



## Rocking the Red Carpet Students prepare for 37th President's Ball

**Katie Samek**  
Staff Writer

The Campus Activities Board would like to formally invite you to the 37th annual President's Ball on Saturday, March 18 from 5-10 p.m. at the Mayo Clinic Event Center Grand Hall in downtown Mankato.

This event will feature a catered meal for all attendees, a dance featuring live music by the Blue Water Kings band, a 360-degree photo booth, and several other activities. There will also be a pre-taped address from President Rebecca Bergman, as well as live speeches from a few other guest speakers. The theme this year is 'A Night on the Red Carpet', and all attendees are encouraged to dress their best.

Ticket sales for this event have been closed, and all purchased tickets

have been distributed to student mailboxes. If you have purchased a ticket for this event, please remember to check your on-campus mailbox to collect it before the event.

For those who have not signed up for transportation to the event through the college, the Mayo Clinic Event Center is located at 1 Civic Center Plaza in downtown Mankato. Nearby parking garages are available for event parking, but they are known to fill up fast, and all free parking in the surrounding area is limited to 2 hours or less.

This event is coordinated and hosted exclusively by the Campus Activities Board, specifically the Traditions team. This year's



Students dance the night away at the 2022 President's Ball

Submitted

Traditions Co-Executives are sophomores Adam Nordquist and Elizabeth Orton and it is them, along with Board co-presidents, juniors Emma Ericson and Nhu Nguyen and Board advisor Garrett Meier '19, that form the backbone of not only the President's Ball but many other events on campus.

The first President's Ball in Gustavus's history occurred in 1985 and has been an annual event every year since. The CAB co-president at that time thought of this event with the intent to give all students the opportunity

to celebrate their time at Gustavus. Traditionally, the event swaps locations every other year, being held either in Mankato or Saint Peter. This year marks the thirty-eight year of the event, despite being the 37th Annual President's Ball, as the 2020 and 2021 events were canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year's President's Ball, "Aurora Borealis", brought in an estimated 352 student attendees. According to current ticket sales statistics, this year will expand on that number by almost 120 attendees, bringing numbers

closer to 480, which is almost a third of the student population on campus.

"Seeing the number of ticket sales this high is encouraging", CAB Traditions Co-Executive Adam Nordquist said. "Not only does this mean that the pandemic's effects are taking less of a toll on event attendance, but there is renewed interest from the student body to attend big events like this. Hopefully, the numbers will be even higher next year."

Students are not the only attendees of the President's Ball, of course - Gustavus staff and

faculty members are also invited to attend, as are student leaders and even President Bergman herself.

By being open to everybody, the President's Ball helps foster a feeling of connection that might not manifest between students and their peers on-campus.

"At its heart, President's Ball was built upon the relationships between the President, faculty, staff, and students as a way for all of us to come together at a single event and celebrate the Gustavus community", Nordquist said. "Thirty-eight years later, here we are, continuing to celebrate what it means to be a Gustie."

There are many good reasons to attend the President's Ball; the food, the dance, the outfits, and the sense of community. Even those who may not be the most sociable are sure to find something to do at this event. But at its heart, the President's Ball is about meeting new people, strengthening existing relationships, and connecting with the wider Gustavus community.

"The President's Ball is a great excuse to go do something", Nordquist said. "If you're someone who goes out every weekend, we have weekend plans for you; if you're someone who doesn't go out at all, we have an event for you to be at. If you're someone who likes to dress up all fancy, we're presenting the opportunity; if you're someone who prefers being a little more laid-back, we have the space for you. Overall, the President's Ball is a spring formal at its core, designed to get Gusties in touch with each other and create friendships that last a lifetime."

