

# THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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ISSUE 11

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Gustavus students participate in Eco Fair activities.

Katie Mattinen

## Gustavus Sustainability Team shares their knowledge

Eco Fair showcases Gustavus' environmentally conscious student body

**Jack Wiessenberger**  
Staff Writer

This last Tuesday, Nov. 18, sustainability groups came together to host the Eco Fair. This fair was a chance for groups such as the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, the Sustainability Communications Team as well as some sustainability interns to share their knowledge and experience with the campus community. The groups are collectively known as the Gustavus Sustainability Team. Environmentally conscious action has been at the forefront of the Gustavus community for quite some time now. The Eco Fair showcases some of these actions.

"Gustavus Zero Waste and Energy Reduction Commitments, Compost Expansion,

Nobel Conference: Climate Changed, Global Climate Strike, Groundswell Movement... Now what?," the poster for the Eco Fair said.

All the actions and events listed on the Eco Fair poster have been notable efforts made by Gustavus to be more environmentally conscious. The zero waste and energy reduction commitments have been powered by Gustavus' own industrial-grade composter and clean energy sources like solar panels. This year's Nobel Conference discussed climate change and what can be done to limit the effects of climate change on a global as well as local scale. Additionally, the Global Climate Strike and Groundswell movements have been massively successful in uniting people against actions that contribute to pollution and climate change.

There have been a lot of events and commitments made over the last year, and in many ways, they all affect each other. The poster suggested that now is the perfect time to put it all together into a cumulative event: the Eco Fair.

"Our efforts for the Eco Fair were inspired by movements like the Global Climate Strike and the College's energy reduction and zero waste commitments from last spring. We were striving to create a space that captured the energy around environmental work by celebrating current success and educating the community to enable further action," Senior Sustainability intern and Eco Fair developer Rachel Belvedere said.

The Eco Fair focused on educating students about the past while looking to the future. There has been a lot going on

at Gustavus in terms of environmental action over the last year, but there is still work to be done. The fair's design was meant to be open to students wanting to know more about Gustavus' climate efforts. The open-house style event invited questions from attendees as well as development of important conversations.

"I went to the Eco Fair because I believe knowing about environmentally friendly actions happening on campus is important. The information I received while at the fair was shocking and made me want to be further involved," Sophomore John McCabe said.

The Eco Fair was all about spreading knowledge of environmentalist efforts on the Gustavus campus. Information given out during the fair was both positive and negative in nature. The facts of climate

change and pollution presented at the fair were distressing, but they came with a positive side. Many believe that the 'good' is the work being done by the groups involved in the Eco Fair. Their hard work has changed the tone of climate change on campus.

"The fair was full of activist that were so passionate about helping the world. It was very inspiring to see," McCabe said.

More is being done on campus to fight against climate change. A new effort called NexTrex is headed by the Manager of the Bookmark, Molly Yunkers.

**Continued on  
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# The Gustavian Weekly Staff

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## Campus Safety Report

- Monday, November 11th**

  - Campus Safety detected the odor of Marijuana in North Hall.

**Tuesday, November 12th**

  - Campus Safety responded to a report of underage possession.
  - Campus Safety Office had sewer backup.

**Wednesday, November 13th**

  - Campus Safety responded to the Campus Center Dining services for a medical transport.
  - Campus Safety responded to a Medical Assist to a student that walked into the Campus Safety Office. The student was later transported from
- Olin Hall to the ED and ResLife On Call was notified.

  - A CF, in Sohre Hall, contacted ResLife because the CF was concerned for another student that was having suicide ideations.

**Thursday, November 14th**

  - Campus Safety responded to a Mental Health Concern at the International Center. ResLife was called to help with the situation.

**Friday, November 15th**

  - Campus Safety was called for a car fire in the Olin parking lot. The fire department
- was called and they put out the fire.

  - Campus Safety responded to a Fire Alarm at College View Apartments. Fire Alarm due to cooking only producing smoke contained in the residents room.

**Saturday, November 16th**

  - Campus Safety responded to a medical assist at Lund Center.
  - Campus Safety and CF responded to an odor of marijuana in Rundstrom Hall. One student was referred to the campus conduct system.

