

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1891

NOVEMBER 9, 2018

ISSUE 8

**Tales from
abroad: Josie
Schieffert**



VARIETY - PAGE 5

**Is it too early to
decorate for the
winter holidays?**



OPINION - PAGE 11

**Men's soccer earns
MIAC Champion
status**



SPORTS - PAGE 16

2018 Midterm election results are in

Gustavus student organizations host events in light of recent election



Students tabled outside the Evelyn Young Dining Room to inform students and promote voting.

Nate Habben

**Elsa Beise
Staff Writer**

The midterm elections on Tuesday, November 6, have no doubt been a topic floating around campus and have been for the few previous months leading up to this talked about event.

Many student organizations and student leaders on campus have hosted events encouraging members of the Gustavus community to vote and make their opinions and voices heard.

Gustavus has a campus coordinator for these midterm elections who is the head of the initiative to raise the number of student voters.

"I'm the campus coordinator for the midterm elections, which means that I am officially employed by the DFL to work on youth voter turnout. Since the second week of this semester, I've been door knocking, tabling, and texting students with my volunteers on a weekly basis," sophomore and campus coordinator for midterm elections, Amanda Braun, said.

The Gustavus Adolphus College Democrats have also tabled and hosted events in order to

promote voting amongst the student body.

"These events are important because youth have the capability of changing the face of our elections. We represent a new era of thoughts, morals, and experiences which mold our political ideology," Braun said.

"Plus, we've lived our entire lives being told that our votes will never matter. In St. Peter, however, this is by far not the case. We have the ability to make or break elections here. Might as well do it," Braun said.

"These events are important because youth have the capability of changing the face of our elections. We represent a new era of thoughts, morals, and experiences which mold our political ideology."

-Amanda Braun

One student organization that has been active in this re-

gard is the College Republicans. This organization has hosted many events including tabling and offered a viewing of the election returns on Tuesday night.

"The College Republicans are holding an election event in the Board Room all of Tuesday night where people can come and go while watching the election returns. We did this in 2016, and it was pretty popular, so we are doing it again. We'll also be having some refreshments for those who come earlier in the night too," Senior and College Republicans Risk Manager, Nathan Dull, said.

This student organization has done other events in the past, including bringing actual local candidates to the Gustavus campus.

"The College Republicans have, historically, brought Republican candidates to campus to promote their policy stances and initiatives. In doing so, we try to make it appealing to the community by offering the conversation with root beer floats or other enticing snacks," Dull said.

"We also try to engage with the St. Peter community by canvassing for the Republican can-

didates in the area. Moreover, we have been involved with the College Democrats hosting debates between each other and co-hosting presidential debate viewing parties," Dull said.

Voting is being encouraged by many at Gustavus.

The importance of this action is being highlighted by numerous students.

"Voting is important because everyone wields the power to change what they want to see. Whether it be for politicians, referendums, constitutional amendments, etc., everyone's voice matters. One vote can change the entire direction of one's country, state, county, and city," Dull said.

Braun echoed the importance of voting: "Voting is important because voting was not granted to all people until 1965. Voting is important because, in some states, Native Americans are being disenfranchised due to their addresses."

"Voting is important because there are still polling locations that are inaccessible to those with disabilities. We vote for those who can't. We vote because there are injustices in this world and we cannot change them unless we try," Braun said.

The importance of voting, making your voice heard and standing up for what you believe in is encouraged at Gustavus.

"Political activism is talking to your friends about the difficult things, it's bringing snacks to volunteer events and writing thank you notes. It's the people who emailed me and asked me to help them engage in conversation with their peers. Political activism takes a lot of emotional energy, but it's important to do what's best for you. We all can do better when we're at our best," Braun said.

Both Minnesota Senate seats were won by Democratic candidates Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith.

Republican candidate Jim Hagedorn narrowly came ahead in district 1, where Gustavus is located.

Tim Walz, the last representative for district 1, won the state governorship by another wide margin.

Ilhan Omar made history by being elected as the first Muslim woman into any chamber of Congress by District 5.

