

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1891

NOVEMBER 30, 2018

ISSUE 10

Spotlight on music in the Courtyard Cafe



VARIETY - PAGE 5

Be kind to those with holiday joy



OPINION - PAGE 12

Women's hockey improves 5 - 1 - 1



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Christmas in Christ Chapel bringing holiday spirit to GAC

This year's theme embodies "Visions of Divine Mystery"



Those performing in this year's Christmas in Christ Chapel have been rehearsing since November 1.

Ben Wick

Emily VanGorder
Staff Writer

Christmas in Christ Chapel 2018 welcomes the Christmas season.

Five shows filled with music, word, and dance will bring almost 9,000 people to campus this weekend.

Tickets for three of the five services have sold out, though there will be a live broadcast of the service on the Gustavus website.

Planning for this event began before the end of the 2017 school year, when Dr. Gregory Aune was chosen by then Chaplain Brian Konkel to lead the planning for the 2018 service.

"Planning with the full committee commenced early in the spring semester of 2018, with the committee meeting weekly right up to the end of classes in May," Dr. Aune said.

"This is a very long and meticulous process, but I think the care given to the selection of music is one of the things that makes our program very distinctive," Aune said.

"Although we know that C in CC's entire purpose is to bring in the Christmas Season by celebrating the birth of Christ, each year has invited us to do that in different ways."

-Aleah Felton

The committee is comprised of Dr. Aune as Artistic Director, and Brandon Dean as Music Director and Conductor of the Choir of Christ Chapel and the Lucia Singers.

It also includes Chad Winterfeldt as Cantor of Christ Chapel, conductor of the Chapel Ringers and organist, as well as Dr. Ruth Lin as the conductor of the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra.

Michele Rusinko, professor of dance, Lydia Francis, scenic designer, and Barb Larson Taylor, who oversees the printed program and program details were also part of the Christmas in Christ Chapel committee.

Siri Erikson is the college chaplain, and selects scripture, poetry, and readings that match the theme of the service.

She has also written some original pieces which will be incorporated into the service.

"All of these individuals contribute their ideas and give feedback in the weekly group meetings, and over time the full content and show flow become finalized. It is a great group of thinkers and artists... Each and every year Christmas in Christ Chapel is new and distinctive"

Aune said.

This year's theme is "Visions of Divine Mystery." This theme "weaves a compelling tapestry of music, dance, spoken word, and the visual arts to proclaim the great wonder and timeless relevance of the incarnation as revealed to us through angels and prophets," this year's Christmas in Christ Chapel webpage said.

"I think what's changed most about Christmas in Christ Chapel from year to year is where we are meant to direct our focus. Although we know that C in CC's entire purpose is to bring in the Christmas season by celebrating the birth of Christ, each year has invited us to do that in different ways. My freshman year invited performers and audiences to embrace the interconnectedness of humanity; last year explored how God lives among us; this year, we explore the divine mystery of Christ," Junior Aleah Felton

said.

A tentative repertoire for Christmas in Christ Chapel is usually selected before summer break, according to Dr. Ruth Lin.

Once students return from break and the new school year's auditions are over, practices during classes begin.

The choirs started practicing together around November 1.

Each group gets in "a good 20 hours" of rehearsal time before services begin, Lin said.

"C in CC preparation has been underway since day one of choir. I am a part of the Lucia Singers, which is the women's choir. During Lucia practices, we have been working on our two solo pieces, and six mass choir pieces. We also sing three hymns with the congregation" freshman Maddi McChesney

"Christmas in Christ Chapel" continued on page 4

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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.

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Campus Safety Report

Monday, November 12

- A Gustavus employee reported a theft of Gustavus property in Beck Hall.
- Campus safety responded to Sohre hall for a theft of bike report.
- Campus safety responded to Sohre Hall for a Mental Health concern.

Tuesday, November 13

- No incidents reported

Wednesday, November 14

- No incidents reported

Thursday, November 15

- Campus Safety responded to a marijuana call in Norelius Hall. Two students were referred to the

- campus conduct board.
- Campus Safety came upon the odor of marijuana, student also possessed marijuana and paraphernalia in Sohre Hall, referred to the campus conduct system.

