

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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ISSUE 9

MEET GUSTIE
of the WEEK:
Lynnea Eckhoff



VARIETY - PAGE 6

More COVID on
campus? Shocker.



OPINION - PAGE 11

Campus athletes
react to "Lay Low"
period



SPORTS - PAGE 16

End of the fall semester brings new changes

Updates to COVID-19 guidelines and January and Springs courses hope to help Gusties stay safe



Gustavus students adjust to new COVID-19 guidelines.

Gracie Jackson

Emily VanGorder
Staff Writer

With the end of fall semester approaching and COVID-19 cases increasing nationwide, Gusties are facing new changes. On Nov. 6, President Bergman announced that campus would be implementing a "Lay Low" plan to limit the number of COVID-19 cases on campus. On Friday, Nov. 13, a mass COVID-19 testing will be held for all students on campus.

The Lay Low plan was developed using information from campus case investigations to identify situations in which transmission of COVID-19 was high, such as in social gatherings, study groups and between roommates.

"We found that activities

that are structured and have a faculty/staff member present are at a low risk...we prioritized academic-related activities and other structured activities with faculty/staff present to continue," Senior Director of Institutional Events in Marketing and Communication Barb Larson Taylor said.

In the future, the Lay Low plan will be utilized when large groups of students are returning to campus and whenever there is a substantial rise in positive cases on campus.

The number of COVID-19 cases is rising in the U.S., and the upcoming holiday season is expected to increase disease transmission. The mass testing event on Friday, Nov. 13 is designed to catch any previously unknown cases of COVID-19 and further ensure the health and safety of everyone on campus.

"The Minnesota Department

of Health recently told colleges that they should strongly encourage all students to be tested if they plan to leave campus for Thanksgiving...MDH is working with several colleges across the state to have similar events. We are pleased to be working closely with MDS and Nicollet County Public Health to offer this on campus," Larson Taylor said.

Testing is only available to Gustavus students and employees, and will be held in Lund Forum, where there will be enough room to keep everyone socially distanced while testing. The test itself will be a saliva test, in which participants have their saliva tested after spitting into a vial.

"We believe the response will be high because it is free and convenient. We hope to test between 1000-2000 people at this event. MDH told us that... we should expect around a

ten percent positivity rate. The good news is that we will be discovering many people who are positive who may not have tested positive. The challenge is that this will be a large group to manage, so we are working to be ready for the influx of cases," Larson Taylor said.

Gustavus currently has 2,450 students enrolled meaning the college currently has plans to test over half of the student population.

Anyone who tests positive will fill out a COVID-19 self-report form. They will then be contacted by an assigned case manager, who will help them with the transition to isolation, either on campus or off campus in a safe location. Contact tracing will then be conducted, and anyone who had close contact with someone who tested positive will be notified and moved into quarantine.

Spring semester will look

very similar to fall semester as far as the implementation of COVID-19 protocols and options regarding learning plans.

This week, students are beginning to register for J-term courses and planning for spring semester. Planning for J-term typically begins in the spring, but once COVID-19 hit, course proposals had to wait until September.

**COVID-19
Update
on page 2**

**Continued on
page 4**

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Campus Safety Report

Monday, November 2nd

- Campus Safety took a theft report from an employee for items that were taken from the Arboretum.

Tuesday, November 3rd

- A student reported a possible theft of a laptop.
- Campus Safety responded to the odor of Marijuana in Gibbs Hall. One student referred to the campus conduct system for underage possession of alcohol.

Wednesday, November 4th

- No incidents reported

Thursday, November 5th

- No incidents reported

Friday, November 6th

- Campus safety was called to Southwest Hall for a fire alarm. Alarm was set off by cooking.
- Campus Safety received a fire alarm prompt over radio from Southwest Hall. No actual fire. AC on Call notified per protocol.
- Campus Safety responded to the odor of Marijuana in Southwest Hall. One student referred to the campus conduct system for possession of paraphernalia. AC on Call was contacted per protocol.
- A CF was doing rounds and discovered a room in Uhler Hall not following

the new "Lay Low" policy the campus put into effect today.

- A CF was doing rounds and discovered a room in Uhler Hall not following the new "Lay Low" policy.

