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ISSUE 18 -- COVID-19 COVERAGE

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Faculty and staff cope with COVID-19 pandemic

Jack Wiessenberger
Staff Writer

The rapidly developing COVID-19 pandemic has led to Gustavus suspending all in-person instruction as well as on-campus living for the remainder of the semester.

The decision has had immediate impacts on the entire Gustavus community, and further effects are still to be seen. Faculty, including professors, coaching staff and other college service workers, are preparing for the next few months of the spring semester. The changes have been drastic for these employees, and coming up with a plan to continue their work has been challenging. The announcement of the campus closure came in an email from President Bergman this last Tuesday, March 17.

"I write today with an updated announcement on Gustavus measures in response to the fast-developing COVID-19 situation. The College has made the difficult decision to extend its period of online learning through the end of the spring semester. It is with a deep sense of sadness that I write this message today. All along, we had hoped to resume normal operations and in-person classes in a few short weeks," Bergman said.

Gustavus administrators had initially planned to return to in-person instruction on April 14. With the health and safety of everyone in mind, it was decided switching to online learning for the remainder of the semester would be best. The fluid situation has made planning for the future hard for everyone involved.

"At Gustavus, we talk about 'facing the greatest challenges of our time.' This pandemic and the response to it, locally and globally, is certainly a great challenge. My job has been changing nearly every day since the first announcement came out that Gustavus would be shifting to online learning, although one thing has remained consistent - our worry for the students," Associate Professor and First-Term Seminar Director Lauren Hecht said.



COVID-19 pandemic leaves campus empty.

Cole Trebelhorn

For professors right now, the task at hand is to find a way to educate students under unusual circumstances.

"Faculty are worrying about how to deliver a meaningful learning experience for the rest of the semester. Working remotely, navigating unfamiliar territory with online learning, figuring out how to continue committee and program work... all of these things have impacted our jobs as professors," Hecht said.

Professors have been assisted by Gustavus Technology Services (GTS) in preparing for online learning. However, professors' worries go beyond questions of preparing classes.

"Faculty are consistently expressing worries about students' physical and mental health. Many of us were unable to see students one more time before they left campus to say goodbye. There is consistent worry about how students will adapt to this shift. We want to help students learn, but we are attempting to fit a course into a format that was never intended," Hecht said.

Every faculty member on

campus is working through how to proceed as effectively as possible. One area of campus that has already been dramatically affected is the dining services. With little to no students to serve, operational changes were necessary.

"The Dining Service staff will be reduced in number and scheduled fewer hours than they are typically scheduled. That said, the college has committed to paying their regular wages and providing non-wage benefits," Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services Steven Kjellgren said.

Everyone is feeling the effects of the COVID-19 response. Cashiers, cooks and all other dining service workers will be working in limited shifts for the rest of the semester. The few students who will remain on campus must also follow rules set by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

"The MarketPlace will be open for students who remain on campus unless the MDH advises otherwise. Hours of service will be reduced and food offerings will be adjusted as necessary. We ask that students stop

in the restroom of the Campus Center to wash their hands for twenty seconds prior to entering the MarketPlace and to observe the required 'social distance' requirement of six feet from another person while in the MarketPlace and Evelyn Young Dining Room," Kjellgren said.

The changes set in place by organizations such as the MDH are impacting everyday functioning at a high level. For athletes across the country, it was the decisions made by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) that had the biggest impact. Gustavus teams were among those affected by the NCAA decisions to cancel all remaining winter and spring championships for all sports.

"Even though there have been some difficult decisions to end the spring season, we understand the gravity of this situation and have a duty to our community, region and nation to take action. In difficult situations, Gusties come together to help each other through. We are a strong and united family and it has been apparent that our student-athletes are leaning on each other for comfort and

to process this ever changing situation," Track and Field Head Coach Aaron Lund said.

Coaching staff of spring sports have been tasked with working the remainder of the semester without their athletes. Like other departments of the college, they are dealing with the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is a sad, difficult circumstance for our student-athletes, especially our seniors and those graduating this spring. It will be possible for our seniors to return next season with eligibility, but in reality, it will be a very difficult decision to make," Lund said.

The decision to close the Gustavus campus was not taken lightly. By making this decision, administrators are putting the health and safety of every Gustie first. This arrangement is not without consequences, however. Professors and other faculty including dining service workers and coaches are all being heavily impacted by this choice. Every Gustie is working hard to make the best of this unusual and uncertain situation.

The difficulty of going digital

Online learning forces instructors to get creative through serious alterations to courses



Social distancing causes students to turn to digital alternatives.

Cole Trebelhorn

Marie Osuna
Staff Writer

As Gusties are all too aware, class plans have changed drastically. Due to the suspension of in-person classes, as announced last week, professors have been scrambling to rearrange class schedules, assignments and projects. However,

due to the nature of Gustavus' hands-on learning approach, this has been extremely difficult for various departments.