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### Events Calendar

**Mystery Bag Plinko**  
 March 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
 Campus Center

**President's Ball**  
 March 18, 5:00-10:00 p.m.  
 Mayo Event Center

**Athletic Training Open House**  
 March 20, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
 Lund 224

**Make Maple Syrup**  
 March 22, 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
 Interpretive Center

**S/A Movie Night**  
 March 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
 Beck 101

**Oh, the Places GAC Students  
 Have Been...**  
 March 23, 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
 Courtyard

### Daily Sabbath Calendar

**Academic Convocation:**  
 Tuesdays (Christ Chapel)  
 10 - 10:20

**Morning Praise:**  
 Wednesdays (Christ Chapel)  
 10 - 10:20

**Holy Communion:**  
 Thursdays (Christ Chapel)  
 10 - 10:20

**Musical Showcase:**  
 Fridays (Christ Chapel)  
 10 - 10:20

**Sunday Worship Community:**  
 Sundays (Christ Chapel)

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### Campus Safety Report

#### Saturday, March 11, 2023

- On Saturday, March 11, Campus Safety responded to a noise violation and two students were cited for underage consumption and one non-student was cited for underage consumption and was trespassed. Students were referred to the Campus Conduct System
- On Saturday, March 11, Campus Safety responded to a call for damage to a non-GAC motor vehicle at Southwest parking lot H.
- On Saturday, March 11, Campus Safety responded to a report of water damage in College View Apartments

#### Sunday, March 12, 2023

- On Sunday, March 12, Campus Safety responded to a fire detector going off at the College View Apartments

#### When driving in snowy and icy conditions:

- Make sure to increase your following distance from the car in front of you so you have more time to stop.
- Turn slowly and wide
- Don't hit the brakes when you feel your car sliding on ice, but keep control of the wheel.
- Don't use cruise control when driving on slippery surfaces, such as ice and snow

Contact the Campus Safety office 24 hours a day at 507-933-8888.

# Gusties lobby for grant funding

Elliot Steeves  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Day at the Capitol, hosted by the Minnesota Private College Council, gave students an opportunity to engage in congressional lobbying on behalf of need-based aid for students.

From 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on March 14, the council trained students from both Gustavus Adolphus College, as well as several other private universities in advocacy and lobbying. They were assigned two sessions with their respective representatives and senators where they were taught how to pitch for the Minnesota State Grant Program in a real session. One specific representative, Jeff Brand, also fielded questions about policy concerns that undergraduate students had outside of the grant.

The Minnesota State Grant is an initiative that provides direct support to middle and low-income college students with a family income of between

\$20,000 and \$70,000. According to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, it also allows students to pay for additional educational expenses at eligible schools. Gustavus has an extensive relationship with the State Grant, with 38 percent of students involved with the program.

The measure that students lobbied on behalf of would decrease the share of costs that the State Grant expects to cover from 50 to 42 percent overall. Estimates indicate that this would increase the average State Grant Award by over \$1,100 per award recipient.

The event was organized by several groups on campus, as well as the Minnesota Private College Council. Those groups on campus were the Student Senate, the Department of Political Science, the Office of Marketing and Communications, Alumni Relations, and the Career Development office.

Many students gave feedback at a round table discussion recapping how the day went. There was a lot of optimism for the success

of the sessions, with several senators and representatives expressing their support for the new resolution of the grant program. There were only a few politicians who had to either reschedule or were uncertain of their decision.

"The opportunity to advocate in person is especially powerful, and to have a whole day set up around it is a really unique experience," Senior Emma Anderson commented, who visited Representative Liz Olson and Senator Jen McEwan. Sophomore Jenna Bunker, who visited Senator Bruce Anderson and Representative Joe McDonald, had a similar resonance with the importance of advocacy. "The best part of it was advocating for students as a whole so that students can have college choices at an affordable price," Bunker said.

Dr. Kate Knutson, head of the Department of Political Science, took her Public Policy course to the event, and met with her personal representative, Brian Pfarr, to discuss the grant.

"My class has been involved for over a decade," Knutson commented on taking her students. "It helps for the group from Gustavus to be a lot more knowledgeable about the program and be prepared to be strong advocates."