**Sunday, November 17th**

  - Campus Safety responded-

- ed to a fire alarm at the Ten-O-Nine House. A resident burned a bag of popcorn.
- Campus Safety reported a missing fire extinguisher from College View Apartments.
  - Campus Safety received a report of theft of Gustavus property from Lund Center.
- Tip of the Week:**  
The Thanksgiving week ahead is one typically filled with travel, a busy schedule and potentially bad weather. Remember to take these simple steps to help ensure safe travel for you and your family:
1. Know the risks before leaving home. Listen to the radio or television for the latest weather forecasts and road conditions. If bad weather is forecast, drive only if absolutely necessary.
  2. Keep your gas tank above half-full. When temperatures are extremely cold, condensation can build up in a near-empty gas tank, potentially freezing fuel lines and leaving you stranded.
  3. Check for routine maintenance issues on your vehicle (antifreeze, brakes, battery, etc).
  4. Have an emergency supply kit for your car (<https://www.ready.gov/car>).

# URGENT CARE

**See us for\*:**  
**Sore Throats | Ear Infection | Minor Cuts or Bruises**  
**Minor Burns | Sprains | Insect Bites | Bladder Infections**  
**Rashes | Workplace Injuries**  
\*list not all inclusive - all ages welcome - no appointment needed

**\$59**  
for  
Sore Throat w/strep test  
Pink Eye  
Ear Infection  
Rashes  
Bladder Infection  
(females 12-75 y.o.)

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

## RIVER'S EDGE

HOSPITAL • ST. PETER

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

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

**1900 North Sunrise Drive | St. Peter**  
[www.REHC.org](http://www.REHC.org)



Senior Liz Geerdes participates in this year's Eco Fair.

Katie Mattinen

**Continued from page 1**

"I think attendees were especially excited about the new initiative led by Molly Yunkers and the BookMark called NexTrex. This is an awesome initiative that cuts down on plastic waste and pollution by diverting hard-to-recycle plastics like bubble wrap and bread bags to a common dropoff site where, after collecting enough material, it is processed by NexTrex and turned into furniture," Belvedere said.

The NexTrex program was started by a company called Trex. Trex is one of the largest recyclers of plastics in North America. Organizations like Gustavus sign on to NexTrex and collect plastics on their own. After collecting enough plastic, it is then shipped to a Trex recycling plant.

"I think the fair went well. I hope people continue to engage with these topics, ask questions, and hold each other accountable for their part in the efforts against climate change," Belvedere said.

The Eco Fair was intended to be a showcase of all that has been done on campus in terms of environmental action. The Gustavus Sustainability Team was proud to present all the efforts of their combined groups, but they believe this is just the beginning. More ways to be environmentally conscious are constantly being brought to campus.



# Holiday Angel Tree invites Gusties to give back

Community Engagement Center holiday tradition helps St. Peter families



Katie Mattinen

Community Engagement Center encourages students to join in the holiday cheer by participating in their Holiday Angel Tree tradition.



Nate Habben

The Holiday Angel Tree can be found outside the Community Engagement Center office.

**Emily VanGorder**  
Staff Writer

The annual Holiday Angel Tree has been set up outside the Community Engagement Center office as part of a holiday tradition which has lasted over a decade. "The Angel Tree Program is a partnership with the Head Start Program in St. Peter... [that] promotes the school readiness of young children from income eligible families in Nicollet county... It has become a great tradition here at Gustavus," Director of the Community Engagement Center Amy Pehrson said.

"Head Start leads the early childhood field with a strong, clear, and comprehensive focus on healthy child development, and encourages the role of parents as their child's first and most important teachers... build[s] relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community," Pehrson said.

"The goal of the Holiday Angel Tree program is to allow students, faculty, and staff to connect to the community while spreading holiday cheer. I am often told by people who

participate in the program how much it means to them, knowing that they are able to bring joy to a child who may not receive gifts this holiday season," Junior Holly Fitterer said.