Friday, November 16

- Campus Safety responded to Norelius Hall for a odor of marijuana. Case referred to campus conduct system.
- Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm at Rundstrom Hall.

Saturday, November 17

- Campus Safety responded to a 911 call in International Center, discovered

marijuana odor in the room, marijuana and paraphernalia in the students possession, case referred to the campus conduct system.

- Campus Safety smelled the odor of marijuana in North Hall while doing a routine patrol.

Sunday, November 18

- Campus Safety responded to a marijuana incident in North Hall.
- Campus Safety responded to an alcohol violation in Norelius Hall. Campus Safety referred 5 students to the Campus Conduct System.
- Campus Safety responded to a call for underage

consumption in Norelius hall, student referred to the campus conduct system.

- Campus Safety responded to a noise complaint in Norelius Hall.
- Campus Safety responded to a marijuana call in Gibbs hall. Case referred to the campus conduct system.
- ACF called Campus Safety to request assistance with a Marijuana incident in Pittman Hall. Two students were referred to the campus conduct system.
- Campus Safety received a call about the odor of Marijuana in Gibbs Hall. Two students were referred to the Campus Conduct System.

- Campus Safety smelled the odor of marijuana in Sorensen Hall while doing a routine patrol.

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:

Be patient and remember snowplows are working to improve road conditions for your trip. Stay back at least five car lengths behind the plow. Snowplow operators will pull over when it is safe to do so to allow traffic build-up to pass. Stay alert for snowplows that turn or exit frequently.

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2018 Guild of St. Lucia announced

Six sophomore women elected as candidates for St. Lucia



Joy Dunna was crowned last year's St. Lucia at the Festival of St. Lucia.

Creative Commons

Jack Wiessenberger
Staff Writer

The St. Lucia Festival has an important history here at Gustavus.

The story of the festival on campus will be gaining a new chapter on December 6.

However, the festival goes beyond the Gustavus community. St. Lucia Day, also known as Saint Lucy Day, has been celebrated for hundreds of years.

St. Lucia was one of only eight women recognized in the 'Canon of the Mass,' a Catholic missal.

She was captured and was killed during the persecution of Christians in the third century.

Soon after her death, westerners began to celebrate her life and contribution to the whole of Christianity.

St. Lucia's celebration became a day of feasting and celebration after the story of the Saint spread out of Sweden.

"According to Swedish legend, after Lucia's death a ship carrying a maiden clothed in white and crowned with light appeared on the shore in the Swedish province of Varmaland during a great famine. The maiden, widely believed to be Lucia, distributed food and clothing to the needy, thus endearing herself to the Swedish people," according to the Gustavus webpage covering the Scandinavian history of St. Lucia Day.

The day also became known as the festival of lights due to this tale.

Although the stories and

traditions of St. Lucia vary, they all focus on themes of service and light. St. Lucia is honored throughout the world and by many different cultures. In Sweden, Lucia symbolizes the coming end of the long winter nights and the return of light to the world.

While the festival may not be held near the end of a Minnesota winter, it still stands as a nice reminder of what is to come.

Gustavus has been holding a St. Lucia Festival since 1941.

Another tie Gustavus has to St. Lucia is the choir named in her honor.

"The The St. Lucia Festival is a time for the Gustavus community to pause during a busy time in the semester to honor and celebrate people who bring light into the world."

-Barb Larson Taylor

This group will perform a few songs during the festival.

This year, the festival will take place on December 6.

To start the festival, students nominate six sophomore women to be on the St. Lucia Court.

The women are said to represent the qualities of St. Lucia which are "courageous leadership, service to others, strength of character, and compassion and therefore is a light to others," the Gustavus webpage said.

The women's classmates then vote on who most exemplifies these traits and who will be chosen to represent St. Lucia during the entirety of the festival.

This year's candidates are Tyra Banks, Ellie Croonquist, Holly Fitterer, Signe Jeremiason, Megan Nipe, and Kristie Olson.