The Gustavian Weekly Staff

Cole Trebelhorn Editor-in-Chief
 Ben Wick Managing Editor
 Samantha Walters News Editor
 Sofia Boda Variety Editor
 Corinne Stremmel Features Editor
 Patrick Meadows Opinion Editor
 Joseph Brandel Sport & Fitness Editor
 Trevon Sladek Entertainment Editor
 Abby Anderson Photography Editor

Gabriela Passmore Copy Editor
 Lydia Kalenze Copy Editor
 Marie Osuna Copy Editor
 Elizabeth Geerdes Business Manager
 Jack Sorenson Advertisement Manager
 Leah Lind 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 \$45 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 lettertotheeditor@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, October 29

- Campus Safety responded to Graffiti being written on a room door in Norelius Hall.
- Campus Safety responded to inappropriate harassing communications in Norelius Hall.
- Campus Safety responded to the Football Stadium for injury involving a player. The student was transported to ER via Ambulance.

Tuesday, October 30

- An AD and CF were returning to College View after any event and noticed three individuals entering a room through a window. While con-

fronting one of the individuals they noticed that the student had chewing tobacco in their mouth. They asked the student to remove the chew from mouth and reminded them that Gustavus is a tobacco-free campus.

- Campus Safety responded to a Fire Alarm in Southwest Hall.

Wednesday, October 31

- Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at Jackson Campus Center. One person was transported by ambulance to River's Edge Hospital.
- Campus Safety checked on a student's welfare at North Hall
- Campus Safety respond-

ed to two alcohol violations in Pittman Hall. One student transported by Ambulance to the Hospital. Students were referred to the Campus Conduct System.

Thursday, November 1

- No incidents reported.

Friday, November 2

- Campus Safety responded to take a theft report from a student at the Jackson Campus Center.
- Campus Safety received a call about Underage Consumption at the Peterson House.

Saturday, November 3

- Campus Safety respond-

ed to a report of criminal damage to a vehicle that was parked on Jefferson Avenue.

- Campus Safety discovered an Underage Alcohol incident in Sorensen Hall.
- Campus Safety responded for a welfare check at Arbor View Apartments.

Sunday, November 4

- Campus Safety observed an alcohol violation in Norelius Hall.
- Campus safety officer observed one student helping another up North Hill on Campus Drive. Students referred to campus conduct system for underage consumption.

Note: Case dispositions are available online by viewing the daily crime log on the Campus Safety web page: <https://gustavus.edu/safety/incidents/index.php>

Tip of the Week:

Want to be informed when a snow emergency has been declared in the City of Saint Peter? Then it's time to sign up for the City's community notification system....Nixle!

You must sign up at www.nixle.com to be part of the system, and you can chose to receive notices via text, e-mail, or both from City of Saint Peter Administration, Police, Recreation and Leisure Services, and/or the Public Works 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

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

Large 1-Topper & a Monkey Bread
11⁹⁹

Caramel, Cinnamon, Italian or Streusel Monkey Bread

Godfather's Pizza
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.)

Payment due at the time of service. Additional tests or procedures may be required depending on the nature of the patient's present condition. Additional services are not included in the above listed price.

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 12 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Weekends 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

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

Lecture on economic growth given as part of philosophy and economics workshop

St. Olaf professor shares research on wealth and property rights

Emily VanGorder
Staff Writer

From 4:40 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 13 in Beck 101, Professor Colin Harris will be presenting his paper, "Wealth Destroying Property Rights," as part of a Philosophy, Politics, and Economics workshop created by Gustavus.

Professor Podemska-Mikluch arranged the lecture as part of the workshop, and chose Professor Harris because he "is an expert on the economics of property rights and the implications for economics growth and development."

The event was geared towards "not only economics majors but also to any students interested in development and public policy," as well as "anyone interested in public policy and economic development," Podemska-Mikluch said.

"The goal of the lecture is to help students better understand the role of private property rights in an economy," Podemska-Mikluch said.

Professor Colin Harris is the Tomson Family Assistant Professor of Law and Economics at St. Olaf, and has received a Ph.D in Economics from George Mason University.

Overall, his research is centered around the economics of property rights, development, and free enterprise.

His research has been featured in journals like World Development, Rationality and Society, and the Journal of In-

stitutional Economics.

"The main thing I hope to communicate to college students is an appreciation for the economic way of thinking. Things are rarely black and white, and reform is never easy. The economic perspective asks us to consider both the trade-offs and constraints as we attempt to change the world for the better," Harris said.

"The main thing I hope to communicate to college students is an appreciation for the economic way of thinking. Things are rarely black and white, and reform is never easy."