Classes such as those in the theatre/dance department, ACT/FIT credits, art and science labs have been quickly re-arranging how they conduct class online. It has forced many professors and students to get creative in their use of technology.

Junior Dance and Psychological Science major Katie Rhoten explained how the dance department is thinking about using apps such as TikTok to share their movements.

"Our professors are working hard to develop a new curriculum and opportunities to continue to offer us a meaningful dance education and exploration while we are all in different settings at home. I imagine that I

will be recording a lot of movement and sending it to the class, particularly in regards to compositional creations/creating dances while at home," Rhoten said. "I am interested to see if we do utilize TikTok and how that will work. I personally have never made a TikTok or used the app before, but it could be a fun and innovative way to share our creations and movement with the class."

While the dance department has the possibility of working from home, that's just not possible for others.

"While final decisions have not been made, there is virtually no way to conduct high-quality organic labs remotely," Professor of Organic Chemistry Scott Bur said in an email to his students.

However, Bur plans to move forward with the class as best he can online, asking his students to be patient and remember that no one signed up for these trying times.

"To paraphrase Gandalf from the Lord of the Rings, we do not get to choose the times in which we live; we can only choose what we do with the time. These are unusual times, and our responses cannot be usual. We will do our best, and our best will have to do," Bur said.

For students involved in ACT/FIT classes, this time is an opportunity for them to learn how to manage their own fitness from home. Professors plan to post workout plans or provide video links, and students will complete the workouts on their own time and write reflections about how it went.

Music majors are still in a transition period, with little information being relayed about how they are going to be moving forward. Right now, it seems the only things they do know are about what has been canceled.

celebrated.

"All recitals have been canceled and the ones that were graduation requirements have been waived. The wind orchestra's tour has been canceled along with all other ensemble performances and rehearsals," Junior Music Education major Thomas Pahl said.

Since plans for graduation have not yet been announced, Pahl is waiting for information about that as well.

"The wind orchestra performs commencement ceremony music every year and stays on campus during senior week for rehearsal. This year, if the senior class returns for commencement, will the band have to return as well?" Pahl said.

Overall, these times have been an adjustment for so many students who are used to Gustavus' on-campus, hands-on approach to learning. Education majors who were student teaching had their time in the classroom cut short.

Study abroad students were sent home (or are may be working with the school to ensure safe return). Previously 'required' lab or other practical hours are going to become more flexible given the unusual circumstances.

Just about everyone has a much-anticipated event (or several) that has been canceled due to the pandemic. But one thing is universal across all majors: professors are asking for grace as they make these adjustments with students.

"You did not sign up for an online education, and I respect that. I did not sign up to teach an online class, and I hope you can respect that. Together, those two things mean we have to have a lot of grace with each other moving forward," Bur said.

A Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Cole Trebelhorn
Editor-in-Chief

Fellow Gusties and members of the Gustavus Community, in a time traditionally dedicated to hopes for the future and excitement for new prospects, we instead find ourselves amidst a time of great fear, worry, and uncertainty.

This COVID-19 outbreak has threatened the very fabric of our everyday lives, as it continues to storm across our planet, our nation and our great state of Minnesota, and has now torn our college community asunder, pushing students from our home-away-from-home.

The rapid and unprecedented spread of the virus across the country, the numerous shelter in place orders in states and communities, and the thoughtful but stringent restrictions imposed by our governor here in Minnesota all exemplify the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak that has absolutely threatened

the very fabric of our everyday lives.

It is clear, our administration has only the health and wellbeing of all members of our community in mind. Likewise, in 1998 after a tornado devastated our campus, the greater community responded with an outpouring of support—this historic time is no different. This event has laid impact to not only our campus but all facets of daily life at home and abroad.

The spring semester of 2020 will never be returned to us, but through this let us learn, and let us appreciate the time we spent with one another, and between these halls.

As I write my potentially final Gustavian Weekly Letter-From-the-Editor, I am filled only with fond memories of the individuals I have come to love and to cherish while on this campus both in and out of the Weekly office. From all of us at the Gustavian Weekly, I assure you we will with our greatest efforts continue to serve our campus. This act of service may continue digitally, or very well may mean we will return to you in the fall of 2020. At this point, it is too hard to say for

any certainty.

There are, of course, a great number of uncertainties in this time, but if nothing else relish in the fact that our lives are fickle, and let us rejoice in our time at Gustavus—for some that time may still be blossoming, for some, this semester marks the end of their journey.

Gustavus' vision statement calls for us to act on the great challenges of our time. As President Rebecca Bergman acknowledged in her address to the community, often, that ambitions charge feels more abstract than real. Today, "our commitment to acting on the great challenges of our time is immediately at hand. Today, we must answer that call."

