

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Patrícia English

Anh Tran
Staff Writer

Patrícia English, an Associate Professor in the Communication Studies Department, is currently celebrating her eighteenth year teaching at Gustavus. Well-loved on the Hill, she is known among her dear colleagues and students as Patty.

On campus, Patty teaches Intercultural, Interpersonal, and Small-group Communication and her studies focus on Intercultural Communication and Performance studies.

Patty considers herself a curious person, always eager to learn about new cultures and people's transitional experiences from culture to culture.

Not only is she well-known on campus, she is also widely published in her field.

Her publications include: *Understanding Imperfection: Embracing Wabi-Sabi*. (Essay under review for a proposed book on autoethnography and culture edited by Jodi Kaufman, University of Georgia, April 2003); *American Women's Experience of being Foreign in Japan: A Qualitative Study*. (Under review *Women's Studies in Communication*); *An American in Japan: Performing the Matsuri Dance*. (Under review *The Journal of Creative Non-Fiction*).

Patty has also given several professional presentations at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, and led multiple groups of students to Asian countries for J-Term. She said she, "aspires to nurture her students' curiosity and uniqueness as much as [she] can."

In the classroom, Patty cares about students as unique individuals. "I try to facilitate a diverse range of learning styles to meet every student's need," Patty said.

According to Senior Communication Studies Major Nicole Lundberg, Patty "cares a lot about her students and under-

"Professor English is always with her students and provide the best accommodations for the students' benefits."

- Nicole Lundberg

stands their situations. Patty is always with her students and

provides the best accommodations for the students' benefits."

Patty shared that she believes that it is important for students to learn to know themselves. "They should first and foremost know who they are and what they need in order to succeed," Patty said.

Outside of the classroom, Patty maintains close relationships with her students as both a mentor and adviser. She said she loves to help her students in navigating their studies and observing their maturation over their years at Gustavus.

One of her favorite memories at Gustavus is seeing her students at graduation. "Watching them going towards a new beginning gives me a sense of secondary accomplishment," Patty said.

Lundberg has taken several classes with Patty and considers her not only a professor and adviser, but also a close friend.

Lundberg shared that Patty is "always ready to talk her students, not only about classes but also about any problem at all."

As Patty's field of study encompasses various aspects of life, she is willing to discuss and apply her insights to help students solve real-life problems.

As she does this, she also learns about their uniqueness and culture. Because of this, she considers her bond with students a "mutual learning relationship."



Ingrid Iverson

Professor English enjoys traveling abroad during her free time.

relationship."

Patty feels honored to be nominated as the Gustie of the Week and would like to take an opportunity to offer advice to new students coming from a different culture.

"One thing I would suggest is to be aware of the transitioning process that you are going through and be open-minded," Patty said.

She explained that keeping an open mind will help students' adaptation process to a new culture.

This year, Patty will lead a new group to study abroad in Vietnam and Cambodia. She said that any Gusties with an interest in studying and experiencing new cultures are welcomed to join the trip.

Professor English's expertise in intercultural relations, vivacious personality, and driven nature make her an influential and respected individual on the Gustavus campus.

"Patty is warm, welcoming and understanding. I have known Patty for two and a half years, since I've been at the Gustavus. Having her as a professor as well as a personal mentor has been amazing. She is one of the best people to go to for advice or just to talk about life because she cares so deeply about her students."

-Nicole Lundberg



Ingrid Iverson

Patty is known on campus for both her wisdom and kindness.

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Mandii Braun



Katie Mattinen

Brenda de Rosas Lazaro
Staff Writer

At the age of nineteen, college sophomore, double major, double minor, Amanda or Mandii Braun heads to meeting with politician, Jeff Brand. For her, this is a normal Tuesday afternoon.

Braun grew up in the suburbs of the Twin Cities. Coming from Bloomington Minn. Braun hadn't thought she would achieve her dream of being highly active in the political world.

Her freshman year of high school she along with sixty different girls from forty different countries attended an international leadership camp in New York for seven weeks.

Upon her return, Braun realized she could not go about as normal with all the information and knowledge she had gained.

"Once I started digging through that, I started noticing the cracks, and once you notice those you can't really go back. If there aren't other people doing that then I guess that means I have to," Braun says.

"If there is no one else fixing it then I guess that means I have to because if you want something done you do it. I wish that wasn't the case but I hope one day I can change that."