-Colin Harris

While most economists would advise people to secure their rights and prevent appropriation, and while it is true that these methods would go far in helping secure property rights, the question is how to achieve this outcome.

"And for this question, a greater sense of humility is needed... we know much less than we think we do... and it is much harder than we imagine to align incentives properly," Harris said.

It is the belief of many that privatizing commons leads to

an increase in wealth.

However, Harris argues that in numerous instances around the world, privatizing the commons has only led to a destruction of wealth.

A theory of wealth-destroying land privatization has been developed and applied to situations to analyze whether privatizing an asset leads to net gains or losses.

When people in charge of making decisions are residual claimants—agents who have sole claim over an enterprise's cash flow, and receive whatever money is left over after everyone has been paid—the decisions can be made or influenced to benefit claimants at the expense of social wealth.

Professor Harris' paper, "Wealth Destroying Private Property Rights," centers around the idea that as distance increases between a decision-making authority and those whose livelihoods are jeopardized, the chance for something to go wrong increases.

Harris applies this theory to land privatization in Kajiado County, Kenya.

"There is a long history of land reform in Kenya involving the colonial government, independent government, and international development organizations... the once communally held land was demarcated and registered in the form of group ranches whose boundaries were based primarily on easy to identify terrain features rather than the boundaries traditionally recognized by the Maasai," Harris said.



Colin Harris is a professor of law and economics at St. Olaf College. St. Olaf College

The group ranches limited the space needed for livestock production, and environmental and space limitations likewise imposed similar constraints on farming and other forms of alternate production.

Kenya ratified a new constitution in 2010, and there have been several new land acts passed since.

However, these new land acts have led to concern over whether they will truly be effective.

fit and well-suited to the task, of privatization, the situation in Kenya could have been very different.

Harris adds that any differences between the situation in Kenya and in other locations can largely be attributed to the individual constraints present in each situation.

The goal of the workshop as a whole is to "broaden students' understanding of ideas central to individual liberty, economic growth, and technological innovation," according to the event's page on the Gustavus website.

The workshop will conclude with a lecture from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4 in Beck 101.

The lecture will be delivered by Ginny Choi, an Associate Director of Academic and Student Programs and a Senior Fellow in F.A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

She is also a Senior Research Fellow at George Mason University.

Choi has also earned a Ph.D. in Economics from George Mason University and a B.A. in Economics from Emory University.

Her lecture will center around whether friendships can survive contact with the market despite the morality issues and corruption often encountered.

"The goal of the lecture is to help students better understand the role of private property rights in an economy."
-Marta Podemska-Mikluch

"The original idea for the theory was developed while working on my other research surrounding intellectual property rights," Harris said.

After conferring with his co-author, Peter Leeson, the two decided that the argument would be more substantial if it could be used to support the claim that there are too many protections for intellectual properties.

Had environmental conditions, banking institutions, and political institutions been more



Marta Podemska-Mikluch arranged the lecture as part of a philosophy, politics, and economics workshop.

Submitted

LALACS event addresses migration issues in the U.S.



A teach-in on immigration and refugee development was given last year by professors from a variety of departments.

Creative Commons

Jack Wiessenberger Staff Writer

The Latin American, Latina/o, and Caribbean Studies program is hosting an informative event from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on November 14 in Confer Hall room 127. The event will present on the current issue of migration in the Americas.

The group, also known by their acronym "LALACS," is directed by Associate Professor Ana Adams.

"There is a lot of fear and confusion around the caravan of Central American refugees... Having an education on this topic is key to counteract the manipulation happening in the media."

-Ana Adams

Adams teaches courses in Modern Languages, Literature, and Cultures along with Spanish.

"The Latin American, Latina/o, and Caribbean Studies (LALACS) Program at Gustavus gives students the opportunity to study the Americas across a wide spectrum of the humanities and the social sciences. Students learn about Latin American culture and history, study abroad, and serve others while preparing to work and live in our diverse global community," Adams said.

The group is highly involved in the community both on cam-

pus and off.

"LALACS students have traveled to Petátlan, Mexico (sister city to Saint Peter) as members of a city-college delegation," the LALACS Gustavus webpage said.

Students in the program also participate in activities in St. Peter.

"St. Peter has a large Hispanic population. LALACS students tutor in schools, translate at parent-teacher conferences, and participate in language-exchanges that deepen the bond between college and community," the webpage said.

Of course, the group is involved in events on campus such as the upcoming talk on migration.