I look forward to the future, and to the progress we will all share together in the wake of this experience.

With Peace & Love,
Cole Trebelhorn

College faced with financially rough waters

Novel Coronavirus situation places strain on financial status of the college



Administrators are forced to make difficult decisions about the college's finances.

Cole Trebelhorn

Grace Worwa
Staff Writer

The spread of COVID-19 has brought with it a flood of economic worries and uncertainties, and now that Gustavus has closed its doors for the rest of the Spring Semester, the question of how the school will be impacted financially still remains.

The economic hardships felt in the global market have led to significant decreases in the Gustavus endowment, however the losses are relatively low compared to those in the public market.

"Since December 31st, we lost almost \$32 million in the endowment, which is about 15.5 percent of its value, which, if you compare to what the market is doing, is actually very good and demonstrates how properly diversified we are. That's still a huge hit, but the public markets are down by over 20 to 30 percent," Vice President for Finance Curt Kowaleski said.

Gustavus' losses are relative-

ly low because it has a properly diversified portfolio, or a wide variety of investments.

"Our endowment is invested in the stock market. It's invested in global markets. It's invested in fixed income, which are like your bonds and such, and there's other miscellaneous things that it's invested in," Kowaleski said.

"This kind of shows us that we are properly diversified. For instance, in the fixed income market, we've actually had a positive increase in our investments because they're not tied to the domestic stock market. We've lost the same thing as other people have lost in the public markets, but we have our money invested in some of these other alternatives, which makes our percentage loss less."

Because Gustavus saw such increases in the years before COVID-19, the losses seen in the endowment at this point should not be cause for radical concern.

That being said, basic measures will be taken during Gustavus's period of closure in order to cut expenses on elec-

tricity and utilities. In addition, the Investment Committee on the Board of Trustees will meet to discuss potentially rebalancing the portfolio; however, it is unlikely that drastic changes will be made.

"Eventually the market corrects itself," said Kowaleski. "You don't want to sell off your stock market equity right now. You want to maintain it because it is 'cheaper' than it was two weeks ago, so we're long-term invested and the stock market will come back for us."

In addition to a decrease in the endowment, the fact that COVID-19 has caused Gustavus to close for the semester raises the issue of meeting the financial needs of the student body. For instance, many students are concerned about losing out on financial aid.

"I rely on my scholarship, loans, and grants," Sophomore Amara Packey said. "School is very expensive, and I can't afford to pay the full price if any of it gets taken away."

Students are also worried about the school simply not

having funds to hand out. "I'm really concerned about the possibility of having less donors because I'm able to go to Gustavus because of them, so if some of the people donating don't have the funds anymore, then it might not be good," Junior Rachael Vlasak said.

Losing out on aid obtained through work study is another financial concern for students.

"I have a work study at Gustavus, and they said that they will match your average hours of pay, which is nice but also means I cannot work more hours," Packey said.

In addition to aid, students worry about whether or not they will be reimbursed for payments they've already made for housing and food.

"I'm obviously concerned and a little bit confused as to what it's going to mean for the money I paid at the beginning of the year for housing and board. Will I get any of that back?" Freshman Autumn Zierman said.

The Cabinet and the Board of Trustees are working hard to

address these concerns. On the afternoon of Friday, March 20, an emergency board meeting was held in order to present updates on measures being taken to address the closure and COVID-19, including students' financial concerns.

"The cabinet has discussed refunds to the room and board, and we are definitely going to do something there. Financial aid is involved too though, so it's very complicated and we're trying to work through that, and there should be an announcement coming out early next week on what we can possibly do there and still meet the requirements that we have to live under with financial aid," Kowaleski said.

Student artists face performance cancellations



The doors of the empty Schaefer Fine Arts Center, where many student performances would have taken place this spring.

Cole Trebelhorn

Monali Bhakta
Staff Writer

When thinking about the beginning of spring semester, there were many student performers who were looking forward to sharing their inspirational theatrics and breathtaking movements with the rest of the campus.

These were students involved with the Theatre and Dance Departments, getting prepared to put on spectacular performances in the New Laboratory Theatre in the recently renovated Nobel Hall of Science building.

What was supposed to be an uplifting way for students to share months of hard work on stage resulted in a catastrophic end nobody saw coming.

Due to the recent outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic across the world along with rapidly growing of cases in the United States, Gus-

tavus Adolphus College made the difficult decision to move to online classes for the rest of the spring semester, causing all campus-sponsored events to be cancelled.

"I think as a senior and for a lot of my fellow seniors this concert was not only our last performance at GAC, but our last guaranteed performance as dancers, as no one knows what the future holds."