"In Scandinavian countries each town elects its own St. Lucia. The festival begins with a procession led by the St. Lucia designee, who is followed by young girls dressed in white and wearing lighted wreaths on their heads," the Britannica Encyclopedia said.

This process is the one Gustavus modelled its own after.

The entire event is planned and carried out by Senior Director Barb Larson Taylor and the Gustavus Library Associates. Taylor is also a co-advisor for the Guild of St. Lucia.

"The St. Lucia Festival is a time for the Gustavus community to pause during a busy time in the semester to honor and celebrate people who bring light into the world. The hope is that those who attend are inspired to shine their own light in ways to lead and serve their communities," Taylor said.

The event is highly focused on not only recognizing and honoring St. Lucia, but also inspiring others to follow her example.

The main event of the festival is the mid-morning chapel service on December 6.

"The chapel service is from 10-10:30 a.m. in Christ Chapel, it is free and open to the public and will be live streamed and archived. The service is followed

by a Scandinavian smörgåsbord luncheon and program," Taylor said.

The ceremony will feature the six women representing the St. Lucia Court, the Guild of St. Lucia, as well as the Lucia choir.

The luncheon following the service will include traditional Swedish dishes.

In years past the members of the court of St. Lucia have eaten lutefisk together.

This festival, entering its 78th year at Gustavus, is a large part

of campus history.

The traditions that began centuries ago and half of a world away are still alive and well. Taylor, the Guild of St. Lucia, the Gustavus Library Associates, and many others

have all worked to organize this event in order to honor St. Lucia and all that she represents.



The Guild of St. Lucia consists of six sophomore women.

Gustavus Marketing

Can friendships survive contact with the market?

Ginny Choi brings market research to the Gustavus campus

Samantha Walters
News Editor

Gustavus will be hosting Ginny Choi, Senior Research Fellow of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, for a lecture on friendships and their contact with the market.

This lecture will be taking place at 4:30 p.m. on December 4 in Beck Hall room 101.

Choi, Associate Director of Academic & Student Programs and Senior Research Fellow at The Mercatus Center at George Mason University, will talk about her research focused on the moral and social aspects of markets; this research includes *A Moral Case for Markets*, a book she is currently writing with Virgil H. Storr, a professor at George Mason University.

"Critics of markets have often asserted that markets

"[The chapter] gives reason and attempts to push back against [critics'] complaints."

-Virgil H. Storr

undermine morality and that market dealings are unfair and corrupting. In their perspective, the expansion of the market and market values taint the nature of the goods being exchanged and the relationships between the parties to the deal," Storr wrote.

Storr's chapter "gives reason... and attempts to push



Virgil Henry Storr

Ginny Choi's current research includes a chapter written with Virgil H. Storr.

back against these complaints." It argues that the market is a "social arena" where material goals and moral selves are explored and pursued.

"After all, meaningful social bonds characterized by trust and trustworthiness can and do develop in market settings," Storr wrote.

Marta Podemska-Mikluch, economics and entrepreneurship professor at Gustavus, invited Choi for the Workshop in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

"The market can encourage the development of meaningful social bonds."

-Ginny Choi

"Usually we bring one to two speakers every semester and, [because] the team for the series is really exploring

the well-being of society and sources of economic growth and innovation, [Choi's research] fit really well in the workshop," Podemska-Mikluch said. "This is something that is relevant to our students."

In a related work, "Storr discusses the moral teachings of the market, that is, the moral sentiments individuals are likely to acquire and develop in the market... not only can social bonds survive their contact with the market without being corrupted, but the market can

encourage the development of meaningful social bonds," Choi wrote.

"Hopefully students will get a better appreciation for the benefits of market interactions and how, through the market, they are exposed to topics that are relevant to them," Podemska-Mikluch said.



Last year's theme explored how God lives among us.

Submitted

"Christmas in Christ Chapel" continued from page 1

hymns with the congregation" First-year Maddi McChesney said.

This year, there are many 'mass pieces', or pieces where all three choirs sing together, which requires more preparation than pieces performed by each choir individually.

