

# THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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ISSUE 14

Spotlight on  
the Classics  
Department



VARIETY - PAGE 5

Early bird gets the  
weight room



OPINION - PAGE 11

Women's tennis  
undefeated in MIAC  
competitions



SPORTS - PAGE 16

## 24th annual Building Bridges conference addresses immigration in the land of opportunity



Julissa Arce is an author and immigration advocate, as well as a commentator and speaker. She was named one of People en Español's 25 Most Powerful Women of 2017.

Ingrid Iverson

**Elsa Beise**  
Staff Writer

Gustavus hosted the 24th annual Building Bridges Conference on Saturday, March 2, 2019 focusing on this year's theme of Immigration: Demolishing the Legacy of Bigotry in the Land of Opportunity.

There were workshops and a keynote address from Julissa Arce, as well as panels where the topic could be discussed even further, and an interactive piece for student engagement.

A tremendous amount of effort and work went into choosing a theme and building a meaningful and significant conference. Planning began before the 2018-2019 academic school year began.

"We started preliminary planning in the summer. That included choosing the topic for the conference, assembling an executive board, and pooling to-

gether a list of potential keynote speakers," one of this year's Building Bridges Co-Chairs, Senior Daniella Habib, said.

*"We [hoped] students can gain a new perspective on immigration and encourage them to critically think about modern immigration in the world today."*

*-Abbie Biegner*

The goal of the conference was to address immigration and how the immigration policy has been used to justify acts of racism and other acts of bigotry toward minorities in American society.

The set-up of the conference looked similar to last year but contained a different, relevant topic.

"The structure of the conference was consistent with years past. However, our co-chairs, Grace Tibben-Lemke and Daniella Habib, [got] the privilege of choosing a timely topic, so of course that changes every year with every new set of co-chairs. Our committee was 100 percent behind it and hit the ground running when it came to preparing for this conference," Graphic Design Chair, Junior Joy Dunna said.

Building Bridges members hoped that this conference will help students to gain new perspective and open up to talking about the topic.

"We [hoped] students can gain a new perspective on immigration and encourage them to critically think about modern immigration in the world today," Diversity Leadership

Council representative, Junior Abbie Biegner, said.

They also hoped students feel inspired to take action after attending the conference.

"We do Building Bridges because we want to spark larger discussions, critical thinking, and long-term activism for whatever you may be passionate about," Habib said.

In addition to sparking action amongst students and young people, Habib also commented on the aim that Building Bridges takes to build confidence in individuals and their power of influence in the world.

"The overall purpose of Building Bridges is to inspire others and give them a set of tools that allow them to be effective advocates in their own right and dispel any notions that each of us as individuals can't make a difference in creating positive social change," Habib said.

This event allowed students to engage with informed indi-

viduals on the topic in order to have important conversations with their peers about a topic that affects both our nation and the world at large.

"In terms of the topic itself, immigration has been a central and hot button issue in the national political sphere and as a global issue, and we should all be informed about it. This conference [offered] attendees a more personal understanding of our country's history of immigration, the development of U.S. immigration policy, and present-day issues in our system. Through education, we are able to invite one another to participate in dialogue to reach deeper compassion and understanding for the people our country continues to dehumanize," Habib said.

**"Building Bridges" continued on page 4**

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## Campus Safety Report

### Monday, February 25

- Campus Safety detected the odor of marijuana while patrolling Rundstrom Hall. Two students were referred to the Campus Conduct System.
- A student reported that his windshield wipers had been stolen off his car.
- Campus Safety performed a welfare check in Sorensen Hall.
- Campus Safety and Res Life Staff responded to a odor of marijuana in Gibbs Hall. Campus Safety referred one student to the Campus Conduct System.

### Tuesday, February 26

- No incidents reported.

### Wednesday, February 27

- Campus Safety responded to a report of college property damage in Lund center.
- A CF was completing rounds in Sohre Hall and twice a student was being loud after quiet hours.

### Thursday, February 28

- No incidents reported

### Friday, March 1

- An employee called to report the theft of a Gustavus laptop. The laptop was stolen from out of state.

### Saturday, March 2

- On Saturday, March 2, 2019, at 2258 hours, campus safety responded to a medical assist in Lund Center, a non-student was taken to Rivers Edge by ambulance.

### Sunday, March 3

- On Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 1403 hours, Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm at Rundstrom Hall.
- Campus Safety and Res Life Staff responded to an odor of marijuana in College View apartments. Campus Safety referred one student to the Campus Conduct System.