-Senior Taylor Kmiech

While college administrators made the decision in the best interest of the health and wellbeing of the Gustavus community, students who devoted so much time and energy into

perfecting their passions were disappointed to not being able to showcase their accomplishments to the wider community.

Between March 19-22, the Gustavus Dance Company was scheduled to put on the production, "Partnering with Gravity," choreographed by faculty members, Michelle Rusinko, Sarah Hauss and Jill Patterson, also in collaboration with guest choreographers Jeffrey Peterson and Dan Stark.

"I think as a senior, and for a lot of my fellow seniors, this concert was not only our last performance at GAC, but our last guaranteed performance as dancers, as no one knows what the future holds. I think just knowing I'll have this support system behind me no matter what is going to get me through because performances or not, I still get to have this amazing community behind me," Senior Taylor Kmiech said.

In addition, The Theatre De-

partment was scheduled to put on the play, "Mother Courage and Her Children," between May 7-10.

"Dance has been one of the best activities with my time at GAC—I've found a family with my fellow dancers and profs. Dance was always my safe space at GAC to just move and surround myself with people I love dearly."

-Senior Taylor Kmiech

Director Amy Seham was looking forward to crafting a relevant and compelling production that adhered to its reputation of being the "greatest anti-war play of all time."

This sudden halt to the semester took a heavy toll on students who utilize performing arts as an outlet to uplift themselves, considering that many view the stage as a safe space to cope with the stressors of the outside world.

"Dance has been one of the best activities with my time at GAC. I've found a family with my fellow dancers and profs. Dance was always my safe space at GAC to just move and surround myself with people I love dearly. I've learned a lot of lessons about myself and I've gained so much confidence as well. I'll take away so many life skills about hard work and perseverance against adversity through my dancing experiences," Kmiech said.

Coping with change through creativity

Sofia Boda
Section Editor

For many students, participating in the many fine arts and music programs on campus is integral to their identity as a Gustie.

With on-campus classes and club meetings suspended for the rest of the semester due to the spread of COVID-19, students are experiencing the loss of the creative communities that were an essential part of their college experience.

“While it’s important to be updated and know what’s going on in the world, focusing on it all day and constantly worrying is detrimental to your mental health, and it’s necessary to find a hobby or creative outlet to have something to do.”

-Senior Nicky
Abraham

However, creative expression continues to thrive within the confines of social isolation.

Though arts-based organizations are no longer holding gatherings or rehearsals, some students are taking this unprecedented time off as an opportunity to sharpen their creative skills. Some are even turning to art as a source of comfort and focus during this time of change.

“Art is one of the ways that I cope with change. Leaving school early, especially as a senior, has been difficult for me. In these uncertain times, art will always be there for me,” senior Skylar Abrego said.

For Abrego, the absence of a regular school schedule has been her motivator to take on new musical and craft projects.

“I’m surprised by how many ways I’m being creative during the day. I’m doing things I never had time to do before, which is great. I’m building a desk with my dad for my sisters and I to work on during online school, taking time to color in my meditation coloring book, and



Senior Skylar Abrego spends time learning to play her ukelele at her home in Alden, Minnesota.

Submitted

learning a few new songs on my ukelele,” Abrego said.

For others, this is a chance to dedicate time to the beloved creative hobbies that went neglected due to jam-packed school and activity schedules.

“I know a lot of students can relate when I say that the virus has obviously limited a lot of regular everyday life, especially now that we’re all kicked off of campus. I don’t have a job or really anywhere to be, so I’ve spent the majority of the last week and a half sitting around in my pajamas with my hair in a messy bun. Living like that

makes me feel really down, so recently I’ve been experimenting with makeup and doing more difficult eyeshadow looks that are outside of my comfort zone. Whether it’s through a step-by-step chart on Pinterest or a YouTube tutorial, just going through the motions of putting on the powders and experimenting with different colors is therapeutic,” senior Nicky Abraham said.

Students are also being encouraged to express their feelings about the change through written expression.

The Office of The Chaplains is sponsoring an online “Wall of Lament” for students, faculty, and staff to anonymously share their thoughts about the current situation.

For students wishing to connect with their on-campus faith community, prayerful reflections by student leaders are also available on the Office of The Chaplains: Religious & Spiritual Life at Gustavus Facebook page.

Though students can draw personal satisfaction from continuing their creativity off campus, nothing can replace the

sense of closeness and community that comes from sharing art with others.

For now, mindfulness and connection to a creative hobby can give us a sense of purpose and tranquility.

“While it’s important to be updated and know what’s going on in the world, focusing on it all day and constantly worrying is detrimental to your mental health, and it’s necessary to find a hobby or creative outlet to have something to do,” Abraham said.