"I absolutely love the com-

bined pieces, they fill the entire chapel up with sound, and it gives me chills singing with about 250 other singers... as well as the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra. The combined pieces truly bring all three of the choirs together. I am so excited to perform my first ever Christmas in Christ Chapel" McChesney said.

The Gustavus Choir, the Choir of Christ Chapel, the Lucia Singers, the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra, the Chapel

Ringers, and dancers from the Theatre and Dance Department are all involved in this year's service, as are Dr. Michael Jorgenson and Professor Melissa Williams, who will be performing during the program.

"What I love most about Christmas in Christ Chapel is bringing new people into the tradition of "O Come All Ye Faithful" ... being able to share how special and incredibly euphoric that moment is when every person—every musician, singer, and even the audience themselves—is putting everything they have into that one moment I think, is the epitome of what Christmas in Christ Chapel is," Felton said.

This will be Dr. Aune's 24th and final Christmas in Christ Chapel service, as he is retiring at the end of this academic year. A huge thank you goes to all faculty, staff, and students involved in the planning and performances of this year's event.



Ginny Choi is a Senior Research Fellow of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Mercatus Center

Spotlight on: Music in the Courtyard

Anh Tran
Staff Writer

The Courtyard Café has been popular among Gusties not only as a place to grab coffee, to have little chat with friends, or to do homework, but also as a regular venue for musical performances.

The Gustavus Music Collective and the Gustavus Jazz Combos hold their concerts in the Courtyard Café on Tuesday and Friday nights, respectively.

Unlike larger conducted ensembles, both of these musical groups consist of student musicians who perform in less formal contexts and closer to the audience.

According to their statement of purpose, the Gustavus Music Collective is "a group of individuals who [love music and] are willing to [organize and participate in] musical performances, other than those [taken] for credit, and are ... eager to [engage in musical activities] on and off campus."

The Gustavus Music Collective is an official student organization at Gustavus Adolphus College. Their president this semester is Senior Psychology Major Jayna Davis. Davis also minors in music and has been part of the Music Collective over her last three years at Gustavus Adolphus College.

According to Davis, the Gustavus Music Collective works as a management organization of independent student artists. They recruit student artists and connect them with opportunities to perform.

"We want to create an outlet for them to perform and share [their work]. Different from bands or choirs where you



Students enjoy a performance in the Courtyard Cafe.

Submitted

are given the music to learn, [the Music Collective] is the space for musicians to perform their own creative works and also their creative covers of other people's songs and modern popular music and whatever they want." Davis said.

The Open Mic Night hosted by the Collective frequently takes place in the Courtyard. It is their flagship event, as well as their starting point for "creating outlets" for artists who would love to share their creative works.

In a typical Open Mic Night, artists from the Collective come and share their works. Songwriters sing or play their songs, poets read their poems, and singers sing covers of their favorite artists.

The Open Mic Night this last Tuesday has showcased original and cover songs from independent singers, songwriters, and music producers who are or are not members of the Music Collective. Due to their free spirit, the Open Mic Night welcomes

artists to come in and perform prior to the event without notice.

Picking the Courtyard Café as the venue for the Open Mic Nights, the Gustavus Collective hopes to create a relaxed and "chill" atmosphere for everyone to feel free to express themselves through music and to enjoy the music.

"[The Courtyard Café] creates a chill atmosphere. For a lot of people who are interested in the Music Collective, they have never performed in front of a lot of people before, so it's a great opportunity to give people their first performance experience. The Courtyard is an intimate space where people can hang out, chat, drink some coffee, so it's low pressure and it's a nice atmosphere for some acoustic music," Davis said.

Like the Gustavus Music Collective, the Open Mic Nights are "open to anyone," at all levels of experience. Artists who would like to join the Music Collective or to perform in Open Mic Nights do not have to have pre-

vious experience in performing.

This group is "for people who are curious about performing or want to be creative about their music and express themselves through music," and the Courtyard Café provides them "a great atmosphere for people who come to enjoy the music."

With "lower pressure, lower stake, lower commitment," the Gustavus Music Collective hopes their Open Mic Nights provide many more unestablished artists with opportunities to present to the public their first performances.

