

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1920

MARCH 19TH, 2021

ISSUE 18

MEET GUSTIE
of the WEEK:
Ingrid Kubisa



VARIETY - PAGE 6

Are
vaccine passports
the new normal?



OPINION - PAGE 11

The Pumpkin Man
advises Gusties to
not drink the green
water



ENTERTAINMENT - PAGE 13



Gustavus students painted the windows in the Caf to encourage students to learn more about Line 3.

Luke Yang

Gusties get involved in call for Line 3 divestment



Building Bridges paired with the Environmental Action Coalition hosted a Line 3 education gathering in the Courtyard Cafe.

Luke Yang

Emily VanGorder
Staff Writer

The Line 3 Pipeline is one of the largest oil pipelines in North America, capable of transporting hundreds of thousands of barrels of crude oil per day. The pipeline runs from Alberta, Canada, through North Dakota, Minnesota, and into Wisconsin, and is owned and operated by Enbridge, a Canadian energy company. The pipeline is extremely controversial, and has received criticism from Indigenous groups, namely the Anishinaabe Nation, which many nations in the northern United States identify under. In Minnesota, the pipeline cuts through treaty lands given to the Ojibwe peoples. This project has also been criticized by grassroots environmental organizations, colleges and universities,

politicians and celebrities.

"Since Line 3 is only possible because of its external funding, the goal of tying divestment to the Line 3 movement is to defund the 'money pipeline' of financiers of fossil fuel infrastructure like Line 3. Although Gustavus may not be directly invested in Enbridge, as an institution we definitely have financial ties through other players who are funding... like banks we do business with," Senior Aviva Meyerhoff, co-President of the Environmental Action Coalition said.

"Line 3 divestment"
continued on
page 3

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY Staff

Corinne Stremmel
Ben Wick
Anna Edblad
Tyra Ericson
Alma Jorgenson
Liam Carr
Weston Lombard
Filip Belik
Cadence Paramore
Laura Schwichtenberg
Vin Branom

Editor-in-Chief
Assistant Editor-in-Chief
News Editor
Variety Editor
Opinion Editor
Entertainment Editor
Sports & Fitness Editor
Web & Media Manager
Photography Editor
Features & Graphics Editor
Graphics Editor

Marie Osuna
Emily Seppelt
Kyra Bowar
Brandon Holland
Brett Hufendick

Tyra Ericson
Glenn Kranking

Lead Copy Editor
Copy Editor
Copy Editor
Business Manager
Advertising & Marketing Manager
Distribution Manager
Adviser

Published weekly on Fridays, except during academic breaks, by the students of Gustavus Adolphus College. Subscriptions are available from THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY for \$50/ per year.

Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the institution or of its student body. The editors assume full responsibility for editorial and unsigned material.

Letters to the Editor can be sent to lettertotheeditor@gustavus.edu.

If interested in publishing an ad, please contact our advertisement manager, Brett Hufendick, at admanager@gustavus.edu.

50¢
First copy free

EMAIL weekly@gustavus.edu

WEBSITE weekly.blog.gustavus.edu

Campus Safety Report

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

- Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm in Southwest Hall. The cause of the alarm was from students cooking.

Thursday, March 4, 2021

- A Gustavus employee reported that someone had chalked the Linnaeus bust statue.

Saturday, March 6, 2021,

- Campus Safety met an off-duty CF carrying Residential Life signs that had been vandalized.

Sunday, March 7, 2021

- Campus Safety discovered a conduct violation in Uhler

Hall.

- Campus Safety responded to Sohre Hall for the odor of marijuana; Four students were referred to the campus conduct system.

Monday, March 8, 2021

- The custodial department reported an inappropriate message left on a message board in Nobel Hall of Science.
- A CF from Pittman Hall contacted Campus Safety and reported an alcohol related incident, two students were referred to the campus conduct system.

Thursday, March 11, 2021

- Campus Safety was notified by Building Services because graffiti was found in Norelius Hall.

Saturday, March 13, 2021

- Campus Safety received a zetron alert for an alarm in The Bookmark

Sunday, March 14, 2021

- Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm in the International Center.
- Campus Safety responded to Southwest Hall for a Marijuana odor. Two students were referred to the Campus Conduct system.

- Campus Safety responded to a domestic dispute in North Hall. One student referred to the campus conduct system.
- Campus safety responded to a noise complaint in Southwest Hall. Two students were cited by the SPPD and Campus Safety for underage consumption.

Monday, March 15, 2021

- Campus Safety was called to Olin Hall for a Medical Assist.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

- Campus Safety investigated the report of a possible pol-

icy violation in North 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>

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 March 15, 2021:

Total Positive Cases (since August 15, 2020): 264

Current Positive Student Cases: 0

Current Positive Employee Cases: 2

Total Students in Isolation/Quarantine: 7

Students in Isolation/Quarantine On Campus: 4

Employees in Isolation/Quarantine: 3

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 March 17, 2021:

Total Positive Cases (since January 20, 2020): 499,962

Daily Newly Reported Cases: 1,046

Daily New Reported Nicollet County Cases: 2

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

"Line 3 divestment" continued from page 1

The Gustavus Environmental Action Coalition (EAC) has been heavily involved in this issue, and has participated in the Minnesota Line Free Campaign, a student-led fundraiser campaign to stop Line 3 development, as well as the Student Divest Day of Action and Collaboration. They are also currently planning and organizing for Earth Day.

"A divest campaign is just starting to be rebuilt on campus. [The] EAC has had several educational events and campaigns over the past semester and we are continuing to work on raising campus awareness of Line

3 and divestment," Meyerhoff said.

Sophomore Alex Terpkosh joined the EAC at the beginning of the year to continue his interests in conservation and activism.

"Line 3 is important... because it is an attempt by an industry to prioritize profit over people. Line 3 will be a major contributor to climate change, which threatens all of our collective futures. As a campus community that prides itself on justice and service, we should be standing up against a project like Line 3 that disregards Indigenous treaty rights and threatens Minnesotan ecosystems... as students, we have a right to understand how our college's financial decisions relate to our values and the impact we want to have in the world," Terpkosh said.

Gustavus does not currently

have any official stance on the Line 3 Pipeline, and has not made any statements about intent to divest funds.

"I support our community members who are participating in thoughtful civic engagement and making their voices heard on issues of environmental sustainability. Divestment is a regular topic discussed by the Gustavus Board of Trustees and our Investment Committee, and we continue to seek ways to adopt investment strategies that integrate environmental, social, and governance factors," President Rebecca Bergman said.

Gustavus has hired a full-time compost, waste and environmental sustainability manager, is expanding compost resources to all residence halls and academic buildings and is moving forward with installing solar panels near Arbor View.

"These are all important

components of the College's goals to reduce our energy usage 25 percent or more by 2024 and work toward being a zero-waste campus. I would like to highlight our Environmental Action Coalition, the President's Council for Environmental Sustainability and our Environmental Studies Program for their continued leadership on these important issues... I applaud our students, faculty and staff who are conscientiously organizing around the issues of environmental sustainability and Indigenous rights at the heart of the Line 3 project," President Bergman said.

Despite recent actions taken by Gustavus to improve sustainability on campus, some feel that the college could be doing more to address these issues, specifically regarding Line 3.

"I believe our institution is treating environmental justice

as a checkbox. Most times, statements are produced and action is rarely taken. I hope our institution releases a statement acknowledging the harmful effects of the Line 3 pipeline and the importance of divestment... Asking a college to divest can be challenging but it is equally important that the college understands the future implications of its investments and priorities. After all, solar panels don't stop pipelines, and land acknowledgements alone don't protect Indigenous land," Terpkosh said.

The EAC is currently planning campus events for Earth Day and welcomes any students interested in environment action and justice to consider joining the EAC.



Gusties take COVID-19 tests in Christ Chapel.

Nathan Habben

Class of 2021 Commencement: COVID-19 style

DeAnna Giles
Staff Writer

The pandemic has forced many people into a state of uncertainty. On the positive side, the class of 2021 commencement will be held in-person with your fellow classmates.

When will the Class of 2021 Commencement take place?