Unprecedented Events: 1998 Tornado, 2020 Coronavirus

Laura Schwichtenberg
Graphics Editor

On March 29, 1998, Saint Peter was devastated by a F-3 tornado that destroyed homes, tore through the campus of Gustavus, and took one life. Almost twenty-two years later, Gustavus (and the entire world) has been forced to confront the novel coronavirus and the uneasy reality and uncertainty of the future. The tornado in 1998 had a major impact on the College, and of course, the students themselves. Tough times and difficult decisions were made then, with the damage caused by the tornado; and now, with the threat of COVID-19; but Gustavus was and is committed to protecting students during times of unprecedented change.

Following the tornado, which was estimated to have caused \$50-52 million in damages to the Gustavus campus, the College made the decision to close in order to assess the devastation and make repairs. Luckily, March 29 fell on the first weekend of Spring Break in 1998, so most students were not on campus during this time. The tornado was considered one of the worst natural disasters in Minnesota's history.

One of the most well-known damages to the Gustavus campus was the Chapel: the tornado snapped off its spire just above the roofline. In addition, Johnson Hall, a small dormitory which housed fifty students and the Crossroads

Program, was damaged beyond repair and had to be destroyed. The tornado also caused the destruction of six houses owned by the College. Over 2,000 trees were lost, and an estimated 80 percent of the windows on campus were broken.

Many believed the College would shut down for the rest of the semester, or even indefinitely, but Gustavus remained closed for only three weeks before allowing students back on campus to finish the school year. Even so, FEMA-like classroom buildings had to be set up in order for students to continue taking classes because so many buildings were unable to be used. The 1998 tornado did motivate the construction of Prairie View Hall, the Carlson International Center and the C. Charles Jackson Campus Center, but more importantly, so many people were willing to help out and volunteer their time during the restoration process. The tornado, while disastrous and deadly, strengthened the sense of community within Gustavus and the greater Saint Peter area.

Fast-forward to the year 2020, and Gustavus has decided to close its doors because of the global coronavirus pandemic. Unlike the shutdown in 1998, President Bergman has communicated to students (in a March 17 email) that Gustavus will remain closed through the end of

the spring semester. For Gustie students, parents, faculty and staff alike, this decision has been met with anxiety and fear for the future of the College (and the world as a whole). Since the situation is developing day by day, and even hour by hour, many feel like they are "in the dark" about the choices being made by the College; but as always, Gustavus has the best interests of students in mind.

In contrast to spring semester 1998, the rest of spring semester 2020 will involve online learning as the sole method of coursework. The semester is set to resume on March 30. Just as students did not register for online courses, most professors were not prepared to teach their courses through online-only methods, either. There will definitely be a learning curve for everyone, so patience is key!

COVID-19 is a worldwide issue and its impact reaches far beyond Gustavus and the Saint Peter area. Gustavus has made the decision to close in order to keep students, faculty and staff safe during this time of uncertainty. So, please continue to follow the guidelines set out by experts: practice social distancing, self-quarantine if you feel sick, and always wash your hands thoroughly! Stay safe, Gusties.

Photograph taken by Glenn Kranking, courtesy of the College and Lutheran Church Archives, Gustavus Adolphus College.

Searching for structure in a chaotic world



Emily Seppelt
Opinion Columnist

The past week for college students across the country has been stressful to say the least—within the span of just a few days we went from just washing our hands more often to having the rest of the semester move online and moving off of campus.

These high-speed changes are jarring and difficult to process, and each student's experience varies wildly. While some families are understanding of our loss, other students are left feeling alone in their grief while their family tells them to be happy that they're home. Other students don't have any family to go home to or weren't

able to make it home in time before travel bans were in place.

Where do we go from here? How can we accept the loss of our spring semester and possibly more of our college experience? How can we make plans for the future when all of our plans and structures have been disrupted? These are questions that every college student has been asking themselves over the past week.

Now that we are all forced to be at home or someplace else safe, adjusting to taking college level classes online and staying on top of our work is going to be a challenge. One step that I have taken at home to adjust is to create a dedicated working space in my room that I will use to work on my schoolwork. This place could be anywhere in the house, as long as you can focus there and actually be productive.

I have also created a daily schedule for myself with the information that I have been given by my professors as to how my classes will be set up. Because I am stuck at home, I made sure to allot time that is dedicated to both being productive and as well as time to relax.

When working from home, it is important to take breaks and make sure you aren't stressing yourself out by over or under working. Making sure to get fresh air outside, whether that be just sitting outside for a minute or taking your dog on a walk, it can help you to escape

your house and get out.

Having some of your favorite things around may also help. It is important to recognize that while we are still doing schoolwork for the rest of the semester, this time has been very stressful and draining on us all. Allowing yourself a favorite treat while doing your work or simply taking a break to do something to enjoy can help to make this transition less overwhelming.