Saturday, November 7th

- Campus Safety took a stolen property report at Jackson Campus Center for non-GAC property.
- A CF discovered a room in Pittman Hall not wearing masks and not following the new "Lay Low" policy.

Sunday, November 8th

- Two CFs were doing rounds and discovered a room in Norelius Hall not following

the new "Lay Low" policy

- During routine patrol Campus Safety discovered an odor of marijuana in Uhler Hall.
- Campus Safety responded to a noise complaint in Uhler Hall. Two students referred to the Campus Conduct System.
- Campus Safety responded to a damage to GAC property in Uhler Hall. A bathroom partition was pulled out of the wall.
- A CF discovered a room in North Hall not following the new "Lay Low" policy the campus put into effect Friday.

November 6, 2020.

- Campus Safety received a call about a Welfare Check in Sohre Hall.

Note: Case dispositions are available online by viewing the daily crime log on the Campus Safety web page: <https://gustavus.edu/safety/incidents/index.php>


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COVID-19 Report
Gustavus On-Campus Update

As of November 9, 2020:

Total Positive Cases (since August 15): 127
Current Positive Student Cases: 65
Current Positive Employee Cases: 1
Total Students in Isolation/Quarantine: 178
Students in Isolation/Quarantine On Campus: 54
Employees in Isolation/Quarantine: 8

This data set is meant to encompass the on-campus impact of COVID-19 by counting cases where a person may have been on campus while infectious. For example, students who are living at home or employees who are working remotely and not visiting campus will not be counted in these on-campus numbers. This information is also available for viewing on the College's COVID-19 Dashboard.

Minnesota COVID-19 Update

As of November 11, 2020:

Total Positive Cases (since January 20): 194,570
Daily Newly Reported Cases: 4,900
Daily New Reported Nicollet County Cases: 28

This data comes from the Minnesota Department of Health's "Situation Update" website, which is updated every day at 11 a.m.

Political Science's Dr. Chris Gilbert weighs in on presidential election results



Gustavus students show their support for political candidates by posting signs on their doors.

Gracie Jackson

Freya Nelson
Staff Writer

As of Nov. 7, a concise presidential election outcome has been reached: a win for Democratic President-Elect Joe Biden. With 279 electoral votes for Joe Biden and 217 electoral votes for Donald Trump, President Trump no longer has any possible pathway to win re-election. However, President Trump cites voter fraud for his loss and continues to push for prosecution in court to ensure election laws were fully upheld, according to NPR.

According to election reports from MSNBC, Pennsylvania was the tipping point for Biden's win, gaining him twenty electoral votes. Other key battleground states, such as Nevada, Michigan, and Wisconsin all voted in favor of presidential candidate Joe Biden. Needing 270 electoral votes for a presidential candidate to secure an election victory, Biden's 279 electoral votes surpasses the threshold. It is presumed that

President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris will be sworn into office on Jan. 20, 2021.

As for Trump's claims of voter fraud, Gustavus Political Science Professor Dr. Chris Gilbert, weighs in on the significance of these allegations.

"It is very significant that one candidate would challenge the legitimacy of his opponent's victory, let alone deny that the other candidate even won at all. This has not happened quite this way ever in U.S. presidential election history. It's also very significant that so far, there is no substance to the allegations of voter fraud—this is an argument entirely lacking in evidence to support it," Gilbert said.

Although Trump's allegations of voter fraud hold little momentum legally, the topic continues to circulate on social media platforms.

"So far there is zero evidence of any systematic fraud in any state that has a close outcome. In general, instances of actual voter fraud remain very rare in the United States, and this election is revealing that this is still

true. Making fraud accusations probably helps lessen the sting of losing

the presidential election, so this could be seen as a way of keeping core Republican voters motivated," Gilbert said.

In order for a recount to take place on a state level, there needs to be sufficient evidence of violation of federal laws. Following this factual finding of fraud, a recount is possible but, even then, it is unlikely. A process for recount on the national level does not exist. Georgia has been the only state to agree to and start a full recounting process.

In order to force a recount in one or more states, Trump administration lawyers would have to show that state election procedures either violated federal laws, their own state laws or both; and would have to show that such violations would rule out enough ballots cast to render the outcome in doubt, at which point the state or states involved would have to recount, subject to the deadlines [of Dec. 14]. There is no such thing as a national recount

and none has ever occurred, since the election results depend on state-level popular votes," Gilbert said.