Gustavus students, staff and faculty "take tags from the tree... the turnout is always fabulous. The tags are usually taken within the first couple days of being put on the tree," Pehrson said.

This year, there were over 100 tags for roughly 45 families.

"Siblings of children in the Head Start Program are included in the gift-giving as well, because all members of a family are so important to a child's development," Pehrson said.

This year marks Fitterer's third year as the coordinator for the Holiday Angel Tree Program. "I am in contact with the Head Start Program Coordinator, I obtain the wish lists for the children, I set up the tree and the tags, and coordinate their return and delivery to the families," Fitterer said. The process takes two months to complete and the program set up itself takes place in about a week.

"I really enjoy seeing the Gustavus community excited to be a part of the program... I enjoy watching all the gifts come in. It is a little bit stress-

ful... but in the end I get to see all the gifts come together... as we prepare to load them up to be delivered to the Head Start families. No matter how stressful or busy the program gets, this moment makes it all worth it," Fitterer said.

"I've been participating in the Holiday Angel Tree program for as long as I can remember. I've even asked my friends to take part in it, and we've all loved doing it. Shopping for the specific items is always fun... hoping that it's just what they wanted. I also love to pray for them as well. It's super fun to involve my grandkids in picking out the gifts. It helps them be more appreciative of what they have and their own Christmas experiences," Library Acquisitions and Cataloging Manager Diane Christensen said.

The gifts are collected from students, staff and faculty on Dec. 11th, and returned to the Head Start Program Director on Dec. 12 to be distributed. If not all gifts are returned to the CEC by Dec. 11.

"We have asked some folks for cash donations so that our coordinator can make a quick trip to Mankato and purchase the remaining gifts," Pehrson said.

"Each year for the Angel Tree

Program, I invite each family to participate, and allow a family not to participate if they so choose. I make the information available to parents, assuring them that no names are shared for confidentiality purposes. I assign a number for each family and their children, parents complete the form and return to me. Sometimes it is necessary that I help interpret the idea behind the Angel Tree, help with the sizes for non-English speaking parents, or answer any other questions parents may have," Family Advocate for St. Peter Head Start classrooms Jody Leighton said.

"I have worked for St. Peter Head Start for 19 years, and each one of those years the Angel Tree program has reached out to generously give gifts to our students and their siblings," Leighton said.

"After the gifts are collected on campus by Leighton and her staff, who bring them to a conference room at the Community Center, organize the gifts for distribution, and have the privilege of giving the gifts to the parents personally. The parents are always surprised at the generosity of the Angel Tree 'givers' and are so happy that their children will have gifts to open that they may not have

had without the Angel Tree Program," Leighton said.

"The Angel Tree gifts serve a diverse population... sometimes the needs/ wants are so very basic: diapers, wipes, winter clothing, and more. Sometimes the families have no support from extended family members due to broken relationships, financial hardships, or extended family members living in poverty themselves in another country. To know that a stranger cares enough to give a special gift to their child is heartwarming to the moms and dads who eagerly pick up the gifts," Leighton added.

"I really hope the campus continues with this event because it gives the students and staff the chance to not only give back to their community, but also to brighten a child's life with thoughtful, useful gifts," Christensen said.

"I am always amazed at the time GAC students are willing to spend to shop for and creatively wrap a gift for an unknown child. Thank you for continuing the tradition for all these years," Leighton said.



# Campus car combusts in Olin parking lot

Two cars damaged after car starts on fire Friday afternoon



The Saint Peter Police department and Fire department helped put out the flame.

Submitted

**Marie Osuna**  
Staff Writer

Numerous calls were made to Campus Safety and 911 last Friday, Nov. 15 after a campus car parked in the Lot G Olin Hall parking lot started on fire.

According to Carol Brewer, Director of Campus Safety, a call came into her office at 1:27 p.m. by a student who noticed the car and called first 911 and then Campus Safety.

Campus Safety Officer Scott Meyer responded to the call quickly and secured the area with the help of several Saint Peter police officers while local firefighters fought the flames.

