

# THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1920

MAY 7TH, 2021



ISSUE 25

MEET GUSTIE  
of the WEEK:  
Misti Harper

VARIETY - PAGE 6



Scan for twenty  
questions to find  
your soulmate

OPINION - PAGE 12



Volleyball  
closes out  
season

SPORTS - PAGE 16



## FINAL ISSUE: See you next fall, Gusties



(Top Left) Gusties gather at a Black Lives Matter protest. (Top Middle) Students in the new Center for Inclusive Excellence. (Top Right) Students wear masks and do homework in Beck Hall. (Left Middle) Drag Queens at CAB's Drag Queen Bingo event. (Middle) The flowering crab trees located in front of Old Main. (Right Middle) Gusties at the first annual Pride Parade. (Bottom Left) Gustavus students get COVID-19 tested in the Chapel. (Bottom Middle) The Gustie Baseball Team plays a game in their new grandstand. (Bottom Right) Gustavus students protest Line 3.

Luke Yang, Nate Habben, Isaac Bui and Cadance Paramore.



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Campus Safety Report

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**

- Campus Safety received a theft report involving a student's vehicle in Sorensen Parking Lot. I.

**Friday, April 23, 2021**

- Campus Safety was called to the Library to escort a student out of the building for repeatedly not having their mask on.
- Campus Safety received a request for a welfare check in Sohre Hall.

**Saturday, April 24, 2021**

- Campus Safety investigated the odor of marijuana, two students referred to the campus conduct system for possessing marijuana and paraphernalia in Southwest Hall.
- Campus Safety provided a medical escort to the E.R. for a student in Norelius Hall who cut their thumb.

**Sunday, April 25, 2021**

- Campus Safety was patrol-

ling College Grounds when a student of concern was observed.

- Campus Safety took a report of a theft from a motor vehicle in the College view parking lot.
- Two students walked into Campus Safety to report suspicious emails sent tonight to both of them as well as others.

**Monday, April 26, 2021**

- Campus Safety was called

to give a student a medical escort to urgent care.

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

- Campus Safety received a theft report involving a student's vehicle in the Sorensen Parking Lot.
- Campus Safety received a theft report involving a student's vehicle in the Norelius Parking Lot.

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

- Campus Safety received a theft report involving

- a student's vehicle in the Norelius Parking Lot.
- Campus Safety responded to a Medical Assist at the Chapel. Student was transported to River's Edge and the AC on Call was notified per medical protocol.
- Campus Safety responded to a Medical Assist at the Chapel. Student was transported to River's Edge and the AC on Call was notified per medical protocol.

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  
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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](http://www.REHC.org)

COVID-19 Report

Gustavus On-Campus Update

As of May 3, 2021:

Total Positive Cases (since August 15, 2020): 301  
Current Positive Student Cases: 6  
Current Positive Employee Cases: 0  
Total Students in Isolation/Quarantine: 18  
Students in Isolation/Quarantine On Campus: 3  
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 May 5, 2021:

Total Positive Cases (since January 20, 2020): 582,576  
Daily Newly Reported Cases: 1,267  
Daily New Reported Nicollet County Cases: 7

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



# The Weekly Investigates: catalytic converter thefts sweep campus



Cars parked in the Co-ed lot. Are they safe?

Anna Edblad

**Corinne Stremmel**  
Editor-in-Chief

A string of catalytic converter thefts has taken place on campus and in the local St. Peter and Mankato community. Campus Safety re-

leased a statement on April 27th announcing that they are partnering with the St. Peter Police Department in order to gather information to piece together this developing case.

"At this point, we know there have been nine thefts right on

campus or close to campus, at least four or five blocks away—and three or four [thefts] randomly around town," St. Peter Police Department Sergeant, Paul Hagen said.

Video evidence has played a major role in attempting to solve this case. At this point in the investigation, authorities are working to collect footage from surveillance cameras on campus and in the local community.

"Surveillance cameras at Gustavus saw a white Saab with a black top on campus and the St. Peter Police Department saw the same car on their camera," Director of Campus Safety Frederick Smith said.

According to Hagen, several cars have been flagged as suspected vehicles, but as of now, there is one particular car that is still under investigation. While Campus Safety's report on the thefts identifies a white Saab with a black top, this particular car cannot be confirmed as a suspect, according to Hagen. However, a license plate number has been identified, but cannot be released to the public at this time.

According to Detective Gerhart with the St. Peter Police, authorities have noticed that Toyota Priuses, regardless of their year, as well as Hyundai Sonatas appear to be a frequent target in these thefts.

Aside from the make and model of frequently targeted

vehicles, authorities haven't noticed a defined pattern in the thefts. "Thefts like these kind of go in streaks. A couple years ago we had several, but not necessarily in our area. As far as I know, this is the most we've ever had," Hagen said.

Smith also noted that these types of thefts aren't necessarily common occurrences on campus, but instead appear to happen randomly.

As for sophomore Samuel Peters, this string of thefts hit close to home when his own catalytic converter was stolen from his vehicle when it was parked in Lot N in front of Southwest Hall.

"I noticed the problem two weeks ago on April 21st. At 9:00 P.M., I went to my car to run to Hyvee. I got in, turned on the car and there was a roaring noise like a motorcycle. I have a Prius, so I knew it shouldn't sound like that," Peters said.

Peters explained that he wasn't one hundred percent sure what the problem was, but knew that catalytic converter thefts were an issue since his aunt's catalytic converter was recently stolen in Minneapolis.

Peters managed to get the car towed and informed both Campus Safety and the St. Peter Police Department of the theft. While the theft was partially covered by Peters' insurance, the total repair cost was around \$1400.

"There's a high value placed on the materials that are in catalytic converters. You might get \$200 for reselling the parts, but it's going to cost the owner one to two thousand dollars to get all the repairs done to replace it," Hagen said.

The particular materials Hagen refers to are platinum, palladium and rhodium, which react with the emissions in a catalytic converter. Each is worth about \$30 a gram, and there's between three and seven grams of these metals in catalytic converters.

Hagen also notes that tracking these thefts can be tricky due to the nature of the theft. "It's a very quick theft. They can cut the catalytic converter in less than a minute and be done," Hagen said.

This story is still developing, but Smith stresses that students can help authorities gather information. "If they see something, say something and they can also be vigilant," Smith said.

Similarly, Detective Gerhart recommends keeping track of the last time you drove your vehicle, especially if it has been sitting in the parking lot for a while, and make sure to report a theft as soon as possible, so authorities can work on bringing this case to a close.

## A Letter from the Editor(s)

The Weekly intercepted an email chain detailing a potentially compromised relationship with the Indigenous Relations Working Groups. At this time, we at The Weekly want to encourage the Gustavus community to continue to support indigenous people and educate themselves on indigenous issues. Given that this is the final issue of the semester and lack of information readily available, we will not be able to cover Gustavus' withdrawal from the Indigenous Relations Working Group at this time. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and hope to bring the student body more information in the fall semester.

- Restoring Ancestral Winds is an organization that works to addressing stalking, domestic, sexual, dating and family violence. Their website provides a variety of resources. <https://restoringawcoalition.org/>
- Stop Line 3 is a group of organizations that are working together to stop the line three pipeline. <https://www.stopline3.org/>
- Folke Bernadotte Library's collection of sources to learn about Indigenous Peoples from Minnesota, North America, South and Central America, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Sami People. <https://libguides.gustavus.edu/indigenouspeople>



# Questions about fall on the Hill

Students wonder what next year will look like in terms of  
COVID-19 regulations



Students question what fall semester will look like.

Nate Habben

**Marie Osuna**  
Staff Writer

The past school year has been anything but normal. Masks, distancing and online classes have defined a school year taking place during a global pandemic. However, as COVID-19 vaccines are being administered daily, students are wondering: what will next fall look like at Gustavus? Will we still have to wear masks and continue social distancing? Will having the COVID-19 vaccine be required to come to campus? How does the tuition-free ninth semester work?