**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:

Winter Weather and Pedestrian Safety... Please be aware of pedestrian safety during the snow and ice season. Always wear proper footwear with good traction and look at the walking surface ahead of you.

Keep your eyes and ears alert to what's going on around you. Use sidewalks that have already been cleared when available. If you are coming out from behind a snowbank, stop first and check to see if it is safe.

You may be less visible because of snow piles or glare off

of the snow. Vehicles will have a harder time stopping on slippery surfaces. Stay away from roads and sidewalks when snow removal equipment is trying to clear the snow and as they treat the road and sidewalk surfaces.

Be aware that snow removal equipment moves backwards, forwards and may turn sharply. Do not walk in front of or directly behind snow removal equipment! Make sure drivers see you by making eye contact and wait for them to pass before crossing.

Contact Physical Plant (x7504) to report slippery areas or those that need to be cleared. Contact Campus Safety (x8888) immediately if you may have been injured in a slip and fall injury.

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# PASO celebrates black culture with Africa Week

## Five days of events lead up to the annual Africa Night

**Emily VanGorder**  
Staff Writer

Next Monday marks the beginning of Africa Week, an annual event which serves to educate and celebrate Pan-Africanism and black culture.

The week leading up to Africa Night is full of events and discussion, and culminates on Friday, March 15 with Africa Night, where students will perform art in a variety of mediums that demonstrate the similarities and differences within Pan-Africanism. Authentic cuisine from different African countries will be provided.

"The idea of having an African Night in itself has a desired impact on the campus community... inviting the campus community to celebrate with PASO... is expected to get people reflecting on the meaning of "diversity"—a term that is used so often, but which is also interpreted in so many ways," Paschal Kyoore, Professor in LALACS, said.

The events of the week are being hosted by the Pan-African Student Organization (PASO).

"PASO members are inviting the community to have meaningful conversations that day on a continent that is too marginalized to have meaningful conversations," Kyoore said.

DeAnna Giles, one of the co-chairs for Africa Night, wants to promote and educate people about PASO and the African Diaspora.

"This year we wanted to not only branch out to other areas of Africa because it is a huge

continent but we also wanted to include the Caribbean's because they are a part of the African American culture as well," Giles said.

"It was one of those big budget events I looked forward to every year... the event was highly anticipated. Looking back, Africa Night was important to a community... African associations from St. Olaf and Macalester visited our Africa Night... it was important to a community, linking many... without sports or competition," Baseme Osuamkpe, a Gustavus alumna from the class of 2015, said.

*"Inviting the campus community to celebrate with PASO... is expected to get people reflecting on the meaning of diversity, a term that is used so often but which is also interpreted in so many ways."*

*-Paschal Kyoore*

"I got my first runway experience strutting down the runway every year in Africa Night. I also helped with the skits as well," Osuamkpe said.

Africa Week day one will host "What does my black look like?" with PASO discussing what being black means and "how we view the world through our own cultural lens



Food from West and East Africa will be prepared and served at the Africa Night celebration hosted by the Pan-African Student Organization.

Creative Commons

despite us being viewed as simply black people," the organization said.

Day two will feature a dance class exploring West African rhythms and hip hop. Day three will follow with an evening of making wrist beads and getting to know the members of PASO at Gustavus.

Day four will feature an open mic night before the final Africa Week celebration on day five.

"[The event is] central... to many, it was a big production that was extremely engaging and entertaining. It gave a small glimpse of the beauty and diversity within Africa," Osuamkpe said.

"[This year's theme of Black Eminence] is inspired by the history of Pan-Africanism, and the contributions of African peoples to civilization in its multiple forms and meanings," Kyoore said.

"I participated in all my four years and no two Africa Nights were ever the same. There's so much culture, different cuisine to try, different dance to experience, different voices to hear that represented the ever-evolving regions of Africa" Osuamkpe said.

"As a first generation Nigerian American from Houston, Texas... it was like a homecoming of sorts. I remember eating

jollof rice and fried chicken my first year and feeling the embrace I had so missed from my family after being away for so long," Osuamkpe said.

In the future, Kyoore would "like to see the tradition of good attendance of Africa Night continue... I would like to see those numbers increase every year."

"I am always surprised to see so much faculty in attendance. It sparks conversations and relationships with some professors that I am still in contact with today," Osuamkpe said.



The Africa Week celebration will feature dancing and singing influenced by Africa and the Caribbean cultures.

