

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Brett DeFries

Elsa Beise
Staff Writer

The English Department and the Gustavus community has welcomed a new member of their team this academic year, Visiting Associate Professor of English Brett DeFries.

DeFries is our Gustie of the Week because he is a new face around campus and many are excited about his own approach to teaching different English courses at Gustavus.

DeFries is originally from Topeka, Kansas and attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota and has been living in Minneapolis for the past two years. DeFries went on to continue his education throughout the country.

"I received an MFA in poetry from the University of Montana, and I have an MA and a PhD in literature from the University of Iowa. In particular I study lyric poetry in Renaissance England," DeFries said.

In his free time, DeFries loves to spend time outside, continue his love for English and be with his family.

"In my free time I love to write, read poetry, go for long walks around lakes, spend time with people, play with my cat Stevie, and watch The Bachelor franchises and the British real-

ity series Love Island with my wife," DeFries said.

DeFries is teaching Shakespeare and Arthurian Literature courses this fall.

"I love talking about literature and finding connections between a text, its original context, and the context in which it is presently read."

DeFries is already sharing his passion for teaching with students and is excited to continue his profession in this department.

"I like teaching English because I don't see reading and writing as purely solitary activities. They are, or at their best they are, social, civic, and political activities. I love talking about literature and finding connections between a text, its original context, and the context in which it is presently read," DeFries said.

This way of looking at litera-

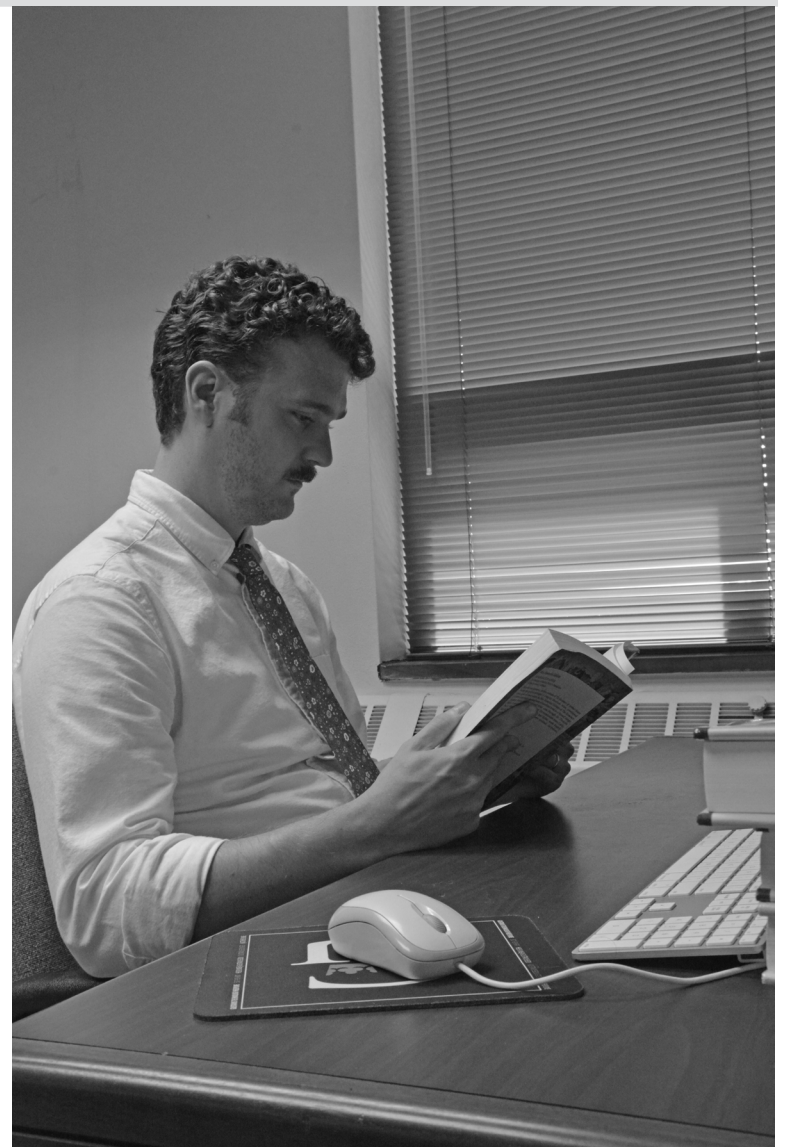
ture allows students to think of the bigger picture instead of just simply reading the text.