For Knutson, the event was an easy way to break nervous students into lobbying who otherwise might hesitate at a similar opportunity.

"This is a really safe and easy way to do it," Knutson said. She also emphasized how important it was for students to just get a little bit of experience. "Once students have had the experience one time, they can come back and talk with their legislators about any issue... that is important to them."

Knutson also pointed out the collaboration between areas of the college. "It is a team effort that involves coordination from many college offices," Knutson said. "We start meeting several months before the event to plan and prepare for a successful day."

"It's one of the few events

where people come together," Kelsey Backer '18 added. "We often get siloed on campus, so this is one of the few examples where we are working across departments," Backer emphasized.

Backer, the Assistant Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement, also talked about what it meant that Gustavus students could have an opportunity like this, especially going into a career in politics or political engagement as a civilian.

"Not only is it professional development, it is civic development," Backer said. "It's great to know what a Gustavus education can do for a person, as well as learn how to be an engaged citizen."

In addition to the lobbying training and sessions, Gustavus organized an Alumni networking event. The event connected current Gustavus students with alumni working in government and politics and gave them a chance to ask questions about internships and careers. The roles included Legislative Assistant, Lobbyist, Communications, Policy Attorney, and even the Scheduler for the Governor.

Backer had additional comments about what it meant to have alumni available for discussion.

"[They are] real people working, whether that be lobbyists or assistants," commented Backer on the alumni. She also noted that it was an especially tricky year to find alumni who had time to do the event, so securing them was especially valuable. "There are fewer alumni this year, [and] things are just really busy," Backer noted.

Day At The Capitol was sponsored by the Advocates for Minnesota Student Aid, as well as Minnesota Private Colleges. People interested in opportunities with the group can visit their website and can volunteer as well as learn about opportunities whether they are current college students, parents, alumni, or community leaders.



The Minnesota State Capitol, where students and alumni lobbied this past Monday

Submitted

## Be the Match

**Andrew Clark**  
Staff Writer

This past Monday, Be The Match tabled outside of the Cafeteria. This was in an effort to add Gustavus students to the Be The Match Registry. The Registry is a list of eligible donors to give blood stem cells to children suffering from blood cancer. This is to establish more opportunities for children to receive the life-saving transplants that they need.

What is Be The Match? Be The Match is a non-profit organization that specializes in blood stem cell research and transplants to help cure countless children of life-threatening blood cancers. It was founded in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1986, and its headquarters now resides in Minneapolis. Be The Match is looking for more donors to add to their registry to make treatment for children more accessible.

Be The Match was founded

on its love for children as well as new scientific innovations regarding blood stem cell research. In 1979, a 10 year old named Laura was diagnosed with Leukemia and received an experimental bone marrow transplant in a desperate attempt to save her life. Miraculously, she was saved due to that bone marrow transplant given by an unrelated donor. This sparked a whole new scientific revolution within the cancer research community, and from it, a database that was later named the Be The Match Registry emerged.

Be the Match still stands upon the same principles that it was originally founded on while helping as many children as possible to find cures for their life-threatening cancers. Be The Match is currently looking for eligible donors for countless children including Ari, a 19-month old child that is suffering from a blood disease. Ari desperately

needs a transplant, but unfortunately does not currently have an eligible donor that he can receive this transplant from.

Blood cancer is more common than a lot of people realize, and it affects people of all ages. Be The Match helps people of all ages, but leans more toward trying to find donors for children specifically. Every three minutes another person is diagnosed with blood cancer. Over 1.3 million people are either currently battling blood cancer or are in remission from it. Leukemia is the most common childhood blood cancer with over 28 percent of all childhood cancer being Leukemia cases.

Over 56,000 people battling blood cancers are expected to lose that battle, and Be The Match is trying to reduce that number to as small as they can, but they need people like you to help! Be The Match is looking for donors between the ages of 18 and 40 to join the

Registry to hopefully become an eligible donor to help children suffering from blood cancer.