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# Three-time World Poetry Slam finalist Natasha T. Miller gives spoken word show

**DeAnna Giles**  
Staff Writer

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) hosted a spoken word performance that was “life changing,” Sophomore Culture and Diversity Executive Tyra Banks said. Natasha T. Miller, a Detroit, Michigan native, three-time Women of the World Poetry Slam finalist, author, and film producer presented her show to Gustavus students from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. this past Wednesday, March 6, 2019 in the Courtyard Café. Miller is the author of two books titled *Dreams of a Beginner* and *Coming Out of Nowhere*, which are social networking memoirs about homosexuality, religion, and cyberbullying.

Last year, CAB members at-

*“Spoken word is a very powerful medium.*

*Words can evoke so many emotions while also addressing some pretty heavy topics.”*

*-Emily Scroggins*

tended the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) regional conference. The conference provided educational programs and services for college and university students. Miller was an emcee for a showcase and also showcased a few of her poetry pieces. “When I saw her perform at the conference, I had chills because it was so amazing,” Arts and Entertain-

ment Executive Junior Emily Scroggins said. Scroggins noticed the people attending the conference were really engaged and invested in Miller’s stories. She also perceived the reactions of others to be impressed with Miller’s ability to use words to express complex emotions. “Miller makes you see things from a different perspective. I [was] very excited,” Banks said.

Scroggins thought it would be nice to have someone speak to the students at Gustavus about topics such as these in a different and creative way other than in a lecture setting. Miller spoke about personal experiences such as raising her nephew and captured political statements such as Black Lives Matter. CAB wants to provide students with a wide variety of events with different speakers each year while making sure to include and represent students and/or topics that are often underrepresented.

“I think it is important we have representation from different aspects and Miller represents two different aspects: being a black woman and a part of the LGBTQ community,” Banks said. Miller’s purpose is to create change and peace like many other great leaders.

This might have been the first time you have heard about Miller, or maybe you have been an active follower like Banks. Spoken word is different from traditional poetry as it relates to current issues. “Spoken word is a very powerful medium. Words can evoke so many emotions while also addressing some pretty heavy topics,” Scroggins said. “The spoken word piece by Miller presents the opportunity to understand



Natasha T. Miller is an author and has published two books regarding cyberbullying, religion, and homosexuality.

Katie Mattinen

what spoken word poetry is and will give a sense of encouragement by her speaking about issues we all might face in our lifetime,” Banks said.

Spoken word provided Miller the necessary resources to deal with life trials and get through the tough times of life. “Poetry is another outlet for me where I am able to navigate things like breakups and grief, and talk about being a queer black woman, and other things that are hard to navigate in the real world if you don’t have something like poetry or an outlet,” Miller said.

“Miller encompasses a lot

of different things she goes through as a black woman and being a part of the LGBTQ community and just hearing her experiences and how she dealt with those obstacles will give a wide range of how to view things,” Banks said.

Miller performed a range of topics at the NACA conference and members of CAB hoped the type of issues presented in the show can really resonate with people. “I hope to learn how to process your emotions, especially for things that are out of my realm of experience, and be able to connect through words with her experience,” Scroggins

said. “As CAB members, we hope people can see the inter-

*“I think it is important we have representation from different aspects and Miller represents two different aspects: being a black woman and a part of the LGBTQ community.”*

*-Tyra Banks*



Grace Tibben-Lembke is one of the co-chairs of the Build-

## “Building Bridges” continued from page 1

The speakers spoke about the informational topic, as well as added a personal touch to the subject based on their own experiences. Keynote speaker Julissa Arce, an immigrant rights advocate and author of the book *“My (Underground) American Dream,”* was an example of this.

*“In terms of the topic itself, immigration has been a central and hot button issue in the national political sphere and as a global issue, and we should all be informed about it.”*

*-Daniella Habib*

“Julissa Arce was definitely my favorite part of Building

Bridges, as she spoke about her own story and the seriousness of the issue of immigration, while still keeping everyone laughing,” Senior Courtney Erickson said.

Students who attended the conference seemed to gain a lot from the information and discussions through the speakers and panels.

“It was super beneficial for me to hear an immigrant’s story and be able to understand more about the process of what it takes to become a United States citizen and the hardships that immigrants face in day to day life,” Junior Ingrid Bassinger said.

Bassinger also appreciated the choice in a such a pertinent topic.

“I think the topic was extremely relevant to what is going on in our country today,” Bassinger said.