Unfortunately, answers to these questions are not immediately available. Like previous decisions on whether to re-open the college after the March 2020 shutdown and what policies to follow this academic year, it all depends on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the MN Department of Health. Nevertheless, the College is hoping things will

look more normal next year.

"The COVID Leadership Team is planning that we will continue to move in the direction of a more typical college experience for the fall. Our goal is to have a high vaccination rate among students and employees and to reach a level of herd immunity among the campus community. With a high vaccination level, it will position us to lift many COVID restrictions," Barb Larson Taylor, Chair of the COVID Response Leadership Team, said.

When it comes to vaccinations, many students are wondering if Gustavus will require students to be vaccinated for COVID-19. However, that question remains up in the air as well.

"College leaders are in discussion about whether we will require students to be vaccinated. As has been the case during this entire pandemic, there are still many unknowns. Experts do not fully understand the long-term effectiveness of

the vaccine, we do not know if new variants will emerge, and we have not heard clear guidance from the MN Department of Health or the CDC as to what COVID restrictions may still be needed in a workplace or school setting even if there is a high vaccination rate," Taylor said.

It is unclear how overall student response to potential requirements will be, but Sophomore Emma Anderson voiced her support for continuing COVID safety measures.

"I will 100 percent continue to mask next year if that's required. I also think vaccinations being required would be good as long as Gustavus accommodates those who may not be able to get vaccinations over the summer, since vaccinations are not currently available to every community," Anderson said.

As for students wondering about how the tuition-free ninth semester works, those interested should contact the Provost's Office to discuss their specific situation. Eligibility

for the ninth semester requires having been a full-time student during the 2020-2021 academic year, holding a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or above, and not having been suspended for any academic or disciplinary reasons at any time. Students are also required to complete the ninth semester on campus (no study-away experiences qualify).

Senior Jared Zaun is one student who is thankful for the tuition-free ninth semester offer.

"It made my COVID troubles far less problematic and didn't force my hand in accepting less than I had initially intended to graduate with," Zaun said.

Zaun will utilize the tuition-free semester to make-up courses he struggled with during the spring 2020 lock down. Zaun found himself struggling to pay attention to his courses after they were transitioned to an online format.

"In-class discussions are basically nothing when you are having them over Zoom.

There's just so much less participation," Zaun said.

Zaun is a philosophy and physics double-major, and feels that both majors require classes that are delivered most effectively in-person. Zaun noted that physics labs were especially difficult in a virtual format.

"Physics labs, instead of doing actual things you have to command an instructor around the room. I was operating the lab equipment remotely. It's very impressive, but nothing in comparison to actually doing the work," Zaun said.

Though the COVID leadership team has not yet made many decisions that students are wondering about, Taylor encourages returning students to stay tuned.

"Students will receive emails throughout the summer with ongoing updates about plans for fall.

Students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated this summer if they have not already done so," Taylor said.



# ENG-350 presents Gustavus' *Firethorne* Literary Journal at launch party



The Launch Party will take place at Beck Lawn, in between Beck Academic Hall and the International Center

Luke Yang

**Tori Smith**  
Staff Writer

While other classes start gearing up for a demanding finals week, one class is throwing a party instead.

The ENG-350 course, also known as the Editing and Publishing class, has put together this year's issue of *Firethorne*, Gustavus's annual literary magazine composed of student prose, poetry, and artwork. In celebration, the class is putting on an outdoor launch party from 5-6 p.m. on Thursday, May 6 on the Beck lawn. There will be issues of *Firethorne* (both this year and last year's) for students to grab, as well as an open mic for authors to read their works aloud.

"The *Firethorne* launch party is an opportunity to celebrate the hard work of the authors and editors of the *Firethorne* for both last year and this year," Senior and 2021 *Firethorne* Editor Ethan Davide said. This wasn't an easy year

for students in ENG-350. Due to the pandemic, the course shifted into an all-online format, forcing the editors to collaborate electronically. With communication being one of the most important aspects of editing and publishing a work, it was a difficult transition.

Senior and 2021 *Firethorne* editor Kyra Bowar has submitted work to the journal before, but her experience on the editorial side of the process, especially during a pandemic, was especially insightful.

"As a class, we met fully online. It was a little difficult to collaborate over Zoom, but we were able to have productive discussions about each piece. Ultimately, the *Firethorne* is student-run and features student voices. It's a campus-wide collaborative process," Bowar said.

Despite the hiccups, the editors were able to put together a journal of student work. The issue includes themes of serious topics, like mental health and political injustices, while also combining some comedic relief, like a tribute to an

old, almost-forgotten Vine.

"Gustavus students have been through a lot. Many students use writing or art to cope or capture their experiences. This issue is special because some of these themes hit the entire nation," Davide said.

Not only can Davide speak from an editor's point-of-view, he can also speak from the perspective of a published author as well. His poem "Aztec Whistle" was accepted into the 2021 issue of *Firethorne* along with many of his peers.

When authors submit their work to *Firethorne*, their name is not attached. That means that every piece voted on by the class is anonymous, even the pieces written by fellow editors. In fact, there's a rule that authors can't speak during a discussion of their work. There's no promoting or defending an editor's own work so that every piece that's submitted has a fair shot of being accepted.

"It was interesting to sit back and listen to other editors consider my work. Sometimes they interpreted a piece completely

differently than how I originally did, and I ended up liking their version better. I think it was a unique opportunity to grow as an author," Davide said.

While putting together the journal, students in ENG-350 were learning the in's and out's of the publishing world. They even got to hear from poet, essayist, and literary critic Michael Kleber-Diggs and his personal experiences in the publishing industry.

"I absolutely loved every second of ENG-350. There is so much to publishing a literary journal that I didn't even consider, and it was awesome to get to see the full scope of what it means to publish," Davide said.

There's more to publishing than just voting on submitted work as many of the ENG-350 students quickly came to find out. There are posters to make, websites to design, events to host and market for, authors to contact, and a massive amount of art and writing to organize into a neat little book.

Students in the class were assigned to one of nine roles:

prose editor, poetry editor, art editor, website editor, design editor, copy editor, acquisition editor, social media editor, and marketing and promotion. All students contributed to all aspects of the journal's production, but each role had specific responsibilities in order to achieve a complete journal.

To help celebrate the completion of the 2020 and 2021 issues and the work that the editors and contributors put into them, students are encouraged to stop by the launch party this Thursday from 5-6 p.m. Pick up a copy of the journal, stick around to listen to authors read their work aloud, or simply enjoy mingling with peers out in the warm weather.

"Whether you submitted to *Firethorne* or just enjoy great artwork and writing, stop by and celebrate with your classmates. It's been a long semester, and art is made for celebration. We'd love to see all your faces, masked of course," Bowar said.



# GUSTIE of the WEEK: Misti Harper

**Michaela Woodward**  
Staff Writer

For Visiting Assistant Professor in History Misti Harper, her area of study has not only shaped her career, but every aspect of her life.

Originally from Arkansas, Harper was always fascinated by the history of the region she was from.

"I went to undergrad at a school that was really similar to Gustavus. It's a place called University of the Ozarks and it's a little private liberal arts college. Then I did my Master's work at the University of Central Arkansas and I earned my PhD in African American History at the University of Arkansas in 2017," Harper said.

Harper received her Bachelor's degree in theater, but discovered an important intersectionality between theater and history that has allowed her to go deeper into already well documented historical events.

"It requires empathy and compassion, and it really requires getting out of your comfort zone and thinking about somebody else's lived experience," Harper said.

This attention to exploring other perspectives on a personal level helped her with her Master's project, a study focusing on the Little Rock Nine.

"There's been so much stink-in' work done on the Little Rock Nine, it's not original at all. So, I really had to think about how can I look at this differently than what so many other people had done before me... Nobody had really bothered to get into the experiences of these people beyond their symbolism, really," Harper said.