This year's commencement celebrating the achievements of Gustavus seniors will be held on the morning of Thursday, May 13. The ceremony will be live streamed for parents and family to attend virtually. A recording of the ceremony will be broadcast on Saturday, May 15. The ceremony will continue to be available for viewing by our graduates, family, and friends in the days following May 15.

The livestream will allow students to safely host graduation parties or celebrate this momentous occasion by playing the recording in the background or fast forwarding to moments of special significance.

"Students who may safely host graduation parties or celebrate this momentous occasion can put the recording on in the background or fast forward to the premiere moments," said President Bergman.

Are guests allowed at commencement?

Gustavus has been diligently working with the Minnesota Department of Health to provide the class of 2021 with a memorable celebration. Due to their guidelines, no guests, including friends and family, will be allowed at the ceremony. Representatives from academic departments will be present to celebrate with the graduates.

Current plans have the commencement ceremony being held indoors. Some may wonder if guests could attend if commencement is held outdoors, however Minnesota Department of Health is recommending that the college limit attendance to students only. Gustavus will continue to monitor regulations and are considering the possibility of moving outdoors and allowing guests if conditions permit us to do so.

How "normal" will the commencement feel?

This year's commencement will be held completely in-person inside the Lund Forum which is our largest indoor space here on campus. This will include the opportunity to walk across the commencement platform, hear the Class of 2021 speaker, wear robes and throw caps in the air, and be acknowledged for your accomplishments by representatives of the Gustavus faculty. While we hope we can have one ceremony with the entire senior class, we

cannot say for certain whether there will be one ceremony or two due to MDH guidelines for physical distancing and other COVID-19 safety precautions.

In the past, the indoor back-up space for bad weather has been in the hockey arena. Hosting commencement inside the forum is more practical for compliance with social distancing. According to current guidelines, students will be asked to maintain six feet of distance from each other and 12 feet distance from faculty and administrators in order for everyone to safely convene in one space.

When will graduates receive their diplomas?

The Minnesota Department of Health advises people to avoid close contact interactions. With this in mind, diplomas will not be handed to students during the ceremony. Also, due to the timing of the commencement ceremony, diplomas will not be ready for release. Students will receive their diploma cover during the ceremony and the actual diploma in the mail as soon as they are printed.

What will happen if COVID cases rise before commencement?

First thing would be to have two ceremonies splitting the class in half. This allows more space between students and faculty. If crowds are limited due to an increase in cases, it will be

decided whether to completely hold commencement virtually.

Hopefully this information will enable Gusties to transition from a state of uncertainty to hope. It does feel like the college turned the corner as vaccinations are accelerating, and more people are having an opportunity to be vaccinated and our case numbers are going down.

"I'm really excited to be able to finish out your senior year with events that recognize the class as a whole. And because the pandemic has pushed us into smaller social circles and restrictions, I'm just grateful we're going to be able to host an event where we can celebrate the class of 2021 together," President Bergman said.

Gustavus is offering a tuition-free ninth semester to those who need an extra term to complete their degree requirements. Students must be a first-year, transfer, or returning student who is enrolled full-time at Gustavus throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. More information can be found on the Gustavus website.

Senior week activities are currently being worked on and more information will be released soon. Continue to look out for emails with more information on the Class of 2021 Commencement celebration.

MN Vaccine Update

Marie Osuna
Staff Writer

Minnesota recently opened up COVID-19 vaccinations for a new group of people. Previously, only health care workers, long term care residents, educators, childcare workers and those over the age of 65 were eligible. Now, people with specific underlying health conditions, frontline and targeted essential workers (such as those in food processing plants) and people over the age of fifty living in multi-generational housing are permitted to receive vaccinations.

The new vaccine group also includes people age 45 or older with at least one underlying medical condition, or age 16 or older with two or more underlying medical conditions.

Underlying medical conditions include sickle cell disease, Down Syndrome, chronic heart or lung conditions, undergoing cancer treatment or being pregnant. For more information about what conditions qualify, visit <https://mn.gov/covid19/>.

According to President Biden in an address to the nation, it is expected that everyone wanting a vaccine will be able to receive one by this May.

Gustavus community members have options on where to get their vaccine. In addition to their local healthcare provider, the vaccine is or will soon be available at St. Peter and Mankato Hyvees, Walmart, Sam's Club and CVS. Gustavus has also been approved as a distribution site, and will be able to vaccinate students and other community members when doses are available.

Minnesota residents can register to be notified when vaccines are available for them at <https://vaccineconnector.mn.gov/>.

South Dakota offers vaccination to college students

Georgia Zutz
Staff Writer

South Dakota recently moved to a new stage of COVID vaccine distribution that includes college students who currently live in congregate or shared settings. This includes dormitories and other housing communities, where large amounts of individuals may be sharing kitchen and bathroom spaces.

In an article by AP News, South Dakota Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon spoke about the importance of being vaccinated and the excitement of opening the next phase of COVID vaccine delivery.

“Given South Dakota’s strong position on vaccination efforts and the increased points of access for vaccine distribution and administration, we are happy to fully open up Phase D starting today,” Malsam-Rysdon said.

“Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is a significant step in getting back to normal, and I encourage those eligible to schedule their vaccination today.”

AP News also shares that 30 percent of South Dakota residents have received either the first dose or full course of the vaccine, and is currently leading the United States in terms of distribution.



Gusties take their COVID-19 tests in Christ Chapel during a mass testing event.

Isaac Bui



Regina Olono and Carter Learned hold a Black Lives Matter (BLM) flag at a BLM solidarity event hosted by IGNITE and PASO. Submitted



Regina Olono, Makayla Greer and Luna Besaiso pictured at the same event as above on Friday, March 12, 2021. Submitted

Vaccine Summary

Minnesota Vaccination Numbers

As of March 15, 2021:

Statewide

People with at least one vaccine dose: 1,284,612
People with completed vaccine series: 746,829
Percent of state population with at least one dose: 22%

Nicollet County

People with at least one vaccine dose: 8,789
People with completed vaccine series: 5,256

This data comes from the Minnesota Department of Health’s “Vaccine Data” website, which is updated every day at 11 a.m.

Nationwide Vaccination Numbers

As of March 16, 2021:

Total doses distributed: 147,590,615
Total doses administered: 113,037,627
Percent of total population with at least one dose: 22%
Percent of total population with complete vaccine series: 12%

This data comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website “COVID Data Tracker” website, which is updated every day at 8 p.m.

Gusties “forest bathe” in the Arb



Gusties can head to the Arb during chapel break to partake in cleansing “Forest Bath” meditation

Luke Yang

Emily VanGorder
Staff Writer

Forest bathing is a traditional Japanese practice known as Shinrin-yoku, in which people go outside to meditate and regroup themselves. The practice first originated in Japan in the 1880s in response to a technological boom.

The Japanese government saw that citizens were complaining about aches and pains, irritability and suffering more from anxiety and depression. Their response was forest bathing, which was created as a way to encourage working people to get outside, lower stress levels, and enjoy nature.

Dr. Qing Li, MD, Ph.D. is a doctor at Nippon Medical School in Tokyo and president

of the Japanese Society of Forest Therapy. He believes that spending large amounts of time indoors contributes to negative feelings about life, school and work. He promotes forest bathing as a relaxing and positive outlet that can improve one’s mental health.

Forest bathing at Gustavus was first implemented by Junior Lily Engebretson, who works

as an Arboretum Assistant.

“I was really excited to hear [Engebretson]’s idea for the Arboretum, and I was glad that she decided to turn a one-time event into a regular Chapel break activity... I would love to see this event continue in the future because it is a space for relaxation, regrouping, and re-connecting with the elements of nature,” Senior Brie Wintz said.

Forest bathing events are

“I would love to see this event continue in the future because it is a space for relaxation, regrouping, and re-connecting with the elements of nature.”

-Brie Wintz

not officially affiliated with the Chaplain’s office, but Engebretson started hosting these events in the fall as a way to provide students with a time to pause and relax, especially given that the Chapel was closed to students in the fall. Now that the Chapel has re-opened, forest bathing will continue as

“I thought Gustie students would also benefit from an event that provided relaxation, a chance to de-stress and a digital detox, as well as get Gusties outdoors and into the Arboretum.”

-Lily Engebretson

a supplement to Chapel services for interested students.

