

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

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ISSUE 13

Meet GUSTIE
of the WEEK:
Audrey Ochtrup-
DeKeyrel



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College students
on Biden's first
ten days



OPINION- PAGE 11

Select sports are
back for Spring
Semester



SPORTS- PAGE 16



Gustavus' FURst Snow Lion was built this J-Term by a group of Gusties.

Luke Yang

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Campus Safety Report

Saturday, January 9, 2021

- Campus Safety was contacted to enforce alcohol policy in Sorensen Hall.
- Campus Safety was contacted to enforce alcohol policy in Sorensen Hall.

Monday, January 11, 2021

- Campus Safety discovered a conduct violation in Uhler Hall
- Campus Safety discovered a conduct violation in Uhler Hall
- Campus Safety responded to a Medical Assist at Christ Chapel. Patient has a medical protocol on file. Patient was not transported and the

Dean on call was notified as per protocol.

Sunday, January 17, 2021

- Campus Safety observed a conduct violation in Uhler Hall.
- Campus Safety observed a conduct violation in Uhler Hall.

Monday, January 25, 2021

- Campus Safety did a medical escort off-campus for a student that cut their finger.

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

- Dispatch received a call for medical amnesty at College

View Apartments for medical assistance.

- Campus Safety took a report of a theft from a student's motor vehicle.

Thursday, January 28, 2021

- Campus Safety responded to a theft of a fire extinguisher on the first floor of Gibbs Hall.

Saturday, January 30, 2021

- Two students in Sohre Hall were referred to the Campus Conduct System for a controlled substance violation by Campus Safety.

on the Campus Safety web page.

Tip of the Week:
The snow and ice season is still here so remember winter safety tips! Wear proper footwear with good traction and always look ahead at the walking surface. Keep your eyes and ears alert to what's going on around you and put away the cell phone. Always look both ways in crosswalks and be aware that vehicles will have a harder time stopping on slippery surfaces. When snow removal equipment is trying to clear the snow, stay away from roadways, lots, and sidewalks being worked on. Be aware that snow removal equipment can suddenly move backwards, forwards, and

may turn sharply. Never walk directly in front of or directly behind snow removal equipment. Make sure drivers see you by making eye contact and wait for them to pass before crossing. Contact **Facilities Management** (507-933-7504) to report slippery areas. Contact **Campus Safety** (507-933-8888) immediately if you may have been involved in a slip and fall injury.

Note: Case dispositions are available online by viewing the daily crime log

Under the Weather?
Urgent Care can help

See us for*:

Sore Throats | Ear Infection | Minor Cuts or Bruises
Minor Burns | Sprains | Insect Bites | Bladder Infections
Rashes | Eye Irritations |Upper Respiratory Illness

*list not all inclusive - all ages welcome - no appointment needed

RIVER'S EDGE
HOSPITAL • ST. PETER

Monday - Friday 12 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Weekends 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Holidays
Use the Emergency Room Entrance

1900 North Sunrise Drive | St. Peter
www.REHC.org

COVID-19 Report

Gustavus On-Campus Update

As of February 2, 2021:

Total Positive Cases (since August 15): 202
Current Positive Student Cases: 1
Current Positive Employee Cases: 1
Total Students in Isolation/Quarantine: 7
Students in Isolation/Quarantine On Campus: 2
Employees in Isolation/Quarantine: 1

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 February 3, 2021:

Total Positive Cases (since January 20, 2020): 463,374
Daily Newly Reported Cases: 669
Daily New Reported Nicollet County Cases: 0

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

First-years navigate the nuances of an online school year



Gusties returning to campus for J-Term and Spring Semester are asked to participate in a second two-week "Lay Low" period to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Isaac Bui

Marie Osuna
Staff Writer

Now that spring semester has started up on campus, students are back in classes—or at least, Zooming into their classes. Since COVID-19 sent students home last March, Zoom classes have become the new normal, with a coveted 'in-person' or even 'hybrid' class being rare.

While upperclassmen stare at their computer screens, remembering what it was like to be in an in-person lecture, first-year students know nothing else but their pandemic college experience.

"When COVID-19 hit American and my high school senior year finished up completely online, I was crossing my fingers that by fall semester, for my [first-year] at Gustavus, things

would be 'back to normal.' Obviously things didn't turn out quite that way," First-year Jessica Herbrand said.

For Herbrand and many other first-years, the question of whether to take a gap year was a prevalent one, especially when reality hit that the pandemic was not going to get better before they started college.

"I was crossing my fingers that by fall semester, for my [first-year] at Gustavus, things would be 'back to normal. Obviously things didn't turn out quite that way."

-Megan Herbrand

"No, I do not wish I would

have taken a gap year. Sure, my experience at Gustavus this year has been unconventional to say the least, but if my experience during a global pandemic has been fun, exciting, educational, and impactful already, I can only imagine how much more Gustavus will continue to impress me when we move past this," Herbrand said.

Herbrand has found that despite COVID precautions, she has been able to meet new people and make friends through joining various organizations.

"In classes and activities (for me particularly, the Gustavus Dance Company and Environmental Action Coalition) people have made me feel like a valued part of the team from day one. Yes, we are distanced. Yes, we are masked. But that doesn't mean that connections aren't being formed, especially at a school that values community as much as Gustavus," Herbrand said

"...If my experience during a global pandemic has been fun, exciting, educational, and impactful already, I can only imagine how much more Gustavus will continue to impress me when we move past this."

-Herbrand

Despite the pandemic, Herbrand acknowledged that being away from home is already hard, so limiting visits to family makes things especially difficult. However, that has not changed how she feels about starting college when she did.

"In a time of uncertainty it's important to have things to feel

grounded to, whether that's people, a place, an activity, or other. At Gustavus this year I have found all of these stabilizing aspects that I believe I

"But that doesn't mean that connections aren't being formed, especially at a school that values community as much as Gustavus."

-Herbrand

probably wouldn't have been so thankful for without COVID-19 reminding me of their significance," Herbrand said.

Stop Line 3: Environmental Action Coalition makes an impact



Gustavus students and St. Peter residents protest Line 3.

Indivisible St. Peter / Greater Mankato

Freya Nelson
Staff Writer

Gustavus organization, the Environmental Action Coalition (EAC), has recently made concrete steps towards continuing the battle to stop line 3, a Tar Sands Pipeline that is being constructed across northern Minnesota. According to the Wall Street Journal, President Biden recently revoked the permit for Keystone XL, a different yet equally controversial pipeline that stretches from Canada to the US. Members of the EAC share their progress in addition to the implications that this executive decision has for the future of Minnesota's "Stop Line 3" campaign.

"The first open discussion where we invited anyone in the campus community to learn more about Line 3 was an impactful catalyst. We had roughly 30 people attend our Zoom meeting and a lot of great engagement between professors and students," Junior and Co-President of the EAC Kendra

Held said.

Junior and EAC executive board member Audrey Ochtrup-DeKeyrel shared a similar sentiment about the impactful nature of the EAC's initial steps towards establishing a foundation of learning before moving forward with the social justice movement.