The work put into the conference by the Building Bridges committee did not go unnoticed and it made for an all around informational, memorable, and successful event.

sectionality of things especially with Miller being a person of color and also in the LGBTQ community,” Scroggins said.

“Miller brought a personalized stage presence that you do not see often and I really liked her energy,” Senior Ryan Ragoonanan said. “Who I am in everyday life, I bring to the stage and I try to keep that,” Miller said.

# Classical Studies: Changes for the better

Anh Tran  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Adolphus College faculty members are proudly and diligently working day by day to enrich and evolve their offering of majors and minors, from Physics to Communications Studies.

These majors have been parts of the Gustavus Curriculum since the beginning and they help maintain many different values at Gustavus.

When it comes to the humanities majors, the Classics claims an indispensable position.

"The purpose of our program is to introduce students to the many fascinating aspects of ancient Greek and Roman history, language, and culture. Students gain a broad, historical perspective from our courses and are able to place modern concepts, events, and issues into a broader cultural context," Yurie Hong, Chair of Greek, Roman and Classical Studies said.

With the diverse topics that students can easily integrate into their daily experience, the Classics courses attract many Gusties.

*"It's cool to be able to connect your own experience and perspective with people from a very different time, place, and culture than your own."*

-Professor Yurie Hong

Among these courses is Myth and Meaning, one of the most popular courses that fulfill the Literary and Rhetorical Studies (LARS) general education credit. Myth and Meaning is an exciting introduction to an even much more exciting field of scholarly work—that of the classical studies.

Surveying the major gods and heroes of ancient Greek and Roman mythology, Myth and Meaning facilitates small group discussions among a large number of students.

One section of Myth and Meaning typically houses over seventy-five students sitting around the large lecture hall in the Confer-Vickner building. This setting resembles that of the ancient Greek theater, offering students the physical experience of the passing of ancient knowledge.

With equipped audio and sound systems, the classroom is always lively with discussions of mythology and especially how it serves as such a powerful medium carrying the evolving meanings and values throughout the history of humanity.

Those who further pursue the classical studies will have the opportunity to examine



One of the most popular courses in the Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies department is "Myth and Meaning."

Katie Mattinen

more closely topics with more specific focuses, ranging from courtroom oratory to ancient Greek athletics and medicine.

The class sizes also grow smaller as the levels of the courses increase. Gusties who would like to delve into such a broad field of study should consider exploring classes in the major.

Professor Hong noted the many benefits of studying the classics. "First of all, there's just a lot of really interesting material and it's cool to be able to connect your own experience and perspective with people from a very different time, place, and culture than your own. Secondly, because so many artists, writers, leaders, etc. explicitly make reference to ancient art, literature, concepts, etc., students with knowledge of ancient Greece and Rome means that students are able to gain a much deeper understanding of whatever it is they're thinking about," Professor Hong said.

Outside of the coursework, students of the classics immerse themselves in a wide variety of activities.

"Students have many opportunities to conduct research, travel abroad, participate in archaeological digs, and get

funding to pursue their own independent projects through the Flory-Freiert Fellowship. We host a lot of fun events, as well, from barbecues at faculty members' houses every semester, departmental teas, an annual Roman banquet, trips to the Cities to see ancient-themed plays, and movie and game nights," Professor Hong said.

Professor Hong could not help but express her love for her student majors and describe them as "a great group of fun and intellectually curious students, who are engaged in many aspects of campus life. It's a very tight knit group that hangs out together and supports one another. They're great at drawing connections between their various passions, daily lives, and areas of study, and I think they're pretty astute readers of modern culture and politics for all of these reasons".

For those wondering the career possibilities, the Classics major will not disappoint them as this major trains and prepares its scholar in a myriad of ways and for a myriad of occupations.

"Knowledge of ancient languages and cultures provides students with the conceptual

and analytical skills to succeed in a range of careers, including medicine, seminary, law, non-profit work, business, journalism, government work, basically any type of work you can think of," Professor Hong said.

*"It's a very tight knit group that hangs out together and supports one another. They're great at drawing connections between their various passions, daily lives, and areas of study, and I think they're pretty astute readers of modern culture and politics for all of these reasons."*

-Professor Yurie Hong

Last but not least, the Department of Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies, formerly known as the Department of Classics, are going through radical changes to open the program's access to more students.