Harper decided to go deeper into the lives of the Little Rock Nine and center their experiences.

"You can't tell a story if you're reducing half of your actors to that kind of shallow treatment. I was really interested in thinking about their experiences, doing work that would center them, and specifically centering Black women and girls because—as is the case with so many major social movements—it's women and girls who are often the backbone of the work," Harper said.

"You get a lot of male leaders who were essentially the faces to put on money, the people that other folks will listen to by virtue of the patriarchy. But you have all of these women behind who are doing the grunt work, the organizing, the reaching out, and I realized that that was missing from the historiography. So that was how I became interested specifically in African American history and in women's history. It was still a southern story, but it broadened my horizons to really understanding some of how the Civil Rights Movement had worked

across the country," Harper said.

This area of study has caused Harper to closely examine her own identities and the environment that shaped them.

"I'm obviously a white woman, and white people have been typically really surprised to realize what I do. I certainly had to unlearn a lot of racism that I was raised with, simply by the fact of being a white southerner in the deep South, raised by people who were white southerners who came of age in the Civil Rights Movement, people like my grandparents who were raised in the thick of Jim Crow... Whenever I was growing up, it was very much a white man's story, and usually a rich white man. There were a whole lot of assumptions that I carried in myself that I had to unlearn and it was uncomfortable and I found myself in spaces that I had never been in before," Harper said.

Harper expanded on how she grew into her career.

"It also awakened me to concepts of privilege: race privilege, sex privilege, orientation privilege, things that I had just never had to think about before because of systemic things. At the risk of sounding sappy or overly sentimental, it's really hard for me to talk about this from a completely professional, academic point of view, when it so very much challenged and changed everything about who I was," Harper said.

At Gustavus, Harper demonstrates her passion, knowledge, and personal experience in these issues for her students.

"I specialize in African American history. I was hired here as the Twentieth Century U.S. Historian, primarily of women's history, but also of race and ethnic history. I am a modern U.S. historian, so that means the second half, but I specialize in post-1865, especially with an emphasis on the Civil Rights Movement," Harper said.

She is also the advisor to IGNITE at Gustavus and Students for Reproductive Freedom (SRF). Junior Emily Falk has worked with Harper in her capacity as President of SRF.

"Harper is the best professor and mentor I've ever worked with in my entire life. She's a dedicated educator and shows her students how to be involved in more than just activities on the Hill, [but] especially in local activist spaces. Her passion for reproductive justice made her the perfect advisor for SRF and she has been an inspiration for our entire [executive] board to keep fighting and creating space for our work on campus," Falk said.

This dedication is clear to her colleagues as well.

"Dr. Harper combines a keen intellect with a fierce and humane commitment to social justice, unflagging dedication to



*Gustie of the Week and Swenson-Bunn Memorial Teaching Award recipient Prof. Misti Harper*

students' intellectual development and well-being, and, not least, a fine sense of humor that, among other things, reveals idiocy and pomposity for what they are. She holds herself and her students to high standards, and in her teaching, scholarship, and civic activism she continually and importantly illuminates how the past informs the present," Professor in History and African Studies Greg Kaster said.

On Honors Day this year, students recognized Harper's excellence in teaching with the Swenson-Bunn Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence.

"I am beyond humbled and honored to have been considered at all for this award, much less to have won it. I've said this to several people after I found out that I won it: the students at Gustavus have made it easy to want to engage with them, to want to mentor, to want to advise—even though I can't officially do that as a visiting professor. The commitment and dedication and care... To be recognized this way by a campus full of some of the most intellectually curious and empathetic and committed students in every way, trying to do their best in the classroom, trying their absolute best to make their community better, I cannot think of a better way to close my career at Gustavus," Harper said.

Gustavus and the students have made an impact on Harper since the beginning of her time here.

"I knew from the second that I was invited to an on-campus interview in 2018, that I was in love with this place, and that it would be an ideal place to start my career. I was attracted to Gustavus out of necessity and then I knew as soon as I hit campus that it would be a dream to work here, and in so many ways it has been," Harper said.

While Harper advocates for students being involved in their community and being aware of important issues, she also understands that stepping back can be crucial.

"I think what I want Gustavus students to understand is that self-care is essential right now; the world is literally and metaphorically on fire.... In the interim we're seeing a lot of push back, a lot of resistance, spikes in reactionary violence to the fact that the tide is turning. If it wasn't turning in the favor of people who have traditionally been marginalized, we wouldn't be seeing these pushbacks. There's a silver lining in recognizing that, but it's also so difficult, and it's very easy to get emotionally burned out whenever you do pay the kind of attention that Gustavus students do. So I want these students to understand that it is okay to unplug, and it is

okay to protect your mental and emotional health. You can still be dedicated and committed to your academic intellectualism, your social intellectualism, without having to be attuned 24/7 because that will also cause harm," Harper said.

Harper acknowledges that there can be a balance achieved in being aware of social issues and self-care, especially for college students

"It can be really isolating and really depressing to constantly be in a headspace of outrage and anguish, even though both of those things are necessary to keep you going... keep you learning. College is very difficult. It's a whole new experience of learning how to communicate, learning how to live with other people, to say nothing of what goes on in classrooms. But you are also learning about people, and I think that being cognizant of other people's experiences, even if you can't really fathom what that must be like, support for the fact that everyone truly does have a different path, they self-care differently, and what is happening in the world does affect people very differently. I guess that basically boils down to empathy and compassion," Harper said.

For Harper herself, taking time to check in on mental well-being has been critical, especially in navigating the COVID-19 world.

"I was formally diagnosed [with depression and anxiety] in March... I know that a lot of students have struggled with mental and emotional health issues. Whenever I was an undergraduate, nobody talked about their mental and emotional health issues, at least in any way that I remember that was very healthy. It's important to me that the students understand they're not alone. There are faculty, administration, staff, there are so many of us who get that. Oftentimes, the place where I felt the most centered was in my classrooms with my students. Being able to work with and listen to and teach and discuss being in spaces with students was kind of like a sanctuary some days," Harper said.

Outside of the classroom, Harper enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and cooking. Moving to the Midwest from the South, she was familiar with the area because of the research she had done at universities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She came into her position looking for an opportunity to start her career and provide stability for her family. Looking back at her three years at Gustavus, she has no reservations.

"I have never ever regretted it at all," Harper said.



# Theatre Department showcases *The Three Sisters*



"The Three Sisters" will be livestreamed at 7 p.m. on May 8 and 3 p.m. on May 9.

Luke Yang

**Mula Lay**  
Staff Writer

**T**he *Three Sisters* is a production by the theatre department at Gustavus. The play is written by Anton Checkoff, who was a pioneer in realism theater, and is a snapshot of what life was like in the 1800s in Russia. The play spans across five years from the perspectives of three sisters. The three sisters, who have been moved from their birth town of Moscow, dreams of returning to Moscow. The play is a snippet into everyday life and features issues that one would face during the 1800s in Russia.

Senior Jordan Johnson, a theatre honors major, plays the character Olga and this production is her honors project. Olga is the oldest of the three sisters and a caretaker of the family. Olga is near her thirties and must be the mother figure to her two sisters

and one younger brother. Olga deals with internal issues which puts a pressure on her in keeping the family together. At the end of the production, Johnson will write a paper that reflects on her experience.

*"We all had to take advantage of the mass [COVID-19] testing [...] I felt nervous about it going in [to perform] but during it, I felt a bit safer considering everyone in the cast kind of became a bubble."*  
-Senior Jordan Johnson

The play, which would originally be a stage performance with an audience, has shifted into more of a stage film that will be livestreamed at 7 p.m. on May 8 and 3 p.m. on May 9. The cast and crew shifted to a virtual format as a way to adapt to COVID-19. They would also wash their hands before every act and used hand sanitizers before every scene.