"In other words, I love reading Shakespeare; I love talking about Shakespeare; I love thinking about how Renaissance readers and audiences encountered and understand Shakespeare, and I love thinking about how current readers and audiences encounter and understand Shakespeare today. Is the line from Shakespeare to now a line of pure progress, or can our encounters with "old" literature reveal our own values and blind-spots to ourselves as much as it reveals the values and blind-spots of the time in which it was written?" DeFries said.

Associate Professor of English Sean Cobb was involved in the hiring process and is excited about the addition of DeFries in the department. Cobb is eager for students to welcome DeFries into the Gustavus community.

"I think I'm most excited for students to get to know DeFries and to make him feel comfortable here. I know he's a great teacher and I think it would be wonderful for the students to make him feel comfortable as he starts his new position," Professor Cobb said.

When Professor Cobb was getting to know DeFries during the hiring process, he was



DeFries enjoys writing and spending time with his wife during his free time.

Katie Mattinen

struck by DeFries' intelligence and stand-out personality.

When asked about what stood out to Professor Cobb during the hiring process about DeFries, Cobb replied that "A combination of intelligence and personality that shows [DeFries] can teach at Gustavus and contribute to the community,".

DeFries is excited to work at Gustavus, especially because of the positivity and interest that students show for their education.

"I'm excited to be teaching

at Gustavus Adolphus College, because the students are eager and enthusiastic," DeFries said.

He continued to share that his excitement was also due to the courses he gets to teach and the inclusion he has already felt:

"[The college] let me teach what I love. I also feel very welcome both in the college as a whole and by my colleagues in the English department," DeFries said.



This semester, DeFries is teaching courses on Shakespeare and Arthurian literature.

Katie Mattinen

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

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

A first look at Nobel's new theatre space

Ted Blenkush
Staff Writer

While the expansion of Nobel Hall has created new opportunities for students to pursue their scientific ventures, a burgeoning theatre facility will weave the arts into these developments.

Entering through two sets of double-doors from the north side of Nobel Hall, the wide and clean Anderson Theatre lobby greets students, faculty, visitors, and the ongoing perusal of yellow-vested construction workers.

Splitting the middle of the space are colorful and cushioned seats, unevenly spaced between two massive red pillars. To the right is the familiar light-toned brick of Anderson Theatre. To the left is a new, uniform wall of beige, wood, lights, and four flat-screen television screens.

The descending pitch of steam and the clattering of coffee paraphernalia is emitted from around the corner. Floor-to-ceiling windows on both ends of the corridor flood the area with sunlight and offer views of the various commutes.

Immediately to the left of the North entrance is a single door that leads to the Laboratory Theatre, a venue for "reimagining performance in the 21st century by promoting cutting-edge collaboration and innovation between the sciences, theatre, and dance," the Gustavus facility website describes.

Currently, the performance area is expansive, flat, and black all over. Rows of lights and catwalks dominate the ceiling. Multiple sets of curtains hang unextended and tall. A sliver of windows in the top corner reveals the control room.