She wants to someday be running for president. Her goal started off as a high school joke.

However, it turned into the ultimate goal. Braun, as a strong human right activist, hopes to spread a message of comfort for all regardless of the differences from the norm.

Braun was involved with Erin Murphy's campaign against Tim Walz for governor.

Unfortunately, Murphy did not make it passed the primaries but Braun still takes inspiration from Murphy. Murphy's idea of "politics of joy." This idea really spoke to Braun and further fed her flame.

"I hope to make the difference in people's lives like people

"Why does everyone what to be the same person? I think diversity and difference is one of the most beautiful things that we can have."

-Sophomore Mandii Braun

in my life have done for me" Braun said. "I'm hoping to pass

on support, community and love to people who don't otherwise have it. I hope that one day I will be a part of a system that does that."

This is something she says will take hard work and perseverance. Settling is never the answer.

She believes differences should be embraced rather than suppressed. She's always working toward the acceptance and support of differences. She embraces not fitting into the status quo.

"Why does everyone what to be the same person? I think diversity and difference is one of the most beautiful things that we can have," Braun says.

Gustavus Adolphus College offers a large number of student led organizations a list of over one hundred activities and clubs. That is one of the reasons Braun chose to attend Gustavus.

She says the welcoming atmosphere of the college reminded her of camp in New York.

Braun will be double majoring in Political Science and Women Studies as well as minoring in Peace Justice Conflict and dance.

She is also involved in Building Bridges and she is the Co-President of the Women's Action Coalition (WAC) here on campus.

Through these activities stu-

In her spare time, Mandii enjoys playing the ukelele.

dents have the opportunity to be involved or as Braun says, to find a place where they belong and not just be one type of person. She says that is where her dance minor comes into play.

She also highly encourages her students to give her advice on how to improve.

Braun wants to continue being a resource for people and desires to be an involved and informed person to make the mark she wants to leave on her community, her country, and her generation of political activists.

"I'm hoping to pass on support, community and love to people who don't otherwise have it. I hope that one day I will be a part of a system that does that."

-Sophomore Mandii Braun



Katie Mattinen

Mandii is extremely involved on campus, including as the Co-President of the Women's Action Coalition.

Do you have a suggestion for a student, professor, or staff member who could be our next Gustie of the Week?

If so, send their name, position on campus, and a short description of why you think they should be recognized to weekly@gustavus.edu for a chance to be featured!

Spotlight on: FOCUS IN/ON art collective

Anh Tran
Staff Writer

From September 10 to November 4, 2018, The Hillstrom Museum of Art (HMA) presents two exhibits to the public.

One of them is FOCUS IN/ON, a collaborative art project between the HMA and a Gustavus faculty member featuring Minnesota artist Cameron Booth's *Toilers* and *10 AM, Zero One, and Other Settings*, a collection of paintings by Brooklyn Artist Tony Martin.

As introduced by the Hillstrom Museum brochure, "FOCUS IN/ON is a program of the Hillstrom Museum of Art that engages the expertise of Gustavus Adolphus College community members across the curriculum in a collaborative, detailed consideration of a particular artwork from the Hillstrom collection.

This fall, the Hillstrom Museum chose a landscape painting by Dean of Minnesota Cameron Booth (1892-1990) as the focus for the FOCUS IN/ON program.

According to Donald Myers, Director of the Hillstrom Museum and instructor in the Art and Art History Department, Booth was nationally and internationally recognized as a



landscapist, including what the artist termed "barnyard landscapes."

As a supporter of Minnesota arts and artists, the namesake of the Hillstrom Museum, Reverend Richard L. Hillstrom collected several of Booth's artworks and later donated them to the museum.

Booth's *Toilers* was donated to the Museum in 2002.

The oil painting dating around 1925 depicts five raspberry farmers making contact with the ground alongside a horse.

This landscape is known

to be set in Hopkins Minnesota where raspberries are the main crop.

The FOCUS IN/ON brochure features an article that provides background as well as geological insights regarding the artwork, written by Myers in collaboration with Laura Triplett, Associate Professor and Chair in the Geology Department and Associate Professor in the Environmental Studies Programs.

The article analyzes the human and animal contact with soil in the painting and raises awareness about the importance of soil to the human/animal body, the mind, and the changing global climate.