Anyone between the ages of 18 and 40 can join the registry, and it is a very simple process. With a simple cheek swab, you can be added to the registry to be eligible for donation. Your cheek swab will then be sent into the lab to be tested to see if they can find someone that you can match with. Many people do not get matched right away and can be put onto the Registry for months or even years before they are matched with anyone. A matter of minutes for you could mean the difference between life and death for someone who is battling life-threatening blood cancer.

If you are matched with someone, there will be two options to donate a life-saving blood stem cell donation. About 80 percent of donors will be asked to provide stem cells collected from circulating blood

called a peripheral blood stem cell donation (PBSC) donation. About 20 percent of donors are asked to provide blood stem cells that are collected from bone marrow from the pelvic bone.

Even if you missed when Be The Match was tabling, there are still ways that you can help. There are QR codes around campus or you can text "gusthelion" to 61474. Be The Match will send a simple cheek swab kit so that you can be entered into the Be The Match Registry. For more information, please contact Keesha Mason at kmason2@nmdp.org.

## Gustie Entrepreneur Cup

**Colin Maiwurm**  
Staff Writer

As the semester proceeds, more events and programs are taking place. One of which will be taking place on May 13, is the Gustie Entrepreneur Cup. Within this cup, students will give their final pitch to a panel of mentors. These mentors will then decide on the winner, and they will move on to the Minnesota Cup. They will face off against all the other previous winners who made it to state in hopes of placing in the top three spots. Second and third-place winners will receive cash prizes, while the first-place winners will receive the resources needed to start their business.

In order to help prepare students who want to compete in the Entrepreneur Cup, two types of events will be offered: Start-Up Lab and Pitch Night. These events taking place around the Entrepreneur Cup are focused on helping students who have business ideas they have been working on getting started, as well as helping them out with their pitches for their businesses. Start-Up Lab consists of exploring the student's ideas, mapping out the business plan, and

determining if they truly want to pursue their idea. Pitch Night is a safe space for students to develop their pitches as well as practice them.

These two events are held twice a month in February, March, and April to give students multiple chances to participate before deciding if they want to compete in the Entrepreneur Cup on the 13th of May.

These events may seem exclusively for business majors, but they are open to everyone.

" Oftentimes when people hear the word entrepreneurship, they are like 'I'm not a business major, that's not for me,' this is a myth. Entrepreneurship isn't just for business majors," Director of Entrepreneurial Innovation in Economics and Management Katie Boone said.

In order to participate in the Entrepreneur Cup, students must sign up and go to Start-Up Lab and Pitch Night, which will last for about 90 minutes. After that, students will decide if they want to continue and participate in the Entrepreneur Cup. These two events serve as prerequisites for participating in the Entrepreneur Cup. This rule was implemented due to feedback from students from previous years. "There are no strings attached,

we will not strong-arm or force anybody to do this," Boone said.

If the students do wish to continue, they will then be paired up with a mentor. They will get a chance to meet with their mentor two to three times for about 30-60 minutes between now and the end of April. The purpose of having a mentor is to help the student strengthen their business plan. This is a mainly student-driven project, and the time commitment for the Entrepreneur Cup depends on how far the student wants to go. The more time they put in, the more they get out of their business idea.

Within the Entrepreneur Cup, there are two categories: scalable and sustainable. Business ideas that are scalable are the ones that ship their product to other businesses. These businesses will then sell the product. Sustainable business ideas focus on being self-sustaining and not requiring another business's aid in selling their product.

This is the seventh year that Gustavus has been hosting these events for its students. The first year that this program started at Gustavus, was partially during the summer. By the end of the program for that year, 16 companies had been created by stu-

One of the hopes of these events is to prepare students and secure them a job right after graduation. While not every student's business idea will succeed, the students will still gain skills from their attempts that are in high demand in other businesses. This can lead to other opportunities for the students after college, like forming business ideas with a team at an organization.

