

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Jenna Wyum



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Soren Sackrieter

Emma Kelsey
Staff Writer

This week's Gustie of the Week, Jenna Wyum is a Senior Public Accounting major with a Political Science minor. She is the Finance Director in the Student Senate, a member of the Chapel Choir, and holds several leadership positions in the Theta Xi Gamma sorority. She works as an accounting tutor for the E/M department and participates in other organizations like the Senior Class Legacy Committee, Accounting Club, and Order of Omega.

"All of these activities are super important to me because of the impact that they make on the student body and my own personal growth as a student at Gustavus. My involvements have offered immense opportunities to meet new people, both on and off campus, and helped me grow comfortable with being in leadership positions," Wyum said.

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Wyum shares that her favorite part of Gustavus is the opportunities that it offers and the people. "Through my involvement in a variety of campus events, I was able to meet many different people and develop new relationships... The experiences were not only helpful in my professional goals and personal growth, but I have made life-long friends at Gustavus as well. The community here is something that I have greatly appreciated and relied on these past four years, and I am so thankful for the impact that everyone that I've met here has made on my life," Wyum said.

Lonnie Hosman, a professor

in Economics and Management here at Gustavus, has known Wyum since the Spring semester of 2020 when she was in Hosman's EM110 Financial Accounting course. She then went on and took two other classes with him over the years. Hosman is also Wyum's advisor. He describes Wyum as an accomplished student who is very involved on campus with different activities. "She has accepted a job offer from the public accounting firm CLA - she has a bright future ahead of her!" Hosman stated.

Sophia Artley, another Senior, met Wyum on move-in day of their first year. They lived in the same section of Norelis and quickly became friends.

"As I was coming from out of state, Jenna immediately made Gustavus and Minnesota feel like home to me. Since then, we have traveled across the country together, created countless memories, and will be living together after graduation," Artley said. She shares that Wyum is a hard worker, active in our campus community, a leader, and truly embodies what it means to be a Gustie.

"Her work in her sorority as president and philanthropy organizer has led to memorable events and money raised for a great organization... When I think of Jenna Wyum, I think of someone who is kind, compassionate, loyal, and smart. She is a great friend, community member, and peer. She treats those she knows and has yet to meet with understanding and empathy, and that draws people to her. She works hard in class, and her professors can attest to this, she succeeds," Artley said.

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Senior Abigail Ludwig has

known Wyum since their Sophomore year; they served as Theta Xi Gamma Co-Presidents in the fall of 2022 as well as community service co-chairs within the chapter previous to that. Their friendship has grown through their leadership experiences together and mutual involvements.

"Jenna is very deserving of Gustie of the Week, due to her well-rounded presence on campus. Since we are part of Theta Xi Gamma together, I can speak to her positive effect on that organization. Besides her outstanding leadership skills as previous co-president of Theta Xi Gamma, she also received the 2022-2023 Sorority Member of the Year at the Greek Awards ceremony hosted by Order of Omega... She has done an outstanding job leading the Thetas as our senior philanthropy chair which led us to be recognized at Honors Day for the Paul Magnuson Student Leadership and Service Award at Gustavus Adolphus College," Ludwig said.

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Ludwig describes Wyum as reliable, thoughtful, and someone who has strong communication skills.

Lastly, Senior Paige Stepnick describes Wyum as "incredibly hard-working and dedicated to everything she puts her mind to. She is also a person that you can approach with any issue and she will be more than willing to help. Her warm presence has been a gift to this campus, making sure everyone is included."

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

gkearney@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.

Studying abroad with Mel Pardock

Mel Pardock
Staff Writer

Hey there Gusties! I'm sure our dedicated readers have been saddened by my incredibly noticeable absence here at the Weekly, but despair no more! I have returned. Well, not physically... but your favorite news-writer-turned-world-traveler is here to share some notes on my study away adventures!