The delegates of the Electoral College historically cast their votes on the Monday following the second Wednesday of Dec., which this year is Dec. 14. Following those official results, the election is non-negotiable. In terms of these claims of systematic voter fraud, or a President's alleged unwillingness to embrace a peaceful transfer of power by election, this has never happened before in US history.

"President Trump hinted at this before the election by charging that his election night victory would be "overturned" by ballots counted later—but it has simply never been the case that states could, or do, count all their ballots on election night. So there is no election night winner to "overturn" to begin with. The timing here is significant: under federal law, Electoral College electors meet and cast their votes this year on Dec. 14. Bottom line: yes there is time, but barely, in my estimation, for

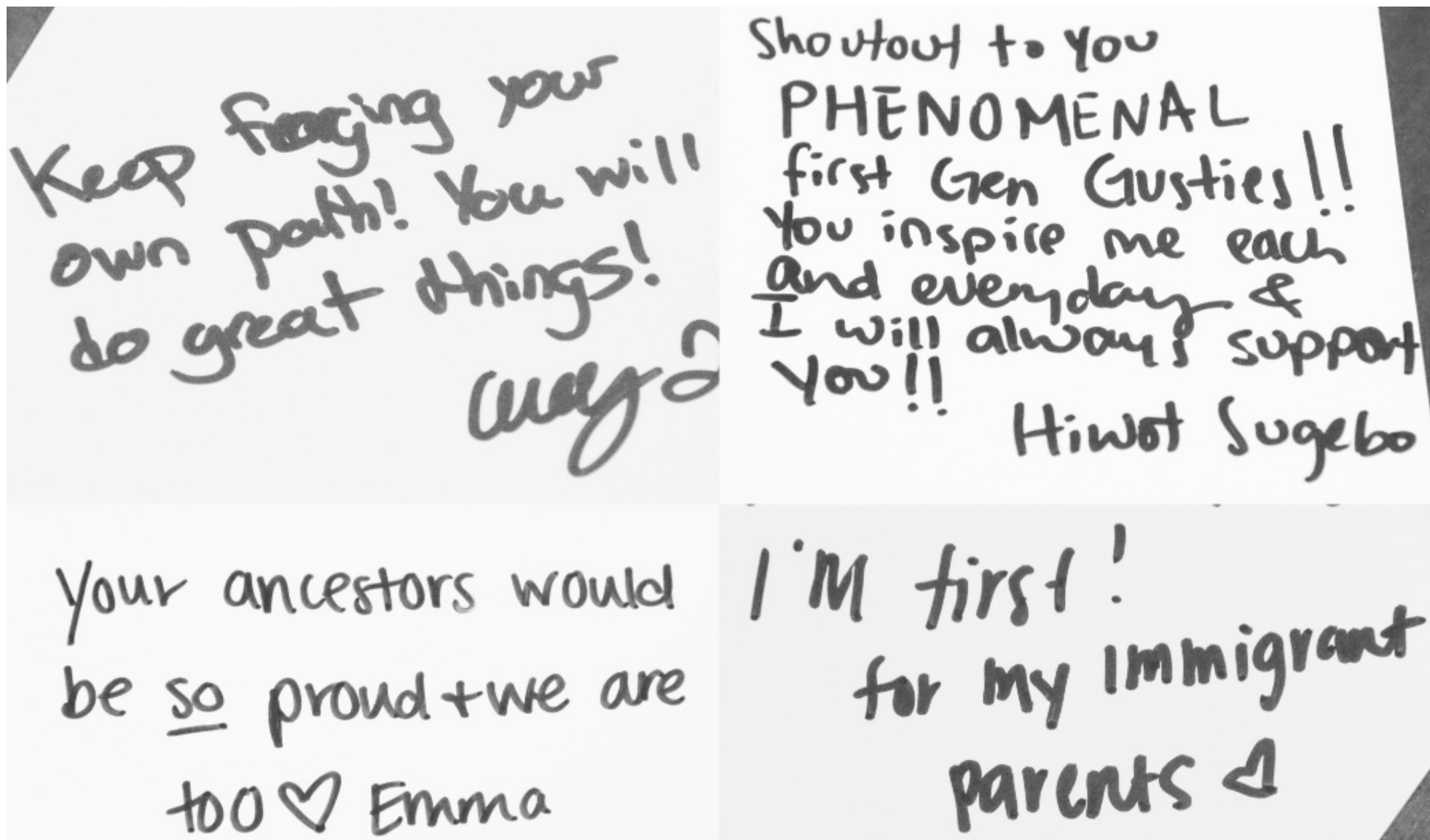
legal challenges to be filed and resolved, leading to some state recounts, and still meet the Dec. 14 deadline," Gilbert said.