"Every year LALACS organizes events related to the cultures of Latin America. We organize lectures like 'Indigenous Latinx: Maya migration to Los Angeles' by Professor Bianet Castellanos, 'Asking for the impossible' by Azriel Bibliowicz, 'The Cultural Agencies of Mexican Graphic Narrative' by Professor Bruce Campbell, or 'Drugs, Guns, and US Policies in Mexico' by human rights activist Francisco Cerezo, to name a few. We also sponsor cultural events such as Day of the Dead Celebration, Brazilian Carnival, Hispanic Heritage Month, among many other initiatives," Adams said.

The upcoming lecture on the migration caravan from Central America is going beyond just LALACS.

Many other groups based both on and off campus are getting involved.

"To learn the basics of Central American migration to the US, the event will use as framing the recent documentary 'Separated: Children at the Border,' Adams said.

The documentary, made by

PBS, focuses on modern experiences of children who have been separated from their families at the U.S - Mexico border.

"Then we will have a panel of faculty and community members react and provide perspectives. The panel is composed of Professor Scott Ickes, Professor Maddalena Marinari, Professor Suzanne Wilson, Nancy Altman, Brian Mayén from Minnesota Council of Churches in Mankato, and Francisco Segovia of Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)," Adams said.

The professors on the panel come from diverse fields including history, gender studies, sexuality studies, sociology, and of course LALACS.

Council of Churches is a group that helps to take care of refugees in the United States.

The lecture is covering a hot topic and is anticipated to be a highly attended one.

"We expect a good turnout of students from different departments. This is a very hot topic of interest to students in many disciplines across campus," Adams said.

"I am interning with Minnesota Council of Churches - Refugee Services in Mankato. I am a triple major in Spanish, Political Science, and LALACS and all three have helped me be more informed about the issues of the past and present and what sort of things we can do in the future," Gustavus senior Brian Mayén said.

Mayén is highly involved with topics relating to this.

"I connect to this issue because the current administration has capped the number of refugees the US can allow, so seeing how the arrival of the caravan unfolds will be something one should definitely pay attention to as it affects us all," Mayén said.

The Trump administration has already ordered the U.S military be sent to the border to meet the crowd of migrants.

"They aren't criminals, they are people who are running away from extreme poverty,

and dangerous journey for them and their children. I respect them for that," Mayén said.

The caravan has been moving across Central America and Mexico for weeks now.

"There is a lot of fear and confusion around the caravan of Central American refugees walking towards the United States. Having an education on this topic is key to counteract the manipulation happening in the media right now," Adams said.

The lecture being put together for November 14 will be aimed at informing attendees of the issue—without media manipulation.

"LALACS has helped me be more informed about the issues of the past and present and what sort of things we can do in the future."

-Brian Mayén

violence, and other horrendous conditions in their home country. We should welcome them, not turn them away. It's a long



Ana Adams is the director of the LALACS program at Gustavus.

Submitted

Spotlight on: *Measure by Measure*

Parker Lindberg
Staff Writer

This week, the Gustavus Theatre and Dance department will be bringing to life William Shakespeare's famous play, *Measure for Measure*. The play deals with themes like coercion, corruption, and sexual violence.