The loss of my friends and the overall campus community is one that I am going to grieve in these next two months, as I am sure other students are. One way that I have coped with missing these people is to schedule daily or weekly video chats with my friends. I also plan to reach out to my study buddies from each of my classes to study and/or work on schoolwork with them over video chat.

Having a conversation with your family or the people that you are living with is also vital. Making sure that you are all aware of their schedules can help to prevent distractions when you are attending class over video call or working on something important. Knowing where other people like to work in your home and setting boundaries will lead to less anger and conflict over time.

Trying to keep as much as your routine as possible from when you were at college can help to distract you from the



a designated workspace is helpful for learning at home.

Emily Seppelt

fact that you are forced to be at home. The little things like having lunch with the same people (virtually) can help to lift your spirits and make you both laugh a little over the absurdity of the whole situation.

Navigating through this crisis is trying for everyone, and the best thing that we can do is support each other, accept where we are in our lives and look forward to a time where we can all be together on cam-

What to do when there's nothing to do



Lauren Casey
Opinion Columnist

On any normal day, having no responsibilities and time off from class sounds fantastic, but when it comes to days of staying inside, Netflix and doing absolutely nothing gets old real fast. Having to stay inside has led to doing some interesting activities. "I've playing Animal Crossing for the past three days straight," Junior Martha Scherschligt said. It's also led to outside the box thinking.

Staying inside has made some of us more productive. Spring cleaning found a whole

new meaning for me. I have organized my closet twice, helped my parents clean out 20 years of items collecting in the basement and held a photo

"On any normal day, having no responsibilities and time off from class sounds fantastic, but when it comes to days of staying inside, Netflix and doing absolutely nothing gets old real fast."

shoot of my 40 Webkinz as well as my college dorm items to sell online since I won't be using either anymore ever again (too soon?). "I've been trying to stay active by going on long walks, runs, a bike ride and doing exercise videos in front of my TV," Junior Emma Lohman said.

Now is a great time to do what you've been avoiding for

weeks, and find healthy ways to stay busy. I'm at the point where doing three hours of research for my senior psych paper, and counting all the change I've accumulated since I was four is more fun than sitting around. That says a lot considering I counted 1,462 pennies.

My creativity has skyrocketed through all of this, as well as others. "I started a Baby Yoda embroidery project since I've been home," Sophomore Riley Wentink said. Having no gym has led to some new workouts and weight substitutes.

Honorable mentions are laundry detergent, using textbooks in giant boxes for sled pushes rather than reading them, squatting my dog, and finding new running routes outside (I got chased down the street by a goose so I'm not going on that route anymore.) It takes creativity to find loopholes in social distancing. No one ever said walking the lake with a friend 6 feet apart was off limits. No one ever said you couldn't have dinner with someone by driving to the restaurant parking lot

and eating a meal parked side by side while talking through the window or on FaceTime. Lastly, using Zoom to have a happy hour with "quarantinis" with friends has become a new thing. Anything goes at this point.

I've found a renewed joy for activities I never had time to do. Reading for fun has be-

"Reading for fun has become fun again, walks outside are the highlight of my day, going on a drive, FaceTiming, sipping coffee while the sun comes up, going to the store is like a field trip and it's amazing how much better family time is when no one is in a rush anymore."

come fun again, walks outside are the highlight of my day, going on a drive, FaceTiming, sipping coffee while the sun comes up, going to the store is like a field trip and it's amazing how much better family time is when no one is in a rush anymore. Taking time to do the little things to keep you calm and relaxed is so important in a time like this. "I've done lots of pleasure reading, played guitar a bit, played games with my family, did some major house chores, took care of my dog and yoga," Senior Nate Williamson said.

Being isolated and having time to yourself isn't a bad thing, and I've learned a lot about myself with using time to just think and sort through the file cabinets in my brain. Find the silver linings, take it one day at a time and shine on, Gusties.

Baseball defeats Marian at Tucson 13-2

Season cut short due to COVID-19 pandemic

Joe Brandel

Sports & Fitness Editor

Before the MIAC Presidents Council voted to cancel the remainder of the spring sports season, Gustavus Baseball was able to travel down to Arizona for the annual Tucson Invite and competed in one game before having to come back to Minnesota.

The Gusties were entering this season with a head of steam after winning the program's first MIAC title since 1980. Last year's team had an overall record of 25-13 and a record of 14-6 in MIAC play.

Head Coach Brad Baker was confident in the team's ability to compete at a high level this season, despite graduating a strong class of seven seniors.