"After creating this initial educational foundation, we immediately decided we had to do something with this new found information which resulted in our virtual fundraiser," Ochtrup-DeKeyrel said.

The Environmental Action Coalition has conducted three major events in relation to the "Stop Line 3" campaign; an Open Discussion with Professors and members of the EAC, a virtual "Stop Line 3" Fundraiser, and a socially-distanced demonstration that was held in MN Square Park.

"My biggest takeaway from these events was seeing so many new or first year members step up in huge ways, taking on extra responsibility, gaining confidence as they shared excellent

ideas and feeling the excitement build as we made progress. As of today we've raised \$1,740 which we will split three ways between Giniw Collective, the Gitchigumi Scouts and Honor The Earth," Held said.

In addressing the importance of fighting against the continuation of the Line 3 pipeline, both Held and Ochtrup-DeKeyrel shared that the development of line 3 is a multifaceted issue and one that cannot necessarily be summed up by specific "buzz words."

"The greater societal ramifications are so much broader than anyone can conceptualize. I was able to listen to an Indigenous public speaker, a member of the Fond du Lac reservation, and she cited a statistic in which 1 out of 3 Indigenous women are victims of violent crimes and that the probability of violence increases by 11%, following the impacts of line 3's construction. That is the terrifying reality of line 3 for Indigenous women," Ochtrup-DeKeyrel said.

"Line 3 also threatens the safety of Minnesotans and the

things we hold dear. This especially applies to the wild rice fields found nowhere else on earth but Northern Minnesota, a sacred treasure to the Anishinaabe people. Line 3 would disproportionately impact indigenous people and exacerbate the effects of structural racism in these communities through damaged health and resource access," Held said.

The EAC has been in collaboration with other organizations in order to best continue the fight against the construction of line 3. According to the Bemidji Pioneer, the construction of line 3 is currently on-going but that is not to discredit the progress still being made by the EAC and other organizations that continue to be part of this movement.

"Protests and rallies held in St. Peter, the Twin Cities, and up north at sites line Palisade spread awareness of the harm Line 3 will cause Minnesota and motivate new people to join the resistance. While these protests do not directly hinder construction, they are an important part of the social movement against

Line 3," Held said.

"Investing in a fossil fuel industry is unethical for a myriad of reasons however from a financial economic standpoint it is just not viable, so I am hoping that President Biden will in the very least recognize that line 3 is not a great financial investment. I am a huge proponent of intentional and equitable transitions for lower and middle class workers, who ultimately will be the ones to bear the brunt of the disenfranchisement of the fossil fuel industry, and I am hopeful that [President Biden] will share some of these values," Ochtrup-DeKeyrel said.

The EAC continues to post information on their social media platforms. There are many ways to participate in Line 3 resistance. Going to stopline3.org to learn more, donating to frontline resistance organizations, posting on social media to amplify indigenous voices, or safely participating in socially-distanced protests or rallies are all great steps.

CICE Takes On Global Education Amid Pandemic



The Center for International and Cultural Education changes programming due to pandemic

Submitted

Mula Lay
Staff Writer

The Center for International and Cultural Education (CICE) is responsible for study away programs, both domestic and international, international student and scholar services, multilingual student, global learning and programming, global professional development, and global program development here at Gustavus.

However, with the onset of COVID-19, the CICE's mission shifted. They worked to bring abroad students back safely and then worked to find options for international students. Some faculty at the CICE also picked up roles working as COVID-19 case managers.

"We've been helping the college by, you know, calling students who have been close contacts and helping them through the process of figuring out what their next steps are as far as getting tested and being in quarantine and just being a resource for them," Bryan Messerly, Director of International and Cultural Education, said.

The CICE, after having to

navigate through COVID-19, is currently working to find programs that could potentially be offered again and ways to promote abroad programs.

Junior Kendall Harvey, a psychology and pre-occupational therapy major, works as one of the social media interns to provide virtual information rather than in person meetings.

They are also using this time to make improvements to the program. Reine Ndayisaba, class of 2021 political science major with a minor

"Our content has shifted from being international programs that are in-person to being more virtual info sessions and virtual just like videos on different study abroad things and we've had different guests talk about their experiences,"

isaba, class of 2021 political science major with a minor

in economics, works as a student assistant in the office.

"[I'm working on] two research projects of looking at how other schools help multilingual students and international students, as well as how they run their host family program so that we could compare and see how Gustavus is doing," Ndayisaba said.

After Ndayisaba is finished with her research, she will make a presentation to point out what she thinks Gustavus is doing well and what needs to be improved.

Looking into the future, the CICE is optimistic about opening programs for the summer and fall of 2021. The summer programs provided are two domestic ones, one is offered in Washington, D.C and the other in the Twin Cities. The program in D.C. is the Washington Institute Internship and the one in the Twin Cities is offered by Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA) called Race in America.

In the fall, programs that will be offered are contingent to travel conditions, COVID-19, availability, and college approval.

Some exciting programs are

also being developed as well. Such as, virtual international internships, where students can virtually from their own home connect with a company in a different country, and a program led by Matthew Hirman, the study abroad coordinator at the CICE, which will be a course offered in the spring of the 2021-2022 school year.

"The idea is to create another option for students to explore international education here on campus that could either be a great follow up for study away experience or a kind of a lead into a study away experience that they're preparing for," Hirman said.

The course will look into the history of international education and what its aims and purposes are. It will also

focus on developing intercultural skills within students to help aid them professionally and societally. The course hopes to provide to a wider variety of students with a meaningful experience and hopefully improve social conditions for both the students and society.

Exciting things are afoot and to know more about things happening at the CICE, contact Matthew Hirman or Bryan Messerly.

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Audrey Ochtrup-DeKeyrel

Samantha Raghu
Staff Writer

From the small and still town of Lanesboro, MN., Junior Audrey Ochtrup-DeKeyrel was recognized as the campus' Gustie of the Week.

As an individual who grew up in the rural, southeastern parts of Minnesota, DeKeyrel was initially ecstatic about relocating to a more densely populated space after high school.

"When it came to figuring out where I wanted to go, I applied to 12 different schools, Gustavus being one of them. However, I originally was planning to go to UW Madison; I just wanted to go to a big school in a big city," DeKeyrel said.

As a first generation student, however, DeKeyrel explains that finances were of utmost priority when deciding which school she wanted to attend.

"In my heart, I knew that no matter where I go, I'm going to meet people that I enjoy and have a good time with at college. For the most part, I wanted to make the most logical financial decision. Gustavus was also the very first school that accepted me, and they gave me a very nice financial aid package," DeKeyrel said. Finances aside, DeKeyrel felt an embracing sense of community during her first week as a Gustie through interactions with faculty members and students.

"When I first visited on Admissions day, it was really nice. I remember it was a rainy March day. Immediately I felt very seen on campus after one of the staff members approached me and knew my name and the town that I was from. And during my first religion class, all the students were super friendly, the teacher was very also very accommodating to myself and other students," DeKeyrel said.

Given these first conversations, DeKeyrel felt an enormous sense of gratitude towards the campus and solace with her decision to attend Gustavus.