Due to the lack of factual evidence to back up Trump's allegations of voter fraud, according to news sources such as CNN and the New York Times, these kinds of accusations may have negative effects on US politics and even further strengthen the importance of seeking out credible sources.

"Overall, the resistance on the part of President Trump and some, not all, of his allies to the fact that Joe Biden won this election is a bad, bad, bad situation for U.S. politics. First and foremost, their narrative is false, and we shouldn't encourage false narratives," Gilbert said.

For more information about election results, updates on President Trump's lawsuit filings, or the current state of US politics in general visit AP.org, the Voter Engagement Team webpage on Gustavus.edu or the Minnesota Secretary of State webpage at election.results.sos.state.mn.us.

Gustavus celebrates first-generation students



Gusties share what makes first generation students important.

Luke Yang

Marie Osuna
Staff Writer

This week, first-generation students across campus have been celebrating their accomplishments as part of the First-Generation Celebration, which took place on Nov. 9, 2020.

The Celebration, which was hosted by the First-Forward Network, a branch of the Center for Inclusive Excellence, included "I'm First" t-shirts and pins, a virtual speaker and cultural cookie baggies. The Network was also having students submit "I am first" selfies for their display case.

This celebration meant a lot to many students on campus. According to the Center for Inclusive Excellence, Gustavus

is home to 275-300 students every year.

"Being a first-generation college student is a little overwhelming to say the least. It's definitely an experience of its own because being first-generation, no one in my family knows how to apply for college or scholarships or the FAFSA," Junior First-Generation Student Brenda De Rosas Lazaro said.

Celebrations like the one on Tuesday are part of the Center of Inclusive Excellence's efforts to help first-generation students feel more confident navigating the nuances of college life.

"It's just crazy to think that two years ago, I wasn't in this position (in school and getting an education), so I'm lucky to have the resources to do it," Lazaro said.

Lazaro was one of many students who posted a 'I'm first' photo on social media in celebration of first-forward day at Gustavus.

"I posted a photo to acknowledge the people in my life that have been my inspiration and motivation (like my parents and grandparents). It was a way to acknowledge them publicly and give encouragement to the people who are in the same position (as I was) to help them realize it is possible," Lazaro said.

The First Forward Network has many events planned for the remainder of the school year, including during J-term. They will also be celebrating first-forward month in April. Plans for that include virtual icebreaker activities, a first-for-

ward dinner, a mini-concert and a senior celebration. Of course, it should be noted that these events are all pending given the uncertainty of planning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Just in general, it's hard to acknowledge each other and come together as a community since you can't have large gatherings or anything," Lazaro said.

The First-Forward Network was started to help close the gap between high school and college after students stop being involved with college-preparatory groups such as TRiO or Upward Bound.

"The First Forward Network initiative aims to provide guidance, direction, and resources not only as students transition from high school to college, but

as they continue to navigate their journey through college," the Network's mission says.

The Network has previously hosted events for students co-sponsored with the Career Development Center offering information on growth, networking, finances and other pressing questions college students may have. The Center also offers the Summer Institute for Academic Success (SIAS), a time for first-year students to get connected to campus prior to first-year orientation.

Information about the First Forward Network can be found on their social media pages, @FirstForwardNetwork on Facebook and @first_forward_networking.gac on Instagram, as well as on the Center for Inclusive Excellence's webpage.

Continued from page 1

This will be the first J-term to include courses that can fulfill GenEd, major and minor requirements, in addition to the typical J-term courses. With this new curriculum, J-term courses will count towards total credits for graduation for first-years and new transfer students.