Recent weather has affected student turnout, but not forest bathing events themselves.

“Four students headed out two weeks ago when there was still snow on the ground. I simply told students to bundle up and be prepared to sit among the snow. I envision us being able to watch the changes of spring—from the quiet beginnings when plants start to peek through the snow, to when flowers bloom,” Engebretson said.

Upcoming forest bathing events will be hosted on March 17 and 31 at 10 a.m.

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Ingrid Kubisa



Gustie of the Week Ingrid Kubisa

Submitted

Michaela Woodward
Staff Writer

Senior Ingrid Nyota Kubisa discovered that Gustavus was the place for her through several lucky coincidences.

Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kubisa and her family moved to Minnesota in 2016. They attended church in Minneapolis where they met former President of the College, Jim Peterson, and his wife Susan.

"They decided to help my two sisters and I who were college age to look around at colleges in Minnesota. Gustavus was the last one. I remember walking with my mom, my two siblings and Jim and Susan, and I was like, 'Mom, this is my place. I'm staying here,'" Kubisa said.

The campus visit showed Kubisa that she was heading in the right direction.

"That was the same vision that my high school had, [I

thought] 'this is a sign'. When we moved, I couldn't speak English that well and I was taking English classes at the time, and we had a tour in French, which is our first language, so that was really amazing," Kubisa said.

"Where it says 'Make your life count' by the stairs in the campus center, [I saw that and thought] 'this is what I want to do. I want to make my life count.'"

-Kubisa

At Gustavus, Kubisa is a Political Science major with a double minor in African Studies and Peace Studies. Her interest in politics began early.

"The Democratic Republic of the Congo is known as a war-torn country. The war started when I was born, in 1996. I grew up hearing stories about war and living [during] war. I was speaking about politics at a younger age. I was always interested to learn about the decisions that are made between countries and in my own country, like how the government makes decisions, and what they were doing wrong," Kubisa said.

Because of these experiences, Kubisa wants to make a positive impact.

"I wanted to be a part of those people who can make a change in my country first, and then around the world. I didn't have many options back home, so when I came to Gustavus all of these options were open to me. Now, my ideal work is working as a person in-between, like a negotiator or mediator in between the people and the government, but also churches, so that when decisions are made, they can be made for the common good," Kubisa said.

While her goals include making a change on an international level, her current involvements allow her to help foster a strong sense of community on campus.

Additionally, Kubisa is Co-President of the Pan African Student Organization (PASO).

"I really like that organization because it's a place we have to go and you're comfortable talking about anything. You're comfortable learning and accepting what you don't know so that other people can teach you from their experience. It's like a second home. When I'm done with homework I can go there and laugh, I can go there and cry with other people," Kubisa said.

Senior Tyra Banks works with Kubisa as the other Co-President of PASO.

"[Kubisa] is an extremely dedicated and hardworking woman. She values her education and relationships with people and sets the standards for being a true Gustie. I am honored to serve as her co-president for PASO this year. I love that woman wholeheartedly," Banks said.

Kubisa's faith is another aspect that drives her involvement on campus. She is Co-President of the Multifaith Leadership Council.

"As a Christian, I really like to learn about other people's religious backgrounds and worldviews. I want to engage in conversation that can help you learn about other people. I feel like at the end of the day we are not the same, but there are some similarities, and there are so many things that people can learn from each other," Kubisa said.

Interfaith Program Coordinator Marian Broida works with Kubisa on the Multifaith Leadership Council.

"[Kubisa] is a person of tremendous integrity and faith. She is dedicated to promoting mutual appreciation and respect among people of different religions, races, and cultures. It is inspiring to see the way she has put her beliefs into action as co-president of the Multifaith Leadership Council," Broida said.

Among other involvements, Kubisa is Co-President of French Club, a French Tutor, a worker in the Culpeper Language Center and a preaching intern.

As her time at Gustavus is coming to an end, Kubisa wants her impact to help maintain the openness she has found here.

"I want people to really feel like Gustavus is their home, a place where they can feel comfortable asking questions or saying 'I don't know this and I'd like to know,' that transparency. I want people to remember that someone from the Congo was here, someone who didn't know much about Gustavus but who felt that Gustavus was their second home, the right place for them to be," Kubisa said.

"I always tell people that I see everyone at Gustavus as my future partners, and not my competitors. I want others to also feel that the people you're working with, even after ten years, you can say 'I went to school with that person, they can help me,'" Kubisa said.

Land to Air EXPRESS

Your Trusted Travel Provider

**Affordable, Convenient,
& Safe Essential Travel**

- INCLUDING -

**PICK UP &
DROP OFF
ON CAMPUS**

One Way Pricing Starting at Just

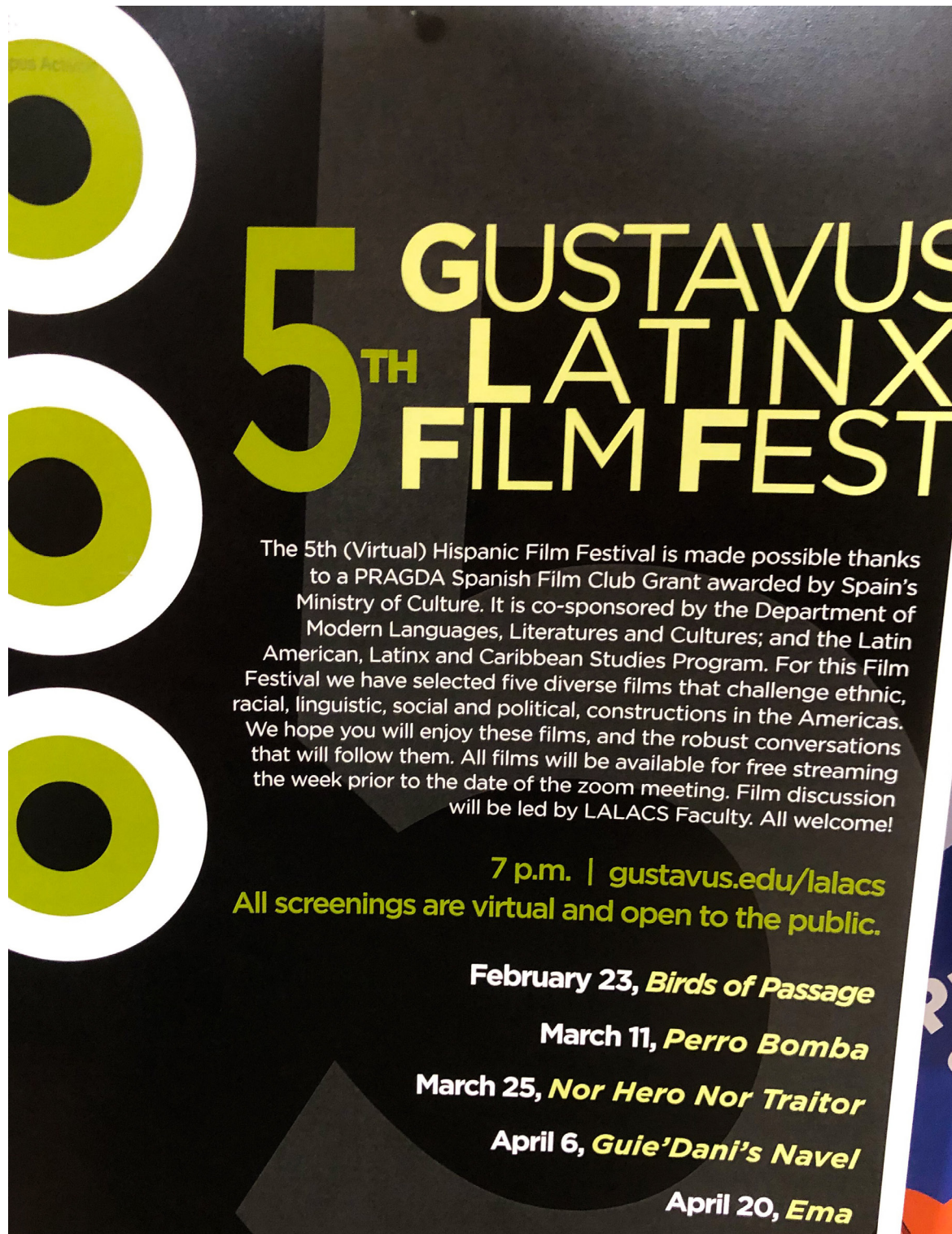
\$5



- **FREE Wi-Fi & Outlets**
- **Daily Departures**



Fifth Latinx Film Festival to take place virtually



Campus poster for Latinx Film Festival

Tyra Ericson

Samantha Raghu
Staff Writer

As a means of broadening the intercultural scope of the Gustavus community, the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures along with the Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean Studies (LALACS) program are hosting the fifth Latinx Film Festival this semester.