For the filming of the play, the cast wore plastic masks so that their faces could be seen while they were still protected from COVID-19. Before and after filming a scene, they would sanitize all the props and plastic masks. When they were not filming, they would have cloth masks on.

"We all had to take advantage of the mass [COVID-19] testing [...] I felt nervous about it going in [to perform] but during it, I felt a bit safer considering everyone in the cast kind of became a bubble," Johnson said.

*"I was so excited to just do micro expressions because I find these little individual moments that you can get during films, such as [...] shifty eyes and glances, something you can't capture all the time in theater, so I was really excited to tap into that,"*  
-Johnson

The change from a live performance to a film was beneficial for Johnson as she would like to end up acting in films. One of the things Johnson was excited about was the use of

subtlety in expression instead of a more dramatic theatrical performance.

"I was so excited to just do micro expressions because I find these little individual moments that you can get during films, such as [...] shifty eyes and glances, something you can't capture all the time in theater, so I was really excited to tap into that," Johnson said.

In order to make the play more palatable in a film sense, a significant portion of the script had to be whittled down. Of the 144 pages of the original script, only 41 pages were kept.

The film is roughly two hours long and the link to the livestream will be posted at [gustavus.edu/theatre-dance](http://gustavus.edu/theatre-dance).



Geena Zebrasky  
Features Writer

# Senior Staff Send-off!

**Corinne Stremmel**  
Editor-in-Chief

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "The April Fools Edition and Liam and Ben asking every week if they can put expletives in the word search."

**Marie Osuna**  
Lead Copy Editor

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "All the pizza I've eaten in the office (pre-COVID of course)."

**Tyra Ericson**  
Variety Editor & Distribution Manager

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "I joined this year so everything was virtual, but I really loved the Crustavian Wookly satire issue."



Photo by Nate Habben  
Not pictured: Brett Hufendick and Weston Lombard

**Weston Lombard**  
Sports Editor

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "First time trying to do layout lol."

**Ben Wick**  
Assitant Editor-in-Chief

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "Any time one of us said something ridiculous during Layout Nights, we would write it on the Quote Board."

**Laura Schwichtenberg**  
Features Editor

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "Getting to know all the wonderful staff members! I also really loved creating the layout for the wikiHow article earlier this year."

**Brett Hufendick**  
Advertisement Manager

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "Working as the ad manager!"

**Liam Carr**  
Entertainment Editor

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "Listening to Ben belt show tunes after stealing the aux from Cole was certainly... a memory."

**Kyra Bowar**  
Copy Editor

Favorite WEEKLY memory: "I really enjoy getting to read all the pieces that pass across my desk. We have so many talented writers and perspectives!"



# COVID Commencement: to the class of 2021 from a fellow senior

**Kyra Bowar**  
Copy Editor

In the first month of our first year at Gustavus, we all got that classic black, Gustie t-shirt. I remember looking at the big yellow “21” on the back and thinking, “Wow, I wonder what life will be like in 2021?” Graduation felt like an eternity away. But now, four years and lots of highs and lows later, we COVID seniors—the class of 2021—will walk across that stage next week. Looking back, there were points within this last year that the idea of an in-person commencement seemed improbable. I barely let myself hope; we’d lost so much. But here we are, almost done with an entire academic year during a pandemic, and on May 13, I get to sit beside (well, six feet away from) my fellow graduating Gusties, decked out in our black gowns, slightly awkward looking caps and rainbow scarves of cords. It might not look like the college gradu-

ation that I’d imagined—with family and friends watching virtually, masks and social distancing—but while reflecting on my unconventional senior year, I’ve found that the best way to cope with everything we’ve lost is to be grateful for what we haven’t. Of course, we all get that dreaded question: “So, what are you doing after you graduate? Any plans?” Up until recently, my answer was a polite, “Um no, please don’t ask me again.” As many recent and almost-grads know, the job market is looking a little funky lately. My advisors told me to start applying for jobs as early as possible, so I started cranking out the resumes and cover letters over winter break. Despite my best efforts, the rejection emails (and worse, the silence) started following shortly after. It’s a little discouraging to be graduating into a pandemic and the resulting economy. Jobs are in short supply, options are limited and lots of us will be

moving back into our parents’ houses. As the spring pushed on, classmates started to get job offers, and I started to panic a little. I’m sure it’s a common spring semester senior year experience, but it’s scary not to have a plan laid out for your future, especially when there’s still a cloud of uncertainty over the entire world. I constantly heard, “Don’t worry! Something will work out!” That’s easy to say when you already have something lined up. But Gusties, whether you know exactly where you’ll be for the next few months or you’re just going with the flow, take a moment and be proud of all that you’ve accomplished. You’re graduating from college! You have the rest of your life to work (yipee), so take these last few moments and soak in life on the hill. You deserve it. Speaking of life on the Hill, has anyone mentioned how odd it’s been having to adapt to an en-

tirely new way of life in college? Like, can you remember having eight entire people around a table in the Caf? What was that like? In all the hubbub surrounding COVID and new regulations, I haven’t taken the time to slow down and reminisce about how college has changed. When we arrived as first years, it took time to adjust to being independent, doing our own laundry, and living in a new place. Now, as a senior, I’ve had to adjust again, all while mourning the loss of a “normal” college experience. I miss the salad bar and non-packaged fruit. I miss outdoor concerts, in-person dance and music performances and raves. I miss chatting with people in the hallway after class, small talk and joking with professors. I miss just seeing people’s faces as we pass on the sidewalk. While I’m grateful for everything we’ve been able to do, it seems like no one has said to us, “Hey, it’s okay to be sad that

you’re losing a lot of what a college senior year is supposed to be.” It IS okay. It sucks that we never got to see blackbear in concert, have more than one P-Ball or have one last Christmas in Christ Chapel in person. It’s okay to mourn what we’ve lost, but it helps to remember all the amazing memories too. So senior Gusties, on May 13, when you’re sitting in Lund, take a look around. Remember the hypnotist on your first night in college. Remember pink cherry blossoms on the hill and tulips in the Arb. Remember late nights in your dorm with your friends and grabbing slushies in the Caf. Remember the professors and faculty that encouraged you along the way. Remember your years at Gustavus, not for everything we’ve lost, but for everything we’ve gained along the way.

## Donate or Sell, Don’t Toss



**Emma Pufahl**  
Opinion Columnist

As we are nearing the end of the semester, it means it is the time of year where you curse yourself for having too much crap. As we all plan and coordinate when we are moving out, take the time to make a game plan for all of the things you don’t want or need anymore. Yes, Gustavus gives us dumpsters to put all of our trash as well as excess furniture. Normally I would just recommend that everyone consider going dumpster diving before they leave campus, but with COVID, I’m not quite sure this is safe. Let’s talk about what we can do to keep our stuff out of landfills. If you are reading this, you may still be on campus. Sit in your room and look around. There are definitely items that won’t be going home with you. I can’t be the only one thinking that just throwing it away is such a waste. That shirt, the storage box, the shampoo you used twice before hating the scent, the rug that won’t fit in the backseat of your car. These all have more

life to them. I know in years past, each floor would put the extra stuff not going home with the original owner in the community rooms. This is a great way to keep things out of landfills while maybe trading out the things you are leaving behind for something else or something better. This still works for the small stuff, assuming the community areas are open, but the bigger stuff needs a bit more planning. I would highly suggest that everyone post their extra stuff to Facebook Marketplace or somewhere similar for free or next to free. If it’s something you planned on just throwing out, why not have it be available ‘first come, first serve’? Yes, a few extra bucks would be nice, but if the current plan is to just throw it away or leave it behind, offering it for free to whoever can come pick it up first will at least give a second life to the item. I think most of us know that Goodwill is not a good company, but if it’s the only thrift store near you or the only one you know about, it is sufficient. But the good thing about this location is that there are thrift stores or second hand shops everywhere. Just put in ‘thrift stores’ on Google Maps, call ahead and see if they would be interested in what you have to offer and go drop it off (and maybe consider checking the dumpsters before going and bringing other people’s salvageable goods as well). There are plenty of options of where to drop off items for each type of good. Animal shelters will take old blankets. Many women or homeless shelters would love that extra pair of

shoes that were worn twice, or that shirt that never fit right that you bought for an interview. If your caf account has too much money left, buy items that could be donated to a local food shelf. There are plenty of places old items could go, we just have to be willing to put in a little time and research. A great question might be “Emma, why don’t you just give us the name of places we can donate our goods?” I would love to help each individual do

research on the best places to donate, but we may have different values and might disagree on the best ways to donate. There is no wrong way to donate goods. If items are getting a second chance, that is a major plus and makes a difference. I will publicly shame Goodwill’s business model, but there are other places that feel wrong to shame (i.e. The Salvation Army). There are pros and cons to every donation center, but putting in the thought about what you want for your

goods once they are no longer yours is an important part of the process. I hope that everyone will take a second to reflect on what they plan to get rid of as we all start to move out and reflect on what could make the largest positive impact. Don’t throw out your crap. To end on a very cheesy note, “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