"In the past, faculty were specifically discouraged from having regular major courses and GenEd courses during J-term...We have heard the message loud and clear that

students really value the opportunity to take GenEd courses during J-term...we're going to continue to work with departments to think about things that majors might want to do during this interim period," Associate Provost and Dean of Sciences and Education in Provost's Office and Environmental Studies, and Professor in Environmental Studies Valerie Banschbach said.

This new system was approved by faculty and finalized last year, and implementation of the program began in the spring.

"Part of [this decision] was

to provide added value for students. If you're going to be studying during an interim period...it would be great if you could fulfill as many requirements as possible during that time, and make progress towards your degree," Banschbach said.

With COVID-19 social distancing rules in mind, the number of students who could be in each class were set ten to thirty percent lower than they normally would be. As soon as registration began on Nov. 8, spots quickly began to fill up.

"We had a phenomenon where people took seats for

classes because they were worried, so they signed up for the one they wanted and then for five or six waitlists. We started working last night to address that issue...since last night, I think we've probably added about 200 seats," Banschbach said.

To solve this problem created by COVID-19, students were emailed about the NDL-099 course, which acts as a placeholder if the course a student is interested in is filled. Students who signed up for this placeholder will be contacted and hopefully receive help registering for their preferred course.

"I understand that it stresses people out to show up and not find a spot, but we are working hard and we will make sure everybody gets a spot...students will not fail to graduate because they didn't get this J-term. We are not abandoning people," Banschbach said.

Students who decide to remain on campus to take a J-term course will not see any change to their tuition. A variety of online, hybrid and in-person J-term courses are being offered to best accommodate students' desired living and learning plan during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Introspection and the resiliency of the arts under COVID-19



Self-portrait by Sonja Quimby

Samantha Raghu
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Art and Art History department has dedicated its time to providing students with the resources needed to explore their identities, convey personal values and express themselves through their artwork. Over the years, various art majors and students taking an art class have utilized artistic expression and creation as a means of coping and pushing through trying times.

Senior Studio Art major Claire Strohmeier, currently taking a ceramics course, and Senior Visual Arts major Sonja Quimby, participating in an independent study, demonstrate how creating art has provided them with comfort and ease during the chaotic and uncertain times of COVID-19.

"A lot of my work has been incredibly self-reflective. With COVID, it has forced me to reach out to people more often than I would. Some of my art was inspired by those interactions and talking with other people," Strohmeier said.

While each student has been able to channel their emotions

and artistically flourish within their introspective spaces, numerous challenges have been imposed on them as resources and work spaces have been limited due to COVID-19.

"Art also became a meditation of sorts for me where I wouldn't think about all the events happening around me. I would focus on creating what I can control."

-Senior Sonja Quimby

Strohmeier explains that her ceramics class is currently hybrid, where half of the students meet on Tuesday and the other half on Thursday. Thus, there are limited interactions between all the students.

"Our entire class is not allowed to meet in this entire studio together because that's too many people for this space. That's very hard for a studio class because you can't look at each other's work and get feedback from everyone," Strohmeier said.

Quimby also communicates her struggles with finding a space that fosters her motivation outside of an art studio.

"When trying to pursue your creative endeavors, a dorm room is not very effective. Definitely having space where you can work is very important," Quimby said.

Nevertheless, students and faculty have stayed resilient when tackling these challenges and utilized various online resources to aid in the student's participation and learning in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

"When our professor is giving a demo, usually you would move closer to see and watch what he's doing with his hands.

"We put ourselves in our artwork, and I think it is nice that COVID allows you to be alone with your thoughts and the art that you're making."

-Senior Sonja Quimby

We use Zoom during in-person classes just so the camera can zoom in closer to capture what the professor is doing," Strohmeier said.

Regardless of the current struggles each student is facing, there is a consensus that both students are more equipped to overcome the obstacles of COVID-19 for this semester in comparison to the spring semester of 2020.

Strohmeier and Quimby discuss how the unprecedented spread of COVID-19 last spring was harder to cope with due to classes abruptly switching online and all students being sent home.

"I know for spring semester I did take some classes that were switched to online courses and that was a hard experience. It was harder of a transition especially since one of my classes was figuring drawing, and without the

models I had to do a lot of self-portrait drawings just by looking in the mirror," Quimby said.