Associate Professor of Modern Languages, Chair of the LALACS program and Head Organizer Angelique Dwyer shared the purpose and motivation behind this event.

"Six years ago, a few colleagues and I talked about bringing more international films to campus because one of the things that we noticed was that students get a lot of funding to show films. But many of the films that are selected are Disney movies, or just random feel-good movies. But we saw that there weren't a lot of inter-

national films shown or seen on campus," Dwyer said.

"So many people in the US are not used to watching films in other languages, and I think that's sad. That's why this all started. We wanted to try to get international film to students, make it more accessible, have it be more fun and hopefully get students into the habit."

-Angelique Dwyer

Dwyer expressed how the inaccessibility of international films was seen in the wider St. Peter and Mankato communities as well with little to no showing of international films in local theatres, which made

the idea of an International film festival on campus for Dwyer and her colleagues more compelling.

As successful as the festival has been, Dwyer explains some of the barriers and solutions that arose during the early planning process for the festival.

"We hosted it for one year, but then got tons of roadblocks for how expensive it is because in order to show a film and advertise it, you got to have a lot of money to pay for those film rights. So the first festival—since we didn't have the funding—we would just get together a group of students from our classes mainly. After the first festival was a success, we got together and started to apply for grant funds to be able to do this on a larger scale," Dwyer said.

"We found this organization called PRAGDA, it's the Spanish film club and it's actually an organization through the secretary of culture for Spain. They annually have funds that they send out to anybody who's a worthy applicant - usually in-

stitutions, a lot of them, schools, universities, colleges. We go on their website and they have a whole catalog of films and some of them are from five to ten years ago, but for the most part they're quite contemporary," Dwyer said.

While some of the previous film festivals were centered around specific themes, such as gender and sexuality, Dwyer prioritizes the representation of various groups and cultures throughout Latin America when determining the selection of films to showcase. In some of the films chosen, there is representation of multiple languages as well, such as various Indigenous languages and Haitian Creole.

"I want there to be several countries represented, so a film from Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia or Spain just to make sure that there's a vast representation of the Spanish speaking world. We also want to make sure that there's diversity of representation in terms of geographic location, as well as ethnic, racial, gender, sexuality, etc," Dwyer said.

Given its virtual nature this year, Dwyer explains participants are given virtual access to the films a week prior to the Q&A. During the Q&A session, various LALACS professors contextualize the film for the audience and offer their points of view on the film.

Dwyer also explains the limitations and successes of the festival under COVID-19.

"The biggest limitation so far is having a reduction in our budget and I think it's campus-wide since most departments have gotten lower budgets. And for that reason we haven't been able to interview the directors for all of the films, because that is more costly. On the flip side, we have had wonderful attendance so far," Dwyer said.

While there is a five-film line-up, Dwyer states her personal favorite film that she is

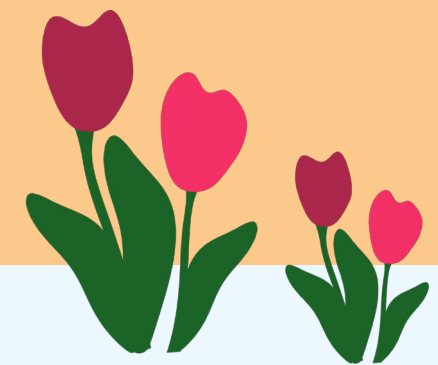
excited to share/watch.

"The one I'm the most excited about is the last film called *Ema*. It's different in that it talks about reggaeton, hip-hop, Latinx hip-hop culture. But it's also a really dramatic film about gender and women and adoption and the difficulties of a woman getting pregnant and then talking about her options in terms of abortion and being a mother and parenting a child," Dwyer said.

The Latinx Film Festival is accessible to all Gustavus and outer St. Peter community members, along with having frequent participation from alumni and family members. Students who are also interested in writing a review after viewing any of the films can submit one to Ana Adams (Associate Professor of Modern Languages and LALACS).



Seasonal Change: The Vernal Equinox



Geena Zebrasky
Features Writer

This Saturday, March 20th, marks the official beginning of spring, at least for the hemisphere we occupy. For the Southern Hemisphere, it's officially the first day of their autumn. March 20th is the vernal equinox—which happens every year between the 19th and 21st of March.

The word *equinox* comes from the Latin words *aequus*, meaning “equal,” and *nox*, meaning “night.” This implies that because the sunlight is equally distributed over both hemispheres, the length of the daylight is the same length as the night everywhere. All other times of the year, because of the Earth's tilt on its axis, one of the hemispheres experiences less daylight than night, and vice versa.

Other than bringing longer days to us (and distracting us with nice weather), the

equinox is cool for another reason: the sun is finally rising in the Arctic Circle. In both the Arctic Circle as well as the Antarctic Circle, the sun only rises and sets once each year.

In the Arctic, the sun officially goes below the horizon on the autumnal equinox in September, and the circle remains in darkness until the vernal equinox. So Santa and his elves at the North Pole spend their Christmas in total darkness, and they don't see the sun until March. At least the sun is up for their off season!

The equinox is also important in many parts of the world as a key part of cultural practices. The equinox marks the first day of the Iranian calendars, and the Nowruz holiday is celebrated by some people in Iran, Afghanistan, and the Kurdish regions of Iraq,

Turkey and Syria, and throughout Central Asia. Traditions differ between places, but it's a New Year celebration of the spring equinox. In Japan, it's observed as a national holiday, known as Shunbun no Hi. It's also used by Christian churches to calculate Easter: the first full moon after the equinox is Easter, and this is when Passover usually falls as well.

Last but not least, the equinox is recognized as International Astrology Day because it marks the first day of the astrological year. The Earth spends its first full day in the astrological sign of Aries on the spring equinox.

Interestingly, even though it'll officially be Aries season, the sun will still be shining on the Pisces constellation. If you use Co-Star to check for updates on your zodiac sign, you should know that these use the tropical zo-

dial, which is used for the ecliptic coordinate system that makes up the astrological year. This is different from the sidereal zodiac. The astrological signs of the ecliptic coordinate system remain fixed, so the first point of Aries will always be the March equinox. The sidereal zodiac is based upon what constellation the sun is actually shining on. The constellations of the zodiac can shift over long periods of time because of a property that causes the Earth's axis to shift slightly, and the sidereal zodiac corrects for these shifts. So for this system, Aries season begins on April 15th.

Regardless of how you celebrate, I think all of us can probably agree we're happier about the longer days we've been experiencing, and the warmth that has accompanied them.

Line 3 and the Gustavus Community



Emma Pufahl
Opinion Columnist

Hello, my lovely fellow Gusties. The weather this week has been interesting, to say the least. As we hop back into our week of spring weather, we should be thinking about a very important topic that is heavy on my noggin. I know that there are many people on campus that care very deeply about this subject and it is time for us to all learn a little more about it. On March 5, there was a statewide event that involved many MN Universities to protest against Line 3. So, what is Line 3?

Enbridge's Line 3 runs from Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin. There is already a pipeline connecting these two locations, but Line 3 is meant to be a replacement project. The existing pipeline is too small, too limiting for how much oil is desired to be moved. It is also getting older, so the chance of leaks or spills increases daily.

One might ask, replacing the existing pipeline is a good thing, right? Even though we all have differing viewpoints on fossil fuel usage, this should help mitigate some of the current issues? Unfortunately, this isn't the case. We aren't actually replacing the existing pipeline. The 'replacement' pipeline follows a new path. The existing pipeline will be abandoned and left in the ground to leach oil into the groundwater for decades to come. But this doesn't mean that the pathway for the new pipeline is 'better' than the old pipeline. The new Line 3 goes directly through or adjacent to treaty land of multiple Native Indigenous tribes of Minnesota. When, not if, the new pipeline leaks, there will be major water contamination right next to treaty land and will greatly affect Native People's safety, health and livelihoods.