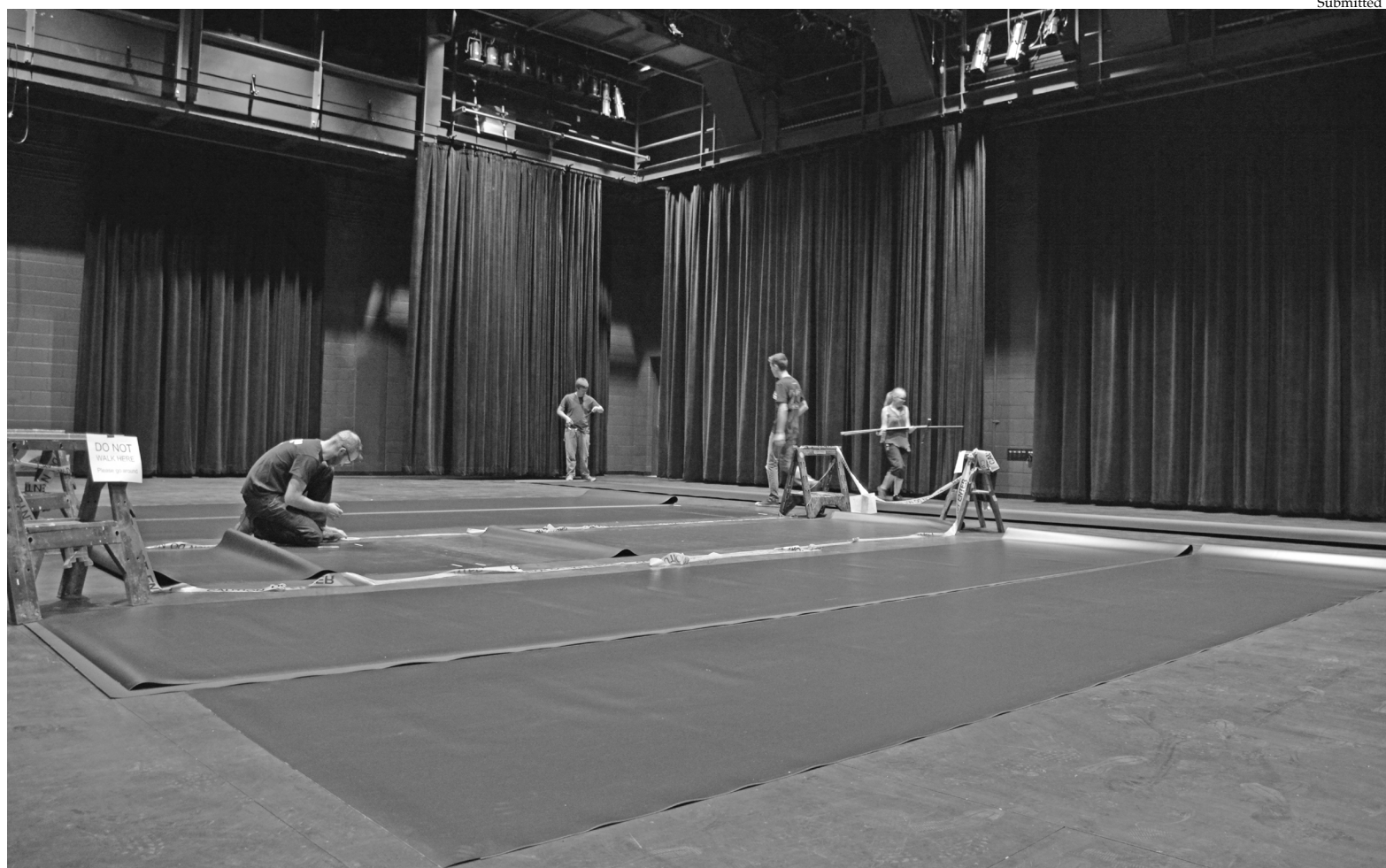
The goal of the finished theatre will be flexibility and inclusivity; students from every artistic branch and beyond will be able to utilize the space for expression. The theatre will be configurable into Proscenium, Thrust, In-The-Round, and Galley styles. Risers will be hauled in to seat a maximum audience of 177.

Buffering the theatre from the parking lot is a maintenance and shop area. The demeanor of the room is supplied by a variety of items: both vacant and unopened cardboard boxes of supplies; sets of multi-colored Jorestech safety glasses; an extensive handwritten thank-you note attached to a pencil on a table; and a large, patchy, impermanent set of wooden doors leading outside that allow for deliveries. An empty, unlit office contains only a few things, but is occupied by an incomplete, standing skeleton that was acquired at some point during the cleansing of the older Nobel sections. The skeleton is wearing a tan cowboy hat that is tilted down and operates as a legal hardhat.

Assistant Professor of Theater and Dance Terena Wilkens has been directing the cultivation of the Laboratory Theatre



Submitted



Submitted

Top: The Nobel Black Box as pictured in May of 2019, while undergoing construction. Bottom: Theater crew works to prepare the Nobel Black Box for use in the coming months.

and the greater expansions. Wilkens has worked on the project committee, in the capacity she described as uniquely non-scientific. Advancing the Nobel theme of STEAM-science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics has been an illuminating mission.