"When first contemplating Booth's painting *Toilers*, one empathizes with the human subjects and their toil. One can also be mindful of the frame of reference: that the first response to a scene is to consider what humans do with soil. Then one can stop into a different frame of reference, and think about what is smaller and bigger, and younger and far older.

The connections between soil and human health, long-term food production and climate change invite creative and urgent consideration," Myers and Triplett wrote.

Besides the FOCUS IN/ON project, the Hillstrom Museum is pleased to present an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Brooklyn artist Tony Martin.

Introducing Martin's work, Myers quotes French collector and jurist Catherine Kessedjan, saying; "His paintings may or may not be peopled, may evoke natural or manmade worlds, may even blend the two in some startling manner. Their single fixity occurs in the way they beckon the viewer not to look at, but instead to look into." The assignment was in order to connect a piece of artwork with a class concept, challenging the interdisciplinary abilities of her students.

Indeed, the exhibit stands out with its pastel color scheme, offering a sense continuity and harmony despite the paintings' distinctive subjects.

This color scheme has drawn First-year Art History and Studio Art Major Emily Burt's attention.

She shared that she saw the colors through the glass windows and decided to come in and see the work.

Most intriguing to Burt was the oil piece *Out of the Blue*, which the first-year describes as a surprising contrast with skillful use of the rule of thirds.

Being a frequent visitor of the museum, Nicole Goebel,

Benefits Specialist from Human Resources, stopped by the museum as she "[tries] to stop by once for every exhibit. [She] love[s] arts and like[s] to be inspired. [She has] a feel-good sensation whenever [she comes] down here."

Goebel's favorite piece from Martin's work is the oil on linen piece *Scherzo*, in which the hidden human face and body and ladder trigger Goebel to contemplate the dynamic and direction between the vague human figure and the concrete object.

Goebel also shared: "A close second would be [*Cascade, World View, and Assembly*]. I appreciate the lighting and layout of these three. They look more intriguing from afar and under this lighting."

The three oil pieces painted in 2015 were arranged next to each other on the same wall. Their similar palettes and subjects retain a sense of agreement and flow on a single platform with uniform lighting.

The HMA will be hosting a free opening reception with artist's gallery talk on Monday, September 17, 7 to 9 p.m.

Martin will briefly present and share his perspective with the Gustavus Adolphus College community. Everyone is welcomed to attend this free event.

Tales from abroad: Katie Keelin

Parker Lindberg
Staff Writer

Katie Keelin is a Junior Gustie currently studying away in Denmark. This week, she took a moment to reflect on her time there so far, which has been a truly positive experience for her.

Katie said she chose to study away in Denmark primarily because of a study abroad program called DIS, centered out of Copenhagen.

"DIS offers a lot of unique opportunities that other programs do not have. For example, you go on two separate trips to various parts of Europe with your main class. It is a fun way to see how what you learn in the classroom applies to the real world. I also felt really drawn to the city of Copenhagen and knew it was the right fit for me."

When asked about how she prepared for a semester abroad, she said the process was not overly-stressful. "I didn't do that much preparation actually," Keelin said.

"Packing for a whole semester in one suitcase was the hardest part. I definitely did spend some time researching Copenhagen, but I also left myself to be surprised."

Keelin said the best part of her trip so far has been "just getting to explore an entirely new country. Before this, I had never

been to Denmark before, so it has been fun coming to a new place and learning all about it."

Fortunately, she couldn't think of any negative parts of her trip so far. "There hasn't been anything that has happened that has been horrible besides a little homesickness, thankfully," Keelin said.

However, Keelin admits that she is still learning some of the intricacies of Danish culture, as she explained. "I am actually living with a Danish host family this semester. There are definitely some everyday things that they do that I'm not used to, but I'm getting more and more acclimated the longer that I am here. One thing that I find very interesting is that the Danes do not jaywalk at all."

Keelin would highly recommend studying abroad to any Gustie that is considering it.

"If you have any opportunity to study abroad you should do it. Even if it is just for J-term or the summer and not a full semester, it is a very rewarding experience. You learn a lot about yourself and new cultures."

Katie's experience abroad has been a positive, educational, and rewarding experience so far. We wish her the best in her travels for the remainder of the semester.



Submitted

Katie's past few months in Copenhagen, Denmark have been filled with friendship and fun.