The cause of the fire was determined to be mechanical, and only one additional vehicle parked nearby sustained damage. A tire on both the vehicles exploded due to the heat generated from the fire.

"I was on my way to class and saw a car on fire and a girl saying 'help.' We called 911 and Campus Safety. Campus Safety whipped in, did their best to put out the flames and then the Saint Peter Police and Fire Departments came. They got the fire

out, but unfortunately the car next to it wasn't so lucky. The fire department saved the day," a student witness said.

The witness noted that another student had their car nearby and Campus Safety was able to remove the car from the area. The car was able to drive away with only some ash on it.

While car fires don't happen often, it's important to know the warning signs and what to do if it happens.

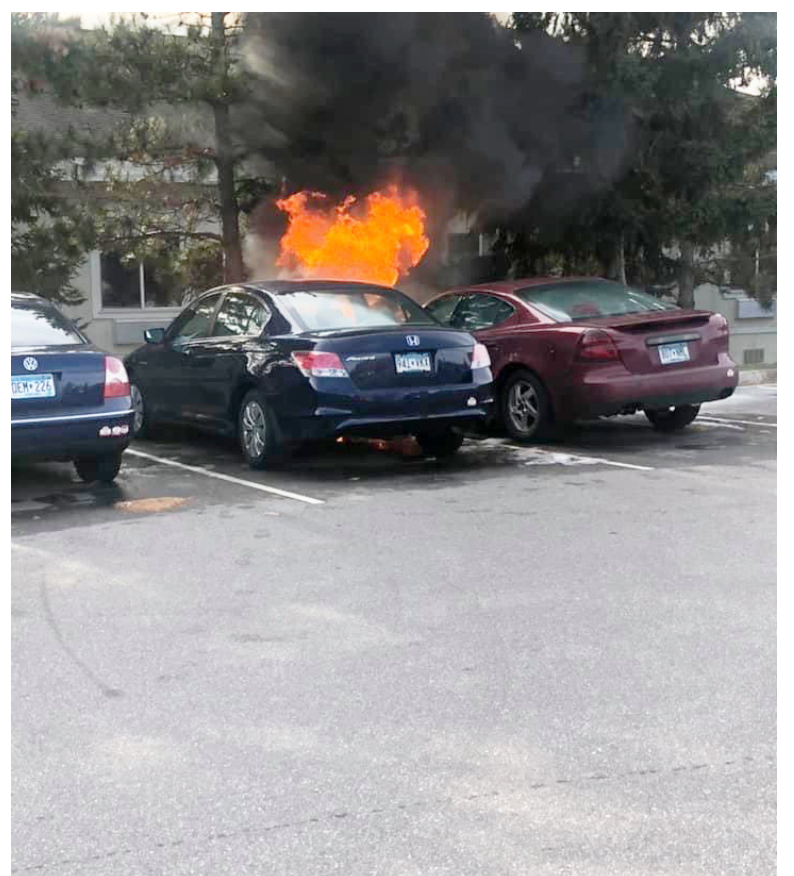
First, be sure to keep up with regular car maintenance. Some signs that you should have your car looked at include repeated blown fuses, spilled oil under the hood, oil or other fluid leaks, cracked or loose wiring, loud sounds from the exhaust system, quick changes in fuel level, oil level or your engine's temperature. Additionally, missing the oil filler cap or having broken or loose hoses can put your car at risk.

If you smell smoke or see flames coming from your car, the most important thing to do is stay calm and act fast. If this happens, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that you find the closest safe place to stop and turn your car off. Get everyone

out of the car without going back to get any personal items. Move at least one hundred feet away, and be sure bystanders do the same and call 911. Do not try to put the fire out yourself. Additionally, know that opening doors or the hood can make the fire worse because of the increased air supply.

Luckily, the Gustavus student whose car was up in flames got out safely and called for help before the incident turned dangerous for those in the area. With the help of emergency responders and quick-thinking students, the damage was minimized as much as possible.

"I'd like to especially thank the students who initially raised the alarm. This kind of thing is a rare occurrence at Gustavus, but it's a good reminder that we should always be aware of our surroundings. Because of the quick thinking of our students and timely response of Officer Meyer and Saint Peter emergency services, we were able to minimize damage to surrounding vehicles and trees," Brewer said.