I am a double major here at Gustavus, belonging to both the Political Science and Japanese Studies departments. As a Japanese Studies major, it's required for me to take a Japanese language course taught in Japan. Kind of an insane expectation, but I digress. Gustavus partners with two universities in Japan where Gusties Studying Japanese can go - Hosei University in Tokyo and Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata, a city between Osaka and Kyoto. Seeing as I am not quite fluent in Japanese, actually far from it, I applied to Kansai Gaidai back in October, and by some miracle I was accepted and have been kicking it here in Hirakata since January! Now, I'm sure you're wondering "Mel, if you've been there for over three months, why are you just now writing about it?" Well, if you'll believe me, packing up your life, moving across the world, adjusting to a 14 hour time difference, and learning to live in a country you hadn't set foot in since you were 12 years old all while being a full-time student takes up quite a bit of your time and energy. I've finally gotten used to life here - just in time for me to leave in less than a month.

Throughout my time here, I have gone on many an adventure and had my fair share of mishaps. When I first arrived in Osaka with my father, he immediately fell ill. How fun! This gave me my very own first-hand experience with the Japanese healthcare system after being in the country for less than two weeks. After forcing my dad into an ambulance, going to an emergency room that blamed everything on stomach problems, and finally ending up at a hospital in Hirakata a mere fifth of a mile from my dorm, we finally concluded, with the help of a lovely staff member of Kansai Gaidai's Center for International Education acting as a translator, that my dear papa had an awful infection that rendered him unable to keep any matter in his stomach and

he wound up in the hospital for a week and a half while I got to navigate Osaka and move into my dorm completely on my own. After spending about \$300 on taxis and a good four or five good stress-induced crying sessions, I was all moved in and as ready as I was ever going to be to begin my life as an international student.

Despite this rather massive bump in the road, I've been having the time of my life here. I get to spend every day learning about a culture that is so very different from my own, getting real-world experience speaking a language I've been studying for years, and experiencing new things. I've been on trips both around the Osaka prefecture and outside of it, even hopping across the Sea of Japan to South Korea over spring break back in March.

One of my first big adventures here in Japan was heading to Nara for a day with some friends at the end of January to experience something called "Wakakusa Yamayaki" - a festival in which the people of Nara set the dead grass on the mountain known as Wakakusa on fire to make way for better farmland in the spring. At this festival, I was also able to live amongst some very... interesting creatures. Nara is known for its tame population of deer, which you can feed, pet, and play with. These deer were crazy. You get to feed them these little biscuits called "Shikas-enbe," and yet they will still try to eat your scarf.

A few months later, over a series of school holidays known as "Golden Week," I returned to Nara with a friend with one mission and one mission only - to pet as many deer and see as many shrines as possible over the span of a little less than two days. We even got to stay at an inn where the deer would come right up to the windows to greet us! Throughout our stay, we got to explore many Shinto shrines and see many monuments, including the Daibutsu, a gargantuan statue of the Buddha. We even got to go to a museum within a shrine that contained many statues of Buddhist deities, and my friend and I got to light candles to honor the ones associated with our Eastern zodiac signs.

Also on this Golden Week excursion, my friend and I made the trek to Uji, a beautiful city surrounding Ujigawa river. We were able to see beautiful statues and pagodas with Sanskrit inscriptions so old that they were barely even there any-



A photo from Mel's travels in Japan.

Submitted

more. We were also able to see the main event, the thing that draws tourists from around the globe to Uji - the famed u. An u, or Japanese cormorant, is a loud, large, extremely goofy looking bird, the likes of which seem to run Uji. Anywhere you go in Uji, you'll see posters and standees depicting Wooti-san, an adorable u clad in the cutest little blue and yellow outfit.

Throughout my stay here, I have been on many trips around Osaka to do a plethora of things. While some were heading out of the prefecture every weekend to climb mountains or go shrine hunting, I didn't exactly have the energy to do so. Instead, I would venture into Osaka or Kyoto and simply wander around. In doing so, I've found many wonderful thrift shops, cafes, restaurants, and shopping streets to keep me occupied for hours. I have also been able to explore Dotombori, a huge shopping and entertainment district built around a river that tourists flock to. I've even been lucky enough to go into Osaka to see two concerts during my time here, including two of my favorite K-pop acts of all time.