Unlike the Music Collective artists who are totally independent in their creative works, the Jazz Combos are coach ensembles.

"The combos are coached ensembles, rather than conducted groups...meaning that I offer feedback and guidance while they count themselves off and communicate in the spur of the moment," Dr. Dave Stamps, Director of Jazz Studies and Coach of the Jazz Combos, said.

Dr. Stamps introduced the Jazz Combos as "small jazz chamber groups made up of three or four horns and a rhythm section. They play a mix of standard jazz "tunes" and original compositions and arrangements. The Jazz Combos are about a third of the rise of the larger Gustavus and Adolphus Jazz Ensembles and focus more on improvisation."

Unlike larger jazz ensembles at Gustavus Adolphus College, the Jazz Combos focus more on the free spirit and the momentous and improvisational attitude of jazz music. They aim to create the jazz experience closest to the jazz experienced in "real-world" contexts, which

also explains their reason for picking Courtyard as the venue for their concert this Friday.

"The Courtyard Cafe is a great venue for the combos because it is similar to a "real world" situation. Most professional jazz chamber groups perform in coffee shops, clubs, and smaller venues. It is also centrally located on campus and allows for the students to be heard by a larger percentage of the student body in a casual setting," Dr. Stamps said.

Other than being a suitable venue for a jazz group, the Courtyard Café also helps promote jazz, a genre popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This genre has evolved a lot yet still retains its free spirit which centers on improvisation. Hopefully, performed in such a popular venue as the Courtyard Café, jazz will attract more attention from the campus community.

Gusties interested in casual musical performances should check out the Gustavus Music Collective and the Gustavus Jazz Combos for their (future) concerts, which are all open and free to the public.

There will be another Open Mic Night by the Gustavus Music Collective in December. They will put out the dates soon so those interested should keep an eye out. The Music Collective are always looking for new members and performers, so Gusties who are interested in joining the group or performing in their Open Mic Night in December are welcome to reach out.

Tales from Nepal: Emily Carlson

Parker Lindberg
Staff Writer

Emily Carlson is a Junior Environmental Studies and Geology major who is currently studying abroad in Nepal for the fall semester.

Emily said that she chose the location before she even knew what the program was. "I just knew I wanted to be somewhere in Asia, and the opportunity to live in the Himalayas for a few months was incredibly enticing."

Emily was encouraged to study abroad by other classmates and advisors that she looked up to. "I saw what an impact it had on some of my closest friends", she said, "and I wanted in!"

She remembers her feelings when she first arrived in Nepal a few months ago. "I remember having a lot of emotions - nervousness, excitement, exhaustion - in the first days that seemed to swirl around and change by the hour. We were in a very new place and trying to get to know twenty new classmates and it was definitely a challenge to keep it all together."

After living in Nepal for



Carlson has met many new friends during her time abroad.

Submitted

several months now, Emily feels like she has really immersed herself into the culture, as opposed to just sightseeing. "The best part about my program is that we are living in homestay with Tibetan refugee families. I think having some separation from the other students on the program as well as having a loving family waiting for you at the end of each day is so important to staying sane for me. It also feels like I'm really living in Kathmandu, not

just visiting for four months."

Not every part of a study abroad experience goes as smoothly as one would hope, Emily admits. "It can be difficult and frustrating in so many different aspects if things turn out differently than you imagined or expected. This can include student-to-student relationships or how you get along with staff or even how heavy or light the work load is."

Emily says she misses certain parts of being on campus. This

mostly includes the people. She said she misses her friends, teammates, and professors.

She said that the activity that she most looks forward to when she returns home is baking cookies and bread for Christmas. "Did you know there are no ovens in the homes in Nepal? I did not", she added.

Emily also offered advice to her fellow Gusties that are considering studying abroad but are nervous or unsure. "First pick something you love, whether it's the place or a topic of study, the rest will fall into place. Also, don't be afraid to just do something totally dif-

ferent from your major - that's a huge way to learn new skills and meet people with different perspectives," Carlson said.