### The Bad, the Bad and the Bad



You’re no longer allowed in the library because you didn’t wear a mask alone in a single room



You don’t have a catalytic converter



All your friends are graduating



# You Can Still Print A Student Newspaper in a Pandemic



**Corinne Stremmel**  
Editor-in-Chief

At my first layout night for The Gustavian Weekly four years ago, part of me wondered if I'd ever get to be Editor-in-Chief. Now, a senior, here I am as Editor-in-Chief, working alongside my editorial staff who are placing and designing the layout for this story on my last layout night. I most definitely didn't expect that I'd be Editor-in-Chief during a pandemic. Well, maybe a small part of me did expect that because I am a known hypochondriac (my kind friends say I'm "germ conscious"), so this was bound to happen from my illness-centric perspective.

Oddly enough, THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY first began in a pandemic. Coming off from the flu pandemic, THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY emerged in 1920. The student paper was originally known as *College Breezes*, but the name *Gustavian Weekly* started the 1920-1921 school year. That's right, *The Weekly* is one hundred years

old this school year and thanks to the minds of college students, it doesn't look a day over 18-22 years old—not even a wrinkle, except maybe a typo on page 11.

There are many challenges of putting together a paper during a pandemic. Most of my staff I've never met in person. I only recently met our web editor, despite our many email exchanges over the semester. Everyone is much taller than I imagined them.

Additionally, campus events were scarce at the beginning of the year, and sports were almost non-existent in early fall. There was this limbo of having quite a bit to report on regarding COVID-19 while also a lack of new angles for stories. It's also hard because everyone has a little media fatigue, so no one really wants to read another story about COVID-19 or look at another picture of an empty football field.

But, despite having laggy InDesign for our remote editors and having to learn what a CS4 file is, our staff managed to produce twenty-five issues this year. I'm so proud of the work the staff has put in this year, showing up every issue and working together to produce that final product for our fellow students.

Side note: but, um, did you know that they used to have to literally cut and paste the newspaper to put it together on layout night? I'll take InDesign crashing any day over glueing articles about how nice the Arb is until 3 a.m.

For those of you who have worked for a publication, you know that 90 percent of the job



The Weekly 2020-2021 staff pictured in front the Gustavus sign.

Nate Habben

is designing a layout while asking yourself, "how do we make it look like we didn't mess up?" For example, having the Editor-in-Chief write two different articles in news and opinion in one week.

The answer to that is a big picture, in a literal sense, but metaphorically it's the "big picture" because the whole premise of a publication is the big picture. We produce a product that, in this industry, needs to be perfect. It's the "editorial" staff for a reason. The Weekly is far from perfect, of course, but it is still about that big picture of filling space and getting our paper into the hands (and inboxes) of students.

There's a lot that goes on be-

hind the scenes, and as Editor-in-Chief, I am so thankful for being part of the behind the scenes production. There's something about having an idea and getting to see it come to fruition that is so satisfying for me, especially when it's against the odds, say, a global pandemic, for example.

There's so much I'll miss about The Weekly when I graduate, mostly having Liam ask me every week if he can put a four letter word that isn't duck in the word search (it's not in there, so stop looking). I'll continue my tenure as a journalist after I graduate, but I won't have the same kind of staff that we have at The Weekly with its unique mix of collegiate stress and silliness.

For many other members of our staff, this is their last issue as well, and I want to wish them the best as they join the list of former Gustavian Weekly staff members. Collectively speaking, if you consider everyone who has ever worked for The Weekly, we have quite a mighty staff, all working together to report on the challenges and triumphs of our day.

For our 2020-2021 staff, we were dealt a pandemic and so was the staff in 1920-1921, and now they have a 100-year legacy. So yes, you can absolutely still print a student newspaper in a pandemic.

## Maintain Strong Long Distance Connections



**Lexi Louis**  
Opinion Columnist

Effectively maintaining long distance relationships is important. Sometimes our connections can move to different places or travel, and we need to know how to communicate with them. There are many different ways to accomplish this. There are different types of digital communication, and there are other ways to send messages too. Some of the strategies of communicating digitally are text message, email, social media, phone calls, and video conferencing. A traditional way of communicating is sending letters. The five types of communication are ver-

bal, nonverbal, written, listening, and visual communication. With long distance communication, we use some of these more often than others.

When we digitally communicate through text message, email, and social media there are certain benefits. We are able to send the message instantly and there is no delay. The Knapp's Relationship model shows how relationships grow and stay and also how they end. In the escalation model, the steps are initiating, experimenting, intensifying, integrating and bonding. In the terminating model, the steps are differentiating, circumscribing, stagnating, avoiding and terminating.

The terminating model shows that if we don't communicate with a long distance relationship, it can be misconstrued as avoiding. This can damage the relationship. At the stagnation stage, communication is limited. During the avoiding stage, the connections intentionally avoid each other. It is imperative to prioritize communicating with long distance connections in order to reduce the risk of a misunderstanding. With these types of sending messages, we use written and visual communication. We can attach pictures and imagery to our messages on

social media and we are able to add a caption to it. We are also able to attach pictures to our text messages and emails. I think that the Knapp model is important because it shows what can occur if we don't prioritize and give attention to our connections.

When we write text messages, emails or social media posts we gain practice with writing. We learn how to effectively communicate clearly and without confusion. Our digital messages usually last forever, so we are encouraged to put effort into them. We also learn how to convey a meaning through images with our posts. Phone calls usually use verbal and listening communication.

A benefit of making phone calls for maintaining long distance connections is that they are more personal. We are actively listening to the other person speak, and we can hear their voice. When we make video calls, we usually use verbal, nonverbal, and listening communication. Some benefits of making video calls are we can discern messages better, there is less uncertainty, and we can read more types of communication. With a video call, we can read some nonverbal messages. Some of these are facial expressions, posture, gestures, eye contact and voice.

We can tell if the other person is actively listening, and we can tell how they are feeling. I think video calls are the best way to digitally communicate with our connections.

A traditional way of communicating is sending letters. This provides a secure, convenient way to communicate when our Wi-Fi isn't working, or we need to send a private message. Letters and digital messages use written communication. Based on how we perceive a situation or an individual, one form of communication may be ideal to another.

Some may say that digital communication harms face to face communication. Although face to face communication is ideal to maintain social skills, digital communication is necessary and beneficial to maintain long distance connections. Traditional communication can be used too, but it isn't as instant as digital communication.

Some may say that digital communication lessens our vocabulary skills. Although we can be quick to send messages and sometimes use abbreviations, digital communication can encourage us to improve our writing. Because our messages often stay online forever, we may be inclined to improve the quality

of our writing.