"Now that I've been a student for a while, I noticed just how bummed I would have felt at a bigger university. Especially coming from a rural town—I had a graduating class of 23 people—I would have been swallowed up by the campus. And at Gustavus, everyone has a level of anonymity, but you're not just a number. You walk around and you see people and professors that you know personally," DeKeyrel said.

As an Environmental Studies and Geography double major, DeKeyrel is currently a leading member on the Environmental Action Coalition (EAC) executive board, along with being a previously active member in Building Bridges. Her current areas of discipline coupled with her passions for environmental justice sparked her interests in the current initiatives surrounding our campus' modes of sustainability. DeKeyrel is now a sustainability intern through the Johnson Center, where she is working towards the goal of a more sustainable and environmentally just campus for all students.

"Myself and five other interns were tasked with helping the college progress towards being more sustainable and environmentally friendly. We were hired through the Environmental Studies program, where they knew there were a lot of students who were passionate about making Gustavus a better place and can pinpoint the flaws the institution unfortunately has. So I've been given the opportunity to really work and engage with members of the administration and other actors that are involved in campus function," DeKeyrel said.

Additionally, her growing interest in sustainable agriculture has been flourishing through her continued work with the Big Hill farm.

"My dad is a farmer, and I remember coming into college ready to leave my rural town. But during the last two years, I'm really passionate about agriculture and making it more environmentally friendly," DeKeyrel said.

Along with her environmental interests, DeKeyrel also enjoys the thrill of public speaking and theatre, which inspired her to audition for a part in LineUs.

"I was a big theater kid in high school, and I participated in a lot of speech competitions. I partook in all forms of public speaking and I found it very enjoyable," DeKeyrel said.

During her free time, DeKeyrel dedicates herself to creating art, which has also helped her cope during the unprecedented times of COVID.

"Art has also been an amazing release of building my understanding of myself and reinforcing moments of comfort and calm. A lot of us expend a lot of energy externally, but it's harder to bring those energies back into ourselves in those moments of self-care," DeKeyrel said.

Some of her favorite artistic practices include painting, drawing, and sculpting with polymer clay. However, after being gifted an iPad Pro and an Apple pen, she has recently been exploring and creating various forms of digital art.

"I've been experimenting more with digital art, which opened so many doors for me in understanding how I want to compose my art. I was honored to be given the opportunity to create the artwork for Building Bridges this year. I have also submitted a piece of digital artwork to a climate art competition for the Midwestern climate summit through the University of Washington St. Louis," DeKeyrel said.

Especially during the isolating and stressful times of COVID, DeKeyrel has had time to reflect on her favorite memories at Gustavus pre-pandemic that bring her the most heart-warming content.

"A great moment for me was at the beginning of my sophomore year when I helped plan and coordinate the global climate strike that we had in September with Building Bridges and EAC. We had a group of students together in a circle with a megaphone, and I was asked to be the first person to speak. Being able to share in that moment what the Global Climate Strike meant to me was very empowering and an exciting form of community and solidarity with all the other students around me who were just as passionate and enraged at the state of our climate and our government's reaction to it," DeKeyrel said.

Other highlights of DeKeyrel's college experience so far



Ochtrup-DeKeyrel's piece "She Holds it All but Thinks of Seven" Submitted

have been unexpected times during breaks on campus.

"During Easter break of my [first] year, myself and a group of friends stayed on campus instead of going home. It was the first beautiful day of spring,

and we hammocked and made art which was really exciting. It was the perfect pristine moment of being a college student with some freedom and friends out in such a beautiful and natural space," DeKeyrel said.



Gustie of the Week Audrey Ochtrup-DeKeyrel

Isaac Bui

Humorous album shines light on history's worst U.S. Presidents

Tori Smith
Staff Writer

This past month has been a historical one to say the least. On January 20, Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States.

While some are wary of his future as president, others were overjoyed to see Donald Trump's time in office come to an end after just one term.

One-term Presidents haven't been known as the most celebrated or even well-known in history, but this past year musician David W. Jacobsen decided to change that.

In 2020 Jacobsen released his album "POTUS," an amusing collection of songs about famous (and not-so-famous) commanders-in-chief that served for four years or less.

All of the songs on the album are written in the first-person perspective to give the audience a better glimpse into the mind of these disregarded presidents of the past.

According to the album's description, these songs "mix history with storytelling, providing a humanized view of men who have guided America for better or for worse (more often worse)."

The first song in the collection entitled "1799," a parody of Prince's "1999," is sung in the voice of John Adams. He is singing to Alexander Hamilton after his publication of a defamatory letter that harshly criticized Adams.

Although the two men belonged to the same party, Hamilton's letter greatly hurt Adams' chances of re-election. The line, "If we don't come together now, someone worse will hold sway" refers to Adams' opponent, Thomas Jefferson, who inevitably came out victorious.

Another interesting song off the album is "Shanties." This is sung from the perspective of Herbert Hoover after he lost re-election in the midst of the Great Depression to Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR).

In the song, Hoover sings about being vilified by FDR after losing the election. Even after being hailed as the "Great Humanitarian" during WWI, Hoover sings, "Still you name your shanties after me." This is referring to the shanty towns that were built during the Great Depression known as "Hoover-villes."

This song is an excellent example of Jacobsen humanizing an otherwise terrible man. Despite being regarded as one

of the worst presidents in history, it's difficult to not feel a sense of sympathy for Hoover. After all, the Great Depression couldn't have been entirely his fault, right?

Luckily, not all songs on the album are so melancholy. One song in particular is so amusing that most listeners will likely find themselves laughing along to the melody.

"Leave my bones in the ground" is a song from the perspective of a deceased Zachary Taylor pleading with researchers not to exhume his body 141 years after his death.

Taylor died rather mysteriously in office after only serving 16 months. This led some to believe he was murdered with arsenic. After 141 years his ascendants agreed to test his remains, however, medical examiners concluded his death was not caused by poisoning.

All in all, this album is great for history buffs and music lovers alike. With eleven wild stories ranging from getting drunk after losing an election to a love song between former friends, this track has something for everyone.

After such entertaining takes on former presidents' lives, it would be interesting to listen to a song from the perspective of the latest president to lose his re-election.

Because the album was released well before the 2020 election, "POTUS" does not include any narrative from Trump. If Jacobsen ever does decide to write from his perspective, a fitting name for it might be "Have a Good Life" after his famous, and quite bitter, last words in office.

Students interested in learning the history of some of the worst presidents this country has seen should definitely check out Jacobsen's full album.

"POTUS" is available on Spotify and Apple Music as well as Youtube. Lyrics and commentary can be found on Jacobsen's website at www.davidwj.com/potus.shtm.



POTUS
David W. Jacobsen

ste



David W. Jacobsen's album titled "POTUS"

Submitted

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 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.

Geena Zebrasky
Features Writer

Meet the Weekly: Spring Semester Edition!

Every week, this newspaper is produced by an amazing group of students—without the work of these people, the Weekly wouldn't be weekly. So let's start this semester by seeing who makes the paper possible!



Corinne Stremmel '21
Editor-in-Chief

Major: English & Communication Studies
Best part? I love that reading books is my homework.
Favorite videogame or character? Zelda.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath.