Also during my travels, I was able to pack up shop and head to Seoul, South Korea for a week over our spring break at the end of March. There, I experienced yet another incredible, rich culture and got to spend time with a friend of mine that is cur-

rently an international student at Yonsei University. In Seoul I got to do a lot of shopping, to the point that I got charged \$30 at the airport on my way back to Osaka because my luggage was 6kg over the weight limit, eat a lot of good food, see some beautiful architecture, both new and old, meet some incredible people, and consume alcohol legally - which was crazy. I was even lucky enough to get a hand-poked tattoo there, which was an amazing experience. I wake up every day thinking about how much I miss Seoul and how badly I want to go back, as if that trip didn't put a significant dent in the money I had left for my time in Asia.

Now that my time in Japan is coming to an end, I am a mixed bag of emotions. On one hand, I have been here for so long that the 'magic' so-to-speak has worn off, I'm beginning to miss my family and friends a painful amount, and I'm hitting the dregs of my bank account. On the other hand, I'm going to miss waking up every day with the knowledge that my painstaking hard work has paid off and that I'm living completely independently in a foreign land. I'm going to miss the cheapest, most delicious food I've ever been blessed enough to experience, the environment of the international and local students supporting each other no matter what, the ability to be an hour-long train

ride away from an adventure, and I'm sure many more things I'm taking for granted right now. Now, there's nothing left to do but begin packing, double down for finals, put my package that I'm mailing home together to avoid spending a fortune on overweight baggage together, round up some souvenirs for friends and family, and wish that my time here wasn't coming to an end.

My dear readers, if you take anything away from this word vomit, please let it be this - study away! This experience has provided me with so many friendships, journeys, and lessons that I cannot even begin to put into words. Every day has been an adventure, and I hope that everyone gets to experience something like this. So, get to the Center for International and Cultural Education and have a chat with my good friend Matt Hirman! The CICE is full of amazing staff, not to toot my own horn as an incoming study away peer advisor, that will ensure your application process and travels go as smoothly as possible.

Well, that's enough of my babbling. For now, at least. Get out there, Gusties! Time's a-wastin' and the world is waiting for you.

Finals: Tips and Tricks

by Alva Iordie, Features Writer

I know, I know, but we have to bring it up eventually...

Don't you remember what happened last time we ignored it?

YEAH. We don't want that to happen again.

No, I totally get it. I FEEL you.

Just let me say one word.

...Finals.

I'm sorry.

Yup, it's that time of the semester. If you're anything like me, you'll spend hours looking at all your "notes" (or illegible random sentences and words) from the semester and after getting overwhelmed, decide that all the material is "just common sense" and there's no need to study it. Has this worked in the past? Sometimes. Has it been pleasant? NO. This time around, I'm dedicated to not screwing over my future self (at least academically), and have compiled some tips/tricks to get you through finals without wanting to jump off of Nobel.

1. Don't Procrastinate

Yeah, super helpful advice. I know. But remember that finals week should be treated like a marathon, not a sprint. Starting early gives you the space to spread out your studying and pace yourself for optimal success, rather than cramming the night before in a desperate frenzy. According to the Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve principle, we forget 70% of learned material within 24 hours, so it's essential to have the extra time to review the material often in order to increase comprehension.

2. Study with friends/classmates

I've found that I've made the most friends in my most difficult classes. Although this could be due to trauma-bonding, I would take it to your advantage and study with your classmates! Not only does studying with others make the process more enjoyable, but it also holds you accountable to actually show up and study. Additionally, you can help each other out by comparing notes and talking through the facts/formulas and thus, gain a deeper understanding of the material.

3. Take breaks

Now THIS is what I like to hear. One popular time management technique is the Pomodoro technique, which is a simple tool for periods of focused work with breaks in between. Here is one Pomodoro interval:

- Choose your assignment/work to do
- Set the timer to 25 minutes
- Work until the timer rings
- Take a five-minute break
- Take longer breaks (15 to 30 minutes) for every four pomodoro intervals
- During your breaks, take the time to unwind with a quick stroll outside, stretching, meditating/deep breathing, talking with a friend, etc. Whatever you do, DON'T go to TikTok or other addictive social media platforms (I've learned this lesson the hard way).