If a long distance connection has moved away, it can also be beneficial to visit them. This will make it easier to talk with them. Some other strategies and things to remember when trying to keep a long distance relationship is to keep in touch as much as possible, send them stories, and know each other's schedules.

Sometimes connections can move away or travel, and we need to find alternative ways to communicate. This may be through digital communication such as text messages, phone calls, video conferencing, emails, and social media. Each of these types of communication have certain benefits, and depending on the situation one may be beneficial over another. We can also send letters to allow for more privacy. It is important to show the other person we care about them so the relationship doesn't terminate. The Knapp's Relationships model displays how the process of acquiring relationships and ending relationships works. These are some of the ways we can maintain long distance relationships and why digital communication is so important.



# 20+ Questions to Find Your Gustie Soulmate

*Didn't find your perfect match at the First-year year square dance? Don't fear The Weekly is here!*

1. Name?
2. Gender?
3. Preferred gender to date contact information (snapchat, phone number, gustavus.edu)
4. Year in school?
5. Do you wear athleisure?
6. What do you use to wash your hair?
7. Do you normally read *The Weekly* or just when we have dating questionnaires?
8. What did you wear to the First-year square dance?
9. Favorite Gustavus celebrity?
  - a. John Denver
  - b. Steve Zahn
  - c. Finding Nemo
  - d. Mark Hanson
  - e. Becky Bergman
10. How do you like your eggs in the morning? ;)
11. When was the last time you cried?
12. Do you pee in the shower?
13. Would you rather have lice or a tapeworm?
14. What is your favorite section of *The Weekly*?
15. Have you recently shaved your head?
16. Would you rather have:
  - a. a worm
  - b. a fungus in the shape of a worm
17. Where do you see yourself in ten years?
  - a. Still at Gustavus
  - b. A Soundcloud rapper
  - c. Corporate trash
  - d. #vanlife
18. Pick your preferred newly single person:
  - a. The Queen
  - b. Bill Gates
  - c. Melinda Gates
  - d. Our Editor-in-Chief
19. Have you ever burned popcorn in the microwave?
20. What is your biggest regret in life?
  - a. Not taking advantage of the power you wield at *The Weekly*
  - b. That one time
  - c. That other time
  - d. All of the above
22. Who do you most admire?
  - a. Dolly Parton
  - b. Nemo
  - c. The shrimp in the Cinnamon Toast Crunch
  - d. The Quote Board
23. What are you looking for in a relationship?
  - a. Casual fling
  - b. Long term relationship
  - c. Twin Flames
  - d. Situationship
  - e. Office Romance
  - f. Pair bond
  - g. Parasitic type relationship
  - h. Toxic codependent relationship



*Scan this QR code to fill out the Google form using your Gustavus email and we'll find your perfect match!*



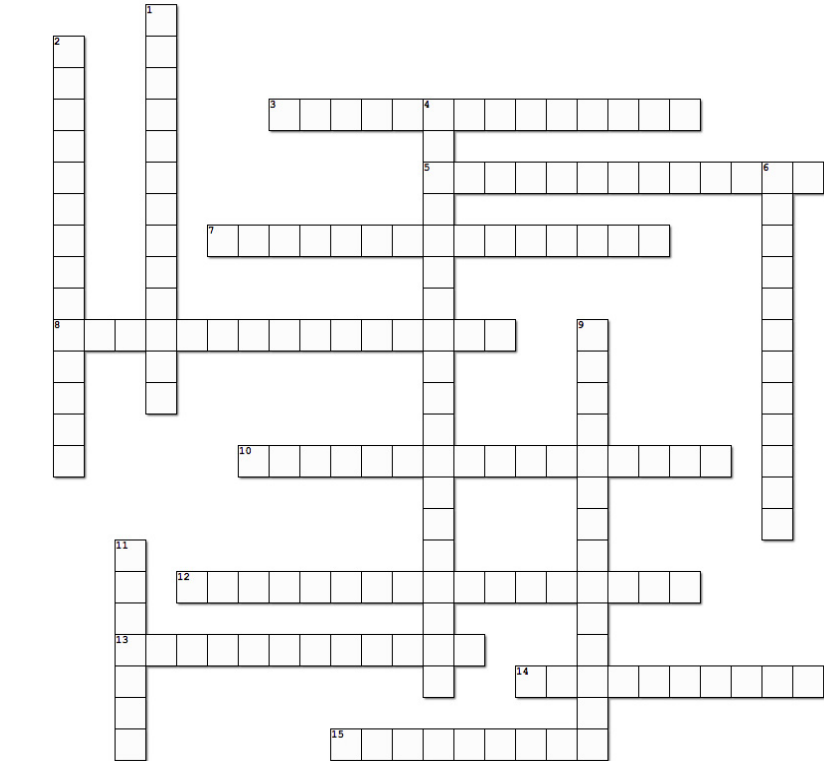
Word Search

SpongeBob Locations



Crossword

Name That Episode



- Across**
- 2. "Remember, licking doorknobs is illegal on other planets" (two words).
  - 5. "Wake me up when I care" (two words).
  - 7. "Hmmm, a five-letter word for happiness... money!" (three words).
  - 8. Do you smell it? That smell. A kind of smelly smell. The smelly smell that smells... smelly" (two words).
  - 10. "So much later that the old narrator got tired of waiting and they had to hire a new one" (five words).
  - 12. "CHOCOLATEEEEE!" (three words).
  - 13. "Is this the Krusty Krab?" "No, this is Patrick" (three words).
  - 14. "You're good, you're good, you're good."
  - 15. "Is mayonnaise an instrument?" (two words).
- Down**
- 1. "Krusty Krab Pizza, it is the pizza, for you and me!" (two words).
  - 2. "Nosferatu!" (two words).
  - 4. Goodbye, everyone, I'll remember you all in therapy" (three words).
  - 6. "The inner machinations of my mind are an enigma" (three words).
  - 9. Ravioli, ravioli. Give me the formuoli" (two words).
  - 11. "Can I be excused for the rest of my life?" (two words).

The Monkey Man Speaks



Monkey Man  
Eldritch Being

May Horoscopes

- Aries:** Take this month to recuperate and take up a hobby.
- Taurus:** Don't take advice from anybody. Even me.
- Gemini:** You're running out of time. Do what you gotta do.
- Cancer:** Beware.
- Leo:** Recognize the hard work you've put in. You can do it.

- Virgo:** 65% is still passing.
- Libra:** This is absolutely your sign to get yourself a fancy snack.
- Scorpio:** Be honest with yourself and those around you.
- Sagittarius:** Things are getting stale. Shake it up a bit.
- Capricorn:** Ring by Spring is just a saying. Please don't do it.
- Aquarius:** Go see a massage therapist. It'll be worth it.
- Pisces:** Indulge in your daydreams this month and try not to let go of them.



World's second ugliest couch.

A Final Note To Our Readers



The Writers  
Eldritch Being

I just want to take a moment of your day, devoted reader, to thank you for your time that you took to read our silly little articles that we wrote over this past semester. With the world in the state that it is, we were happy to bring just a little bit of happiness to your day.

When we started writing this, we thought it would be a one-off article to fill space, but we kept being allowed to publish week after week for whatever reason. And it was our absolute pleasure.

So to all six of you who have read every satire article, horoscope and investigative report, we humbly extend our gratitude for your continued support and wish you well in all your endeavors.