"Come with an open mind and some curiosity. If you

haven't been through a Start-Up Lab, it is the safest spot to start. You are not long-term committed to a course or the Entrepreneur Cup" Boone said.

If students have any questions, they can go to the Entrepreneur Cup webpage on the Gustavus website or send an email to entrepreneurship@gustavus.edu. You can also set up a meeting to ask your questions by sending an email to the previous email listed.



# Latinx Film Festival

**Michaela Woodward**  
Staff Writer

It was a big week for movie lovers on campus, as the Oscars took place on Sunday and the second film in the 6th Latinx Film Festival series was screened on Monday.

An audience of students and faculty gathered in Wallenberg Auditorium Monday evening to view *Los Territorios*, a 2017 film from Argentina directed by Iván Granovsky. This is the second screening in this year's film series, a festival that started in 2013 and is held biennially. In 2021 the film festival was held virtually.

Organizer of the Latinx Film Festival and Associate Professor in Spanish, Darío Sánchez-González, is thrilled to be able to host the festival in person again this year.

"It's great to have screenings like in person again – it's something that, in 2020, seemed impossible to have again," Professor Sánchez-González said.

*"It's great to have screenings like in person again – it's something that, in 2020, seemed impossible to have again."*

The film series is supported by the Pragda Institute from Spain's Ministry of Culture. Though screenings are open to the public, they do coincide with a class in the Spain department.

"It's connected to one of our courses, Spanish 390, which is the course centered on film in the Spanish major. Five of the films in our syllabi will correspond to five screenings, which will take place on campus. We basically integrate those films into the syllabus and we also do the screenings with guests occasionally," Professor Sánchez-González said.

Professor Mimi Gerstbauer from the Political Science department introduced the film and led the Q&A for *Los Territorios* on Monday.

Senior Keely Schuck is a student in Spanish 390 and has enjoyed the diverse films that the Latinx Film Festival has brought to campus.

"I have been enjoying [the class] so far. It has given me opportunities to expand my range

and experience international film. So far, in this class, we have watched films that have taken place in Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina, several regions in Spain (Asturias, Madrid, and Catalonia), and much more. I was excited to see the return of the Latinx Film Festival. I attended several virtual screenings and Q&A sessions in 2021, so I was looking forward to this series. I have enjoyed having Professor Darío Sánchez-González in class and learning from the discussions that we have after watching the films in the festival," Schuck said.

*"I was excited to see the return of the Latinx Film Festival. I attended several virtual screenings and Q&A sessions in 2021, so I was looking forward to this series."*

Schuck also wrote a review for the first film screening, *Bacarau* (Brazil, 2019) which can be read on the MLLC blog.