4. Study Smarter, Not Harder

Rather than studying the entire textbook from the beginning, it's recommended to study in the order of: a) definitely b) probably c) might be on the final. This way, even if you run out of study time, you'll at least have the basic information covered. Additionally, make sure to quiz yourself often in order to force your brain into recalling information rather than passively staring at your notes and hoping for some subconscious absorption of knowledge (apparently this doesn't work?).

5. Brain Food and Sleep

It's been shown that what you eat directly affects cognitive functions like memory and alertness. Therefore, eating healthy foods is essential to making the most of your big ol' brain. Some scientifically proven brain-boosting foods include salmon, broccoli, blueberries, avocados, and almonds. Similarly, sleep also affects our cognitive functions and is essential to making the most of your finals. If it comes down to pulling an all-nighter and cramming or starting your studies a bit earlier but getting a good night's rest, choose the latter.

Overall, just start studying NOW and take care of yourself. Remember, you've survived finals before and you will survive them this time too. Also, YOUR GRADES DO NOT DEFINE YOU. Just do your best. That's enough.

Take it easy, Gusties! We're approaching the homestretch!

Modern-day Robin Hood is a failure



Jonas Doerr
Opinion Columnist

I'm not particularly nostalgic about the Gustavus Adolphus College sign that sits at the entrance to the school. I do have some good memories of sitting on it on Saturday mornings, waving to cars driving up the hill, but I haven't been there for a while.

Even so, the recent thefts are to Gusties like to New Yorkers if Lady Liberty lost her torch, to San Franciscans if the Golden Gate Bridge lost its Gate and Gold, or to Texans if people forgot the Alamo.

Letters have gone missing. However, the theft is so ridiculous that someone needs to ridicule it.

First of all, the choice of letters was awful. Why would the anonymous thieves steal E's? It's a little bit funny to be going to Gustavus Adolphus Collg, but it would have been much better to be going to Gustavus Adolphus Leg. After all, once you've stolen one letter, what's a couple more?

"It's a little bit funny to be going to Gustavus Adolphus Collg, but it would have been much better to be going to Gustavus Adolphus Leg."

Maybe the letter E was significant to the thieves. Maybe it can give a clue to the first letter of their names. However, given the failures of their letter choices, they should have taken an L.

And if they were going to



Gustavus sign in its normal state

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steal something, why would they steal a letter? You can get a much nicer letter E off Amazon for \$10 with no cost to your conscience, aside from supporting an anti-labor conglomerate.

If money is their issue, then there are plenty of things on campus worth more money. Even on the renowned Gustavus black market or at Thrifty Gold resale, a sign letter isn't even going to cover half a textbook. So not only do the thieves' names probably start with E, but they are also probably wealthy kleptomaniacs who steal only for the inherent pleasure and dorm decor.

After all, they clearly aren't good thieves. If they were going to take something so obvious that everyone was immediately going to notice its disappearance, why not take the whole sign?

Any halfway decent thief could have managed that. All it would have taken was a couple of shovels and an oversized wheelbarrow. But even a toddler could have ripped two letters

off of the very lowest part of the sign. The Collg could easily buy a few more letters to replace the sign.

"The Collg could easily buy a few more letters to replace the sign."

Speaking of which, why has the Collg not done more to rectify this wrongdoing? Letters for the sign cannot be too expensive. If the administration had a bucket of spare letters, they could slap one on as soon as they disappeared, and no one would know what happened.

Perhaps that is too simple. It wouldn't be just to let the perps off the hook. One easy way to prevent future thefts would be the addition of a new student employment position: Sign Sentry. The employee could parade back and forth in front of the sign, decked up in a fancy outfit and ensuring no one pillaged our beautiful sign (all for the low

price of \$10.33/hour).

They would get some Vitamin D and become as iconic as the Queen's Guard. Prospective students visiting campus would immediately meet a friendly face when they drive in. Safety and order would be restored.