Ben Wick '21
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Major: English
Best part? I love being able to experience new perspectives and ways of life in different literature.
Favorite videogame or character? I will never stop loving Pokemon.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? Off the top of my head, I would say John Green's Looking for Alaska.



Cadence Paramore '23
Photography Editor

Major: English
Best part? The English department itself with all of the wonderful professors who make learning interesting and fun, even during a pandemic.
Favorite videogame or character? Yoshi.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss.



Brandon Holland '22
Business Manager

Major: Public Accounting
Best part? Learning how to understand and analyze a company's financial statements and internal operations.
Favorite videogame or character? Pokemon Blue.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? I'd say the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan, hard to choose just one.



Kyra Bowar '21
Copy Editor

Major: English & Communication Studies
Best part? I love working with words! The power of persuasion can be so beautiful and interesting.
Favorite videogame or character? Toad.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? I just finished reading The Vanishing Half, I highly recommend!



Liam Carr '21
Entertainment Editor

Major: English
Best part? My favorite part of it is all the assigned readings I always very thoroughly and completely read.
Favorite videogame or character? Toad, especially with his blooming musical career.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? I'm a big fan of Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne.



Tyra Ericson '21
Variety Editor

Major: English
Best part? I like how versatile the classes are and how much opportunity it will grant me in the future.
Favorite videogame or character? I always liked Kirby and I choose Koopa in Mariokart.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? My favorite book is All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr.



Emily Seppelt '22
Copy Editor & Opinion Writer

Major: Political Science & GWSS
Best part? The fact that they are so broad and I can connect them to every class I take!
Favorite videogame or character? Princess Peach!
Favorite book or most recent one you read? The most recent book I read was Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng over J-term.



Laura Schwichtenberg '21
Features & Graphics Editor

Major: Psychology & Art History
Best part? I love learning about human behavior and the psychological aspects of art!
Favorite videogame or character? Sonic the Hedgehog.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? The last book I finished was Unscripted by Nicole Kronzer. Thanks to my roomie for the great recommendation!



Filip Belik '22
Web Editor

Major: Math & Computer Science
Best part? I enjoy the fun MCS community and problem solving.
Favorite videogame or character? Donkey Kong.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? Origin by Dan Brown.



Anna Edblad '22
News Editor

Major: English & Psychology
Favorite videogame or character? I don't have one, but I like the board game Catan.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? The Secret History by Donna Tartt.



Alma Jorgenson '22
Opinion Editor

Major: Psychology & Geography
Favorite videogame or character? Oh jeez, I don't play videogames!
Favorite book or most recent one you read? Fahrenheit 451.



Marie Osuna '21
Lead Copy Editor

Major: English & Psychology
Best part? I love learning more about the human mind.
Favorite videogame or character? Princess Peach.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? I just finished The Book of Two Ways by Jodi Picoult, and it was a great read!



Weston Lombard '21
Sports Editor

Major: Public Accounting
Best part? The professors in the department!
Favorite videogame or character? Super Smash Bros.
Favorite book or most recent one you read? Green Lights by Matthew McConaughey.

Are Gusties suffering from COVID fatigue?



DeAnna Giles
Opinion Columnist

Many people are getting sick and dying in America. We have been hit harder by the coronavirus than any other country in the world. As we approach the one year anniversary of the two week quarantine, COVID fatigue has become a problem amongst many and continues to diminish any hope for a normal future.

One year later, people are tired of wearing masks, staying at home due to restrictions on gatherings, being away from family and friends, and having to socially distance ourselves. This type of burnout is what experts are calling COVID-19 fatigue, which can lead to careless behaviors.

I certainly have fallen into that category a few times. For me at least, the pandemic raised a lot of uncertainty about the way of life. Going with the flow was not something I was used to, but rather forced into, due to the many changes that occurred on a constant basis.

Not knowing when I would be able to see my friends, travel, or even just go to the movies was unsettling. Just the thought of not having to wear masks every place we go, I felt was too far to imagine. I realized this is the time we have to be okay with where we are in life, appreciate the things we have, and acknowledge our new normal.

On the other hand, I thought the timing of the pandemic was slightly ironic because I, like many, imagined it lasting a few months, not an entire year. I imagined the pandemic would end with my spring semester until everything was shut down for the summer.

"For many, if you have increased isolation from loved ones, co-workers and people who you used to have bonds with, burnout and fatigue can make you feel like those things aren't really worth it anymore," said American Medical Association news writer Sara Berg.

This raised concerns for my peers around me. It was scary hearing about my friends or family deciding not to celebrate an accomplishment, a birthday, or even a holiday amid the pandemic. It seemed as if all hope for a normal future was lost and unreachable.



The classroom we wish we could all meet in

Gracie Jackson

"I was finally allowing myself to go outside my comfort zone and meet new people, go to new places and do new things. When the pandemic hit, I felt like I took ten steps back and just like everyone in the world, my anxiety was cranked to the max," said Junior Kulle Hassan.

I am sure my peers would agree that the pandemic hit everyone the same yet differently. Many, myself included, were not able to work during the pandemic, not able to continue the hobbies that became our way of life, and required us to pause valuable in-person gatherings.

"The pandemic has changed my social life drastically. Even though I would consider myself an introvert, I still like to socialize when I have the chance. The pandemic has removed any opportunity to do that," said Senior Joshua Slaughter.

Even though my normal commitments ceased to exist, studying for the GRE, family and the Holy Bible kept me company. Strangely I feel as if I have mastered the ways of the pandemic. I socially distance myself, wear a mask everywhere, and sanitize every place I go. But this does not take care of the communication that is a huge part of our life.

While COVID fatigue is floating around, there has also been a little positivity rising from the pandemic. When you have not picked up a hobby, you are given time to care for yourself whether that is mental, physical, or psychological. Because of the pandemic, I was able to learn more about myself and my tendencies in certain situations.

Thankfully, my peers felt the same way. "The pandemic did give me a positive perspective on those who are in my life. I

learned to treasure and appreciate the times with people more" said Slaughter.

"Being stuck at home allowed me to face my emotions head on, and work through my insecurities. It also allowed me to get closer with my family" said Hassan.

It is nice to hear how COVID fatigue fails and instead, we grow as individuals. One thing still remains, we are constantly masking up. And the burning question on everyone's mind is,

"When do we get back to normal life?"

The COVID-19 vaccine raises hope for any signs of normalcy but it will take months to get the shots to those who need them and will accept them.

Nonetheless, we made it through the year of the pandemic, and continue to question the capability of normalcy in 2021.

The pandemic has outstayed its welcome and the time of masking up needs to expire.

With "hopes of seeing the inside of a classroom again or even the smiles that have long been hidden underneath masks," said Hassan, it is time for normal to be normal again.

COVID fatigue has impacted many lives and there is only one way of getting around it, maintain hope that things will get better.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Spring Semester is here



Gustavus thinks we don't know how to close windows



Still Zoomin' everyday

College students weigh in on Biden's first ten days



Grace Worwa
Opinion Columnist

Gusties are passionate about racial justice. The past few weeks there has been a rumor going around about the chemistry department and implicit bias training. There is more to the story than what is being spread student to student. However, given the gravity of this topic and the urgent need expressed by students to address issues of inequity not just on-campus, this issue deserves a down-to-earth, informed discussion about what is possible and what should be done.