While discussing the combination of these buildings, there was an early realization of symmetry between the traditional STEM fields and the performance arts.

"In science," Wilkens said,

"they research things, they experiment with things, they explore things, they try different ideas."

"All of that is really what we're doing," Wilkens said, "but we use our bodies, and lighting instruments, and vocals."

The Laboratory Theatre will be conducive to bright and diverse human animation with the help of the finest technology that Gustavus could acquire. Mobility and networking are prominent characteristics of the new facilities.

The control and dimmer rooms contain a myriad of portable equipment. Plastic crates of black audio cables lean stacked against each other next to wheeled metal cabinets with rows and rows of flickering modems. iPads are fastened to a wall, ready to be removed and used on the go.

Other additions include a green room on the main floor and separate rooms for laundry, storage, and costume design in the basement. Many of the spaces are intended for class-

room and teaching use. Rosco Adagio marley flooring is being installed for a permanent dance site.

The grand opening of the Laboratory Theatre will be in February.

An official name for the theatre will be released at that time, and the first show will be created in consultation with The Moving Company out of Minneapolis.

Feminist Fika: Catching up with GWSS

Anh Tran
Staff Writer

At the beginning of every semester, the Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) program organizes a casual gathering with coffee and donuts. This creates a time and space for faculty members, students, and administrators who are interested in the GWSS program to socialize and share their work.

"Last year, the GWSS program decided to have a feminist coffee hour, where three or four faculty members presented little snapshots of their research. We had coffee and donuts, but we didn't have much time for conversation," GWSS Professor and Program Director Jill Locke said.

When the time came for feminist coffee hour this year, the department decided on a shift in the event's focus.

"[GWSS members] talked about trying to do something like that again this year, and we decided to try a 'feminist fika,' to make it more about the conversation rather than about presenting research," Locke said.

By naming the event "Feminist Fika," GWSS invites all who are interested in the pro-



Organizers plan to schedule "Feminist Fika" each month in different spaces. Submitted

gram to stop by and take a break and have a little chat. It's a way to encourage the community to come together.

Originating from Swedish traditions, fika has become more than just a coffee

break. It has become a sacred ritual, to which a community feels inclined to partake.

Furthermore, fika is an enjoyable and necessary break that allows participants to decompress for a more pro-

ductive and energized day.

"Fika is a Swedish term. You can't fika alone. You always have to do it in the company of one another. In the workplace in Sweden, people usually do it around ten in the morning and around two thirty in the afternoon. Everyone takes a break and leaves their desk. Everyone gathers and does not talk about work. It's not a work meeting, but rather a time to step away, refresh, and come back to work," Scandinavian Studies and GWSS Professor Kjerstin Moody explained.

The term "feminist" distinguishes this fika from other fika events organized by other organizations on campus.

This renaming highlights the event's sponsorship by the GWSS program.

"It was about creating a sense of community among those who are active and interested in GWSS. Anyone can pop in; everyone is welcome. Bring friends," Moody said.

"[Feminist Fika attendees] didn't talk about work. I think it's a part of the fika tradition that it's not a place to go continue your meeting; it's supposed to be a true break. [Feminist Fika] had a nice mix of students, faculty, and

administrators," Locke said.

Feminist Fika is not only for GWSS faculty and major/minors, but also for those from all around campus, including professors, administrators, and students.

"Feminist Fika is a great chance to hear about what everyone associated with GWSS is up to: students, staff, and faculty. Plus, it's a warm and friendly group, and the chance to socialize with folks who are engaged in GWSS-related work is wonderful," Director of International and Cultural Education Roger Adkins shared.

"We're happy to receive so much support from so many different corners of campus," Locke said.

With the good turnout, GWSS is drawing future plans to promote the Feminist Fika.

According to Locke, the program plans to schedule the Feminist Fika monthly in varying locations to make it available to faculty and students associated with GWSS all over campus.

"I think the Feminist Fika is an ever-evolving institution that can accommodate a lot of things. I think the possibilities are pretty unlimited," Adkins said.