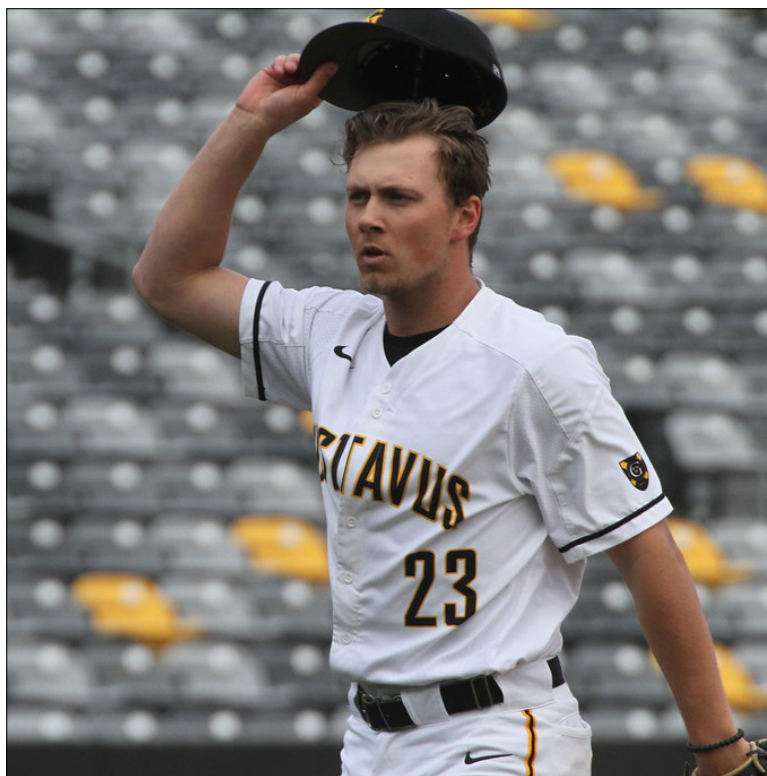
"We go about our business like we have every year and we have a process and we stick to it," Baker said.

"I told the guys I thought we have a better team this year than last year from a talent perspective, and a lot will depend on how they come together. Last year we played well, won when we had to win, and the guys had an amazing year. This year is a whole new year, every team in the conference can beat any team any day, so we approach every game the same," Baker said.

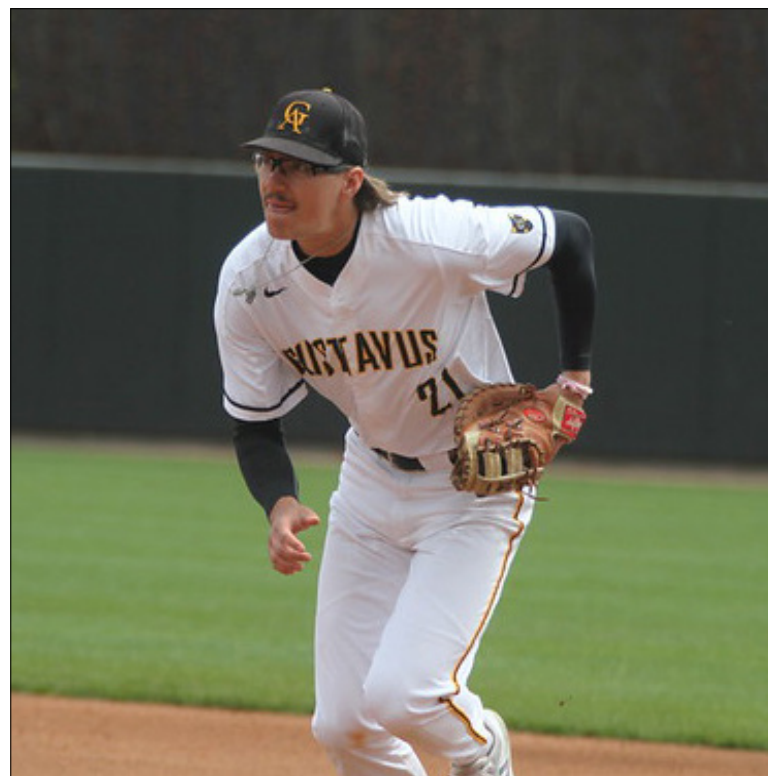
The team started its season with this mentality during its first game against Marian University at the Tucson invite in Arizona.

The Gusties got off to a quick start, racking up the score and ultimately defeated Marian by a score of 13-2.

In the second inning, First-year Patrick Timmer recorded



Gustavus Sports Information



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Jack Garrison (above) and Junior Damon Rademacher (right) both posted scoreless innings against Marian University on March 12.

a double and Sophomore Nick Azar hit a single that drove him in for the first run of the day.

The floodgates seemed to open for the Gusties after this, and the team tallied five more runs throughout the third inning to lead Marian by six.

After a scoreless fourth inning Gustavus struck again in the fifth when First-year Kathen Decker double drove in Junior Nathan Lindberg and First-year Bryce Novak to make the score 8-0.