Gusties, as I'm writing this, Joe Biden will officially have been President Biden for over ten days. Now, as Inauguration Day came and went, we college stu-

dents have likely just continued on with our daily lives, stressing about the start of classes and getting resettled on-campus. Most of us probably haven't felt any significant changes since Biden entered the Oval Office, and some of us may even be disgruntled by that fact. After all, do you see your first ever stimulus check sitting in your mailbox? Not me.

So, in essence, President Biden's first ten days have not had much effect on college students, right?

Wrong. According to NBC News, Biden's first ten days saw a total of 45 executive orders, many of which have surprising implications for college students. Although we have not yet been impacted in very visible ways, his actions have given us hope for the future regarding issues that do affect us.

For instance, take student loan forgiveness—the issue that just about every college student is likely to cheer for, no matter their political sympathies.

On Day 1, President Biden extended the freeze on student loan payments to grant debtors some relief during the pandemic. Of course, this does not directly affect current college students, but it does show that we're on Biden's mind. It shows he hasn't forgotten about us now that he's president and that all his promises about addressing the student debt crisis weren't a bunch

of campaign fluff; he might actually follow through on them.

For me personally, this would make a huge difference in my future. According to BestColleges, the President's proposed plan for student debt includes improving the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program so that graduates working at schools, for the government, or for a nonprofit would receive "\$10,000 of undergraduate or graduate student debt relief for every year of national or community service, up to five years." As someone who may become a prosecutor one day, I would eagerly welcome this policy because let me tell you, law school debt is no joke.

In addition to student debt, Biden's first ten days have also given reason for hope and inspiration on another issue popular among college students: climate change.

The President's initial measures on the environment have been immediate and purposeful. Just on Day 1, he rejoined the Paris Climate Accord, revoked the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, and paused oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, among other things. On Day 8, he officially initiated his plan to fight climate change, establishing the Office of Domestic Climate Policy and a national climate task force and directing federal agencies to buy American-made, zero-emissions vehicles.

For environmental concernists like Junior Arianna Frederickson, these actions pose great promise for the future.

"I think rejoining the Paris Climate Accord as well as making a plan to combat the speed of climate change makes me hopeful for an environmentally clean and healthy future. Having these plans in place and a course for the future doesn't mean we don't need to worry about climate change anymore, but it gives me as a college student the motivation to make sure these plans are being carried out and that the conversation doesn't stop here," Frederickson said.

Of course, we also can't forget the issue that is at the forefront of everyone's mind: COVID-19. Biden's first ten days are cause for hope that the pandemic will be effectively handled. Within just his first six days, the President created the White House position of COVID-19 Response Coordinator to oversee the distribution of vaccines, tests, and other supplies. He also ordered mask-wearing on federal property and on all public transportation, and he reinstated travel restrictions on non-U.S. citizens coming from variant-infected countries such as Brazil, South Africa, and much of Europe.

President Biden's actions thus far on COVID-19 show that he intends to take serious and proactive measures to control and diminish the spread of the virus.

This gives college students hope that things will soon be back to normal and that some of us will be able to salvage at least part of our college experience.

And our hope for the future is not limited to just what Biden might do; the start of his presidency has persuaded some students into believing that even greater change is on the horizon.

"In the future, I hope to see further progressive views become normal in the U.S. Perhaps not by Biden, but by people who were inspired by Biden's policies and actions," Sophomore Patrick Harrison said.

Lastly, Joe Biden's presidency has given many college students one additional benefit, even more so than hope for the future.

Relief. Sweet, beautiful relief. "I think that the most prominent feeling these past ten days has been that of relief. I'm relieved that a proper vaccine distribution program is finally occurring, that I no longer need to worry about price hikes on products brought on by trade wars, and that discord between political wings is focused on as a legitimate issue rather than encouraged," Harrison said.

After ten days of presidential action, us college students may not have seen any tangible effects, but many of us have felt the very real impact of hope and relief, and with luck, that will translate into visible effects in the near future.

Let's make this "Lay-Low" period count



Emma Pufahl
Opinion Columnist

I hope you all have stayed healthy since the fall. It is that wonderful time of year when it takes an hour to get your textbook from the Post Office and another thirty minutes to get the one lab manual you need from the Bookmark (a quick thank you to those who are working hard during this very busy and overwhelming time). With so many of us back on campus, one has to wonder if COVID has snuck its way into the dorms.

I'm sure over Winter Break, many of you went home to your families that hopefully believe this global pandemic exists. I'm also sure many of us were told multiple times that our generation is a major portion of the people carelessly spreading the virus. I kind of hope I wasn't the only one repeatedly told this. Assuming I wasn't, the conver-

sation probably went something like this, "I'm surprised you are taking this so seriously. You know, people your age don't seem to be taking this all too seriously" your random relative might comment (or at the very least, a slightly paraphrased quote from my 74-year old, liberal grandpa).

Do I love the guidelines we have to follow? Yes, actually, but I also enjoy large amounts of personal space and staying home or doing something lowkey on the weekends.

But I also realize that there are many of us that would like to be able to go places again. I'm sick of spending money on masks, even if it does look really cute, when I could buy myself a cup of coffee or buy almost anything else. I know that people who care more about their appearance on a daily basis, much more than myself, have to worry about their mask matching their outfits, or at least try not to clash with their outfits too much.

It's winter and I'm sure most of us don't want to do a quick dash to our cars for the mask we forgot in the center console. Do we want to risk COVID or do we want to risk completely 'eating-it' and slipping on the ice while the friend we brought with is recording?

Is the lay-low period enough? Are two weeks long enough? Based on the incubation time of COVID, probably not. But that doesn't mean we can't make the best of it. This is for Gusties



A look into our new normal

Gracie Jackson

to determine. We have to practice what we preach. We need to limit our travels off-campus and not go 'out-and-about' every weekend. We have to stay at home more, keep to our pods, and overall limit our chance of exposure. This lay-low period is our chance to prevent the virus from spreading like wildfire across campus and across St. Peter. We don't need to support the stereotypes of our age group being superspreaders. We should be a community that protects each other on and off-campus. Nicollet county shouldn't have a large spike in cases just because we have returned the Hill.

It is time for us to show that we are part of the St. Peter com-

munity and not just the people who go to the expensive private college on the Hill. The best way to show that we respect and appreciate this community is to follow these guidelines. Many of us will only live here for the four-years until we graduate. How we respond to the pandemic will be remembered. This community is too small to forget. Let's have this time be remembered as when we all came together, with respect for each other, by following the guidelines set in place for us. We can whine and complain about it all we want, but we must follow and accept what is going on in the world right now, so we are able to heal and recover swiftly. I don't know about you,

but I would really like to hide my masks away in the back of a drawer and hopefully never look at them again.

When you get irritated with the pandemic, think of your cute, sweet old grandparents, and remember to wear your mask and cover your nose. If your grandparents are not cute or sweet, just pretend Dr. Fauci is your grandpa and wear your mask correctly for him. Remember, if you hate wearing masks and social distancing, the quicker we all adhere to the guidelines, the quicker we should be able to stop following them and go back to some form of normalcy.