"There are a lot of exciting changes afoot in our department that we hope will make it easier for students to find and engage with our major. For example, we've changed our name to "Department of Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies" so it will be clearer what we're about, and we've introduced a new major: Ancient Greek Studies, which only requires 3 semesters of language but emphasizes courses in English, to make our major even more accessible to all students. Finally, we've revamped almost all of our classes to provide more opportunities for students to think about the diversity and relevance of the ancient world to today, such as 'Democracy: Then and Now', 'Daily Life in Rome and Pompeii', 'Greece and Rome On Screen,' and 'Ancient and Modern Identities.' We're really excited about these changes and know that there's something that will be of interest to any student across campus," Professor Hong said.

# GUSTIES of Nora Mohamed



One of Nora's goals is to become a kindergarten teacher.

Luke Laurich

**Monali Bhakta**  
Staff Writer

One of the most genuine and sweet souls roaming the halls of the Campus Center is none other than sophomore, Norhan "Nora" Mohamed. She is from Bloomington, Minnesota, and currently studying Elementary Education as her major. Nora chose to be an Elementary Education major because of her previous experience working with kids since fifth grade.

She enjoyed serving as a mentor, working at summer camps, and being around such lively little ones. The main learning lesson she has gained from being a student in the Education Program is mistakes are essential for personal growth, and future educators can use those to improve teaching in the future.

"My peers are really awesome, and I get along with everyone really well. The pros are just amazing, and they care about their students so much which is really awesome." Besides her field of study, Nora is also an incredibly active member of the Gustavus community. In terms of her involvement in music, she is a singer in the Gustavus Choir, Gustavus Women's A-Cappella, Social Justice Choir, and Vocal Jazz.

Nora appreciates how music unites the community by truly feeling at home, while also having the chance to spend time with compassionate, caring individuals passionate about the arts. The premise of Social Justice Choir is to sing about experiences which certain in-

dividuals or groups have gone through based on classic or contemporary pieces.

This year, the topic is focusing on the LGBTQ movement. Aside from her musical endeavors, she is also a member of "A Moment of Magic," a non-profit organization that allows college-aged students to dress as Disney characters, and volunteer at children's hospitals and homes. They provide creative programming for children who are medically vulnerable and are in need hopefully putting a smile on their faces. Nora dons the costume of Princess Jasmine from *Aladdin*.

"Seeing the reaction of the kids when you're in the costume is really special. Some of the parents have told us that their child does not really approach people, but then they'll come up and give us a hug once they see us, so that's really powerful." Some notable events she has participated in are the Juvenile Arthritis Walk, and the Walk to End Autism. Nora describes the important life lessons she has gained from being a Gustie these past two years.

This includes becoming more comfortable and confident with her identity by being surrounded by uplifting, positive people. She recounts the difficulty of branching out in high school, so being able to express herself in an open environment is what she cherishes here. One of the main reasons why she came to Gustavus was for the reputable choir program, but also the kind heartedness nature of the campus.

She hopes to use her knowledge and expertise to become a

kindergarten teacher, and will eventually work towards getting her Master's a few years later. Though she is open-minded about the road ahead, she hopes to use her communication skills when she interacts with professionals. Her passion to be a kindergarten teacher lies in using education to make a positive, heartwarming influence in a child's life at a young age.

"Kindergarten's really cool because it's the starting of [the kids'] school career as [we're] setting them up for success for the rest of their lives. The main things I really want to stress in my classroom is it's a safe space, and I want everyone to be kind to one another. If you teach them that at a young age, hopefully it follows them throughout the rest of their schooling."

Nora truly believes in the beauty of others by spreading the light amongst everyone she encounters. She loves to explore beyond what she is apart of by attending a diverse range of music concerts and theatre performances, while also celebrating multicultural events like Hmong New Year. As a thoughtful, dedicated individual, she has made her mark by making the most of her college experience. In regards to advice for incoming students and first-years, "Don't be afraid to be yourself. Just come into college with a fresh start, and a fresh mindset. Also, stay focused and determined because you're a student which is easy to forget sometimes when you're transitioning. I definitely forgot that at times, but just remember that you have friends and resources to support you."

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](mailto:weekly@gustavus.edu) for a chance to be featured!

A representative from the Gustavian Weekly will be in contact with you via email if your suggestion is chosen to be featured in an issue of the paper.



Nora participates in Gustavus's Social Justice Choir.

Luke Laurich

# the WEEK

## & Stella Hadjiyanis

Lily Winter  
Staff Writer

Touring Gustavus as a senior high school student from Edina, Minnesota, Sophomore

Communication Studies Major Stella Hadjiyanis never expected to fall so hard.