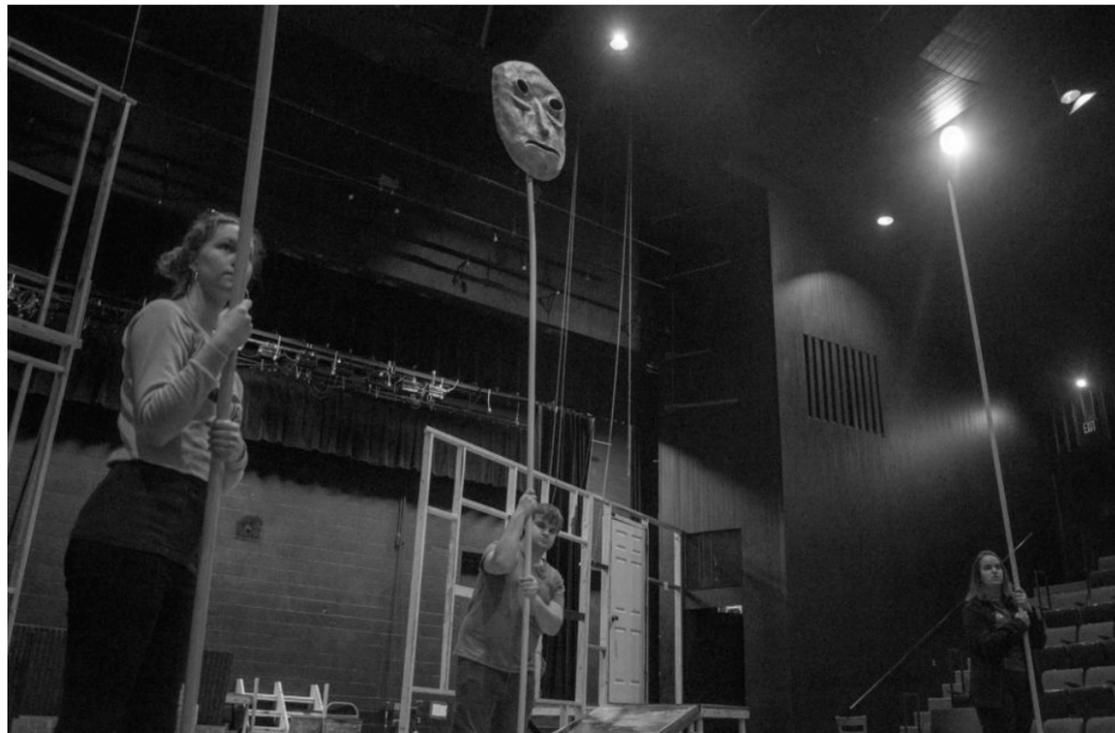
The show follows the character of Isabella, a nun whose brother is sentenced to death by a government official named Angelo who offers to release her brother if she has sex with him, to which she refuses.

The plot evolves into a series of twists and lies from there. The show is often described as a dark comedy.

In addition to the actors, the show involves a significant amount of puppet work. The cast and crew got the chance to learn about how puppets are made and how they work for the show.

The stage manager of the production, Sophomore Jordan Johnson, is excited to see all of the hard work of the cast and crew come to light during the show.

"The actors have put in so much hard work, and so



Students practice handling the puppets that will be featured in the show.

Submitted

I'm excited to see that work pay off. The crew has also worked so hard, especially the costume designers, the costumes in the show are entrancing," Johnson said

Johnson is also excited to see the message of the show get spread to the audience and see the reaction that they have to it. She is interested to see how the audience picks up

and reacts to the thoughtful themes that the show presents.

The production deals with some difficult issues like sexual abuse and includes scenes that are sometimes difficult to watch.

"There are some tough scenes, but it's beautiful to see the actors support each other through them and create such a welcoming environment for everyone on set", Johnson said.

"The cast has gotten to know each other so well throughout this production and that's so great to see," Johnson said.

The play, written in the seventeenth century, has plenty of relevance to contemporary issues.

The sexual violence aspect is a huge topic of debate in today's political climate. The play may bring up thoughts of the current "Me Too" movement for many viewers.

The show will run on Thursday, November 8 to Saturday, November 10 at 8 p.m. and Sunday November 11 at 2 p.m. in Anderson Theatre.

Some parts of the show may not be appropriate for children, including sexual content.

GET YOUR MASTER'S FROM A PROVEN LEADER IN HEALTH SCIENCES

M.S. in Athletic Training

- First College to offer a master's of AT in MN
- CAATE accredited
- 100% job placement rate
- 12-week clinical immersion matched to your career goals

css.edu/AT

M.S. in Exercise Physiology

- One-year master's program
- Two labs with the latest technologies
- Accelerated curriculum
- Anatomy lab experience

css.edu/EXP

Courtney Eickman, Admissions Counselor
Duluth Campus (877) 287-8731 ceickman@css.edu



The College of
St. Scholastica

GUSTIES of Bethel Seyoum

Anh Tran
Staff Writer

Senior Financial Economics Major Bethel Seyoum is enjoying her third consecutive year as the Co-President/Class Officer for Class of 2019. She is also involved in the Gustavus Student Senate, the Interfaith Leadership Council, the International and Cultural Education Center, the Martial Arts Club, and the Gustavus Mentoring Program.

Seyoum comes from the busy and lively metropolitan Addis Ababa of Ethiopia, the country of the first cup of coffee.

Based on thorough school research and communication with Gustavus Adolphus College, Seyoum decided to join this welcoming and caring community to pursue a bachelor's degree in Financial Economics.

