we could

get our hands on, continued to appreciate the city itself and even ran a marathon within the walls of that ancient city.

Before I knew it, I was waving goodbye to the women I went to for vegetables at the market, was shaking hands with the man I got my bread from, was thanking my professors and was having my last Italian meal with some of my best friends.

We laughed as we recalled paragliding into the Lauterbrunnen Valley and snowy adventures in Austria.

After our goodbyes I flew on to Barcelona to meet up a high school friend for the last leg of my travels. We spent our time exploring the city and observing the unique architecture.

Our last stop was Germany. With Christmas right around the corner, we were delighted to have run smack-dab in the center of the largest Christmas market around.

Without a care in the world, we ended our adventure with freshly baked foods, stimulating conversation and anticipations of a snowy Christmas back in the states. The journey was over, but only for now.



Amanda is a senior this year at Gustavus, studying exercise physiology and already planning to do much more traveling in her future.

Submitted

Help from the Reference Librarians

Associate Professor and Chair of the Library, Julie Gilbert, answers a few questions students might have about using the library and its resources.

When a student comes asking for help on a research paper, where do you start?

In general, my job is to guide students to the resources they need, provide advice about next steps, troubleshoot issues, and invite students to think critically and reflectively about their research. I always start every conversation with questions. I'll ask students about their assignment, their research question, issues they've had, places they've looked, frustrations they've encountered, etc..

My goal is to help students (and me) figure out where the issues are, and we can go from there. The short answer is that we start with whatever the student needs.

What can students do to make it easier for you to help them?

Contact us! We talk a lot about how to get students to consult with us more. We know we can help make research more efficient for everyone, so while it might seem like it takes more time to visit the library or contact us online, it actually will save time.

When you do have a specific research question or request, it helps us to know as much detail as possible about the assignment or issue you're having. But don't worry – we're trained to help you think out loud, so if you are having trouble articulating your frustrations or needs, we can help you clarify your questions.

What is some general advice that you tend to give students who may be struggling with a research paper?

Research is a creative process, and one that also involves twists and turns. It's normal to feel stuck or to struggle with a research question. Leave yourself enough time if you can, and also take advantage of the online resources we have at the library, specifically the many guides and tips you can find under the Research Guides

link on the library's homepage.

Research also requires perseverance and the willingness to ask for help, whether it's from your professor or one of the reference librarians or a writing center tutor or someone at CARE or a tutor for your department. There are lots of resources on campus to help you!

What's a common mistake that students make when writing a research paper?

I see a lot of students going straight to Google or Google Scholar, and then finding scholarly materials that are only available for a hefty fee from the publisher's website. We can get you those same materials for free. If you're looking for articles, begin your search on one of the library's databases. Use the dropdown menu under articles on the home page (and contact us for advice on which ones to use if you're not sure).

When you search via the databases, you're searching most of the same materials on Google, but our databases will either have the full text for free or will link you into our interlibrary loan system, which allows you to request the article (also for free) from another library. Librarians can help you navigate all of these systems, too.

Online sources seem to be more popular now. How often do you recommend using books for research?

I think there's an assumption that if students come see us, we will only point them to library books. This isn't true. We help you identify the best types and formats of information for your project, and also how to access those sources. Sometimes that's books, but other times it isn't. I've had several reference discussions where we don't talk about resources specific to the library itself due to the nature of the information a student is using (like statistics that are freely available online, but not always easy to find).

It also depends on the area of study. Some disciplines publish a lot of scholarly materials in books, while other areas are more journal-driven. We work to make sure you find the best sources for the kind of work you're doing.

It's also good to remember that a lot of online sources are provided by the library. When you

use our databases, you're using library resources. And we can help you navigate all of that.

Which database do you most recommend to students?

It really depends on the subject. Academic Search Premier is a perennial favorite, in part because the content is so broad. But there are often other databases that are much better suited for specific areas of study. The pages under research guides (linked off the library's homepage) provide advice, as will contacting any librarian.

Has there ever been a research project that took a surprising turn?

Hm, good question! My favorite interactions are the ones that take turns, usually where a student sits down to brainstorm a search topic and after a conversation, ends up either clarifying an initial question or stumbling on the research question they actually want to study. Seeing the excitement someone has when they realize, "Oh, this is what I actually want to research," is so rewarding.

When can students meet with a librarian for help?

Students can always get research help in the library. The reference librarians have scheduled desk hours. Sometimes we're on call. You can also get ahold of us via email or our online request form. Our front desk student workers are also trained to help you with basic research questions and to connect you with a librarian for more complex questions.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Students might think they're bothering us by coming to the desk or by sending an email. Working with students, teaching students how to do research well – this is why we're here. So answering student questions is not something "extra" we do, but forms the core of our work. So please get ahold of us. The other thing I'd add is that you don't need to have a reference question in order to talk to us. Some of my favorite encounters are brainstorming research strategies with students. This can happen at any time during a research project.



Meet the reference librarians. Left to right: Dan Mollner, Michelle Twait, Anna Hulseberg, Julie Gilbert, Barbara Fister, and Jeff Jensen. Submitted



Submitted