"I had a lot of time to be myself this spring and summer, and a lot of my art has been better because I had time to sit and think about my ideas and what I'm going through."

-Senior Claire Strohmeier

"Spring semester was difficult because there was no warning. I left a lot of my art behind when I went home so that was definitely a challenge. At least if things do go online this semester, everyone is better prepared for it," Strohmeier said.

As we continue to persist throughout the semester under COVID-19, both Quimby and Strohmeier are nevertheless excited for their upcoming projects and appreciate how the emotional challenges of the pandemic continue to pave the way

for their most expressive works.

Strohmeier and Quimby have some of their most renowned art pieces displayed along with several other student pieces at the Schaefer Art Gallery Juried Student Exhibition. The Exhibition is open for students and faculty to explore from November 10-23 in accordance with social distancing protocols (Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.).



Art students attend their class in-person in the Sculpture Studio.

Sage Kiefer



Submitted

Mula Lay
Staff Writer

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Lynnea Eckhoff

This week's Gustie of the Week is faculty member Lynnea Eckhoff. Eckhoff is the Manager of Music Tours in Gustavus' Fine Arts department, and is originally from Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Eckhoff's position as Manager of Music Tours entails picking out locations for Gustavus' music ensembles and marketing work. Eckhoff works with the conductors to decide on the locations of performances and secures passports, lodging, transportation and food for the trips. In terms of marketing, Eckhoff promotes the concerts by making posters and providing information to places that the ensembles visit.

One thing Eckhoff loves about working at Gustavus is the community. She felt welcomed into the community immediately upon starting her role.

Because of COVID-19, Eckhoff's role has changed. While she is still working to plan a concert in a virtual format instead of a tour, Eckhoff has stepped up into the role of working in Case Management. In being a case manager, Eckhoff's work has pivoted towards facilitating COVID-19 cases and discerning proper actions on a case-by-case basis.

"So anytime someone reports that they're feeling sick or that they have been exposed to someone with COVID, or that they themselves have COVID that comes into our system [...] I help facilitate that and figure out you know how long are you going to quarantine? [...] Should you get tested if you're going to stay on campus? Where are we going to put you?" Eckhoff said.

While working as a Case Manager is different from her original title, Eckhoff still sees some similarities in both roles. Both roles are student-centered and are driven by the importance of student experience.

In managing tours, Eckhoff

looks to provide a memorable experience for the students because she knows how important it is as in college she was involved in tours. It is important especially now during the times of COVID-19.

"We did tours and I still remember those very vividly, so that's important to them [the students] and also, just from the perspective of when we go [tour], we do reach prospective students and we do connect with our alumni. So like keeping all of those connections in a virtual format [due to COVID], is gonna be challenging," Eckhoff said.

In COVID-19 case management, Eckhoff looks to provide a positive experience for students. Quarantine isn't fun, and she wants to alleviate their worries by doing the best in properly communicating while maintaining a balance by looking at things from the perspective of a student.

"So thinking about [...] how much communication they should get from their case manager. Well, if I'm a student, [...]

I want to feel like I'm plugged in. I want to feel like I have a kind of a lifeline that I can reach out to. But I also don't want to be bothered every single day and bombarded, so what's the balance there?" Eckhoff said.

The biggest difference between the two roles is the learning curve. In case management, the learning curve is steeper. Eckhoff has to understand and learn things from the medical side and collaborate with health workers. Because COVID-19 seems to be unending, there is not a set strategy to tackle the problems. When planning tours, Eckhoff knows what to expect from start to finish, but with COVID-19 everything seems to be unexpected.

"With COVID there is no end result, right? Like the end result is that everyone stays healthy. That's the hope, but you know, it's kind of like [...] you're running a race, and the finish line just keeps moving," Eckhoff said.

With everything going on in the world because of COVID-19, Eckhoff imparts some comfort-

ing words.

"I really like the community at Gustavus and I think that's become very apparent during COVID because we've all had to step up in really [...] strange ways [...] even when I first came to Gustavus it was a very warm and welcoming community."

-Lynnea Eckhoff

"You have to give yourself and others just a little bit of grace because for the most part we're all doing the best that we can and everybody reacts to stress differently," Eckhoff said.