"I didn't know about Gustavus until I started searching for different schools in the U.S. Gustavus was highly responsive whenever I had any questions. I sensed a welcoming and caring environment from the interactions I had with the staff even before I arrived at Gustavus," Seyoum said.

Entering the fourth year of her study, the Senior Financial Economics Major has further developed her knowledge and skills in finance while still retaining her passion for the field of analyzing and predicting economic trends.

"My love for finance extends beyond just working with numbers. While I appreciate numerical calculations, it is really the big picture that fascinates me the most," Seyoum shared.

The senior's intern experience with Deloitte during the summer of 2017 has reaffirmed her about this passion. As an intern for one of the Big Four (the four biggest professional services networks), Seyoum had get the chance to connect what she has learned in the classroom with an elite real-life working environment.

Beside her summer internship with Deloitte, Seyoum enriched her professional experience by studying abroad in London over the summer of 2018. She took a marketing course where she reached out to the world with the Gustie perspective.

The senior really appreciates the opportunity as it has opened up to her a broad aspect of professionalism as well as new relationships.

Seyoum feels lucky to come across this opportunity during

her work at the Center for International and Cultural Education (CICE). The senior has been working as a student assistant and Intercultural Partner at CICE for the last three years.

At CICE, Seyoum has greatly contributed to communicating with current and new international students who are at or coming to Gustavus. Not only coordinating their arrivals, Seyoum herself as an Intercultural Partner picks them up at the airport and accompanies them during the International Orientation which takes place a week before the official Orientation for all Gusties.

As an experienced international Gustie, Bethel has befriended and helped new international students with their radical transitions to life in the United States.

Jeffrey Anderson, Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services, referred to Seyoum as "someone [he] can always rely on." Welcoming Seyoum to Gustavus and witnessing her growth over her work at CICE, Anderson very much appreciates her presence and the great impact she has made at Gustavus.

"She has been a great resource in her work here at CICE. She is also a wonderful person who is soft-talking and very thoughtful," Anderson said about his first impression of Seyoum.

As a student assistance at CICE, Seyoum also contributes her perspective as a student towards CICE's programs.

"We've also been planning on creating the first study abroad to Ethiopia which might happen in the next few years," Seyoum said.

Striving to making others' voices heard, Seyoum has represented international students as the International Student Representative in the Student

Senate and her class as the Co-President and Class Officer of the Class of 2019.

As the International Student Representative, Seyoum frequently tabled and collected international students' opinions about the Student Senate's plans and decisions and later she represented these voices in the Senate meeting. She find it important for international students' concerns to be voiced, especially in the decision-making process of the largest student organization on campus.

As the Class Officer of the Class of 2019, Seyoum also prioritizes her role in making all the voices heard. Due to her thoughtful nature, Seyoum listens very well to the voices from a diverse range of students and make sure they are taken seriously. Exemplary in her work of representing the student body, Seyoum is also involved as the Co-President of the Multi-Faith Leadership council.

As a spiritual person, Seyoum believes that faith in all shapes and forms should be equally represented and appreciated at Gustavus, a campus that regards faith and community among its Five Pillars. In addition to her involvement on campus, Seyoum is also known among her peers as a highly self-motivated and overachiever in her academic career.

Junior Financial Economics Major Mahrukh Khurram said: "[Seyoum] is a really, really hard-working person, and she knows how to manage her personal and academic lives very well. She sets goals for herself. She's a high achiever and very self-motivated."

As an experienced Gustie, Seyoum advises Gusties who are new at Gustavus, especially international Gusties, to reach out to the many resources available to them on campus to make the most out of their experience.



Seyoum spent the summer of 2018 studying abroad in London.

Submitted



Seyoum works hard as an advocate for international students on campus.

Submitted

Do you have a suggestion for a Gustavus 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

the WEEK

& Richard Leitch

Monali Bhakta
Staff Writer

During their four years at Gustavus, many students are fortunate to take a class with engaging professors who are highly passionate in the fields they are experts in. Aside from classroom learning, they continue unlocking their curiosity by pursuing internships and going on study abroad trips in the future.

Richard Leitch, Associate professor in Political Science, Environmental Studies, Japanese Studies, and Peace Studies, has been known for positively changing the lives of students ever since he began teaching at Gustavus in 1996. Before he became a Professor, he attended Colby College in Maine.