Gustavus students are encouraged to be aware of the warning signs and what to do in case of emergency.

Submitted



# Senior recital celebrates friendship and music

**Michaela Woodward**  
Staff Writer

Seniors Katelyn Yee and Lauren Lowe started their musical journeys at Gustavus with each other, so to them, it only seems fitting to end it that way.

The two hosted their senior cello and viola recital together on Nov. 17th at 7:30 p.m in Bjorling Music Hall, hoping to express their love for music and each other through their performance.

As for planning their recital together, it was a no-brainer from the beginning.

"We've been talking about this almost since we met," Lowe said.

"We're kind of best friends. It just made sense. We met through orchestra. We're not music majors so [a recital] is not required, but it just felt right to kind of have this closing chapter of our music careers be together," Yee said.

*"I went to a performing arts school in St. Paul. With that, I was able to do a lot more orchestral work.*

*I really got to see whether being a music major was something I wanted to do, and it helped me know that that was not what I wanted to do and that music was more of just a passion."*

*-Senior Lauren Lowe*

Yee and Lowe both started music at an early age and were both involved in orchestra, musical theater and choir throughout their earlier years.

Having played cello since fifth grade, Yee knew she wanted to continue in college. But her passion for music went beyond orchestra.

"I ended up not doing choir my first year here, and then I missed it so much I had to join again," says Yee.

Though music is something Yee is heavily involved in, she decided on a communication studies and sociology and anthropology double major and a Spanish minor.

Lowe followed a similar path. She is a psychology major with a biology minor.

"I went to a performing arts school in St. Paul. With that, I was able to do a lot more orchestral work. I really got to see whether being a music major was something I wanted



Lowe (left) and Yee (right) rehearse for their recital.

Olivia Doeden

to do, and it helped me know that that was not what I wanted to do and that music was more of just a passion," Lowe said.

This emphasis on music being an equally important part of one's life though not necessarily a career is something special about opportunities that go beyond requirements, like this recital.

Dr. Justin Knoepfel, Lowe's viola professor who helped the two put together their recital, feels recitals are important opportunities for students.

"Student recitals are vital and essential to our program. It's true that recitals are a required component of a music major anywhere, but it goes beyond checking off the box. Music is meant to be shared, to

be experienced in the live setting. And that is a wonderful aspect of the arts: to experience together a moment in time of collaboration and shared beauty. It makes us better for hearing it, preparing it, and experiencing the moment. We become better human beings because of art," Knoepfel said.

Lowe was excited to share her piece with Knoepfel, who she has been wanting to play a piece for since she was a first year.

Yee looked forward to engaging the audience emotionally with her pieces.

One piece in particular makes her feel happy, and she hoped to share that feeling with the audience.

"This is what I wanted to be sharing with people," Yee said.

On picking pieces for their recital, Yee and Lowe saw their program as an expression of both them as individuals and together.

They chose to highlight some of their personal favorites and also pieces that are meaningful to them.

"With our duet pieces, they showed our personalities. We both love Disney, we both have Spanish culture as a passion in different ways," Lowe said.

"I thought of it as a celebration of us as musicians and friends," Yee said.

Though their recital is their own performance, they feel grateful for the help and support they've received with putting it together from their

friends, peers, and teachers.

"I'm really grateful for everyone who's been willing to help us and play with us and support us," Yee said.

Though this is the closing of one chapter of their lives, it is clear that Yee and Lowe's friendship will continue long after the last note of the recital was played.

"Working together has been lots of fun. It will be bittersweet to be done," Lowe said.

For Yee and Lowe, their friendship is in the music.

"The recital [was] a good way to see who we are as individuals and also who we are together and kind of our growth through our musical journeys, and to have it end here, together, is special," Yee said.



# GUSTIE of the WEEK

## Rachel Belvedere

Elsa Beise  
Staff Writer

This week's Gustie of the Week is an involved student on campus, a friendly face and ambitious senior Rachel Belvedere.