As most of us know, Minnesota has a large amount of undisturbed wild rice fields. The wild rice offered at many grocery stores that say 'Minnesota Grown Wild Rice' are grown in the same bodies of water that the new pathway for Line 3 will go through or possibly contaminate when an oil spill occurs. Wild rice is not a crop that can be grown anywhere. It does best where it is native to the land. Once the wild rice is gone, or destroyed, it will be nearly impossible to bring



Gusites get together to protest Line 3

Luke Yang

back. Many Indigenous groups farm wild rice as a source of income as well as to stay in touch with a piece of their past. Not only would these people suffer from financial strain, but a cultural strain as well.

If this isn't enough to make you dislike the proposed pipeline, let me tell you about the oil traveling through it. Line 3 is a tar sands pipeline. If this terminology is unfamiliar to you, you are not alone. In Alberta, Canada, there are large reserves of tar sands. This is the same material that the Keystone Pipeline in the Dakotas was transporting. Tar sands are pretty much a sludge made up of oil and sand. It looks and is pretty gross (look one up). I personally believe it is the nastiest form of oil that we harvest. It is extremely dirty, is highly polluting, and contributes more than its fair share to climate change, more than quite a few fossil fuel sources. It takes a lot of energy to isolate the sand and oil. It is very low-quality oil that is more polluting when burned or used. The dark sludge sand causes more heat and solar energy to stay in the atmosphere, due to its low albedo. Low albedo is darker colors that attract heat, while higher albedo reflects more light energy. It's why you should wear white or lighter colors and not black in July. Or why asphalt burns your feet faster than concrete does on a sunny day. Low albedo, as well as carbon emissions, help accelerate climate change effects.

Line 3 is bad news. The new pipeline will leak. There will be an oil spill. The abandoned pipeline is being left in the ground (there are a few exceptions to this but quite a bit is being left in the ground). The abandoned pipeline will degrade and oil will leach into the groundwater. The new pipeline will spill and leach

into the groundwater. There will be disruption of native life. There will be disruption to lives and livelihoods. All of this will increase emissions and negatively impact the local flora and fauna, as well as contribute to climate change. At the end of the day, there is nothing good about this pipeline "replacement." The

only plus it could have is it creates job opportunities. But they are very temporary jobs. Stop Line 3.

For more information: check out stopline3.org.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



There are squirrels living our garbage cans...thanks evolution



SNOW! Where did that come from?



The snow is pretty ig

Snack War: What is the best snack in the Caf?



Tori Smith
Opinion Columnist

We all know the drill. It's the end of the month, and you've got a surprising amount of money left on your meal plan. You can't let this money go to waste, so you head to the Caf to see how much food you can possibly stuff into two large paper bags.

The real question: what do you grab? There are a plethora of options ranging from chips and salsa to self-serve ice cream (if you consider ice cream a snack, which I certainly do).

If you're wondering what to grab the next time you make a Caf run, look no further. I have done extensive research on the best of the best snacks available at the Caf, and by that, I mean I buy these items a lot and think they're really tasty.

The first go-to snack I reach for on the shelves is the Welch's Fruit Snacks (or the Scooby-Doo fruit snacks, whichever are available). You can never go wrong

with this choice. They're sweet with just the right amount of citrus, perfect for satisfying those cravings for actual fruit without those pesky fruit flies invading your room. Okay, so maybe they're not the best replacement for actual fruit, but those flies sure are a nuisance.

They're also great for on-the-go students because they're packaged in individual little bags. This is great for sticking in your backpack or your bag when you're out on the town.

You're going to want to pack more than one, however, because if anyone sees you sneaking a few bites of these delicious gummies they're going to want you to share.

The only downside to fruit snacks is the amount of waste they create. While the individual packaging is nice for portability reasons, it's ultimately just unnecessary garbage that can't be composted or recycled.

Another Caf delicacy are the Sabra Hummus and Pretzels. These are the perfect snack for the dorm room or anywhere else. Because of its ability to combine the hummus and the pretzels in one little cup, I take these babies everywhere.

A pretzel dipped in hummus is truly one of the world's greatest snacks. It's portable, nutritious, filling, and, best of all, vegan. Finding plant-based options in the Caf is a notoriously difficult task at times, so it's nice to have this delicious option available.

Another great, yet slightly healthier snack that I find myself gravitating towards ev-



Head to the Caf to get your favorite snacks

Nate Habben

ery month are the flavor blasted Goldfish crackers. The original flavor of these smiling little crackers is amazing, but when there's a little bit of cheddar dust added I will eat a whole bag in one sitting.

While not the healthiest choice, the Flavor Blasted Goldfish are definitely hard to put down. There's something about that cheddar dust that makes these crackers absolutely irresistible. There is, however, one downside to this amazing snack. Much like Cheetos, the dust is very messy. If you like to snack while watching Youtube from your laptop like me, you're go-

ing to want to make sure your fingers are dust-free before touching anything.

These snacks are all good options, but there's one snack that reigns supreme: the chocolate Teddy Grahams.

Admittedly, I am known to be quite the sweet tooth, so it's no surprise that my favorite snack from the Caf are mini chocolate flavored cookies. There's just nothing that compares.

I could easily snack on these little teddy bears for hours on end. Contrary to what people may think, they aren't too filling like chocolate tends to be. Instead, they're perfectly light and

delicious, ready to be munched on throughout the day.

Therefore, my findings lead me to believe that Teddy Grahams are the champion of snacks in the Caf. Many will disagree with me, and many would even say cookies aren't even a snack, but my research would say otherwise.

So next time you're on a Caf run and looking for something sweet, chocolate Teddy Grahams are there for you.

Old Music is Better



Lexi Louis
Opinion Columnist

I think that old music is better than modern music. It combines instruments that are nice together, and it isn't very technological sounding. There is a nostalgic, happy feeling associated with listening to old music we haven't heard in a while. Older music displays nostalgia, tangible instruments, appropriately accompanied lyrics and a history that helped shaped music today.

When we are in a car and a song from our childhood comes

on the radio, feelings of nostalgia arise. It can bring about happiness or vivid memories associated with that time. Listening to new music is fun, but it doesn't convey the same feeling as when we listen to it ten years later. Some popular songs I listened to a while ago were "Let it Be," "Hey Jude" and "Bohemian Rhapsody." When I was younger, these songs from the 60s and 70s were played around me a lot. Some of the instruments used in these songs were a piano, a bass, a guitar, drums and an organ. Some other songs I listened to when I was younger that used more modern instruments were "I Gotta Feeling" by the Black Eyed Peas and "Single Ladies" by Beyonce. These songs convey the same feeling of nostalgia, but the instruments used in them are more technical.

The sound of a piano is much more familiar to a lot of people than electronic or synthesizer sounds. It comes across as clearer and more organic. A bass guitar is more fun to view someone play than a synth bass. Watching someone play a piano, bass, or guitar provides greater entertainment than these instruments being played on a digital

piano. Although a digital piano may produce the same thing, seeing all of the instruments being played together is impressive. Seeing an entire orchestra playing is a beautiful sight. With the violins, violas, cellos, flutes, oboes, clarinets and other instruments being played, there is a harmony that cannot be produced with technology. Seeing a band playing is fun too. These instruments were used more frequently in classic music than they are used in modern music.

The lyrics, volume, emotion and enthusiasm contained in old songs are more powerful than in newer songs. The mood of the song "Let it Be" is somber, but its tone is hopeful. My favorite part of the song is, "And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me

Shinin' until tomorrow, let it be." I think these lyrics portray hope. The song repeats of letting a situation be, it will get better, and there will be an answer. The volume of Paul McCartney's voice increases as the song progresses to cement the message. The emotion of his voice reflects the words being spoken. In the song "Hey Jude" a repeated line is, "Hey Jude, don't make it bad.

take a sad song and make it better." I think that listening to music that reflects our emotions, even if it is sad, makes us feel better because we have something to connect and relate with. The song transitions to them singing in unison for a while. This gives a positive group setting for the listener to participate in.