"I think I've learned what makes me most uncomfortable, like boredom, and what I rely on to make me comfortable, like the people I love and chocolate. Really, I learned so much more about how I function as a human among other humans, and just knowing that will allow me to live a more introspective empathetic life."



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GUSTIES of Nicole Willis



Willis is active in Christian student organizations on campus. Katie Mattinen

Anh Tran
Staff Writer

This week's Gustie of the Week is secondary history education major Nicole Willis. Besides her studying, the senior is spending her third year at Gustavus Adolphus College engaging a wide range of activities of campus.

On campus, Willis passionately participates in the United Christian Ministries, the Prepare Ministries, the Gustavus Wind Symphony, and the Court of Saint Lucia 2017.

Willis also works part-time at the Saint Peter Middle School to expand her passion for working with young students.

Willis decided to pursue a degree of education due to her love for students in middle and high schools. Willis found her passion in teaching and hopes to fuel young minds with knowledge from different disciplines, from civics to geography.

The social studies teaching major emphasizes the importance of teaching her future students "the skills that they can take away," such as critical thinking and building arguments. On top of that, what Willis keeps in mind, always, is to care and support her students in the best way that she can.

"For my future students, I want to be supportive, be an adult figure in their lives to push them and encourage them and let them know that there's someone who loves them and believes in them. I want my students to think critically and connect what they learn in class

to their lives. I want my teaching to be relevant and empower my students, even when they go out of my classroom," Willis said.

Willis's part-time job at the Saint Peter Middle School reaffirms her love for middle school students and motivates her to continue pursuing her career.

"I am there main for students who need additional assistance, but I am also there as extra support for all students," Willis said.

This semester is Willis's first semester taking education courses, where she meets other teaching majors. Her classmates share with her the passion to teach and help younger people. More than ever, Willis enjoys being part of an enthusiastic community where members understand and support one another.

"Nicole is a caring and passionate individual. She always cares about other people and are always willing to help them," Senior chemistry ACS major Hayley Lhotka shared.

Loving the closely-knitted bonds found in communities, Willis takes leadership roles in several campus organizations to build and support these communities. The Senior is one of the student leaders in United Christian Ministries and the Prepare Ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College. She plans and organizes their regular events such as Bible study, weekly meetings, the fall retreat, and more.

In the Gustavus Wind Symphony, Willis is the Section Leader of the Flute Section.

"[Willis] appears to be an introverted person, but many

people know her because of the way she interacts with them and always cares and supports them," Lhotka said.

Willis enjoys playing music at Gustavus Adolphus College as music brings the community together.

Because both music and faith are significant in her life, Willis really enjoys Vespers and the Winds of Christmas. The Winds of Christmas is when her orchestra plays Christmas music in Christ Chapel during Chapel break that day. Willis has played in the Winds of Christmas for the last three consecutive years and looks forward to the next one, which takes place on Tuesday, December 4 in Christ Chapel. These events are the opportunities for everyone to come join one another in celebration faith and tradition.

Last year, Willis represented her class in the Court of Saint Lucia. Willis was nominated and voted to be among the six members of the court. She loved the opportunity to learn about the tradition as well as her fellow court members. Together, they sang carols in most residence halls starting at 5 a.m., and then they celebrate the festival of Saint Lucia in Christ Chapel.

Taking on leadership roles in several communities, the Social Studies Teaching Major hopes to connect everyone and promotes love and care among Gusties. Honored as the Gustie of the Week, Willis has a message for other Gusties: "You are loved; you are doing a great job; and I believe in you."



Willis's passion for helping students learn drives her love of teaching. Katie Mattinen

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 us an email with 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 have them featured!

If your suggestion is selected, a representative from the Weekly will be in contact with them to move forward with the interview process.

the WEEK

& Carly Miller

Monali Bhakta
Staff Writer

One of the most well-rounded and intelligent young women apart of the Gustavus community is Carly Miller. She is a junior Biochemistry major and Spanish minor from Brainerd, Minnesota.