But maybe that is too conspicuous for the Collg. If they are looking for a more subtle way to survey the sign, the administration can recruit the free labor around campus: squirrels. Install a few cameras onto the squirrels and no one will get away with sign-looting again.

Even if nothing else good comes of the rampant crime, the Campus Activities Board should take notes. Gusties clearly love theft. CAB can take advantage of this by putting on theft-focused events so Gusties can let out their criminal impulses on something harmless.

Most people have, at some point, played the game Cops and Robbers. A few people are the cops and chase the robbers around in a low-stakes competition. But with the budget of CAB,

Campus Safety and Sign-Stealers could be huge.

Whoever shows up to the event will be divided into teams. Some participants will get to realize a lifelong dream and play as Campus Safety, trying to hunt down miscreants.

Meanwhile, CAB will have hidden valuable items around the Collg, like gift cards and FastPasses to the front of the 10:30 a.m. breakfast line. The rest of the participants will lurk around campus, trying to avoid the Campus Safety students while snagging whatever loot they can. After a while, the teams switch so that everyone can get their fill of thieving.

Perhaps the original thieves were trying to be modern-day Robin Hoods, but their thefts so far have benefitted no poor people. The only way to bring them back into line is either increased public scorn or more healthy outlets.

Writers on strike!



David Eide
Opinion Columnist

If you like to follow Film and Television news as I sometimes do, you've probably heard about the writer's strike that is still ongoing as of the writing of this column. This strike is incredibly important, and it has affected the productions of some of the most popular TV shows currently airing such as the fifth and final season of *Stranger Things* as well as *Saturday Night Live*. Beyond just affecting how consumers will experience their favorite TV shows, the strike also speaks to important issues such as the rights of workers and how AI is already disrupting industries. As someone who is very interested in film and TV production, I think discussing the causes of the strike and my perspective on it might be helpful to those who perhaps aren't as tuned in to the issues surrounding the writer's strike.

"The strike is being organized by the Writers Guild of America, the single largest union for writers in the US, and began on May 2nd."

The strike is being organized by the Writers Guild of America (WGA), the single largest union for writers in the US, and began on May 2 when negotiations between the WGA and the body representing film and television production companies broke down. As a result of the strike, WGA members are refusing to work on any scripts, meaning that many ongoing productions have had to pause or adopt some kind of countermeasure. This situ-

ation is not unprecedented, as the last major WGA strike occurred in November of 2007 and lasted until February of 2008, so if this current strike is anything like that one, we might be in this for the long haul. During the 2007-2008 strike, many television shows had to cut their seasons short while the networks greenlit a number of unscripted series which mostly consisted of godawful reality TV shows that we're still stuck with to this day. It remains to be seen if this current strike will have the same effect, but I sure hope it doesn't, as I don't think I can deal with reality TV becoming even more prominent.

On social media, I've seen several people express their frustration with the decision of the WGA to go on strike as they rely on TV shows for some level of psychological coping. I don't have much sympathy for this point of view, personally speaking. While I understand that TV is a very important thing to many people, the fact remains that the strike is fundamentally about workers trying to improve their livelihoods through collective action, which is a time-honored method for the labor movement. I think part of the issue is that many people don't really see being a writer as a job based on labor due to the generalized perception our society has of writers as independent artists. Others simply believe that writers aren't anything special and that they could do the job just as well. Both of these viewpoints are deeply flawed and inaccurate. At this point, writing for television is the same as being a part of a massive well-oiled machine of which creativity is only one variable that must be considered. Furthermore, it is not easy to be a writer for Television as while I have seen some pretty bad TV writing over the years, I've also seen the stuff non-writers put out, and trust me, it gets pretty rough. When it comes to labor disputes and strikes, I tend to support organized labor and unions over management and the current writer's strike is no exception.