The first concert I attended was a Paul McCartney concert. I went with my family, and we sat on the ground level in chairs. There was a positive, fun energy in the arena. People around me were singing and dancing. This environment was contrasting to a lot of other concerts where a lot of people are holding phones and missing the moment.

My parents introduced me to 60s, 70s and 80s music with the Beatles, Queen and ABBA. I loved singing along to these songs in the car with my family. Some 80s bands my parents introduced me to were Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Van Halen, The Bangles, Blondie, Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Pink Floyd, Led Zepplin, AC/DC, Black Sabbath, Fleetwood Mac, Rush, Journey, Guns and Roses, U2, Eurythmics, A-ha and Styx. The Bangles, Blondie, Eurythmics and

ABBA were bands that included female artists. This complements Women's History Month and their contributions to the music industry. Without these bands and their music, a lot of songs wouldn't exist today.

Because of these artist's lyrics, enthusiasm, emotion, and instruments their songs are more powerful. Some of the lyrics are more genuine and honest. In some classic songs, they are sung with greater volume and emotion. The instruments frequently used during the 60s, 70s and 80s, were tangible and more familiar to the listener. The words from these decades inspired future artists and improved the industry. When we hear music we haven't heard in a while, emotions and memories arise from that time. Newer songs don't bring this feeling of happiness in my opinion.

Vaccine Passports: What Are They?



Grace Worwa
Opinion Columnist

We are now over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and according to the World Health Organization, more than 335 million doses of vaccine have been administered worldwide. With that in mind, governments and companies alike are racing to develop what news outlets are calling the pandemic's next big thing: vaccine passports.

So, what are vaccine passports? And how do they affect Gusties?

Vaccine passports are either card or digital documentation that proves you have been vaccinated. These documents would be more immune to fraud than the vaccination cards currently issued by the CDC. Not only will many countries likely require vaccine passports for future entry, but airlines, restaurants, hotels, gyms, concert venues and other public spaces at home may as well.

Vaccine passports currently exist in two basic forms: government-issued and company-owned.

For starters, government-issued vaccine passports are slowly appearing country by country. According to USA Today, Israel's "green card" allows fully vaccinated Israeli residents to enter public spaces, like swimming pools and concerts. Furthermore, Conde Nast Traveler reports that the European Commission has proposed the "Digital Green Pass" to allow easier travel between member states, and Denmark and Sweden plan to have developed their own vaccine passports by summer.

For its part, the United States government is still in the starting phases.

Earlier this month, "President Biden... asked federal agencies to explore options," according to the New York Times.

It's not yet clear if and when the U.S. vaccine passports will be available. We're a bit behind in the game, but perhaps we can follow the solutions being proposed in other countries.

In addition to government-issued vaccine passports, pri-



A dusty, Gustie passport crisp from lack of use

Nate Habben

vate companies are developing their own models in the form of user-friendly phone apps to which users can upload their health information. These apps are better described as "health passes" than "vaccine passports" as they often allow you to verify your test status along with proof of vaccination.

According to the Washington Post, several such apps are in the trial-phase as we speak.

The trusted-traveler program Clear is testing its "Clear's Health Pass" app in certain flights into Hawaii. The nonprofit Commons Project Foundation's "Common-pass" and the International Air Transport Association's "IATA Health Pass" are also being tested on international flights in partnership with certain airlines.

At first glance, vaccine passports, both government-issued and company-owned, seem like an obvious step in the right direction. After all, they will bring reopened economies, a return to normality, reduced virus transmission rates and

even further incentive to get vaccinated. However, news outlets report a glaring ethical issue.

"Granting special rights for the vaccinated, while tightening restrictions on the unvaccinated, risks widening already-dangerous social gaps," warned the New York Times.

If vaccinations and vaccine passports are mandated, unequal access to vaccines will translate to unequal access to certain spaces, services and even jobs. On a domestic scale, this will discriminate along racial lines, and on a global scale, against lower-income countries.

For that reason, a range of actors have pushed against vaccine mandates, including the World Health Organization.

"Quite simply, vaccination is just not available enough around the world and is not available certainly on an equitable basis," Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO said.

Similarly, Conde Nast Traveler reports that travel industry

voices would like the U.S. to rely on a combination of vaccinations, tests, and statements of recovery in order to verify if an individual is COVID-safe. The European Commission proposed a similar strategy with their "Digital Green Pass."

In essence, different countries and actors differ in their stance, but international discussion appears to lean toward a "health pass" model rather than the "vaccine passport." This way, unequal access to vaccines will be less likely to disproportionately cut off disadvantaged populations from public activity and services.

So, returning to our initial question: how do these health passes and/or vaccine passports affect Gusties?

Right now, they don't. The U.S. government is still in the planning phase, and company apps are currently being tested, so vaccine passports simply aren't available.

However, we will need them soon, particularly for travel. Conde Nast Traveler reports that many airlines have

partnered with traveler apps in order to standardize test results and health requirements among their own passengers. Airlines like Qantas and Virgin Atlantic have even indicated they might mandate vaccinations for all passengers.

Furthermore, you will likely need a vaccine passport to enter certain countries in the future. According to U.S. embassies, countries such as Lebanon and Belize have already announced that they will admit Americans who can present proof of vaccination. Other nations like Poland and Thailand still do not allow American visitors, but they have lifted quarantine and testing requirements for vaccinated visitors from other countries.

In the future, vaccine passports and health passes will likely become the standard for travel, if not for everyday access to public spaces here at home. But for now, they are still in their developing stages. For now, we wait.

Word Search

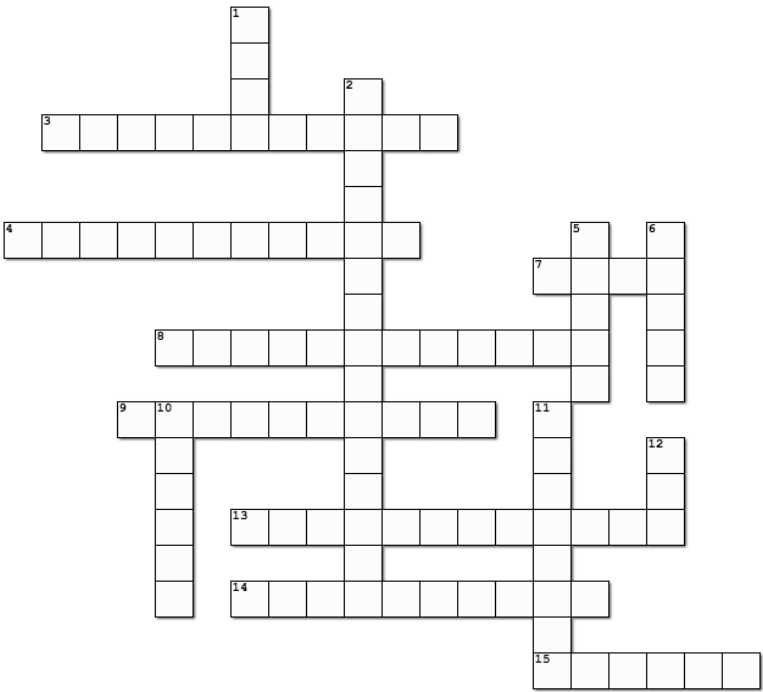
Green Food

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

- asparagus
avocado
basil
broccoli
brussel sprouts
- cucumber
edamame
grapes
green apple
green pepper
- jalapeno
kale
kiwi
lettuce
lime
- olives
peas
pickles
spinach
watermelon

Crossword

Saint Patrick's Day



- Across
3. This helped Saint Patrick with his alleged task (two words).
4. This city has held it's Saint Patrick's Day Parade since 1762 (three words).
7. Aside from getting a lawyer, the best way to protect yourself from leprechauns is to leave out _____ for them.
8. Saint Patrick's real name (two words).
9. This city in Arkansas holds the record for shortest Saint Patrick's Day parade (two wods).
13. The shamrock is actually a really lame metaphor about _____.
14. There is no grain in this meat (two words).
15. Saint Patrick allegedly drove these out of Ireland.
- Down
1. Saint Patrick's official color was actually _____.
2. How many pints of Guinness were purchased in 2017 (two words)?
5. Saint Patrick's Day commemorates the _____ of the saint.
6. Saint Patrick wasn't _____.
10. Chicao dyes its river green using _____ powder.
11. World famous Irish beer.
12. Saint Patrick's day was originally a _____ holiday