Take self-care of yourself, Gusties



Lexi Louis
Opinion Columnist

With the Spring Semester beginning, it can be stressful adjusting to a new schedule. It can be difficult to fit time in for ourselves in our routines. I often find myself looking for ways to balance my schedule. It is important to set aside time for ourselves. Recently, I have set aside time to laugh, exercise, listen to music and spend time with family and friends.

As Henri De Mondeville said, "Laughter is the best medicine."

Therefore, I like to watch funny YouTube videos, and I like to watch TV shows like SNL and Friends. I immediately feel more relaxed and less stressed when I laugh. Another thing I have been doing more is listening to music.

Music is an excellent way to reduce stress, increase dopamine and connect with others. Whatever genre it is, it elevates mood. During workouts, it can also increase physical performance and endurance. Some other ways to relieve stress are yoga and exercising.

"Music is an excellent way to reduce stress, increase dopamine, and connect with others. Whatever genre it is, it elevates mood."

Gustavus has many clubs, courses and locations on campus and online that offer exercise. There is the Lund center, Wellness as a Community (WaaC), and many active student organizations. Wellness as a Community is a fitness class that offers different levels of yoga for all skill levels.

I decided to try and start running last March. In the beginning, I aimed for smaller distances, then gradually increased my distance. After each run, my mood was elevated. In the fall, the Run Club is a great way to exercise. There

Hope Playlist

(for car rides with the volume all the way up and dancing alone in your underwear)

- The Middle by Jimmy Eat World
- Mr. Blue Sky by Electric Light Orchestra
- So Pretty by The Palms
- Drive It Like You Stole It by Sing Street
- I'm Amazing by Run River North
- Island In The Sun by Weezer
- Yes I'm Changing by Tame Impala
- Sunday Best by Surfaces
- Here Comes The Sun by The Beatles
- And She Was by Talking Heads
- SUPERBLOOM by MisterWives ♥

Hope playlist for self-care time

Cadence Paramore

are different types of skill levels and anyone can join. This year, some of the events were the Autumn Woods Classic 5k, the 100-Mile Challenge and group runs.

Another thing I like to do is go on a walk through the Arboretum. In the fall, I participated in the first-year tulip planting ceremony. I'm excited to see how my tulip bulb turned out. It was fun spending time with friends and doing this. The environment here is calming, peaceful, and beautiful.

COVID-19 has impacted everyone's life in some way. We are now used to social distancing, wearing a mask, and being more mindful of each other. It has become more difficult to spend time with others. I miss the face to face communication before the pandemic, but I am thankful for the opportunities to connect with others from virtual communication and the clubs and courses offered here at Gustavus.

Social media has been a positive way to connect with others in the time of a pandemic. I

couldn't imagine how I would communicate or have a way to be in school without virtual

"COVID-19 has impacted everyone's life in some way. We are now used to social distancing, wearing a mask and being more mindful of each other."

communication.

Although it isn't the same as face to face communication, it is better than being completely isolated. Our lives have become centered around technology, and we can sometimes lose touch with the real world. Some things online can be superficial, so it is healthy to give ourselves a break.

It can be difficult shifting from learning in the classroom to learning online. We have been forced to adapt to the

circumstances and we have evolved as a result. I have become more technologically efficient and have found the positives in it. With the changing work environment, we are spending more time looking at a screen. I sometimes remind myself to blink and periodically look away.

I remember my first Zoom call last year in the spring. I didn't know how to mute myself or turn off my camera. Now it has become easier working with Zoom. I know how to mute myself, turn off my camera, change my background, and work with the software. Some of the fun backgrounds are the beach and the Golden Gate Bridge. Zooming has become second nature for me.

Finding the positives in negative situations can be hard, but it is helpful to think about everything I am grateful for. When I write in my gratitude journal, I am reminded how blessed I am. Having shelter, food, water, and education are things that shouldn't be taken for granted. In general, keep-

ing a journal is a good way to reflect and improve. I like to write in a journal and set goals for myself.

It is commonly heard that it takes 21 days to form a habit, but I think it is different for everyone. It isn't easy to break out of what we are used to and reach out of our comfort zones. Exposure to new and difficult things, like setting aside time in our schedules for self-care is worth the effort. An inspiring quote by Theodore Roosevelt is, "Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well."

It is important to dedicate time for ourselves, our health, and to find a work-life balance. When we have a lot going on, it can be draining to not take a little time to relax. However, forming the habit of taking time from our schedule for self-care is extremely beneficial.

Word Search

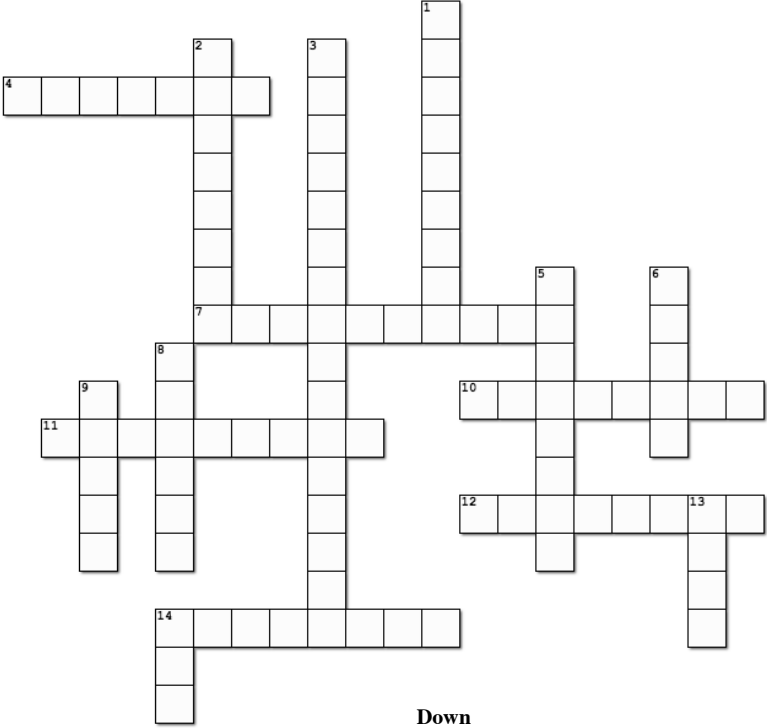
What happened in J-Term...