We love you dearly,

**Adam Pierce**  
**The Investigative Interns**  
**(Daina, Alex, and Chris)**  
Liam Carr

**The Monkey Man**  
Alyssa Ford

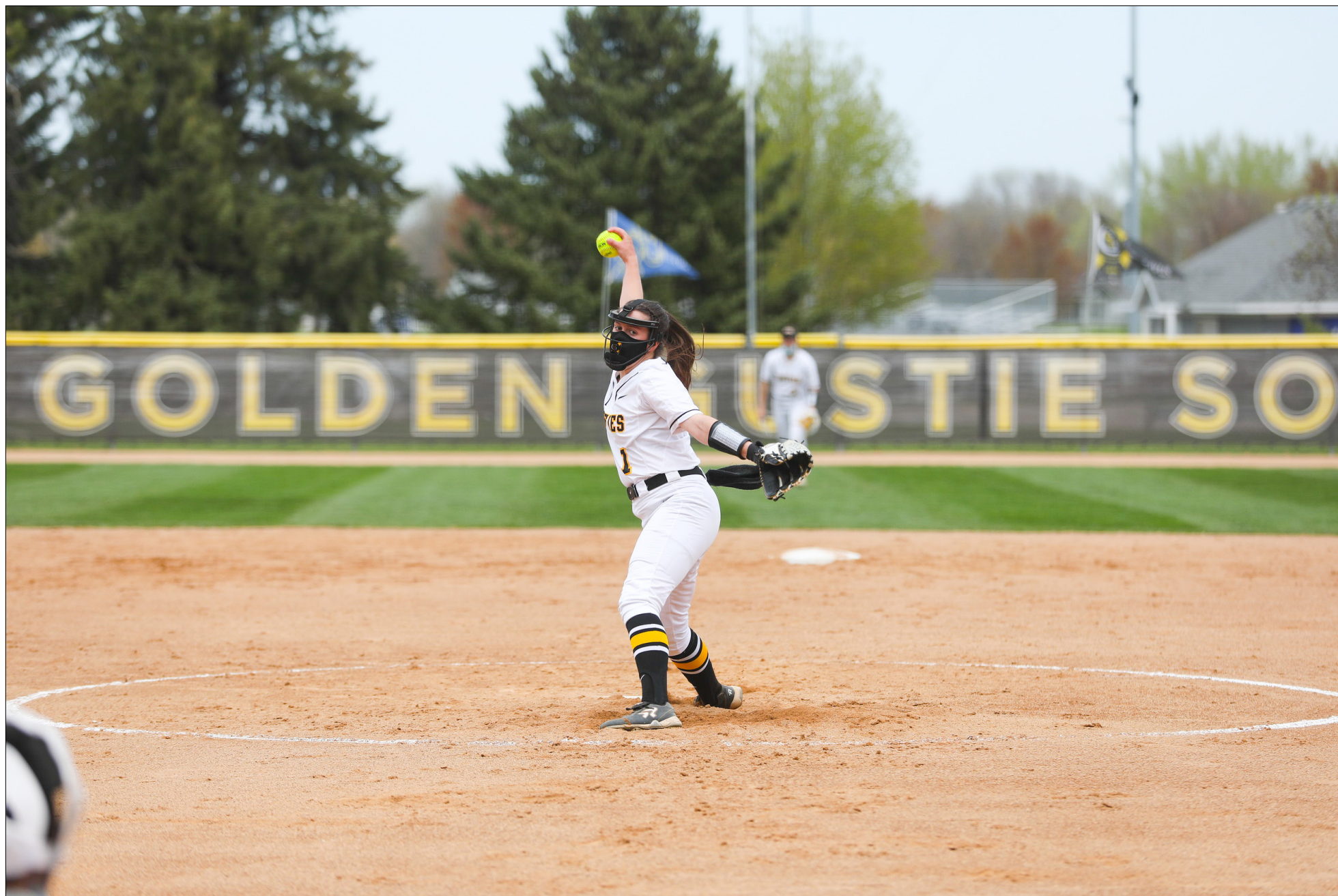
**The Tapeworm**  
Corinne S., Cadence P. and Anna E.

Crossword Answers: Across: 2. Snowball Effect, 5. Gullible Pants, 7. Your Shoes United, 8. Something Smells, 10. Can You Spare a Dime, 12. Chocolate with Nuts, 13. Big Pink Loser, 14. Shanghaied, 15. Band Geeks. Down: 1. Pizza Deliver, 2. Graveyard Shift, 4. Algees Always Green, 6. The Secret Box, 9. Imitation Krabs, 11. The Bully.



# Gustie Softball Ends Hot

## Women's Team Dismantles Crown, Splits against Carleton



Ashley Neuenfeldt brings the heat with a fastball

Submitted

**Brady Boie**  
Staff Writer

The last week has been a joy ride for the Gustavus women's softball team. The women had their best week of play all year, as they dismantled Crown College twice and split a very competitive double-header against Carleton.

The Gusties began their excursion on Thursday with a double-header at home against Crown College. Sophomore Kayla Ruud began the scoring spree in the first inning, as she socked an RBI double that scored first-year teammate Madelyn Mueller. Ruud also touched home plate in the first, scoring off of a Piper Otto ground-out. Otto, a first-year, was ecstatic about the Gusties' great start.

"We adjusted super well (to the pitching) and had a great hitting performance. Our contagious hitting was our key to success. Whenever someone would get a hit, we would score them," Otto said.

The Gusties' contagious hitting continued throughout the

rest of the game. Ruud went 4-4 at the plate and batted in three Gustie runners. Otto piled on with a two-run RBI single in the fifth inning. After the second runner scored, the scoreboard read 11-3. This score activated the mercy rule and ended the first game, as the Gusties were up by more than seven runs through the first five innings.

"The (first game) against Crown gave us our mojo back... we made the plays we needed to and everything just came together. It gave us confidence going into the last week of the season," Otto said.

This regained confidence was on full display in the second game. The Gusties came out swinging in game two. After Ruud scored off of an error, Sophomore Allie Skuza singled to left and scored Otto. This was followed up by a two-run RBI double by Junior Kaylyn Leonard and an RBI triple by Mueller.

By the time the first inning ended, the Gusties had scored eight runs off of five hits and two errors. The game was effectively over. The Gusties added three more runs and the

mercy rule was enforced at the end of the fifth inning. The final score read 11-0 in the favor of the Gusties.

The Gusties took the field three days later against Carleton College. Despite coming in with newfound confidence, the Gusties did not play particularly well in the first game.

"In the first game we came out flat and low energy... It was really disappointing because we knew that we were a better team than what we showed," Otto said.

The Gusties fell behind early, allowing two runs in the first inning. By the time the sixth inning rolled around, the Gusties were staring at a 6-0 deficit and desperately needed to score. Senior Ashley Neuenfeldt answered the call and smashed a solo home run in the bottom of the sixth. This bright spot was especially uplifting, as it satisfied one of Neuenfeldt's personal goals.

"(Watching Neuenfeldt's homer) was my favorite moment. One of her only goals this year was to hit a home run on the Gustavus field because she had never done that before. Being able to congratulate her

at the plate (after she homered) was such a happy moment for me (and the team)," Otto said.

Neuenfeldt's homer inspired the Gusties and kick-started their offense. The Gusties rattled off three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning. Unfortunately, their valiant effort fell just short. The Knights took game 1 with a score of 6-4.

As soon as the second game began, it was clear that the game was going to be a nail-biter. After being deadlocked at zeroes for the first two and a half innings, junior Mackenzie Skuza broke the scoring drought with a two-run RBI double. The Knights immediately responded at the top of the fourth and scored two runs to tie the game. In the fifth inning, both teams scored a run to make the score read 3-3.

The Gusties held strong in the top of the sixth, not allowing a single runner to reach first base. In the bottom of the sixth, the Gusties broke the game wide open with four huge hits. Neuenfeldt's single to left served as the nail in the coffin; it put the Gusties up 7-3 with a half-inning to go. The Gustie defense held strong, and the fi-

nal score read 7-4.

This doubleheader was a heartwarming moment for Neuenfeldt. Neuenfeldt showed up big on her senior day. She hit her long-awaited home home run, recorded her one hundredth career hit, and had a clutch batting performance in one of her last games as a Gustie. She was two for three at the plate and put the final dagger in Knights' hearts with her single in the bottom of the sixth. Otto was in awe of Neuenfeldt's performance.