Tales from abroad: Jeff La Frenierre

Grace Worwa
Staff Writer

At first glance, braving the glacial landscape of the European Alps might not seem like a typical summer pastime, but that's exactly what Assistant Professor in Geography and Environmental Studies Jeff La Frenierre did in July 2019.

As lead faculty of this past summer's IEX course, La Frenierre was joined by nine students on a hike along the Alps from Chamonix, France to Innsbruck, Austria.

From scaling walls of ice to daylong trudges across miles of glacier, the trip certainly posed a physical challenge.

However, according to La Frenierre, the challenge was welcome because it allowed students to grow into themselves.

"I wanted students to be more comfortable with their own abilities in these environments," La Frenierre said.

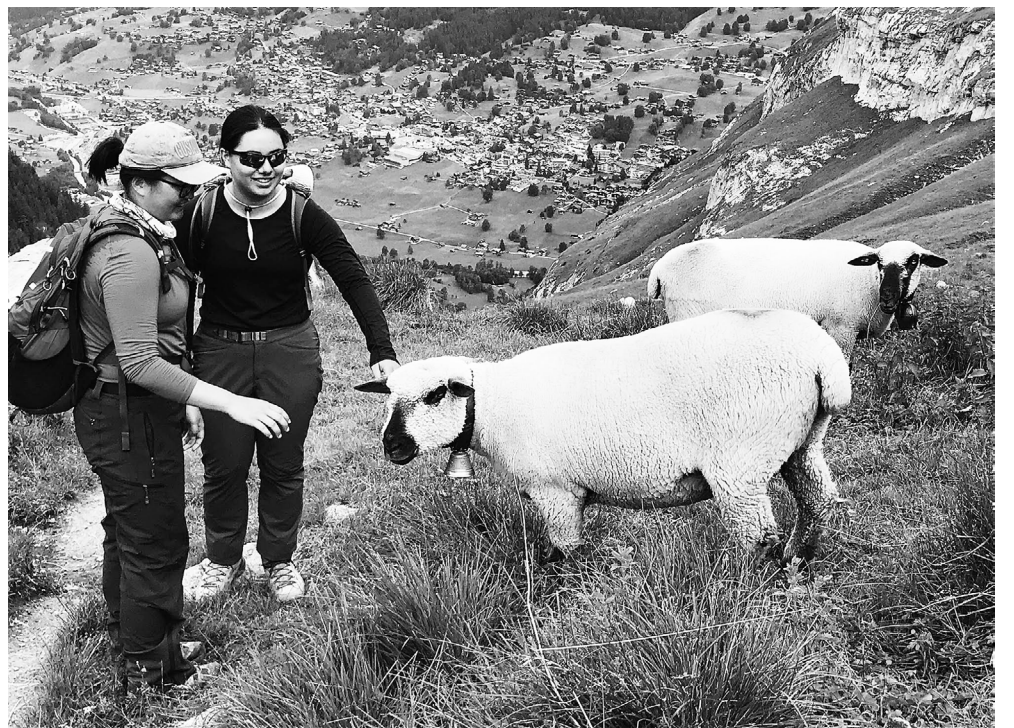
Throughout the hike, students not only used scientific methods to study glacier change, but applied other fields of study as well.

"We got to do actual physical science work," La Frenierre explained, but "we [also] sat up on top of this mountain that's about 11,000 feet high and looked out on this glacial landscape and learned how to paint our story of glaciers."

This was all part of the interdisciplinary approach to interpreting glacier change that he wanted to teach the students.



La Frenierre encouraged his students to examine the changing climate through literature, art, and science. Submitted



La Frenierre wanted students to "understand how glaciers are responding to climate change, and then also what that means from a social and cultural standpoint."

Through literature and art, his students studied the evolution of societal views on glaciers throughout time.

They even delved into the social sciences by conducting a bit of research.

"Students, in teams of two, were tasked to go out and basically cold call on the tourists and ask them 'What do glaciers mean

to you,'" La Frenierre said.

Afterwards, the students regrouped to share their findings, and La Frenierre described the discussion as "one of the happiest moments of the whole trip."

"That one stuck out for me. Just the comradery that came out from doing something that was kind of uncomfortable in a different way," La Frenierre said.

The activity also educated students on today's societal view on glaciers and how they've become, as La Frenierre put it, "symbols of our rapidly changing world and what is being lost."