M H D J T W I T T E R B A N S S C R H D
N H B G X T S T Y Z F D H J I C A E E D
M O R E U F O S M E S I N R W L P D P I
H P E P C T K U Y E P N R C A A I D O V
W F A H A K P V M U I A W B Y S T I M E
B A K K P A Z A O S H U E U D S O T K P
G C R Z V W G W P A F G L S D E L W M R
O O I M C O R Y L O W U L R I S S U Y O
W F T C E G C A U H M R E Z N H T J M G
X X C D H S M B O P P A R D T Q O A K R
H P I P C A T W R U H T M E E S R U E E
I V Q V K U U F D L C I A Y R I M O O S
G S P J O E B I D E N O N S N Y E D N S
S P O L I T I C A L U N R E S T D A R E
G L S T I L L C O V I D B A H L S U L F
D U F I E G V E L M G A G X I H T Z F B
S D S L E E P Y U B U Y R M P U M B S T
B E R N I E S A N D E R S M I T T E N S
T A I R E S M Y M H N O B Y I D V Q I K
K A J H X W L S T O C K M A R K E T W F

Bernie Sanders' Inauguration Day reddit warmest
Mittens internship sleep Wellerman
break Joe Biden still Covid work
capitol stormed Kamala Harris stock market
classes more UFOs Twitter bans
Dive progress political unrewst video games

Crossword

...stays in J-Term



Across

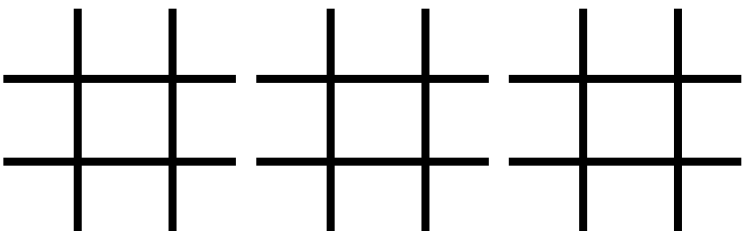
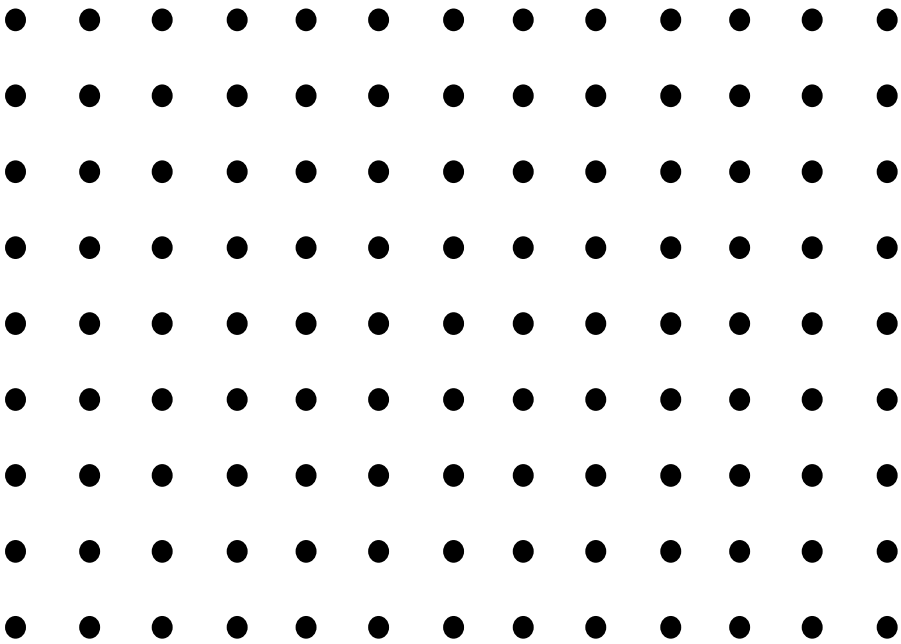
4. I don't have time to pursue my _____ anymore.
7. Classes are happening in the morning which means no more _____ (two words).
10. No snow, no in person class, no _____ (two words).
11. I've learned more from _____ on TikTok than any of my teachers this J-Term (two words).
12. We have missed the window for the annual J-Term _____.
14. Now that classes have started, I have lost all my _____ (two words).

Down

1. #1 Sea Shanty of J-Term.
2. Now that they've finished their last J-Term, seniors must now face the reality of _____ (two words).
3. Few people did it, but now you can't do it. No more Harry Potter Prize.
5. I have _____ because I stayed up so late playing video games.
6. Now that J-Term is over, I cannot physically _____.
8. With classes resumed, this app is a major threat to my time management.
9. Cooking real food is out, making _____ is back in.
13. With the warmest January in years, we can say goodbye to snow and hello to _____.
14. Boring classes are back, which means no more _____.

Dots & Boxes

Take turns drawing one line. If that line completes a square, write your initial in the box and draw another line. Continue until all dots have been connected. The player with the most boxes wins!



"Mischief Makers" by Bryanna Filip



Crossword Answers: Across: 4. hobbies, 7. sleeping in, 10. snow days, 11. Hank Green, 12. blizzard, 14. free time. Down: 1. Wellerman, 2. real jobs, 3. CAB scavenger hunt, 5. insomnia, 6. relax, 8. TikTok, 9. ramen, 13. rain, 14. fun.

Back? Check.

Gustavus Hockey Teams Compete in First Games of Season



Gusties are back on the ice for the beginning of their season

Submitted

Eamonn McCullough
Staff Writer

The month of January finished out with a weekend of ups and downs on the road for Gustie men's hockey team. The team's first intercollegiate game since the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic was a non-conference matchup with Augsburg on Friday, Jan. 29, which resulted in a 7-2 loss.

Although Augsburg brought the heat early in the game, establishing a 2-0 lead by the end of the first period and outscoring Gustavus 10-9 in the first twenty minutes, the Gusties struck back in force. A power play goal early in the second period by Senior Nick Klishko and a down-to-the-wire shot by Junior Dan Sandvig with 35 seconds before intermission levelled the score to 3-2. Unfortunately, the Auggies took advantage of two more power plays and an additional scoring opportunity in the third period, as well as a final goal within the last minute of regulation play, to dole the 7-2 loss out to the Gusties. Senior Robbie Goor was hard at work in the net throughout the game, making 23 saves.

On the evening of Saturday, Jan. 30, the Gusties dusted themselves off and drove to Winona, MN for another non-conference matchup, this time against St. Mary's University. Gustavus came

onto the ice with fire in their hearts, outshooting the SMU Cardinals 10-4 in the first period, although not a single puck managed to find the goal. It took over ten minutes into the second period for the first goal to be scored, by Saint Mary's. The Gusties did not take that affront lying down, however, as mere minutes later Junior Tyler Ebner sank his first goal of the season with an assist

from First-year Nick Mueller. A series of rapid goals from St. Mary's in the twilight of the second period and dawn of the third levelled the score to 4-1 Cardinals, but the Gusties weren't done yet. Two unassisted goals in the third period, from Senior Logan Norman and Senior Caleb Anderson respectively, brought the score to 4-3, although the Cardinals would hold on to their lead

through the end of regulation and hand the Gusties another non-conference road loss.

Also starting their season this past week, the Gustavus women's hockey team hosted Bethel on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 2 in a non-conference matchup. The game was played defensively throughout the first two periods, and although the Gusties outshot Bethel 11-6 over that

timeframe, the score resolutely refused to budge from 0-0 going into the third period. The Bethel Royals found an opening within the first five minutes of the third to bring the score to 1-0, only to be answered by Junior Tina Press, who scored her first goal of the season only seconds later.