"She left it all out on the field on her senior night. It was probably her best game of the season, and I couldn't be more happy for her. I can't wait to see what she will do in the future," Otto said.

Neuenfeldt's performance is emblematic of the teams' season—they have saved the best for last. The Gusties have won five of their last six games, and it sure seems like that hot streak will continue as their season draws to a close.



# Volleying Toward the Finish

## GAC Volleyball Team Ends Season at Bethel then St. Olaf

Autumn Zierman  
Staff Writer

With finals week swiftly approaching, the end of season for the majority of Gustavus sports teams also lies around the bend. The Gustavus volleyball team just finished up their season, first with a Saturday face-off at Bethel and then a Monday match with St. Olaf.

The Saturday games at Bethel fared better for the Gusties than the St. Olaf games Monday, with the former ending in a split and the latter in a loss. The Gustavus volleyball team split two matches at the Bethel Triangular on Saturday afternoon. The Gusties lost to Augsburg 25-18, 25-14, 25-18 but bounced back with a 25-21, 28-26, 15-25, 25-22 win over Bethel, moving to 4-2 overall season score.

"It was great to see the girls' response after dropping the first match. We talked between matches about finding three things that they would focus on in the second match, since the first match we didn't really play our game. The team did a great job executing those couple things and it was the difference between the matches and us playing how we are capable of. Overall a pretty good day against some tough competition and I am happy to come home with a win." Assistant Coach Alyssa Taylor said in an interview with the Sports information center about Saturday's game.

Indomitable spirit has been the name of the game this season for the volleyball team.

"I think we showed a lot of resilience and grit this season and it makes me extremely excited to get back in the gym this fall. Our team liked to make comebacks- in almost every big win we had a major comeback at some point, and I really believe this shows the fight we are capable of," Sophomore Sarah Elliott said.

The first match with Aus-



Gusties prepare for an incoming shot

Submitted

berg, though ending in defeat, was fought out by the Gusties who hit .045 on the attack led by six kills from both Sarah Elliott and Courtney Peterson. Kasie Tweet had 17 assists and 10 digs, while Hailey Embacher had 17 digs.

The second match ended far more favorably for the Gusties. Lauren Klaith led the offense with 17 kills and a .318 attack percentage. She also provided 12 digs for a double-double. Elliott added 12 kills and a .263 percentage. Both Tweet and Nora Lehmkuhl had 19 assists. Tweet posted 16 digs as well. Embacher led the team with 22 digs.

The spirit and high of winning a game against formidable competition on Saturday pushed the girls through this Monday, even if they weren't able to eke out a win, Gustavus made victory difficult for the Oles.

"There was a lot of excitement coming into our last game of the season, and we wanted to replicate how we played vs Bethel into the St. Olaf match, with a lot of excitement, grit, and teamness. We knew that St. Olaf was a really good team and played a fast offense, so we had to play extra scrappy and focused. Even though we didn't come through with the win, it was extremely competitive, and I am very proud of the way we performed. The games were really close, it was just a matter of finishing," Sophomore Courtney Peterson said.

The Gustavus volleyball team Monday lost in three sets at St. Olaf by scores of 25-23, 28-26, and 25-21. Courtney Peterson led the offense with 15 kills on 25 attempts and just one error for a .560 hitting percentage. Kasie Tweet quarterbacked the offense with 28 assists. Hailey Embacher led the back line with eight digs. The Gusties wrap up their truncated spring season with a 4-3 overall record.

Overall, with a pretty even win-loss record and innumerable hurdles overcome during the season, the team looks back on the year with pride and



Gustie volleyball ends their season strong

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Hailey Embacher completes a back row pass

Submitted

turns their eyes forward with anticipation.

"This volleyball season was filled with many uncertainties and obstacles due to COVID. Though this was the case, I feel our team did a great job of rolling with the punches and making the most of the time we got together on the court. I feel grateful to be a part of a team that is filled with such supporters girls and coaches— looking forward to being back in the gym this fall," First-year Kasie Tweet said.

"I couldn't be more proud of our team and girls stepping up and playing. Every team in the MIAC is going to show up and play and we knew regardless we had to take care of the things on our side of the net like intangibles and bettering the ball. While the outcome wasn't what we wanted for all the games, I believe we have learned a lot about ourselves and can reflect on our growth we made this season," Senior Hailey Embacher said.



# Gustie Men's Tennis Does it Again

This year's MIAC conference title marks 32 in a row

Jack Wiessenberger  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus men's tennis program has once again asserted its dominance over the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) by taking home its 32nd straight regular-season title. The team secured the title last weekend in a match against St. Thomas. The temperature hit a scorching 90 degrees the day of the match, but the Gusties persevered and walked away with yet another MIAC title.

However, the season is not over yet. This weekend, the team will be competing in the conference playoffs with a chance to add the MIAC playoffs trophy to their collection. The team has played a strong season with an overall record of 14-2 and a perfect 9-0 in conference.

"Especially after last season got canceled, it was great to win a regular season title. However, right now, most of us are focused and looking forward to the playoffs. I think my own performance was solid against St. Thomas, it was a hot day which created a tough climate to compete in but I think I handled it well. As for the team, we did a great job. We were playing with a lot of confidence and made sure we got the win," Sophomore Oscar Wikstrom said.

The Gusties are playing with a sense of importance after missing the 2020 Spring and Fall seasons. After not seeing action for a full year, the team wasted no time getting back into the swing of things. After the



Oscar Wikstrom serves the ball

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Gusties played their first three matches, they found themselves ranked 13th in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). Now, at the tail end of their season, the team is hoping to continue their success all the way to a playoff championship.

"We are very grateful for another title. Obviously, we are aware that we are a part of a long standing tradition and legacy, and it means the world to us

to stand on the shoulders of so many generations of great Gustavus Men's Tennis teams. This group has worked extremely hard this year in unimaginable circumstances, and while the result of a championship means a ton to us, I am more proud of how our team has persevered through challenges and adversity all year long, and of how they have stuck together, stayed present and supported each

other," Head Coach Thomas Valentini said.

The tennis program at Gustavus has become synonymous with success over the years. The men's team has not lost a match against a conference opponent in over three decades. However prosperous the team's past, Coach Valentini has made it a priority to always keep his players focused on the present.

As the Gusties approach playoff competition, he has stressed the importance of taking things one step at a time.

"In a year like this one, we certainly won't look too far ahead. We try to focus on the present in all circumstances, but this year it's all the more important. We are preparing to focus on what's within our control and to let go of everything else and we'll do everything we can to be the best version of our team that we can be when the playoffs begin. From there, we will enjoy the challenges and the moment," Valentini said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear plans are nothing if not breakable. However, concentrating his team on what they have control over has allowed Coach Valentini to produce a thus far successful season. This mentality has been adopted by the players who are now facing their most stressful weekend of the season.

"Winning a playoff title would be great. It would mean a lot for us to bounce back from the canceled seasons and get the job done during a year un-

like any other. However, I think most of us aren't trying to think about it too much. We know we have the team and players in order to have a successful weekend. We will try not to focus too much on the playoff title and more on what we need to do to play our best tennis, and I believe the rest will follow," Wikstrom said.

Sticking to the fundamentals is part of the team's plan heading into playoff competition. The team is confident in their ability to play competitive tennis and win without needing to significantly adjust their game.

"There's a lot on the line every match from here on out, but the team has competed in big moments before. One of the biggest keys is trusting the work and preparation that has been going on all season. We're ready for any obstacles that will come our way. We have the talent and the mental toughness to do it, and it all starts with our match on Thursday," Junior Luke Had-dorff said.

Gustavus, as the playoff's number one seed, will host number four seed Macalster this Thursday in the semifinal match. Earlier in the season, the Gusties beat the Scots 9-0. Should the Gusties make it past Macalester, they will host the championship match on Saturday. Following the disappointment of losing the last two seasons, the team is eager to make the most of their opportunities this weekend.



Nick Andy returns a backhand

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