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Pre-COVID photos of the Gustavus Music Collective's Open Mic Night in the Courtyard Cafe (Nov. 2019)

Submitted

The Gustavus Music Collective offers an alternative to credit-based musical ensembles

Michaela Woodward
Staff Writer

Gustavus students are often heavily involved in the music ensembles on campus, but for those who do not want to take courses for credit, the Gustavus Music Collective provides an opportunity to perform and share music outside of an academic setting.

"The Gustavus Music Collective is a group of students on campus... apart from choir or orchestra or jazz, where we just have a safe space for musicians to showcase what they're working on and performing that might not be for credit."

-Senior Lydia Kalenze

The Music Collective has two main facets they focus on. In the past, they have hosted monthly open mic nights in the Courtyard Café. They also have access to a recording studio on campus for performers who may want to record their work and utilize the professional equipment available. In COVID-19 times, this is a unique and safe aspect of the organization.

"Because of COVID, we've really been leaning into the recording studio side of the music collective. That's a really safe option right now because there can only be one person in that room at a time. I'm actually really grateful that we have this part of our org that can tide us over into the spring when we can hopefully start doing more things outside and back in person again," Kalenze said.

Additionally, the Music Collective sometimes hosts "jammin'" sessions, causal small group meetings for members to get together and share the music they've been enjoying and to perform if they wish. More plans to expand the organization were in the works last year, but the pandemic halted them.

In adjusting to the new nor-

mal, a virtual open mic session during J-term is in the works. Performance submissions would be pre-recorded and then edited into one video, which would be live-streamed.

Kalenze is also looking forward to the spring when the group's events can be safely in person.

"We had talked about doing pop-up performances around campus to get people involved. When everything was halted so suddenly last year, we didn't get a chance to implement everything we wanted to. Just providing as many opportunities for a creative outlet as possible has been our goal overall," Kalenze said.

Kalenze herself found the Music Collective to be the best creative space for her when she came to Gustavus.

"Personally, the connections that I've made in this group have been absolutely phenomenal. I came into college not really knowing where I wanted to be musically, but I love to play guitar and I love to sing and this group has just helped me grow so much as a performer. I'm still in touch with all the former Presidents to this day and

they're all still musically active. I just feel like everyone who's performed at these open mic nights has gone on to continue their love of music," Kalenze said.

"Because the music collective provides a space for all genres of music...we have had people do spoken word poetry even, country music, jazz, pop music, there is truly a space for anyone who wants to showcase their favorite kind of music which is really cool," Kalenze said.

"There is truly a space for anyone who wants to showcase their favorite kind of music which is really cool."

-Lydia Kalenze

"If you tried the ensembles for credit and you didn't really feel like it was a perfect fit for you and you want to try a new kind of music...really there's

a place for everyone. If you're interested in music, if you like to watch live music, if you like performing music, there's definitely a place for you in this org. We would love to see what you can create," Kalenze said.

"We have had people do spoken word poetry, even country music, jazz, pop music, there is truly a space for anyone who wants to showcase their favorite kind of music."

-Lydia Kalenze

Those interested in joining should send Kalenze an email to be added to the list and receive news about upcoming events and studio availability. They can also follow the Instagram account @gustavusmusiccollective.

Geena Zebrasky
Staff Writer

The Pets of Gustavus

Being on campus can be tough, especially in the middle of a pandemic. Many of us have pets at home that we wish we could bring with us because we miss their daily companionship. Though it might not seem like it, there are many pets and Emotional Support Animals on campus. From cats to dogs to snails, these pseudo Gusties help remind their caretakers to take breaks, take care of themselves, and are a major part of their daily lives.

For this week's feature, you'll learn about the personalities and best things about some of the pets living at Gustavus!



This cute pup named Herbert belongs to roommates Kathryn Hicks and Miranda Johnsen.



Phoebo, Tessa Longshore's adorable kitty, loves Zoom classes (unlike many Gusties!).

Herbert (Kathryn Hicks and Miranda Johnsen)

The first featured pet living here on campus is Herbert, a nearly eight year old dog that lives with roommates Kathryn Hicks and Miranda Johnsen. Rescued from a shelter when Hicks was 15, Herbert has spent almost 6 years with her.