The experience he had there was very similar to Gustavus where it was a close-knit, welcoming community where he could connect with people from all backgrounds.

"There were some rocky times, especially my first year going into my second year. Because of those experiences, I feel like I can relate to what many first year students are going through," Leitch said.

Once he made it to graduate school at the University of Illinois, he was granted a teaching position through a coincidence,

and was required to teach three classes with thirty students each. Although he was nervous he was not going to be prepared well enough, he knew immediately once he started, that teaching was what he wanted to for the rest of his life.

He chose to pursue education on the liberal arts route because his goal was to help students more in-depth by establishing meaningful relationships with them.

Leitch has been a strong advocate for study abroad since he went to Japan for a year when he was in undergrad. He appreciates the amazing insight he got while being at another part of the world, and to see life from a fresh perspective, especially at a time when it was unlikely that students would do it.

"I knew when I came here that this was the place. If they gave me the job offer, I was going to take it. No questions asked. I was very lucky...I've been so blessed because Gustavus has allowed me to teach courses with total confidence in my abilities to do it," Leitch said. For instance, he created the Environmental Politics class which was highly successful and beneficial towards Environmental Studies majors.

He loves being able to teach outside of the areas he was trained in academically. In terms of engaging with students, it

depends on the type of course, but his main goal is to get them to critically think beyond what they learn in the classroom. He hopes they can learn how to engage with the material beyond the content being covered in the classroom.

One of his defining teaching techniques is having students read perceptive, relevant news articles to decipher what is happening around the world politically. He believes it will give students the opportunity to relate this back to their own lives, especially since we live in an interconnected world.

"Ten years from now, if they can read a newspaper and say, 'Wait a minute, that doesn't make sense,' or 'I learned something about that,' this is what my goal is...that means I've done my job...I just hope that they're going to develop ideas," Leitch said.

He has recognized tremendous talent and commitment from various students he has interacted with, both inside and outside the classroom. Every once in a while, he encounters someone who is kind-hearted, intelligent, and determined who wants to make a positive difference in the world. Leitch is thankful to be part of this kind of driven community.

He constantly admires the replenishment of talent and constant hope for someone



Katie Mattinen

Leitch wants his students to learn to think critically and logically.

coming to Gustavus and doing something great for everyone. In addition, it is encouraging to see what people have accomplished after attending this tiny school on the hill.

"Every once in a while I type in that person's name and I say, 'Wow, look at that, they've actually made it. They're really doing they wanted to do, or would have never imagined to do,' but now here they are and everybody's giving them all these accolades and saying they've done great work. I'm just so proud they came from Gustavus. I'm very proud to be associated with this place," Leitch said.

Besides his professional responsibilities, Leitch spends his time attending lively and notable events on campus. This includes the Festival of St. Lucia where his kids have participated in the tradition as well.

He is also pleased that his daughter, Abby, a former student and recent 2018 graduate, is now the Assistant Volleyball Coach. One of his favorite hobbies is going to Gustavus Volleyball games because of her prominent role on the team.

Lastly, he is also a huge supporter of the Nobel Conference,

believing that class should be cancelled for students to have the chance to attend this one-in-a-lifetime event. "I like just sitting there and thinking about the brain power. I'm so glad that now we have a culture of cancelling classes. There are these Nobel Laureates, coming to campus, and these distinguished academics that we've tried to lure here, and it's a campus collaborative moment," Leitch said.

A significant lesson he wants all students to learn is how the timeline of being a college student is extremely limited. People should take advantage of the countless opportunities offered in flexible educational atmosphere because they are more likely not going to get these four years back.

His alumni colleagues have mentioned that the only aspects they regretted were not going to enough campus-wide events or studying abroad. Leitch aspires to be at Gustavus well into the future, and remarks that he does not want to miss out on these types of endeavors. Considering how beloved he is by students and faculty, he will not be leaving any time soon.



Professor Leitch is a strong advocate for study abroad programs on campus.

Katie Mattinen

Drowning deep in debt

Corinne Stremmel
Features Editor

Student debt is a major topic of concern among students. Whether you have your own pile of debt or your friends and family do, it's hard to avoid a conversation about this rather stressful topic.

Student debt has received plenty of attention, even being labeled as the student debt "crisis".