The reason why she chose to come here was because she primarily wanted to attend a private liberal arts college that reflected the strong community in her hometown. Out of all the colleges she toured, she thought Gustavus stood out for this particular reason. For the last few years, Miller has been thankful for all the great opportunities offered here.

In high school, Miller greatly enjoyed her Chemistry and Biology classes, so she was interested in doing something related to the sciences. "I realized that what I really enjoyed was the Chemistry that goes on within the body, and within Biological systems, so Biochemistry was a perfect fit for me. I want to go to medical school eventually, so it's also a good foundation going into that as well," Miller said.

In regards to her passion for Spanish, she previously travelled to Peru in high school which was a once in a lifetime opportunity for her. Spanish

was something she wanted to continue with because she had developed a strong foundation for the language. In fact, she is planning to study abroad this upcoming spring in Costa Rica. Miller is looking forward to interacting with her host family while immersing herself within the culture and improving her Spanish-speaking skills. In addition, she hopes to intern at a hospital there, so she can see first-hand how the healthcare system operates in a different country.

Here at Gustavus, Miller is a highly ambitious member of multiple successful student organizations. She is a Gustie Greeter and she enjoys participating in orientation weekend, meeting incoming first-years and helping them navigate college life as they first begin. "As a first year, I had a really amazing Greeter, and I overall had a good experience transitioning to college, so I knew that I wanted other incoming students to have that same great experience. I really value connecting with other people by being a role model that they can turn to whenever they have a question," Miller said.

Being apart of this group has also allowed her to receive training in diversity inclusion which she might not otherwise have. Miller values giving back to the Gustavus community, and

making sure that first-years feel like they are welcome in this entirely new environment. She is also a Coordinator for the Big Partner Little Partner program, where she practices her leadership by planning events and communicating with students.

Aside from building the substantial relationship with the same Little Partner for three years, she appreciates seeing the mentoring relationships that have flourished as a result of being in the organization. "In Big Partner, Little Partner, I have definitely learned to be more patient when working with my little partner...I think my little partner really helps me to be more creative and silly...she lets me be a little less serious once a week which is nice," Miller said.

She has carried her mentoring qualities over to her work as a Biology and Spanish tutor, also. Because she has tutored in wide range of areas, she has a versatile perspective on how to help students who need extra help in their classes. She finds personal fulfillment in providing assistance to her peers if they are struggling with a concept when she is able to explain something, and it finally clicks for them. It is amazing to witness the academic growth once they are able to understand a difficult topic.

Even though this is only a few hours in her week, it is a



Miller's career goal is to become a physician.

Ingrid Iverson



Miller has created long-lasting friendships after being nominated to the St. Lucia Court.

Submitted

rewarding experience for her. Miller also spends time in the music department as a flutist in the Gustavus Wind Orchestra. Last January, they toured Sweden and Norway where she was able to share marvelous musical memories her peers. She appreciates that she can devote her time to music even though she is not majoring in it.

One of her favorite annual events coming up next week is the Festival of St. Lucia. "That was so much fun to be apart of, and to be on the Court with some really amazing women who are talented leaders. It made me realize how Gusties value all of the important aspects, and expect everyone on the campus to support each other because they are willing to help one another out," Miller said. It reminded her of the long-lasting connections she has established with both faculty and students which will last a lifetime.

While she has taken full advantage of what is offered at the school, she believes there is always something that is yet to be explored. After she studies abroad next year, she hopes to come back with a fresh set of eyes where she can share astonishing insights that will benefit our understanding of the world.

Miller's end goal after Gustavus is to eventually become a physician. She firmly believes that a liberal arts perspective has allowed her to be a more well-rounded person.

This includes conducting scientific research in an intimate setting which she might not have been able to do at a larger institution.

The knowledge developed from her involvements have caused her to remain balanced, and focused on the values that make her a great leader. Miller is most excited that her younger sister will be following in her footsteps as she will be a first-year at Gustavus next fall.

"I hope that she and all of the other first years are able to find what they are most passionate about. Sometimes it takes a little time to figure out which organization to be involved in, and it's okay to explore different things to narrow down to what you're really interested in. Gustavus might not feel like home right away. It might take a little time; it's different for everyone, but I hope that eventually they'll all be able to find their place here and feel at home," Miller said.