Do you have a fun story about how or when you got your pet?
“I was out driving with my dad practicing for the test and it was snowing. My dad thought it would be a good idea if I learned how to recover from a fishtail (when your car goes wild when driving in the snow) so naturally, he grabbed my emergency break and pulled. No surprise I did not recover well and ended up in the ditch. After getting out, either out of pity or maybe it was the plan all along, but my parents took me to the shelter and we brought Herbert home,” said Hicks.

What is your pet's personality like? Do they enjoy certain things, do anything funny, or have a cute feature?
“Herbert can be a little shy at first. As basically anyone who has met him can tell you, when you meet him for the first time he usually just sniffs you and ignores you,” said Hicks. “His absolute favorite thing in the world is to play fetch! He has literally played fetch for close to three hours one day. So when people meet him, I always tell them as soon as he brings you his ball, then you know you two are friends.”

What's your favorite thing about your pet?
“There are so many things I love about Herbert it is hard to pick just one thing, but I love how cuddly he is. Writing a paper is a lot more enjoyable when there's a dog laying next to you!” said Hicks.

What are the benefits of having a pet on campus?
“Herbert reminds me that I need to take breaks!” said Hicks. “Either a break to go for a walk or a break to play fetch! He reminds me that it is good to set the homework down for a bit and take care of myself (and him!)”

Anything else you want to share? (Funny story, whatever!)
“I was a ball of stress on November 6 for so many reasons. And I decided to stress buy him a new toy. He completely lost his mind over this new toy and carried it around with him everywhere. He and my roommate Miranda played an hour-long game of keep-away with it!” said Hicks. “Today he decided he needed to carry the toy outside; however, he took two steps and dropped it, and then made me carry it the rest of the walk.”

Phoebo (Tessa Longshore)

The last pet we get to meet is Phoebo—who student Tessa Longshore initially thought was a girl and had originally named Phoebe!

Do you have a fun story about how or when you got your pet?
“The story behind how I got him is pretty cute. I had gone home one weekend to visit last fall and he was a stray that jumped in my car and I just couldn't let him go,” said Longshore.

What is your pet's personality like? Do they enjoy certain things, do anything funny, or have a cute feature?
“He is a very playful and curious cat. He actually has wobbly cat syndrome so he has a bit of a tough time walking, running and jumping,” said Longshore. “He's just a very good boy.”

What are the benefits of having a pet on campus?
“One benefit of having a cat on campus is he is an Emotional Support Animal so he knows how to help me when I'm having a rough day and he's always ready to cheer me up,” said Longshore.

Anything else you would want to share? (Funny story, whatever!)
“He loves the online classes because it means I get to spend more time with him and he gets to pop into the frame and say hi to the class as well!” said Longshore.



Cadence Paramore is the proud owner of many snails, two of which are named Ellie and Broccoli. Pictured is Apollo, Paramore's late pet snail.

Ellie and Broccoli (Cadence Paramore)

The next pet feature for this week isn't just one pet: it's multiple! The Gustavian Weekly's very own Photography Editor, Cadence Paramore, has snails named Ellie and Broccoli (Broc for short). “Ellie is named after Carl's wife in Up, and Broccoli is named after the vegetable. I just liked the idea of having a serious name and a silly name,” said Paramore.

Do you have a fun story about how or when you got your pet?
“I got them a year ago. Originally I was buying a milk snail (his name was Apollo, he just died about a month ago but he's the snail in the picture) and these guys came as 'extras' that I was not intending to buy,” said Paramore. “I'm glad I have them, though!”

What is your pet's personality like? Do they enjoy certain things, do anything funny, or have a cute feature?
“Broc is a lot more social than Ellie, and their favorite food is cucumbers,” said Paramore.

What's your favorite thing about your pet?
“They're really fun to hold and it almost feels like someone is licking my hand when they crawl!” said Paramore.

What are the benefits of having a pet on campus?
“Taking care of my snails reminds me to take care of myself,” said Paramore. “I get super busy but I remind myself to feed them and then I grab food for myself. I call them my therapy snails.”

Anything else you want to share? (Funny story, whatever!)
“They just had babies! Now I have about 20 little snails crawling around!” said Paramore.

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