Saint Paddy's Day Punch



Adam Pierce
Shamrock Shake Connoisseur

Saint Patrick's Day is upon us again, the time for drinking loads and loads of the STEAMery's Irish coffee and eating more corned beef than our stomachs can humanly handle. I'm happy to say that we here at THE WEEKLY are celebrating in kind and have already burned our effigy of the Queen of England. We are happy to announce that Gustavus Physical Plant is also partaking in the holiday festivities! In coordination with the city of Saint

Peter, they have followed in the footsteps of greater cities like Chicago by dyeing their water supply green. For many of us, the event was a fun surprise, as neither the Physical Plant nor the City gave any explanation or warning that the water supply was going to be wearing the colors of the season. As always, THE WEEKLY's investigative team interns, Daina and Chris, were on the case. "Drinking the Green Water really made me feel like I was in the spirit of Saint Patrick's Day this year," Chris said. "This past year has just been such a let down, it was nice to see the administration and the City really coming together to create a festive environment for the students this year." "This is pond water, right? Like, people are aware of that?" Daina said when we reached out for her comments. "No one is actually drinking this, are they? I thought you were joking when you said you wanted me to take a look at it... No, [the City] didn't keep this as a fun surprise, they put out a bulletin on it last week, the spring flooding came early with the second thaw after the snowstorm and it taint-

ed the water supply. No one drink the green water, please!"

"No one drink the Saint Paddy's Day Punch."

Well then, you heard it here first folks. It would appear that the "Saint Paddy's Day Punch" is in fact just pond water swarming with algae. Maybe try a Shamrock Shake from the soon to close McDonald's instead.

And for those who are wondering, former intern Alex couldn't make it for this story, as he has been hospitalized after the Soundwave Incident, however he is expected to make a speedy recovery. Get well soon, Alex! We have an investigation on the Thing in the Arb waiting for you when you get back.

"Bad Days" by Bryanna Filip



Crossword Answers: Across: 3. cold weather, 4. New York City, 7. beer, 8. Maewyn Succat, 9. Hot Springs, 13. Christianity, 14. corned beef, 15. snakes. Down: 1. blue, 2. thirteen million, 5. death, 6. Irish, 10. orange, 11. Guinness, 12. dry.

Picking Up Where They Left Off

Men's baseball dominates in first series of season.

Autumn Zierman
Staff Writer

As the Spring weather makes its return to the Hill this year, spring sports are back in full swing. The Gustavus Men's Baseball team opened this season in a sweeping double-header victory against Crown College Friday March 12. Both games ended in a landslide Gustavus victory, the first finishing 8-1 and the second 19-2.

This season opener marks what promises to be an interesting competitive season going forward with the largest team Gustavus Men's Baseball has seen in Head Coach Brad Baker's seven years coaching. The roster caps at fifty players this year, scheduled for a packed season that holds forty games in under two months, over half of which will be played at the newly renovated Gustie Baseball Field, Sports Information Director C.J. Siewert said in a press release earlier this month.

The filled-out roster should come as a surprise to no one following the Baseball team, Head Coach Baker is known around for his status as a "recruiting guru". This year also marks the end of one of Coach Baker's first recruiting classes, and they all look forward to finishing out a strong Baseball career at Gustavus.

With the upperclassmen leading the charge to a strong season and being well-known for it, it can be easy to forget about the up in comers that will one day take charge of the team. Talking with First-year Drake Siens about his experience having joined the team this year offers insight into what Gustavus Men's Baseball can look like from the beginning looking forward, rather than a reflection from the end.

This season opener marks the first game played with the team for the 14 new first years.



Drake Siens blasts a homerun for his first collegiate hit

Submitted

First-year Drake Siens was the first, and only, home run hitter for Gustavus at the Crown College games.

"I'm super excited for the upcoming season especially since the last time I played for my school was unfortunately cut short due to COVID. Coming into campus I was a little worried about how I was going to fit in since I came in a little late after staying home during the whole first semester. But the team has been super welcoming and they're honestly a great group of guys," Siens said.

This game was also, like many other sports, a bit differ-

ent without the fans as COVID policies kept the stands clear. Fortunately, the team was able to keep itself in high spirits.

"Those first few wins on Friday really showed me a lot about the passion of the team," Siens said.

All-in-all the games wrapped up with the Gusties achieving a combined 28 hits, which included six doubles, five triples, and a home run. The pitchers collected a total 22 strikeouts and 14 innings.

"Victory was very sweet and we were able to sub in other players who were able to contribute immediately which was very good to see," Senior

Christian Johnson said.

With an impressive sweep under their belt, the men's team looks forward to an impressive season.

"The two wins on Saturday were a great way to start off the season. We have been ready to play ever since last year when we got shut down, so it was great to finally get back into competition," Sophomore Luke Johnson said.

Luke recorded a base clearing triple in his first at bat as a Gustie.

With a landslide victory under their belts for the season opener, the rest of the next two months, though packed,

looks bright. New regulations and rules are viewed with the trademark men's baseball can-do attitude.

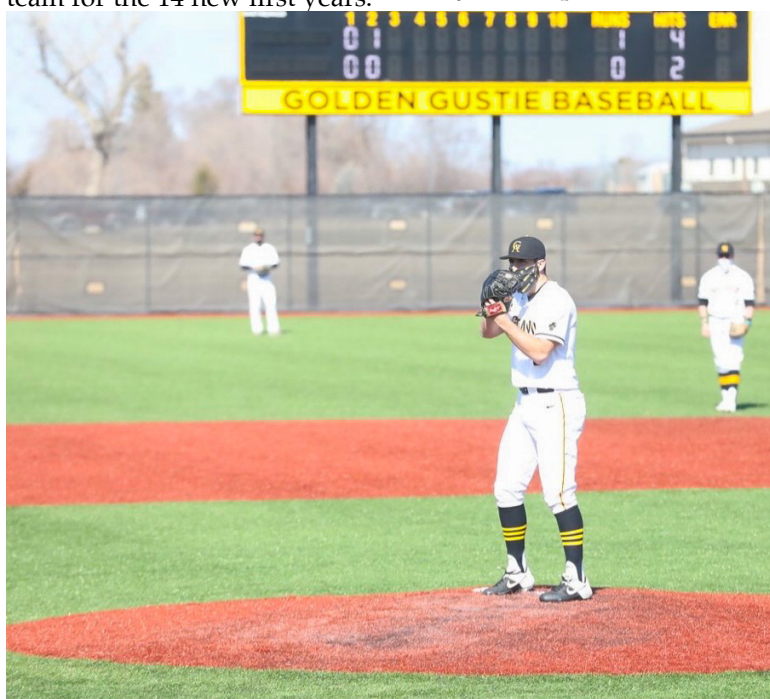
"This year is very different than most though with all the protocols and the constant chances of having to be quarantined in case the team does receive some positive COVID tests. We can't really complain however since all the other teams in the MIAC have to deal with the same rules," Siens said.

Establishing goals for the rest of the season seems to revolve around growing and maintaining team morale and camaraderie, as well as succeeding competitively.

"If I would use one word to describe the vibe of the team this year it would be 'hungry' we know what we want to achieve and what needs to be done to get there," Christian said.

This month's schedule finishes out North of Saint Peter with a March 19 game against Augsburg, a game on the 23 with St. Scholastica. Packed into the last weekend on the 27, 28 and 31 are games with Saint Mary's, Bethany Lutheran and St. Olaf respectively.

With a full few weeks ahead of them, and the team riding an opener success high, Gustavus is looking forward to what the Gustavus Men's Baseball team does next.



Submitted

Christian Johnson takes the sign from the catcher



Submitted

Luke Johnson celebrates after a base clearing triple

No Holds Barred

Gymnastics Finishes 2021 Season with Senior Night vs. Hamline

Eamonn McCullough
Staff Writer

The electric crackle of excitement in the Sponberg Gymnastics Studio on Saturday, March 12 was almost palpable as four Gustie senior gymnasts stepped out onto the floor for their last-ever home meet against a strong Hamline squad.