Aune conducts his last Christmas in Christ Chapel

Corinne Stremmel
Features Editor

After 24 years of teaching at Gustavus, Dr. Gregory Aune will be retiring this year, meaning that this weekend Dr. Aune will be directing his last Christmas in Christ Chapel service. Aune says that even after 24 years of Christmas in Christ Chapel, each year manages to be unique in some way. Though each service requires months of planning and creative collaboration, the service remains to keep its focus around the story of Christ's birth. The mixture of art, both vocal and instrumental music, and dance are used to tell the story of Christmas as well as bring the college together to celebrate the arts.

Prior to Dr. Aune's teaching position on campus, Christmas in Christ Chapel has celebrated the Christmas story since 1973. Dr. Aune attributes the work of Richard Elvee, a former chaplain at Gustavus, for making Christmas in Christ Chapel the unique service that it is today.

After graduating from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, Aune taught at Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell, South Dakota then got a teaching job at Bethany College in Lindborg, Kansas and then received his position at Gustavus.

Dr. Aune relays several of the service's past themes, "The pro-

grams in the past have all been connected by a common thread," Dr. Aune said. Several programs have focused on countries and regions around the globe with two Swedish themed services, an African theme, one featuring Celtic music, and a French theme. Some themes are intended to relate to modern day challenges like the holy land conflict while one year called "Heaven and Nature Sing" focused on taking care of the Earth.

Once a theme is chosen, the directors have free range to choose any music they like as long as it coincides with the year's theme.

With this being Dr. Aune's last year, he has decided to choose some specific songs,

"This year I tried to pick music for the Gustavus choir, the choir I conduct, I kind of went back to some music I really like and wanted to do one last time," Dr. Aune said.

The planning process for Christmas in Christ Chapel can be extensive. For 2018's service, Dr. Aune had already started planning back in the summer of 2017.

Many times people have told Dr. Aune that their favorite part of Christmas in Christ Chapel is that the program stays true to the Christmas story. "It's a service, not a concert," Dr. Aune said. He feels that Gustavus' Christmas in Christ Chapel does an especially good job with staying true to the church service aspect of the program which other institutions do not necessarily do.

Dr. Aune feels that the service itself really connects with the students participating in the program. Dr. Aune says that though he isn't always closely involved with first-year students in choir, when they sing for him in the mass choir rehearsals, he likes finally getting to see the students' excitement and passion for singing.

"Sometimes when you ask student to think about college ten years after they graduate and say 'Think back on your time as Gustavus and what were the highlights?' For many, they say it is Christmas in Christ Chapel."

-Dr. Aune

Dr. Aune feels that students are glad to be a part of this creative experience. For some it's about the spirituality, other's it is the creativity. Music is typically seen as something that is a gift that can be given back to the community. "It's so gratifying to be a part of an artistic, creative endeavor," Dr. Aune said.

Seeing the investment students have in the opportunity to be involved in something that is bigger than themselves is something that Aune sees as a privilege. Dr. Aune also said he's glad that Gustavus uplifts Christmas in Christ Chapel along with the Nobel Conference and will miss being a part of an event that brings the whole college together.

Throughout his time teaching at Gustavus, Dr. Aune says he has

learned several things about himself and his career.

"I try to be a life long learner and that is something we hope Gustavus students leave with, so I try to get better at what I do in terms of my own professions."

He feels that he has learned that good things happen to you by investing your time and integrity in your professional work. Dr. Aune also says it's important to be humble. He wants the focus to be on the students in the choir.

"Yes, I'm a professor and conductor, but I've always viewed it as a collaboration with my students."

-Dr. Aune

He tells them that people come to hear the students sing, not see the director conduct.

Most of all, he believes that we should be grateful for our opportunities.

Christmas in Christ Chapel is one of these opportunities that not only combines the creative artistry of the students and staff involved in the production, but also manages to connect with the audience in an undoubtedly unique way.



Dr. Aune before a Christmas in Christ Chapel rehearsal

Ben Wick