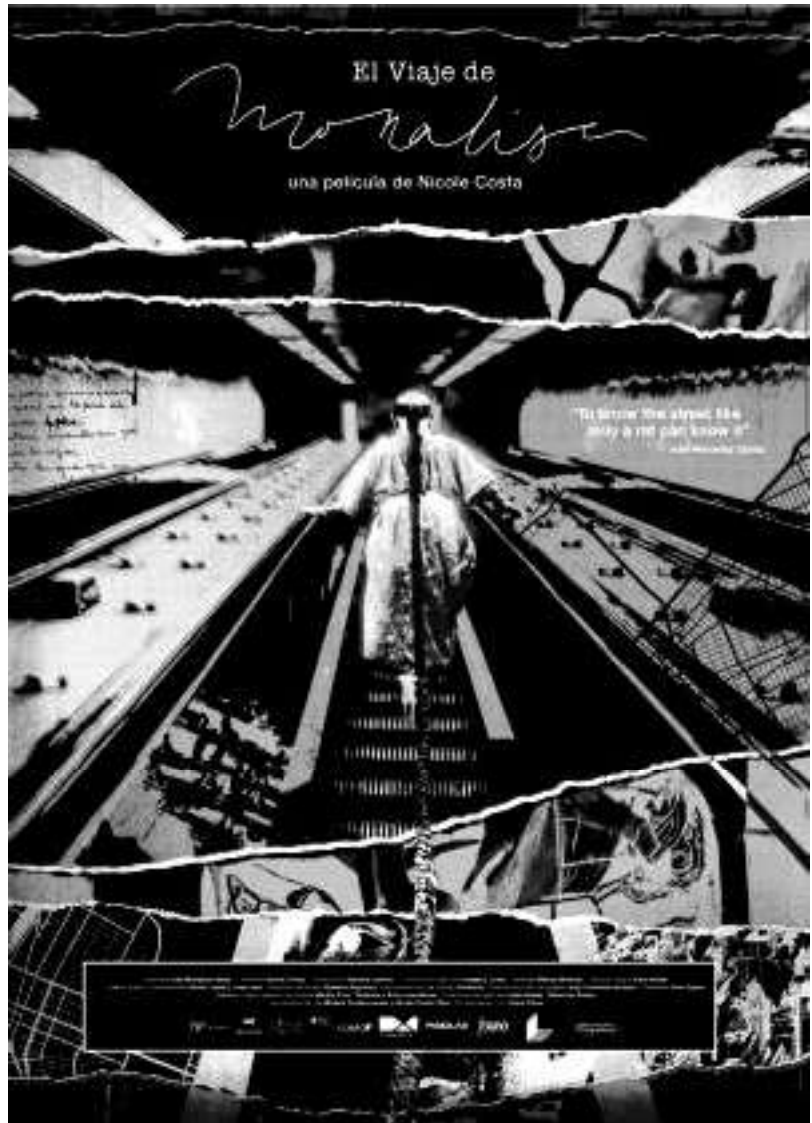
"I would say we started with a bang. *Bacarau* is a thriller, a very violent movie for starters, but it is also a very, very politically engaged movie that connects with a lot of issues that we have in the U.S. like school shootings, police violence, racism, etc.," Professor Sánchez-González said.

The Latinx Film Festival showcases movies from Spanish-speaking and non-Spanish-speaking Latin American countries, as well as Spain.

"I always tell both my students in the class and the audience that these films were not made for you. That is not a bad thing. That means that, thankfully, more than ever, probably after the pandemic, we are being exposed to media that doesn't quite correspond with our usual field of interest. So, the way in which we can start, especially in places where film is consumed critically, like college campuses, to diversify those offerings that we have," Professor Sánchez-González said.

Though the films are screened live on campus, movies can be accessed for one week after they screen on <https://pragda.com/sfc-event/gustavus-adolphus/> with the username SFC@GustavusAdolphusCollege and password FilmFestGustavus23.

The next film, *El Viaje De*



The next film, *El Viaje De Monalisa*, will be shown March 27th at 6:30pm

Submitted.

*Monalisa*, will screen on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wallenberg Auditorium.

"The next film, *El Viaje De Monalisa*, chronicles the experience of a gender-fluid Chilean [undocumented] immigrant in New York who's also a drag performer who has a separate persona called *Monalisa*, who is like this glamorous blonde woman that does what she wants. [It] clearly posits a contrast with their current life as an undocumented immigrant in the U.S. It's really a trip and that's what the film conveys.

The later two films talk about migrations, which is a big tagline of this festival, though, by no means the only one," Professor Sánchez-González said.

All interested Gusties are welcomed and encouraged to attend the film screenings if they are able or to watch the film virtually after they screen on campus.

*"The next film, El Viaje De Monalisa, chronicles the experience of a gender-fluid Chilean [undocumented] immigrant in New York..."*

# GUSTIE of the WEEK

## Maritza Beltran



Gustie of the Week Maritza Beltran

Soren Sackreiter

**Emma Kelsey**  
Staff Writer

This week's Gustie of the Week is Junior Maritza Beltran, Co-President of OLAS (Organization for LatinX American Students), member of the Women's Rugby team, and Computer Science major.