Gustavus has been a family school for Belvedere and she wasn't sure if she would have her own narrative with such a family legacy, but all of this changed once she visited campus.

"I wanted to have college be an experience I defined, and I wasn't sure if that would happen at the school that my parents, aunts and grandma had all attended. But once I toured Gustavus, sat in on a class and talked with professors, I knew this was a community I wanted to be a part of. I remember feeling at home with so many friendly faces and feeling the excitement of opportunities on campus and beyond," Belvedere said.

Belvedere is a Geography and Environmental Studies double major who is greatly involved on campus.

"Over my [four] years at Gustavus I have been involved with Gustie Greeters, the Environmental Action Coalition, Feminist Bible Study, Multifaith Leadership Council, Gustavus Women in Leadership, The President's Environmental Sustainability Council, and intramural hockey. I've also cherished my involvement with music, I played french horn my first year, the Nobel Conference,

and Habitat for Humanity," Belvedere said.

Belvedere is admired by many students on campus, especially her closest friends.

"One of my favorite qualities about Rachel is how selfless she is. She truly gives her all to the things and people she loves," Senior Amy Rose said.

Belvedere is also known for her supportive nature and determined mindset.

"Everything she does is with the intention of helping other people. She also is incredibly encouraging. She has been my biggest fan and supports me in everything I do, pushes me to work hard and try new things, and lifts me up when I'm down. Something else I admire about her is her passion and drive. She is one of the hardest working and most dedicated people I know. Having her as my best friend has been one of the biggest blessings and I know so many others feel the same," Rose said.

"What makes Rachel a great 'Gustie of the Week' is how much she cares about this campus and the people here. She cares deeply about the people and organizations of the school now, and wants to see them be successful in the future. Her desire to help make a difference in any way she can is apparent in her presence at Gustavus. Her love for this school is far-reaching and long lasting; and we're lucky to have a Gustie like her around," Rose said.

Gustavus has been a place where Belvedere has felt part of the community and connected

to her fellow classmates.

"I love the passion and connectedness of the Gustavus community. I am continually impressed by professors and staff that invest in my education and holistic wellbeing as well as friends and peers that challenge me to work collaboratively and inspire me to pursue justice in the world. I'm grateful to be connected to so many amazing Gusties - past, present, and future," Belvedere said.

"One of my fondest memories at Gustavus that I believe informed a lot of things I did throughout my time here was being a part of Siri Erickson's Science and Religion [First Term Seminar] class my first semester. This class challenged me to ask questions, awakened my passion for interfaith work, and gave me a space to reflect on things that are important to me, including spirituality, science, and feminism. Siri will always be one of my greatest mentors - she introduced me to different ways of knowing (like process Theology) and has inspired me with her true leadership and care for others," Belvedere said.

As for post-graduation, Belvedere is interested in combining her interests to work for a company that supports environmental sustainability.

"I am really interested in the intersections of sustainable food systems, climate change, and migration. I would love to work with an organization that's working in one or all of these areas," Belvedere said.



Katie Mattinen

Belvedere is Geography and Environmental Studies double major.

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.



Belvedere is interested in working with a company that is passionate about environmental sustainability.

Katie Mattinen



# Spotlight on: choral conducting program

Anh Tran  
Staff Writer

In the spirit of Christmas in Christ Chapel, which happens in the weekend following Thanksgiving Break, Variety brings the spotlight to the choral conducting program—an academic area of focus under the Music/Music Education Major umbrella.

"Within the music major, people can designate different areas of study, for example, a vocal performance major, a bassoon performance major, or a composition major. Each of them is a unique area of focus, but it all falls under the broad music major," Gustavus Choir Conductor Brandon Dean said.

*"One of the biggest things I have learned from my program is that in music, passion outweighs technique every time."*

-Junior Jocelyn  
Jaimez

Broad as it is, the Music program at Gustavus accommodates customizable tracks of study to suit their students' varied interests, talents and career goals.

The choral conducting program, also referred to as the vocal music education, is geared towards majors who plan to pursue further graduate studies in conducting or to practice teaching and conducting in the K-12 school system.