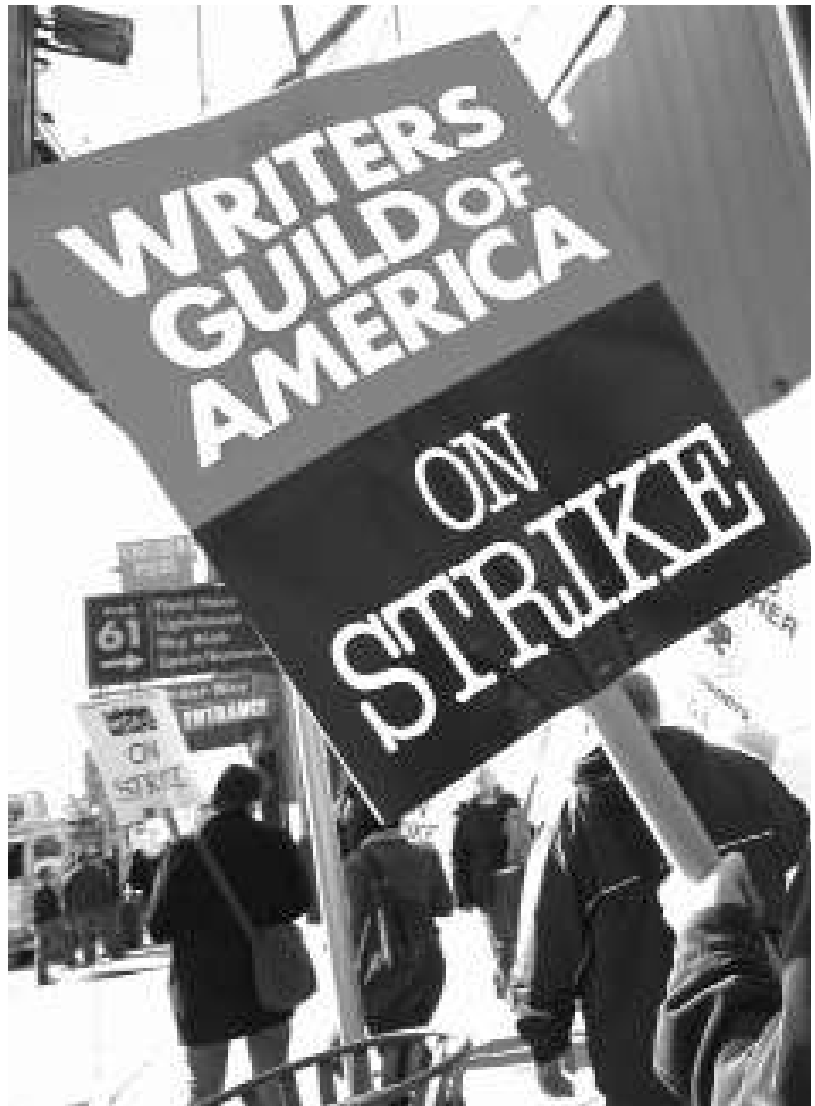
The writer's strike also involves an issue that has seen a surge in news coverage this year, namely the rise of genera-

tive AI programs and the effect that they will have on society and the economy. Specifically, one of the sticking points for the WGA in their negotiations with the representatives of the television and film industry was that generative AI—such as ChatGPT—couldn't be used to write wholly original scripts, only to assist in brainstorming. This is fascinating to me because it is perhaps the first instance of AI seriously disrupting an industry since the hype around the technology began in the middle of last year. Of course, AI isn't actually writing scripts at this point, but the

mere fact that the WGA is concerned enough about that possibility to include a preemptive ban on the technology as a major sticking point in their negotiating position speaks to the potential of AI to completely upend several major industries. In the future, we may see several unions and professional organizations seek to impose similar regulations for fear of AI supplanting their jobs.

Speaking personally, I understand the fear of the WGA but I am still not convinced as to the long-term ability of AI to seriously displace most human writing positions. While the

technology is still young and could develop so as to produce texts that rival those produced by humans, at the moment AI writing is kind of a joke that regurgitates Google results. I very easily could be proven wrong of course, we'll just have to wait and see. At the very least, we should all be supporting the WGA and the writers who make it up as they seek a fairer deal from the massive entertainment conglomerates that have frequently screwed over writers when it comes to issues like royalties and wages.



Strike.

Submitted