As an expert in glacier change, La Frenierre is more than familiar with "what is being lost".

He observes it firsthand through his field research in the glaciers of Ecuador, and he wanted his students to have that same experience in the Alps.

"With very few exceptions worldwide," La Frenierre said, "glaciers everywhere are shrinking and retreating. The pattern in the Alps is the same as in Ecuador. It's the same as in almost every other place you can go."

If anything, he believes that the exceptional size of the glaciers

in the Alps and the experience of seeing it all in person helped to drive home the realities of climate change for the students.

"I would say, if you asked students about the experience, that was probably the biggest take-home, was that this is really happening fast," La Frenierre said.

La Frenierre hopes to lead another trip to the European Alps in the future, but in the meantime, he looks forward to leading a IEX trip to Iceland in January of 2020.

Gustie SUMMER SAMPLER



Kyara Craven
Staff Writer

Here at Gustavus there is a diverse array of programs and opportunities to support the growth and empowerment of the student body. While these programs and opportunities are great, it is also important to broaden your horizons. Life here on the Hill is great and something we shouldn't take for granted, but people should allow themselves a peek at what life post-Gustavus may hold for them. There isn't a better way to get a sneak peek at this change than by looking at what Gusties do during the summer, whether it be an internship or something completely different. Internships, often times, are an opportunity for students to work for an organization to gain work experience. Gustavus is great at giving students the opportunity to work with internship programs; for example, Junior Weston Lombard, who was able to spend his summer working for Craig Hallum Capital Group as an Equity

Mandii Braun

Organizing Fellow for
Dean Phillips Campaign

Research Intern.

"I learned to do financial modeling, create reports on quarterly earning calls, create business profiles, as well as pitches for the stocks of the companies that I covered to give to potential investors," Lombard said.

While working at their internship, Gustavus students said that they learned about personal growth and different life lessons. Over the summer, Junior Chyna Yang had the opportunity to work with the band Yam Haus who have performed at Gustavus for several consecutive years.

"Some important lessons that I learned while working with Yam Haus would be teamwork and accepting help. With teamwork and accepting help, it can be really hard for me to let others in and let others work with me - with Yam Haus, it's constantly filled with teamwork and accepting help as this is a huge stepping stone in getting to where they eventually want to be. I have learned so much about working with and accepting help from others even when I don't think that I need it, but

by welcoming this, it really helped me realize how important it can be on a larger scale," Yang said.

Moreover, Senior Rafael Soriano Campos was featured on the premier hispanic reality television show in the U.S. this past summer, *Exatlón Estados Unidos*.

"This was a life changing experience. I learned that the 'limits' we set for ourselves keep us from reaching our full potential. After this life changing experience, I will dedicate my life to push my physical and mental limits even further because I know that I can achieve more now after all the knowledge I acquired," Soriano said.

Internships offer many benefits, such as new connections and ways of networking. Junior Amanda "Mandii" Braun, who was paired with Representative Dean Phillips, worked to organize volunteers to go out and canvass voters who are labeled "No Data Voters."

"I've been employed by the DFL since June 2018 and due to this, I've had numerous connections to representatives and political organiza-

tions that I wouldn't have otherwise," Braun said.

"From being able to build relationships with Yam Haus & Team and even further out of their circle, it really helped me to understand how important these relationships would be in networking and connecting in the future," Yang said when asked about the benefits of working with Yam Haus.

Most internships, like Yam Haus, are looking for people who are hard working, willing to try new things, have confidence, and have a strong work ethic. If you are interested in applying for an internship some of your fellow Gusties have left you with some advice.

"They picked you for a reason. Don't doubt your abilities or previous achievements. They are what got you here. Be vocal about what you want to be doing. Internships are about doing work that you are interested in. If there is a particular aspect of your internship you connect with, let your boss know. Internships are hard. You're doing great work," Braun said.

"The best advice I could give you is to be a sponge when you are around people that do what you want to do one day... I learned a lot from the work that I did, but I learned the most from absorbing my surroundings," Lombard said.



Weston Lombard

Craig-Hallum Capital Group
Equity Research Intern



Rafael Soriano Campos

Exatlón Estados Unidos
Participant