"Most of our choral conducting students are Music Education majors. They are getting a double major in Music and Education, with the goal of eventually teaching or conducting mostly in school systems and some other professional or semi-professional format, too. By the time they graduate, they will be certified to teach k-12 public schools and conduct choirs in a public school setting," Dean said.

The focus on conducting mainly consists of a two-semester sequence of conducting classes.

"We have a two-semester sequence for conducting. Basic conducting happens in the fall and then the advanced class in the spring. In the advanced class, students get to choose either the instrumental track or the choral track," Dean said.



Students involved in the conducting program can gain experience by becoming a Vocal Music Assistant or VMA.

Nate Habben

Lucia Singers and Choir of Christ Chapel Conductor Elisabeth Cherland and Brandon Dean teach, supervise and advise students who focus on choral conducting.

Besides the two-semester conducting sequence, the two professors also offer independent studies or special topic classes, often customized to the students' needs.

"My favorite part about the program is the willingness of our professors to go the extra mile to make sure we leave Gustavus with the information and skills relevant to what we hope to do in our careers. For example, I have a strong interest in show choir and directing a group after I graduate so I am taking an independent study with my advisor, Dr. Dean, this semester. We spend our time talking about things such as the logistics of running a program, set-design, rehearsal techniques and costuming. I have also had the opportunity to go out and observe rehearsals at Minnesota show choir schools to learn from some of the best in the business. This is just one way that my education at Gustavus has been individualized in our music education program," Senior Zach Diedrich said.

The program involves students in a wide range of extracurricular activities that allow them to practice what they learn, enhance their musical skills and expand their repertoires.

These activities range from on-and-off-campus vocal ensembles to leadership positions. "Being a Vocal Music Educa-

tion major means that I spend a lot of my time... you guessed it, singing. Being a four-year member of the Gustavus Choir and a 3.5-year member of GSharp A Cappella has shaped my experience at Gustavus into such a positive one. Although participating in music ensembles is required for the major, being in these groups has brought me much more than just a .25 credit each semester. I have met my closest friends in these groups, and have been blessed with the amazing travel and performance opportunities that being in the Gustavus Choir has provided," Diedrich said.

"The Vocal Music Education major has shaped my experience at Gustavus by totally immersing me in the musical experience Gustavus has to offer. In my three years thus far, I have been fortunate to participate in Vocal Jazz Ensemble, The Gustavus Choir, Gustavus Women's A Cappella and even Recorder Ensemble. My Gustavus experience is shaped daily and hourly by my major and related musical involvements, it simply would not be the same without," Junior Vocal Music Education major Jocelyn Jaimez said.

According to Dr. Dean, conducting students can get involved in the leadership part of the ensembles by working as Vocal Music Assistants, known as the VMAs.

The VMAs assist the conductors in managing music and other logistics of rehearsals and performances.

Sometimes, the VMAs work as assistant conductors as well.

*"My favorite part about the program is the willingness of our professors to go the extra mile to make sure we leave Gustavus with the information and skills relevant to what we hope to do in our careers."*

-Senior Zach Diedrich

Currently, the program has over twenty majors from all classes.

"Our kids are very successful when it comes to job placement. Four or five years ago, we revamped our whole Music Education Program curriculum and since then all our graduates have been placed. Our 2019 graduate Michael McKenzie was recently awarded second place in The American Prize in Conducting-Chorus (Community Division) for his work as founder and conductor of the Gustavus Adolphus College Social Justice Choir. We have kids who are in graduate schools right now. Some of them

pursue Masters' degrees and often teach at the same time," Dr. Dean said.

Alumnus Michael McKenzie founded and conducted the Gustavus Social Justice Choir as a student-run organization during his time at Gustavus.

The ensemble has lived on, following his graduation, and will official become a faculty-led ensemble in the Fall semester of 2020.

This change means that students will be able to take it as a class, with Dr. Cherland as their conductor.

The choral conducting students are not only able to shape their own academic journeys, but also to learn lessons that they will keep for life.