Marian showed some life in the bottom of the sixth, pushing the score to 8-2 and began testing the Gusties defensive

efforts.

The Gustavus offense responded quickly, however, and scored three more runs in the eighth and two more insurance runs in the ninth, ending the game with a score of 13-2.

Junior Christian Johnson had a sound first game on the mound, throwing five no-hit innings with five strikeouts. Sophomore Jack Garrison and Junior Damon Rademacher both posted scoreless innings coming out of the bullpen.

Sophomore Jack Hanson, Azar and Novak all recorded three hits in the contest and a pair of RBI's, while Lindberg

and Decker also had multi-hit games.

"Our ceiling is on the mind-set of the kids. Us coaches can set goals but it's up to them. The tell last year was when we talked about winning the conference one of our kids said, 'why stop there.' That's when it hit me that we're getting kids that think the way we want them to think. We certainly have the talent to do some really cool things but how it all unfolds remains to be unseen and I'd rather go at it with a lot of talent than without it," Baker said.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all NCAA Winter and

Spring Championships have been cancelled and the MIAC quickly followed suit, terminating the spring sports season March 13.

The Gustavus Baseball team is just one of the many winter and spring sports that have been affected by this pandemic. Not having the opportunity to compete, especially for senior student-athletes, is deeply saddening, but ultimately the health and safety of athletes and the community comes first in unprecedented times like these.



Junior Christian Johnson threw five no-hit innings with five strike-outs, helping to secure the Gusties win against Marian.

Gustavus Sports Information

MIAC calls off remainder of spring sports amid health crisis



The Gustavus sport complex will not see action until next academic school year due to the health crisis surrounding Novel Coronavirus.

Cole Trebelhorn

Michael O'Neil
Sports & Fitness Writer

Due to the events surrounding the COVID-19 virus, the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference made the decision to cancel the remainder of its spring sports seasons on March 13.

This decision followed a string of other events which developed rapidly in response to the spread of the virus.

On Thursday, March 12 the NCAA made the decision to cancel all remaining NCAA winter and spring championships.

"This decision is based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat, our ability to ensure the events do not contribute to [the] spread of the pandemic, and the impracticality of hosting such events at any time during this academic year given ongoing decisions by other entities," the NCAA press release said.

The DIII Indoor Track Championships were set to be held March 13-14 in Winston Salem, NC and the DIII Swimming Championships were set to be held March 18-21 in Greensboro, NC. Gustavus student athletes had qualified to compete at both events.

That Thursday, Carleton College also made the decision to cancel the remainder of their spring sports season completely.

The following day, the MIAC Presidents Council voted to cancel regular season conference play and conference champion-

ships for all spring sports. These sports include baseball, softball, tennis, outdoor track and field, and golf.

"The MIAC shares in the disappointment that this difficult decision will bring to student-athletes, families, coaches, and fans; however, the uncertainty of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that for the safety and well-being of our student-athletes, athletic staff, and campus communities, it is no longer feasible for conference athletic activities to continue at this time," the MIAC press release said.

At that point, the all member institutions agreed to not participate in any contests for the remainder of the 2020 spring season.

"This is truly an extraordinary situation and a saddening experience for our student-athletes. The MIAC has made the difficult decision to cancel the spring season, and although this is disappointing, we echo the conference's sentiments regarding the safety and well-being of everyone involved," Gustavus Director of Athletics Tom Brown said.

As soon as the NCAA cancelled spring sports, championships and conferences around the country began shutting down spring seasons, questions of eligibility arose for athletes who lost opportunities to compete.

When the NCAA Board of Governors voted to cancel all winter and spring championships, they directed each of the three divisions to begin working

on rule modifications to deal with these issues.

On March 13, Division III approved measures including granting an additional semester and season of eligibility for all student-athletes participating in spring sports.

"While these measures won't cover all circumstances, they were taken with the best interest of student-athletes in mind. During these extraordinarily difficult times, conferences and institutions should not focus on

the application of NCAA legislation, but rather the health and well-being of student-athletes," Tori Murden McClure, chair of the DIII Administrative Committee said.

In order to make it more feasible for graduating seniors to take advantage of their additional year of eligibility, the MIAC also made additional rule changes.

On Friday, March 20, the MIAC Presidents Council unanimously voted to approve a by

law that grants eligibility relief for student-athletes who will be earning an undergraduate degree this spring.

"The rule provides a one-time eligibility exception for graduating seniors, allowing them to remain at their current institution and compete in their spring sport during the 2020-21 academic year, provided the student-athlete is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate or graduate degree, has eligibility remaining, and their



Other fields such as Hollingsworth Stadium sit empty after the College's closure.

Cole Trebelhorn