The Gusties established a strong offensive presence for the remainder of the game, emptying the net to put another scoring player on the ice. They, unfortunately, were stymied as the Royals scored twice more to bring the score to 3-1. With less than a minute left in the game, First Year Sophia Coltvet drove home an unassisted goal, the first of her college career, to close the gap to a mere point.

The tension in the Don Roberts ice rink could be felt by fans through their life-stream screens as the Gusties once again emptied the net for an offensive charge, but Bethel was able to twist the move to their advantage and score once again, winning the game 4-2. The Gustie women look forward to their first conference match of the season at home against the University of St. Thomas at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6.

Although their seasons are off to a less-than-desirable start, both the Gustie men's and women's hockey teams are thrivent in their ability to compete once more and have nowhere to go but up.



Gusties' first game of the season was against Augsburg

Submitted

Swim & Dive has First Intrasquad Meet



After a tough few months, swimmers get back into a routine

Luke Yang

Jack Wiessenberger
Staff Writer

For some Gustavus swimmers, they haven't had the chance to race anyone besides their teammates in over 365 days. After a fall season where the mood swung from an early optimism for races to begin by the late fall to resigned gratitude for an intersquad meet in November, the spring competition plan laid out by head Swim and Dive Coach Jon Carlson was invigorating news. The first installment of this plan, a home intersquad meet, occurred over the past weekend on Saturday, January 30.

"The team competed well. We had some swimmers out in quarantine, but those that were able to swim did great. We used it as kind of a warm-up for taking on other teams this coming weekend," Carlson said.

The intrasquad meet saw a portion of the team held out of competition due to COVID-19 contact tracing measures. Those that did compete, however, got a bit of extra preparation for the team's first multi-program meet this weekend.

"Our next meet is here at Gustavus this Saturday against Hamline, Augsburg, and Con-

cordia. I think our expectations are just to see what we can do. It has been a while since many of us have raced and we're looking to see where our starting points are and where we can go from here," Junior Swimmer Lillie Ortloff said.

"The team competed well. We had some swimmers out in quarantine, but those that were able to swim did great. We used it as kind of a warm-up for taking on other teams this coming weekend,"

The MIAC matchup will be the first regular season competition for many Gustie swimmers in over a year. The Gustavus Women's team will take on Hamline, Augsburg, and Concordia while the Men's faces Hamline in a dual meet. Athletes on both teams are just excited for the chance to get back in the water and shake off the rust from a year-long break in competition.

"Everybody is really happy and grateful to be able to get back to racing. Meets provide

more meaning behind our training, and we always have a blast at them. A major part of being on our team and what makes it special is the team spirit and the dedication to cheering each other on while we race," Junior Swimmer Axel Lange said.

During the months of doubt where athletes weren't sure whether they would be getting a season or not, the swim team made sure to remain dedicated to their sport. Practices were challenging and provided time for the team to rally together in preparation for this weekend's opening competition.

"It has been a tough few months of training, we have really been pushing ourselves in and out of the pool to make

"Everybody is really happy and grateful to be able to get back to racing."

up for lost time. I think with the work the team has put in we are ready to not only compete in, but win our upcoming meets. With a good taper and the next month of training we will be looking pretty strong for our final meet against St. Thomas," Lange said.

"I think it will be a great clash of the top two teams on the men's side, and two of the top three teams on the women's side. Needless to say, the team will be amped for that meet,"

After this weekend's events, the swim team has four more meets planned, including one more intrasquad next weekend. The following two meets will be against Saint John's/Saint Ben's and St. Thomas on February 20 and March 5, respectively. The MIAC has decided to forgo the Conference Championship meet this season out of concerns for COVID-19.

"As of right now, there is still an NCAA National Championship meet planned. To end our regular season, we will be the last MIAC team to swim against St. Thomas before they move to Division I. We will also use this meet as our NCAA qualifying meet the first weekend in March. I think it will be a great clash of the top

two teams on the men's side, and two of the top three teams on the women's side. Needless to say, the team will be amped for that meet," Carlson said.

Gustavus swimmers are looking forward to having a competition season, no matter how different it might look from last year. The last few months have been filled with hard work and patience, and it is all about to pay off.

"We have been putting in a lot of tough practices since starting back up and we're starting to finetune strokes for racing again. The team is certainly excited to compete again. We're a very competitive team and we have all been itching to get back into racing other schools. It's been a long time," Ortloff said.

Baseball is Back

Gustavus baseball returns after COVID-19 ending spring



The Gustavus grounds crew has been clearing the field off in preparation for the spring season. Photo taken precovid.

Submitted

Autumn Zierman
Staff Writer

While all of Gustavus returns to spring semester and attempts to eke out a semblance of normal life, hope for a normalized schedule concurrently returns in the form of winter and spring sports. Teams for the winter season quickly return to their competitive season starting on February 6 in accordance with the MIAC (Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) decision. Simultaneously, spring sports are revving up, beginning practice once again in the coming weeks to get a jump on the competitive season. To understand what this spring sports' season will look like, as well as catch a glimpse of the teams' feelings about return, one can turn to the Gustavus Baseball team, who returns to their practice season this week.

Due to the large number of sports returning to practice, and the especially limited space available this year, rather than share the blue space in Lund Center with all other returning sports, Gustavus admin has rented out the Maverick Sports Dome in Mankato Minnesota to give the Baseball team all the space they need to throw ball and maintain social distance.

This return to practice comes at a good time too, as the social distance limitations that were put out in the fall have not allowed the majority of the team

the bonding experience typically afforded.

"We haven't truly been able to get the whole group together without team bonding at the house and pod practice in the fall. We tried some Zoom meetings, but they get boring," Senior Nathan Lindberg said.

However, with the newly rented space and the MIAC guarantee of at least twenty games this season, practices will be full team, allowing for the chance to welcome in the new First-year class.

Without the typical fall schedule, bridging the gap between upper and lower classes has been harder than normal.

"The biggest obstacle this year is bringing the GAC Baseball culture to the new class. [But] the best part is meeting new people every year, you all have one love, one commonality, you share," Senior Ethan Mocchi said.

Now that the baseball team, like many others, is able to gather under one large roof, sharing that love and getting a start to the competitive season should be no problem.

As far as the competition schedule goes, as aforementioned, the MIAC and administration at Gustavus have approved a twenty-game schedule for this year's season.

"Tentatively we are trying to play outside the MIAC to have anywhere from thirty-forty games this season. We are just super excited to have clarity on the schedule and games," As-



The baseball fields waits for a spring season

Gracie Jackson

sistant Baseball Coach Andrew Woitas said.

Certainly, it is better than the uncertainty of the fall and previous spring schedule.

This year also marks the final season of one of the first classes recruited by current head coach and dubbed by the team "recruiting guru," Brad Baker. Nate Lindberg credits much of the team's success in turnabout

to be there.

"I feel fortunate to have a season with the admin being pretty accepting of our competitive schedule. You do the most you can to get back to reality. I'll take 30 degree baseball over sitting inside any day," Mocchi said.

The chance to be outside and competing is approaching fast, even as the players

return to practice.

"We are looking at a mid to late March start to the competitive season," Coach Woitas said.

While it is unknown as of now if that season will allow fans in the stand, Gusties are encouraged to get out there and cheer on all teams however they can.