"The one most important thing I have learned in this program was from my choir director for three years—Dr. Gregory Aune. He would always tell us that, when he conducted, he wore his heart on his sleeve. I hope to do that for my students someday, in order to give them the best musical experience possible," Diedrich said.

"One of the biggest things I have learned from my program is that in music, passion outweighs technique every time. You can be the most technically proficient musician in the world, but without passion, love and a dedication to and for the music, the art form is not complete. The musicians at Gustavus are some of the most dedicated and passionate people I have ever met and I am so fortunate to be making music alongside them," Jaimez said.



Kyara Craven  
Staff Writer

# WHAT IS THE WEEKLY STAFF THANKFUL FOR?



“Laser tag.”  
- **Trevon Sladek**,  
Entertainment Editor

“Gratitude is the virtue most deified and most deserted. It is the ornament of rhetoric and the libel of practical life” -- J.W. Forney  
- **Cole Trebelhorn**,  
Editor-in-Chief



“Friends, family and the memories I’ve made along the way.”  
- **Reid Olson**,  
Distributor



“My family, dog and coffee.”  
- **Sofia Boda**,  
Variety Editor



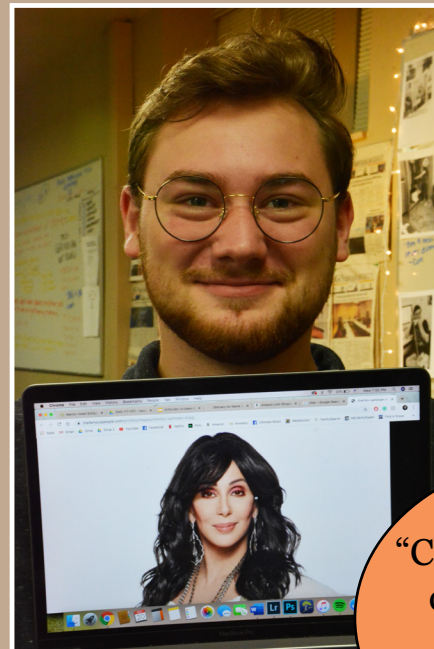
“My parents.”  
- **Corinne Stremmel**,  
Copy Editor



“I’m thankful for my friends and family and for all their love and support. Especially the ones that read The Weekly.”  
- **Anna Edblad**,  
News Editor



“Chosen family, good coffee and Cher.”  
- **Ben Wick**,  
Managing Editor



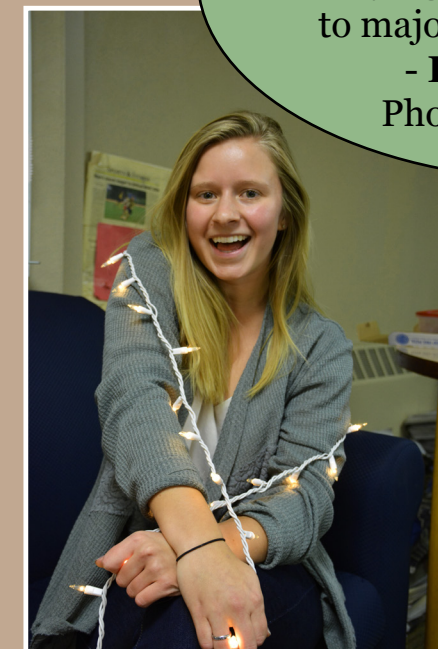
“Caffeine, naps, dark chocolate, sunrises and Chipotle.”  
- **Jenna Rieth**,  
Copy Editor



“I am thankful for my family being supportive of me while I am far away from home.”  
- **Patrick Meadows**,  
Opinion Editor



“I’m thankful to live in an area where I can enjoy the beautiful outdoors without worrying about being susceptible to major pollution or danger.”  
- **Katie Mattinen**,  
Photography Manager



“Family, friends and comfy sweaters.”  
- **Laura Schwichtenberg**,  
Graphics Editor



“I am thankful for having an amazing group of friends.”  
- **Joe Brandel**,  
Sports & Fitness Editor



“Thanksgiving Special”  
Bailey Hoff