Beltran says that these three areas bring all her interests and values together. "I love being active and strengthening myself, and playing rugby not only enables me to measure my strength, but it also helps to hone my communication skills and creates a unique community for me to be part of. OLAS has really helped me learn more about Latin American culture and to strengthen and broaden my identity as a Mexican American specifically. I love being part of OLAS because it gives me the opportunity to help shape a community where other students who might have trouble finding their way on campus can feel safe and at home. Lastly, I love being a computer science major because it challenges me academically and intellectually, and it also serves as a foundation for future financial stability," Beltran said.

Beltran's favorite part of Gustavus, she shares, is its community. As a First-year student, she was unsure about finding her place here, but as she's grown, she has found that she doesn't have to change herself in order to be a part of the community. Beltran shares that her involvement in things like OLAS and Rugby has really helped her grow and feel at home at Gustavus.

Senior Ana Martinez Magana has known Beltran since Beltran's first year at Gustavus and has witnessed improvement in her leadership skills, and her growth overall as a person. She says that Beltran is a passionate person, has strong academic skills, and is a great

friend.

"She is proof that with perseverance, discipline, passion, and skills you could be successful in life no matter what others think about you, you CAN prove them wrong. I am so proud of everything she has accomplished with OLAS, spreading diversity on campus, advocating for others, and being an excellent student," Martinez Magana said.

*"I am so proud of everything she has accomplished with OLAS, spreading diversity on campus, advocating for others, and being an excellent student,"*

Faculty member Valerie Walker had Beltran in her J-term challenge seminar this year, Environmental and Climate Change Education for Kids. Walker says she was able to see Beltran take on a leadership role in the group project for the course. She says that Beltran is a leader both in the classroom and on campus, compassionate, hardworking, and committed to justice.

"Maritza describes her leadership style as 'inviting many voices to the table and then acting on and with the interests of the community.' She's willing to do both the big picture thinking and listening, as well as the behind-the-scenes work required to organize and act," Walker said. Walker explained that Beltran's wide range of perspectives was able to shine through in the coursework, as she brought knowledge from her Computer Science major, STEM leadership experiences, and passion for Latin American studies and environmental justice and equality.

"Martiza has a great sense of humor and brought energy and joy to her work, even as

we discussed the serious implications of climate change and the challenges of educating for sustainability. Her writing is passionate and one of my favorite memories is talking to her group about whether a curriculum for children could be titled 'What the fork?' Too risqué? Or perfect to capture students' attention? She and her group members laughed a lot, even when doing serious thinking," Walker said.

As for Beltran's current plans and future, she says she is working right now on a travel/social media application with her brother, and an interactive Digital Poetry journey. She hopes they will each be finished and released/published before she graduates.

"My aspiration for post-graduation is to find a job where I can apply my passion for change into the tech space. I'm also excited to get involved in my community and hope to serve on some sort of city council or committee," Beltran said.

While Beltran has many hopes and dreams for the future, she is enjoying her time here at Gustavus and having many unforgettable experiences.

"I've created several unforgettable memories here at Gustavus, and I'd say that three of them specifically are just equally tied. Participating in LatinX Night was especially significant to me, as it was one of the most significant cultural events to my identity that I've had the privilege of attending. Africa Night was also spectacular, and also introduced me to many people who I would consider good friends today. Lastly, my first Rugby 7's tournament with the Women's Rugby team would also tie with these events. It helped me form a special bond with my past and current teammates, and set me up to love rugby as much as I do today," Beltran said.

**Do you have a suggestion for a Gustavus student, professor, or staff member who could be our next Gustie of the Week?**

If so, send their name, position on campus, and a short description of why you think they should be recognized to

**[cparamor@gustavus.edu](mailto:cparamor@gustavus.edu)**  
for a chance to be featured!

A representative from the Gustavian Weekly will be in contact with you via email if your suggestion is chosen to be featured in an issue of the paper.