An article published by Forbes magazine in May 2018 narrowed down why exactly the topic of student debt has become a "crisis". It's a mixture of the initial amount of the loan taken out in addition to students defaulting on the loans later in life, leading to graduates paying off loans for an average of ten years after graduating. An article from CNBC notes that default rates have increased dramatically from 2003 to 2011. By 2023, 40% of borrowers are expected to fall behind in their payments.

There seems to be no end to the issue of borrowing money for college since the cost of education has slowly been climbing.

The same article from CNBC says that state schools lost \$9 billion in funding between 2008 and 2017. As the cost of college grows, students will find themselves taking out loans that may not be manageable in the future.

In an interview with the Gustavus Financial Aid Office, it was found that in a recent graduating class

83% of students had some form of student loans. The average loan debt was \$27,000.

This article features the perspective of two students who are both education majors. The first student featured will be graduating with debt and the second without debt. Each student explains their feelings toward how the notion of debt has influenced their future goals.

"I'll be graduating with \$160,000 in debt, including interest," the first student said. This student's particular payment plan includes paying \$1400 a month for approximately ten years. Since many payment plans are over an extended amount of time, students try to find ways to reduce their living expenses post college.

"I worry about the debt all the time. That's why I plan on living with my parents so I can start paying off some of the debt. I don't want to waste more money on an apartment after college. It just makes more sense to go straight to getting a house," the first student said. Cutting back right away was this student's particular plan, but she felt like she had to put some of her future plans on hold in order to pay the debt off first. "I want to get engaged and married, but a wedding plus the debt is a lot of money," she said.

Some students, especially future teachers, are eligible for student loan forgiveness.

She explained that there is loan forgiveness for teachers, depend-

ing on where you teach and how long you teach there. "But I probably won't do a program like that because I want to choose where I live after college," she said.

Despite the future debt, students still choose Gustavus because of its reputation and programs. This student felt that at first she was willing to take on the debt because of the positive things she had heard about the teaching program. "In the end though, no matter how good the program is, the debt is not worth it," she said.

As the student explained, having a plan and being organized about the payments can lessen some of this stress.

The second student that was interviewed will be able to graduate debt free thanks to scholarships and being supplemented by his parents. "I understand that's a luxury that not many people have," the second student said.

"There's a lot of business majors here because they think it's going to make them a lot of money, but I'm passionate about teaching and it's what I want to do. I just feel lucky and thankful that parents are doing that for me and that my dad has put me in a position to be successful and put me in a position that I can pursue the things I want to pursue without having to worry about paying off debt in a reasonable amount of time," the second student said.

Graduating debt free allows students the opportunity to have a

head start on their future financially. This freedom allows them to choose a career that they're passionate about.

Unfortunately, money still gets in the way of students' dream jobs and other future plans.

Even if student loans are inevitable for some, scholarships can help tremendously in lessening the cost of college. At Gustavus over 95% of students receive some sort of financial aid assistance and the average scholarship/ gift award for students is \$24,500.

The Financial Aid Office at Gustavus expressed that it wishes that it could do more to help students navigate their finances. However, there are opportunities that Gustavus offers to help students. "One of the college ACTS Strategic Plan goals is to assist low income families to reduce debt. The College's Financial Aid Administrators do meet with students and families during Gustie Gear Up in the summer or individual appointments to go over their financial aid award package. We discuss a variety of things including outside scholarships, summer earnings, savings, payment plans, and private loans," said the Gustavus Financial Aid Office.

The Gustavus Financial Aid Office suggests that it's important for families to plan ahead when thinking about college. The office also suggests several scholarship opportunities from websites like www.fastweb.com or www.finaid.org.

org.

The office adds several more suggestions. "By working during the summer or during breaks or on campus through student employment can reduce the need to borrow loans. Students can look into military service which has possible education benefits or service through AmeriCorps. Utilize a 529 College Savings Plan and invest early.

State and Federal Financial Aid Associations have implemented programs to go out to schools educating on financial awareness. Early awareness programs can start as early as elementary school

and going through middle and high school," the Gustavus Financial Aid Office said.

Student debt is projected to be an issue for students in the future. CNBC says that despite the economic recovery from the 2008 financial crisis, the area of student loans has remained the same.

To prevent future problems with debt, it's important to invest early and stay organized about paying for college. In the meantime, it can be helpful to know that colleges want to help students navigate debt. Remember that other students share the same concerns about debt, but it's important to remain motivated.



Student gets frustrated over loans.

Abby Anderson