"My tour guide was an international student majoring in music education but had never done music before Gustavus." Stella said. "I thought it was so inspiring that at Gustavus you didn't need a super heavy background in a certain field to get started and follow your passions."

Stella was also impressed by the work-life balance she saw stressed throughout her tour. "I loved the community here, especially in a liberal-arts setting. To me, it is so important to balance classes, extra-curriculars, relationships, and self-care, and I really wanted to find a place that would allow me to do all those things."

True to her word, as soon Stella entered Gustavus in the fall of 2017 she began actively pursuing a liberal arts education that would allow her to follow all her passions. While Stella is a Communication Studies Major, she is also pursuing a double minor in French and Film and Media Studies with an emphasis on Studio Art. Stella has been studying French for over thirteen years since entering a

French immersion program at six years old but took a three-year hiatus to learn American Sign Language. Now at Gustavus, Stella is excited to pursue the language again, as it has helped her on her trips abroad, which have included trips to France, Switzerland, Cyprus, England, and Greece.

Stella's liberal arts mindset doesn't pertain to just academics but applies to her standpoint on extracurriculars as well. "The most important thing that incoming Gusties can do is get involved," Stella said. "But don't spread yourself too thin. There are so many amazing organizations on campus it is easy to sign up for them all. That's what I did my first year, and I had to learn to choose a few activities that were really important to me."

Ever an overachieving Gustie, Stella's 'few activities' include participating in Gustavus Women in Leadership as well as serving as the Vice President of Mentoring with Tate Peterson, working as a Gustie Guide, volunteering as the Social Media Coordinator for the Campus Activities Board for a few semesters, singing in Vocal Jazz, the Social Justice Choir, volunteering as a Gustie Ambassador, helping ignite the Gustavus chapter of College Guides, and working in the fine arts department.

While Stella says it is impossible to choose a favorite organization, she will always have

a special place in her heart for College Guides. Founded last year, College Guides looks to serve historically underprivileged students at the high school level, encouraging them to apply for a college education. Last year, Stella served two schools in the greater Minneapolis/St. Paul area, connecting with about forty students. Teaching her high school students how to utilize very important to Stella, who walked her students through the FAFSA as well as scholarship applications. Stella has always had a passion for working with others and hopes to extend College Guides to more high schools in Minnesota, so more youth can have the opportunity to go to college. Right now, College Guides is able to reach students in the cities because the mentor/mentee program is hosted through online communications, but one day Stella hopes to be able to connect with her students in person.

"Being Greek Orthodox and a minority at Gustavus," Stella said, "I am really able to relate to my students and I think that helps them become more confident in what can be a tough time."

A fellow member of one of Stella's organizations, Gustavus Women in Leadership, Junior Communication Studies Major Ella Garry says, "I've seen Stella grow to be more confident and passionate about all the organizations she's involved in. She brings an engaging spirit to all



Stella has been studying French for over thirteen years.

Katie Mattinen

the Gustavus Women in Leadership meetings and events that really bring the group together."

In her free time, when she is not participating in her various organizations or taking Communication Studies classes in Beck, you might find Stella creating art. "I love painting," Stella said. "All things; painting, singing, dancing. After my internship in the Marketing and Communications Department, I discovered that I love learning about graphic design. I have only taken a few art classes, but you can always find me in the music building or painting in my room."

While Stella has enjoyed the art and media classes she has taken for her minor, such as Video Art, she also discovered her love of courses outside of her direct major. "There will always be classes I want to take!" Stella said. "Last semester I took Women and US History. Before this class, history was never really my thing, but Professor Misty Harper is so wonderful and so passionate, it really gave me a new perspective on history and allowed me to talk about events I already knew about, only in a new light." Right now, Stella is enjoying Rhetorical Criticism as well as Astronomy.

Whenever you see Stella on campus, don't be afraid to say hi. "My favorite thing about Stella is her ability to be there for anyone who needs it and putting smiles on faces across campus!" said close friend Sophomore Elementary Education Major, Nora Mohamed. "She is very caring and such a ball of sunshine and joy. I was at the state fair with my family the summer before my first year at Gustavus and heard someone scream my name. Stella and I followed each other on social media but had never met before. She ran up to me and gave me the biggest hug and at that moment I knew we would be friends!"

Inspired by her own introduction to Gustavus, Stella is now a Gustie Guide and enjoys showing others the school that won her heart.



Stella serves as the Vice President of Mentoring for Gustavus Women in Leadership.

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