# The Counseling Center's Mosaic Dialogues brings forward the intersectionality of mental health and identity

Katie Doolittle  
Staff Writer

The Counseling Center is hosting a Mosaic Dialog discussion with speaker Jamie Mack on Friday, March 17th from 2:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. in the Center for Inclusive Excellence.

Mack is a South Korean adoptee who was raised in Southern Minnesota. The dialogue will be centered around being a woman of color in predominantly white spaces and rural settings. Mack will also discuss disenfranchised grief and its role in finding personal identity.

Mack will be the fifth speaker from this seven-part series of monthly discussions. Other themes that were discussed throughout the academic year include "Movement as Medicine," how trauma impacts first-generation students of color, ethnic and cultural upbringing and feeling a sense of community, and "cultural responsiveness" and navigating the professional workforce as BIPOC individuals.

The origin and mission of these discussions aimed to help underrepresented students on this predominantly white college campus. "A former Counseling Center therapist Monica Mikhaeil started it as a program designed specifically for our BIPOC and Global Majority students," The Counseling Center Director, Hannah Repp said.

*"A former Counseling Center therapist Monica Mikhaeil started it as a program designed specifically for our BIPOC and Global Majority students."*

The goal of Mosaic Dialog persisted but the format originally focused on one-on-one or small-group support. "It was more of a walk-in support time held each week for students to come and speak to mental health issues related to race and ethnicity led by a staff person who had herself grappled with these things," Repp said.

Following Mikhaeil's departure from the center, the resource discussed the future of the program with students

at the time. "We asked students what they wanted out of this programming and heard that although it was helpful to have space held for these conversations it would be even more helpful to have experts representing many different perspectives," Repp said.

The Counseling Center commits themselves to the well-being of every student on the Gustavus campus and, through this program, they are able to expand their resources. "Our center is continually trying to hire therapists that represent our student population, this has proven difficult, and so this programming was one way we attempted to fill a gap, bringing representation and wisdom onto our campus in this format," Repp stated.

Repp and her fellow colleagues recognize the inherent value of representation in all aspects of life, especially in regard to mental health and overall well-being. "It is very important to us that we are of-

fering students opportunities to engage with information about mental health in formats comfortable and applicable to them, from individuals who may also be more relatable to them," Repp said.

*"It is very important to us that we are offering students opportunities to engage with information about mental health..."*

Since these conversations can be triggering or difficult to digest, the Center works in tandem with the speaker to assure the safety of the student body. "Some of the topics are quite sensitive and we wanted the space to include only those there to personally engage with the topic. Having said that, each of our speakers dialogue with us about their topics and/or suggest additional materials for us

to engage with," Repp stated.

The array of speakers and themes brought to the forefront has not only been beneficial for the students, but for the Counseling Centers as well. "It has been a beautiful way for our center to form new relationships with individuals in our broader community and to learn some new things ourselves," Repp said.

*"It has been a beautiful way for our center to form new relationships with individuals in our broader community..."*

Upcoming discussions, which will all take place at 2:30 p.m. in the Center for Inclusive Excellence, will include "Entering the Man Cave of Unity" inviting masculine presenting or male-identifying BIPOC in-

dividuals especially to join on Friday, April 14th with Dwnell "Dee" Langdon and intersectionality's role in discovering identity on Friday, May 5th with Ayan Musse.

Langdon will discuss the beauty of the human experience and how we can better understand ourselves and others through meaningful connections. Musse, who is the Coordinator of Education Equity with St. Peter public schools will discuss her experiences living in Egypt and moving to the United States and how power systems play a role in a person's sense of self.

Further resources for BIPOC students, self-care for activists, and anti-racism can be found on the Counseling Center page on the Gustavus Adolphus College website. Some of their resources include crisis support, online connection spaces, academic success support, and links to organizations dedicated to aiding BIPOC young adults.



Submitted.