"Throughout the whole meet the energy was amazing. We were dancing, laughing and just enjoying our time out there together. I don't think there was a time that I wasn't smiling," Senior Annie Gladitsch said.

Although the Pipers would go on to win the meet by a slim margin (179.050 to the Gusties' 177.325), the final outcome did nothing to detract from the outstanding performances put on by many Gusties.

Early on in the meet, First-year Abby Willis took 3rd on the vault, setting an early tone that was buoyed by the ensuing events, including bars, beam and floor. In another show of the Gusties' rising talent, First-year Kendra Smaby took first in the bars, and Annie Corbett, who earned All-American honors last year, took second on the beam. Willis wrapped up the meet with a high note, taking second on the floor. Scores notwithstanding, every member of the team found every opportunity to shine throughout the night.

"Every routine that night was special and every single person put forth their best effort. I will always look back on this night with a smile on my face," Gladitsch said.

Although the highest-scoring performances were mostly posted by underclass athletes, it was Seniors Gladitsch, Alysya Teper, Sam Tonjes and Kaytlyn Brenneman who stole the show. After an inconsistent fall of training and a year of uncertainty, it seemed like nobody was ready to let their last home meet come to pass without having as much fun as possible.

"Overall, I just felt a sense of gratitude throughout the whole meet. I was grateful that we got to celebrate and have a senior night, grateful for such a supportive and loving team, and grateful for all the good energy and fun that came from the meet. Looking back, you always think of how you want your senior night to go. You are having the feelings of both sadness and happiness, and are just trying to make it the best experience for yourself, but also as everything is quickly coming to an end. But I can honestly say that I couldn't have asked for a better senior night and a better way to end my career at home," Gladitsch said.

This sense of gratitude is certainly not misplaced. The



Gustie gymnast hits a pose on the balance beam

Submitted

Gustie Gymnastics team, like most other athletics at Gustavus and across the country, has had a season marred with setbacks and uncertainty.

"In the fall we had to take a lot of breaks due to COVID protocol and it was really scary to go into Christmas break with the uncertainty of what kind of season we would get, or if we would even get one at all," Gladitsch said.

Although inconsistencies in training are an obvious setback for most any sport, COVID has been an especially high hurdle for gymnasts.

"We weren't able to practice with everyone on the same even like we normally would have been able to. Our season started way later than normal, and has many fewer meets. We've had to quarantine and take "pauses" on practicing much more than we ever would, which for gymnastics is huge. To put this in perspective, most competitive gymnasts only take off a couple weeks total out of the whole year, just because of how much repetition, consistency, and persistent strength gymnastics takes, so to have to take off months at a time, this has been a huge change and challenge. Nonetheless, we are persevering," Brenneman said.

However, the global COVID pandemic was no match for the positivity and resilience shown by the team in the face of every challenge. The Gustavus Gymnastics team was able to concentrate on some of the most special aspects of the sport this season despite everything.

"I would say the most meaningful thing I have experienced with this team though is the growth in myself that all of these inspiring ladies have pushed me to learn and become. That, and countless

times this team has brought out some big belly laughs in me and made my heart smile. Those are the moments I will truly treasure forever. I would also add, that there is no feeling like that of when you finally make a big skill for the first time ever and land it to the loudness and pure joy of your teammates exploding in an uproar of cheering across the entire gym," Brenneman said.

Although their home competitions might be coming to an end, the Gusties still have two more chances to showcase their hard work and improvements, starting with a meet

at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 18 at UW-Eau Claire. Despite coming off such an incredible weekend, there is still plenty of room to work and grow.

"Overall, I think moving forward we just have to work on our consistency. I think pieces are definitely coming together and it is apparent as to how hard we have worked this pre-season. I think it is just a matter of all of it coming together for us and competing like how we practice. For the rest of the season I am just excited to hopefully build upon our team scores and end our season with a bang. Overall I think if we

just have fun these next two meets, that is all you could really ask for. I think we have shown resilience in our given situation and I think we're just excited to see what we will accomplish and take moving forward," Gladitsch said.

The Gusties will be back on the beams, bars, and bouncy floors starting this Thursday at UW-Eau Claire, and later on April 1st at Winona State.



Gustie gymnast blocks off the vault

Submitted

Softball Returns to Action

Jack Wiessenberger
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Softball team got their season underway with a double header versus St. Benedict last Sunday. The Gusties lost the first game with a score of 4 to 0 and the second by a margin of 11 to 0. After a full year without competition and many new additions to the roster, the doubleheader weekend offered an opportunity to get back in the swing of things and gain valuable experience. With a long season still ahead, new Head Coach Coley Ries is looking forward to turning things around for the team.

"This was my first game as a head coach. There was a lot of anticipation and anxiety amongst both myself and the players because it's been so long since they have had a game day. With eleven first-years and sophomores, a lot of our women were experiencing firsts. We were able to see some good things and also a lot of things we need to work on. St. Ben's is a top team in the conference so to hang around with them in game one was great for our team to realize we are in the mix," Ries said.

Despite the team being held scoreless in both outings, there were many positive aspects to the way the Gusties played. Being able to remain competitive with one of the top softball programs in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) was certainly something to be happy about regarding the team's performance.

"St. Ben's has definitely been climbing the ladder over the years and are definitely a tough team to play. Two years ago when we faced them in a doubleheader we beat them which was a huge win for us



Gustie Softball poses for a team photo, properly masked and ready to compete

Submitted

and then we lost game two by one run," Junior Pitcher Amara Packey said.

Previous matchups between these two MIAC powerhouses have delivered tightly contested games. Gustavus is hoping to bring its program back to the top of the conference as it was when it last won a title in 2009. The team is certainly a young one, but still has talented upperclassmen leading the way. Senior Pitcher Ashley Neuenfeldt had a notable season debut in the doubleheader. As the only senior on the roster, she holds a special role. Her skills both as someone to look up to on the team and as a standout pitcher were on display Sunday.

"The games went well for me overall, though there are definitely areas I am working to improve. I am most happy with my pitching performance, especially since it's been more than a year since my last game. I was able to attack the zone and not give up any free bases. My personal highlight was getting a triple in my first at-bat, but overall it was exciting to see the team come together and compete. We also had lots of players get their first at-bats, first hits, and first defensive put-outs at the college level," Neuenfeldt said.

Neuenfeldt was the sole pitcher in game one and tallied four strikeouts. The Gusties are

a young team with many players getting their first collegiate action in these games. The firsts don't stop there, however. With this being Ries' inaugural season as head coach, the doubleheader against St. Ben's was a new experience for her as well.

"Coach Ries has done a great job so far in her first season. She's been a really clear communicator, which has been important as things can change day to day. She definitely has a lot of softball knowledge and playing experience, and the team has really connected with her. I'm excited for the future of the program under her leadership," Neuenfeldt said.

Athletic Director Tom Brown introduced Ries as the new head coach of the Gustavus softball program shortly before the start of the academic year. Prior to beginning her time as a Gustie, Ries held the position of head pitching coach for Mankato State's softball team. Her inaugural coaching season is certainly a unique one with many new obstacles resulting from the pandemic.

"I think Coach Ries has done a great job managing the team and COVID. She has really been emphasizing keeping us safe. There is a lot more stress on top of the normal amount since she has to deal with COVID and practice and games. So considering everything going on, she has been handling everything really well, especially during her first season," Packey said.

Making the most of an unusual season has been at the forefront of Ries' mind in her first season. Remaining flexible and taking the opportunities presented to the team have be-

come priorities for the team.

"COVID has affected us just like it has everyone else in the world, we have to be prepared to change on the fly and adapt. Our team has done a great job of just being prepared at all times and being ready to play when they have the opportunity," Ries said.

No matter what the rest of the season brings, both Coach Ries and the young team will gain beneficial experience. Sights are set on the future of the program as it gets a fresh start with a new head coach and a young roster.

"The biggest thing with this team is just the experience. I'm excited to see what this group puts together. I truly believe we have what it takes to complete in this league and make the conference tournament. These student-athletes are committed to making Gustavus softball the powerhouse it once was and I feel we are on our way to great things," Ries said.



Gusties make the catch

Submitted